

Australian Plants Society (Wangaratta Inc)

May 2022 Newsletter

SURVEY RESULTS

At our Committee meeting on 4th May we decided that, in response to our survey results, we would hold evening meetings in the Hall on the 'even' months, and the 'odd' months would be garden visits or field trips on the Sunday following the 4th Thursday of the month. We will also continue to hold 'special events' - e.g. a fungi workshop with Alison Pouliot planned for early July & club ad hoc plant sales and propagating days.

MEETINGS:

Venue: Masonic Lodge, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta.

Meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday of even months at 7pm.

Visitors are always welcome.

Thurs. 23rd June 7pm. General Meeting at the Masonic Lodge, Wangaratta.
Guest speaker Paul Kennedy on Hakeas. TBC.

Thurs. 25th August AGM & Plant Auction.

Thurs. 27th Oct. Chris Clarke, President, APS Victoria. Topic TBC

OUTINGS:

Sat. May 28th Outing to Anne & Peter Brain's garden, 50 Talgai Drive, Wangaratta (Waldara).
Arrive at 10.30am for a shared morning tea at 11am. Ph: 0402 207 346. For details see p2 of this newsletter.

Sun. 24th July Rosemary Buchanan's property near Edi in King Valley.

SPECIAL EVENT: Mon. 4th July

A Fungi Identification Workshop, Rotary Log Cabin, Chisholm Street, Wangaratta with a foray in Kaluna Park with Alison Pouliot. 25 places available, free to APS Wangaratta members who will receive priority bookings, \$25 to others. APS members must book a place by 28th May after which it will be advertised to other local environmental groups. This workshop will be held from 12pm sharp till 3pm. RSVP to Joanne Diver at: divers@aapt.net.au

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.

This is a reminder that you can access the latest "**Growing Australian**" magazine through the APS Victoria website. For those who may not be familiar with this, here's the sequence: <https://apsvic.org.au>

Open the **Members** area with the password **22&epacris** . Scroll across the headers in the Members area & click on "**Growing Australian**". Open the latest edition posted here—it is listed as **March 21**.

WANGARATTA AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
OUTING FOR SATURDAY 28TH MAY 2022
TO THE GARDEN OF ANN & PETER BRAIN

50 Talgai Drive, Waldara, 3678

[Phone: 0402 207 346]

Meet: 10.30am for 11am for a shared morning tea. T & C provided.

