



Australian Plants Society (Wangaratta Inc)

March 2022 Newsletter

Also visit APS Victoria website
<https://apsvic.org.au>

MEETINGS:

Venue: Masonic Lodge, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Visitors are always welcome.

Note that this year we have decided, as a trial, to combine some of our meetings with our outings, for the benefit of those who are unable to attend evening meetings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sat. 26th March | General meeting & outing at Jenny Davidson's garden, 172 Up River Road, Gooramadda. 10.30am for an 11am start. Morning tea will be provided. BYO lunch. 0418 169 917 or 0260 328 442. |
| 9th-10th April | A plant stall from 9am to 4pm, to be manned by APS volunteers, at the Eldorado Off-grid Festival. Ring John van Riet for information: 0357 257 207 |
| Thurs. 28th April | General Meeting at Masonic Lodge. Guest speaker Geoff Lay. Cradle Mountain. |
| Sat. May 28th | Outing to Anne & Peter Brain's garden. |
| Thurs. 23rd June | 7pm. General Meeting at the Masonic Lodge, Wangaratta. Guest speaker Paul Kennedy on Hakeas. TBC. |
| Monday 4th July | A Fungi Identification Workshop to be held in the Rotary Log Cabin, Chisholm Street, Wangaratta with a Foray in Kaluna Park with Alison Pouliot. This is a day session. Details to follow at a later date. |
| Sat. 23rd July | Helen Wrigley's garden to check out the wattles as well as other plants. 10.30am for 11am start. 0357 222 824 |

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday 4th May 5pm. Helen Wrigley's, 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta.

The Australian Plants Society (Victoria) is dedicated to promoting, growing and the conservation of Australian native plants, in gardens, community areas and their original environments.

Growing Australian magazine - an electronic copy can be accessed via the APS Victoria website.

Getting to know your Committee

Arthur Meyers, Treasurer

I was a Civil Engineer with Vic Roads for 20 years and a Maths Science Teacher at Wangaratta Technical School for 17 years.

My Engineering work involved Planning the location of major freeway corridors, Main Road and Freeway design, Intersection and Traffic signal design and supervision and financial management of road construction contracts. This was excellent “on the job” training for the Treasurer responsibilities at APS Wangaratta.

My family decided to move to the country. I successfully applied for a 2 year construction position in the Vic Roads office in Benalla. After 2.5 years I had to return to head office in Kew.

We loved country living and didn't want to go back to Melbourne.

So I applied for a Maths Science Secondary teacher training position for mature age, qualified people, who could do their teacher training 3 days a week at Hawthorn Teachers College and teach in the Technical School System for the other 2 days of the week, while they did their teacher training. Qualified country candidates were targeted.

I drove to Melbourne early Monday morning, attended Teacher's College on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, drove home to Benalla, prepared lessons Wednesday night and taught classes on Thursday and Friday at Benalla Technical College from week three of my teacher training.

I survived the 12 months of teacher training and “thrown in the deep end teaching” and was appointed to Wangaratta Technical school. I taught several different year levels and was the Science Coordinator for 5 years.

So as you can see, my professional life did not involve plants or garden design. But my parents were keen gardeners, mum grew English plants and dad grew lots of vegies. Not many Australian natives in their garden.

During my childhood, my brothers and I spent many hours in the bush and exploring the Yarra River at Eltham in Melbourne. We were country kids, who spent lots of time amongst native plants. This is where my interest in native plants began.

My wife Joan and I established a nice garden at Everton Upper. Joan's childhood was also spent in the country. We had a variety of different plants in our garden, but were impressed with the large diversity and differences in native plants.

We joined APS to learn more about native plants, to find out how best to propagate and grow them successfully, and to enjoy being in established native gardens and being guided by very knowledgeable native gardeners.





***Grevillea cultivar
'Orange Wow'***

A stunning grafted Grevillea with yellow flowers that change to orange then to burnt orange followed by the final change to red. Flowers occur from late spring through to autumn and the plant should be pruned after flowering has finished.

Grows to 50cm (perhaps more) tall by 3m wide and makes for a beautiful groundcover or cascading specimen.

(Yes, it is frost tender, so plant where it has some protection.)

Looking for volunteers

*Are you willing to help at our APS Wangaratta stall to be held at the **Eldorado Off-grid Living Festival** on the weekend of the **9th and 10th April**? Please contact John van Riet for information on rostering of volunteers and/or assistance to put the tent up and pull it down. The sale of plants propagated by our members goes towards the hire of the Masonic Hall & associated costs.*

We also disseminate information on our group as well as APS Victoria at events like this which encourages new membership as well as the planting of gardens with our beautiful Australian flora.

Member articles for the Newsletter would be very welcome!

Please send to gdatson@bigpond.net.au

THE BUNYA BUNYA PINE

Helen van Riet

The oldest inhabited house in the City of Wangaratta is the Anglican Deanery on Ovens Street. In the garden and dominating the skyline is the oldest living planted tree in the Rural City. This Bunya Bunya tree was planted about 170 years ago. Bunya Bunyas are eminently suited as feature trees in large gardens or parks. The foliage is shiny, bright green and very prickly.

Araucaria bidwillii is a relic from the age of dinosaurs. It shares the same ancient pedigree as the Wollemi Pine. Both rainforest trees belong to the Araucariaceae family.

A. bidwillii is unique. Seed cones, each weighing around 10 kg, are produced every three years between December and March, about 1 ½ years after pollination of the solitary pollen cones. The huge seed cones hold from 50 -100 large almond-shaped nuts.



Bunya nuts were highly prized by Australia's indigenous peoples who gathered from distant areas every three years to celebrate and feast on the harvest.

The Bunya Bunya was first collected by white settlers from the Bunya Mountains [Qld] and described by the botanist John Carne Bidwill in 1843. The genus *Bidwillia* and twelve species of native Australian and New Zealand plants commemorate his name.

From the 1860s to the 1930s timber cutters established saw mills to harvest the timber wealth of the Bunyas. This inevitably led to the demise of the original stands in Qld and NSW and ended the indigenous harvests within 15 years.

Timber was used for structural joinery and flooring, and domestic products such as butter boxes, masts and booms for boats and piano keys. Nowadays Bunya timber is highly valued by cabinetmakers and woodworkers. Two Australian guitar makers use bunya for the soundboards of acoustic guitars.



Growing a Bunya Bunya from seed is definitely worth the effort for those of a patient and curious disposition. Germination can take up to two years. Eventually, a radical will emerge from the nut, which grows downward for about 8cm and produces a potato-like tuber. It is from this tuber that a growing shoot and roots will emerge to become a living fossil tree.

A. bidwillii trees are slow growing and long-lived. In our garden a 20-year-old tree has reached around 3 metres in height [pictured]. Growing from seed is not difficult. It is well worth the effort; and the result could be either a potted living fossil Christmas tree or a unique tree planted out and destined to live for many generations to come.

There is more information on John Carne Bidwill on the internet including his very sad and early death.

Vale Alan Gibb 1943-2022

Alan was a constant and supportive member of APS Wangaratta and APS Victoria since 1975. He was a long-time member of the APS Management Committee.

A humble man, with time for everyone, he loved to share the delights of his beloved Acacias and Australian plants. A dedicated member of the Acacia Study Group, *Acacia boormanii* subsp. *gibba* bears his name.



We are very sad that we will no longer be seeing his cheery face at our meetings, outings and propagating sessions. We will miss him greatly.





Saturday, 10 September to Friday 16 September 2022

Kiama Pavilion, Kiama

Registrations open 28 March

We are pleased to advise that registrations for the Biennial Conference in Kiama in September open on 28 March for all participants. Those who have expressed interest in specific tours will be able to register from 21 March.

To register, go to:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2022kiama>

For more information, go to the APS NSW website:

<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

Tours are also open



Dramatic Pilliga and Warrumbungles, pre- and post-conference, 6 days



Surprising Sydney flora, post-conference, 5 days



Sunny South Coast, pre-conference, 5 days



World Heritage Blue Mountains, pre-conference, 5 days



Spectacular Lord Howe, pre- and post-conference, 6 days, waiting list only

About the conference

- The conference kicks off on Saturday 10 September, with a complimentary tour of the Kiama region, followed on Sunday by a native plant sale at the Pavilion where you can also pick up any merchandise and complete your registration. There is a complimentary cocktail event on the Sunday evening.
- The conference sessions and excursions run from Monday to Friday.
- Early bird pricing for the conference is a 10% discount to the full \$600 price. This applies until 31 May.
- Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Please check the cancellation policy on the website.
- Health requirements will be in accordance with NSW Government Health Department regulations. However, we recommend that people be up-to-date with vaccinations for their protection and the protection of others.



Correa reflexa var. *speciosa* 'Carmen'

Your Committee:

President: John van Riet	5725 7207	helenvanriet@bigpond.com
Secretary: Alison Earp	5729 7518	kalisetptyltd@gmail.com
Treasurer: Arthur Meyers	5728 1654	pianoman@netc.net.au
Membership Officer: Gillian Anderson	5766 2397	pdga280@bigpond.com
Newsletter: Glenda Datson	(02) 6020 8104	gdatson@bigpond.net.au
APS Vic Representative & Specimen Table: Therese Graham 0407 563 614		
	therese238@westnet.com.au	

Non Official Roles:

Joan Cochrane, <i>Supper roster</i> , 5728 1654		
Joanne Diver	0412 985501	Jenny Davidson (02) 6032 8442
Michael O'Sullivan	5725 1784	Helen Wrigley 5722 2824
Rosemary Buchanan	0428 998 336	Helen van Riet (also APSV Lone Member Officer)

Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2022

Important: Please check APS Victoria website Events Calendar for any cancellations & updates.

See [Australian Plants Society Victoria \(apsvic.org.au\)](https://apsvic.org.au)

19 & 20 March 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

30 March to 3 April 2022 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS)

9 April 2022 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30am to 4.00pm.

7 May 2022 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha. 10am to 3.30pm.

14 May 2022 - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh - venue to be confirmed.

June (date to be advised) - APS VIC COMM: Hosted by APS Shepparton.

25 & 26 June 2022 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.

16 & 17 July 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Winter Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

27 & 28 August 2022 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00am to 4.00 pm both days.

1 September 2022 - Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022. Details to follow.

3 September 2022 - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

11 to 16 September 2022 - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022, Kiama, New South Wales.

Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.

17 & 18 September 2022 - APS Bendigo Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 9.30am to 4.00pm. Entry \$5, children free.

24 & 25 September 2022 - APS VIC COMM and Quarterly Gathering: Hosted by APS Loddon Murray in Swan Hill.

26 to 30 September 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

1 & 2 October 2022 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

8 October 2022 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

15 & 16 October 2022 - 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous Peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae). York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

22 & 23 October 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

October 2022 (date to be advised) - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.