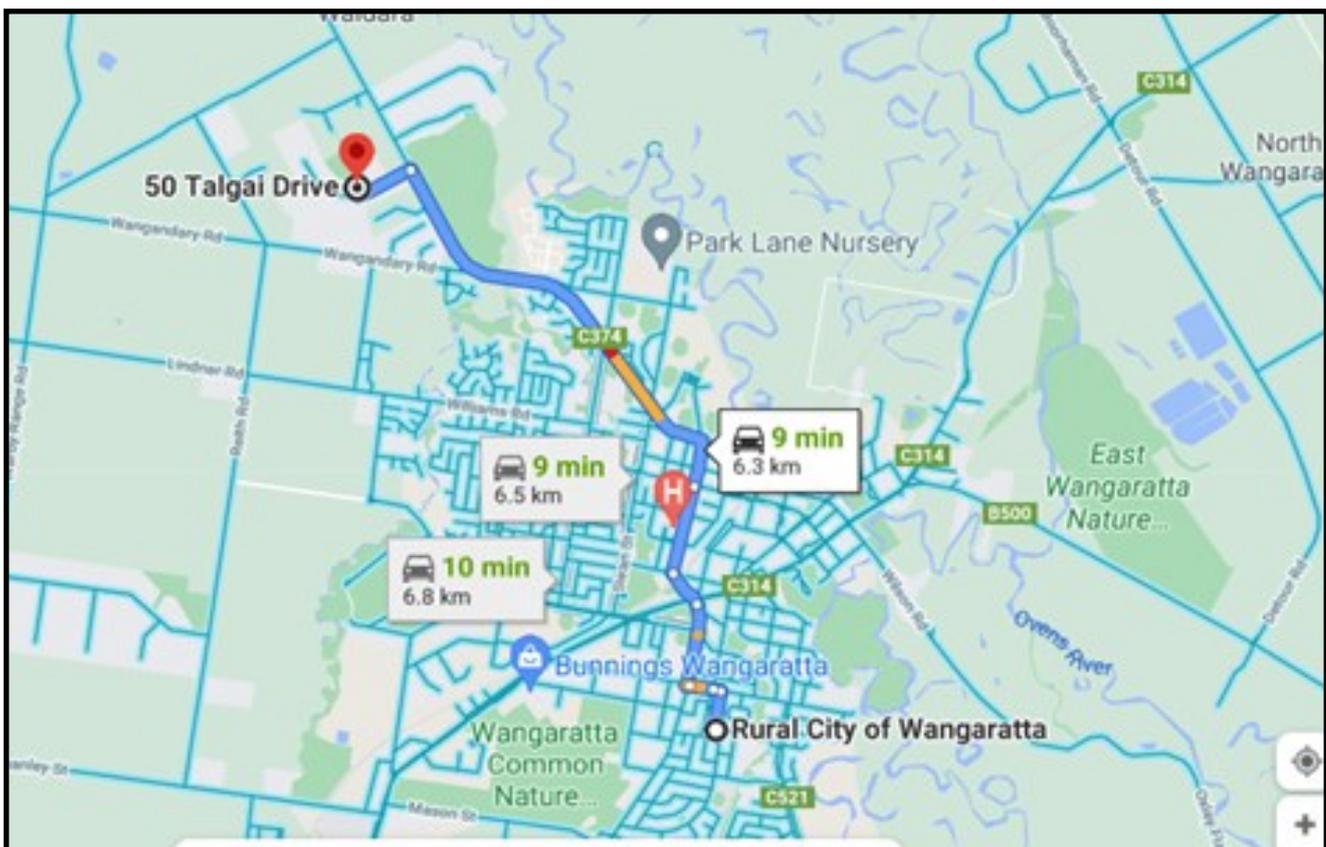
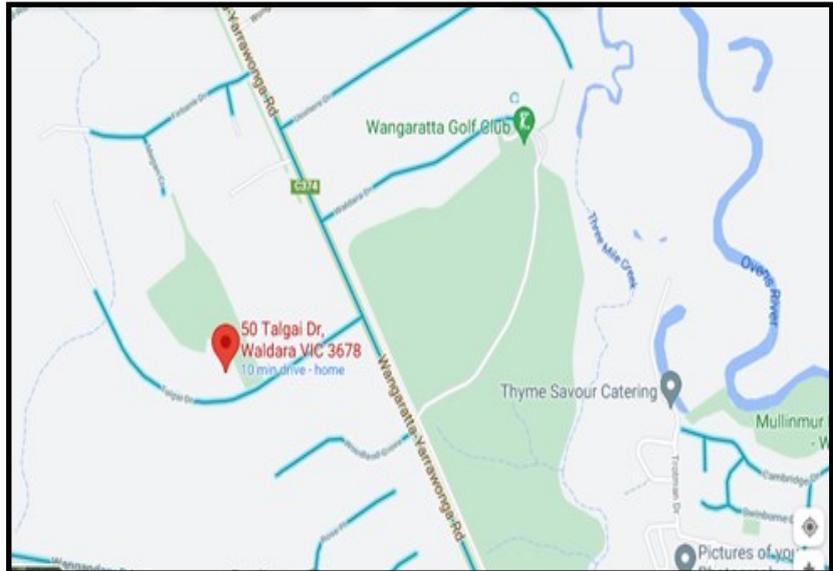
What to bring:

- Morning tea to share
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Your own lunch
- Folding chair
- Warm clothing
- Rain protection

Directions:

From Central Wangaratta, take the C734 [Yarrowonga Road].

Talgai Drive is on the left, approx. 6 km from the city centre.



Getting to know your Committee

Michael O'Sullivan

My interest in native plants really began in the late 1960s when I was posted to Ensay North Primary School in remote East Gippsland. I did not take much notice of the bush for the first eight months I was at the school until one morning Mrs Fairweather who took some of the children for R.I. brought a bundle of flowers she had collected from the nearby forest the weekend before on an outing with the Bairnsdale Field Naturalists Club. Among the flowers was a *Correa lawrenciana* collected on the Nunniong Road. She told me she was quite interested in orchids and a few weeks later she arrived at school with a small collection of native orchids. Then my interest soared.

From then on while travelling up and down to Bairnsdale I would stop on the roadside and have a walk through the surrounding bush to see what flowers were about. Over the next eleven years I knew where to find various orchids in different seasons at various places along the Omeo Highway. Springtime was a great time to be travelling to Bairnsdale and seeing the myriad of colours of the flowers blooming along the roadside.

Later after I met Carole we would look for flowers along the bush tracks around Tongio where she lived out up along the Nunniong Road as far as the Washington Steam Engine, or out to Lake Hill, Bently's Plain, Back River, or the Big Plain at the headwaters of the Tambo River.

In 1979 we came to Everton to live and discovered the Everton Bushland Reserve and the Bushland along the rail line to Beechworth. The Everton Reserve in those days was leased by a family who lived opposite in Boundary Road and had a large section of it fenced off to run pigs in there. It was taken over by Parks Victoria in the early 1980s. The community was lucky this happened so that the wonderful array of plants which now survive in this Reserve were preserved for all to enjoy. There have been 35 species of orchids identified in the Reserve along with several rare plants.

In the mid 1980s I joined APS Wangaratta. This was a most interesting time to listen to people like Alan Gibb, Ray Purches, Jan Hall and Judy Strudwick to name a few who were always ready to pass on their expertise to the rest of the group. Through the meetings we attended and the visits to other persons gardens I was able to learn a great deal of information about growing Australian Plants. When the family moved to Tarrawingee in 1985 a native garden was commenced and like all gardens it is still evolving today.

The interest in native plants has taken us to Mt Buffalo, into the most interesting parts of East Gippsland, especially the Nunniong Plains and the forests around Lakes Entrance and Lake Tyers, to the arid areas of Mungo National Park, Wyperfeld N.P., Ngarkat Conservation Park in S.A., and to Kalbarri in W.A.. We have been fortunate to see the wonderful display of wreath flowers near Pindar in W.A.. Where ever we have travelled we have always been on the lookout for the wildflowers which may be present in an area.



We have been on Correa Crawls with the Correa Study Group and have learnt a great deal about Correas from the experts. Now there is an extensive collection of various Correas in the garden at Tarrawingee. Much has been learned from members of APS Wangaratta over the years as to the propagation of native plants whether from seed, cuttings, division or grafting, the garden has continued to evolve and grow.

The interest in Native Plants continues to grow as one comes into contact with new species of plants or variations of plants which may already be in the garden.

One of many beautiful correas in the O'Sullivan garden, probably a *C. glabra* cultivar.

ALAN GIBB

After Alan's funeral, a very nice card was received from Al's sister Lorraine Jenkins and his brother Dook. Lorraine called in to visit the van Riets just before Easter, but was unable to stay for long. Helen opened the card after she left, and there was \$250 inside, which she has banked for APS Wangaratta.

The content of the card is reproduced here:



Dear Helen and all APS members,
'THANK YOU' hardly seems adequate for all the wonderful support from you all throughout his illness and passing. Your gifts of Australian natives, used for a variety of arrangements on the funeral day, greatly helped us all to celebrate Alan's life and achievements.
We sincerely thank you all.
Please use the enclosed donation for your Club's use and enjoyment.
~ With love from Lorraine and 'Dook'.



WANTED!

Your articles or photographs to fill spaces in our newsletter.

Please send to Glenda at:

gdatson@bigpond.net.au

Banksia praemorsa—a beautiful autumn flowering feature plant

Visit to a Gooramadda garden

On a beautiful day on the 26th March our group visited the garden of **Jenny Davidson & Ian Fraser** at Gooramadda.

What a delight it was! Set on 40 acres of Grey Box country, on a high bank overlooking the Murray River, the drive down the long access road whet your appetite for what might lie at the end. Seeding heads of Hairy Panic Grass tumbled across the road in front, with an astonishing amount of Puffball fungi lining the carriageway verges. Off to the right scattered plantings of Ironbark, Weeping Myall and a variety of Mallee eucalypts were beckoning you in.



Turning into the property more enticing views were had, especially of the flowering *Acacia stenophylla* framing the carport along with a white trunked *Angophora costata* 'Bouddi dwarf', at first looking not dissimilar to what could be a dwarfed version of *Corymbia citriodora*.

The autumn-foliaged ornamental grapevine covering the outdoor seating area played host area to our morning tea, with visitors spilling out onto the grass beneath a wonderfully shady *Angophora floribunda* whilst entertained by many birds including the Red-browed finches at the bird bath and the haunting call of the Grey (or was it a Pied?) Butcherbird.

We began our tour with Jenny pointing out the *Bursaria lasiophylla* covered with nut-brown seed pods where the finches like to roost, and the wide-spreading Yellow Lantern Banksia (*Banksia lehmanniana*) which the honeyeaters love when in flower. These were set behind a magical small grassland area containing Kangaroo grass, Windmill grass, Rigid Panic, Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum* sp.3) and other grassland species. *Arthropodium strictum* sp. 3 plants resemble *Arthropodium strictum* but are somewhat smaller (to c. 80 cm high), differing in having leaves usually with distally ciliate margins and flowers usually several per node, on erect or spreading pedicels to 25 mm long. It flowers normally October–December but probably due to unseasonal rains, were still flowering at the end of March. Jenny mentioned that they do keep the Kangaroo Grass under control by removing seed heads.

We moved on around the house garden containing a variety of smaller growing correa, grevillea, melaleuca and eremophila. Along and from the driveway we observed specimens of *Eucalyptus nutans*, *E. woodwardii*, *E. torquata*, *E. kruseana*, *E. grossa*, and yellow-flowered and tomato-red forms of *E. leucoxylon* and *E. petiolaris* from the Eyre Peninsular which are doing well in the <600mm p.a. rainfall at Gooramadda.



A constructed wetland gained our attention. Edged with a variety of plantings including Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*) and Water Primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*) which survive long dry summers, we were enchanted by the calming effect of dappled shade reflections on the water from the Wallangarra White Gum (*Eucalyptus scoparia*).

Although not flowering at the time, nearby mounded garden beds contained many grafted grevilleas and other eye-popping species.



We wandered back to the shady house area which was most conducive to enjoying lunch during our monthly General Meeting. We said our goodbyes after approximately 5 hours of interaction with our hosts and their wonderful garden in such a sublime setting. Thank you so much to Jenny and Ian.

Glenda Datson



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.

News via Therese Graham, APS Wangaratta representative to APS Victoria

From Chris Long, Secretary, APS Victoria :

"Some of you will remember that APS Victoria made a grant of \$30,000 to Trust for Nature in 2002 to assist with the purchase of Neds Corner Station.

Here is an update on transfer of ownership to the traditional owners."

Trust for Nature has committed to enabling the transfer of ownership of Neds Corner to its Traditional Owners—the First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC).

This will be the largest parcel of privately-owned land to be transferred to Traditional Owners in Victoria. We've agreed a target timeline to transfer Neds Corner to FPMMAC in February 2024.

Neds Corner, an important cultural landscape on Ngintait Country, was run as a grazing station from the 1840s until Trust for Nature purchased it with the help of donors and the Federal Government in 2002. Since then, with the support of donors and volunteers, we've transformed the formerly degraded land, restoring native vegetation and wildlife habitat. In recent years we've worked with FPMMAC to locate and protect the significant cultural heritage sites on Neds Corner.

Trust for Nature has been on a four year journey to deliver on the principles of self-determination for First Nations Peoples and increasing opportunities for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to be on and care for country.

Importantly, FPMMAC and Trust for Nature will co-design a unique conservation covenant for the land, which will protect its conservation values forever, as well as facilitating FPMMAC's broader initiatives to promote the rights, interests, aspirations, and economic and cultural sustainability of the Traditional Owners of the Millewa-Mallee.

[Read more on our website.](#)

I hope you'll join me in celebrating this historic moment for Trust for Nature and Victoria,

Victoria Marles

Trust for Nature CEO

"The handback of our traditional lands is an historic occasion for our people. Our lands were stolen, and our people killed, but we are still here today. Having our land back will allow us to restore our cultural practices, and care for the land and river properly."

- Norman (Tinawin) Wilson, Chair, FPMMAC

"We feel this is part of a natural cycle for Neds Corner—from degraded agricultural land to our dedicated care and rejuvenation of the land over the past 20 years, to the care and ownership of the original owners and Traditional Custodians, the Ngintait people."

"We are honoured to play a role in reconciliation and self-determination for the First People of the Millewa Mallee, and look forward to working with and for them, to protect this amazing property."

- Gayle Austen, Chair, Trust for Nature

Eldorado Off-grid Festival —APS Wangaratta Plant Stall April 2022

\$915.25 was raised from our plant stall at the Off-Grid festival.

APS had 2 gazebos - we had our racks of plants on tables in one half, and Helen Wrigley set up an information and activity for children and adults in the other half. Therese Graham was 'next door' with her wondrous selection of plants and a workshop activity.

Despite the numbers of people at this year's festival being less than last time, we were kept busy with a steady stream of enquirers and purchasers. I think we must have sold about 250 plants, because most were priced at \$3, with a selected few at \$5 or \$6. We naturally sold all the *Stenocarpus sinuatus* seedlings and quite a lot of packeted seeds with detailed planting instructions. Having a branch in flower among the bucket of blooms helped a lot.

One issue we will have to resolve if we are to do another 'Off-Grid' stall is to encourage more growers to add to the variety of the plants for sale. We could also have done with a few more volunteers to help with sales, particularly on the Sunday.

Helen van Riet



Therese Graham & Arthur Meyers



John van Riet, Arthur Meyers, Joan Cochrane and Helen Wrigley enjoying themselves whilst manning the stall



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

Early bird discounts until June 30th.

Saturday schedule:

Speakers include Marilyn Gray on identifying the genera of Faboideae, Royce Raleigh on horticulture and cultivation, Mandy Thomson on propagation of peas, John Thompson—peas in art and keynote speakers Professor Mike Crisp and Dr. Julie Ardley.

Sunday schedule:

Bus tours to two private and two public gardens.

Professor Mike Crisp studied long-term change in arid zone vegetation for his PhD at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1976. From 1975-1989, he was a research scientist and herbarium curator at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. He was posted as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, in 1981-2. In 1990 he took up a lectureship in plant systematics in the Division of Botany and Zoology at The Australian National University, where he became head of school in 2001-3 and Professor from 2004.

He has developed an expertise in phylogenetics and classification of Australian plants, particularly the pea-flowered legumes, revising (with collaborators) the large genera *Daviesia*, *Gastrolobium*, *Gompholobium* and *Jacksonia*.

In 2020, he made a permanent move to Brisbane, although he remains active in research and still has an emeritus position at ANU, as well as an honorary position at the University of Queensland. In recent years Mike has been mainly working on eucalypts, but continues to be interested in the peas. He is currently collaborating on a research project with *Pultenaea*.

Professor Mike Crisp will present: "**The egg-and-bacon peas: origin, distribution and evolution.**"

ABSTRACT: The legumes are the most diverse plant family in Australia, with ca 3,600 species. This talk will focus on the endemic egg-and-bacon pea group, Fabaceae tribes Bossiaeeae and Mirbelieae, which comprise 44% of Australia's peas with 32 genera and 766 species. He will first summarise their distribution, and their evolutionary and biogeographic origins. Much of his research has focussed on *Daviesia*, one of the largest egg-and-bacon genera, and he will talk about some recent work sorting out a problematic group of cryptic species occurring in mallee communities across southern Australia, including Victoria. Then he will describe the specialised pollination mechanisms of peas, how he and collaborators analysed evolutionary shifts between different mechanisms, and the likely effects of these shifts on the diversification of species. Finally, he will talk about ongoing research on the taxonomy of the *Pultenaea* group.

Dr. Julie Ardley is a post-doctoral researcher at Murdoch University, Western Australia. She is the author of over 45 research papers and book chapters on the legume-rhizobia symbiosis. Her research is focused on rhizobial systematics and the genetic determinants of rhizobial biogeography and interactions with plant hosts.

Dr Julie Ardley will present:

"**The Legume-Rhizobia symbiosis: identifying the rhizobia that nodulate Australian native legumes and using them to improve growth and establishment**"

ABSTRACT: The nitrogen-fixing symbiosis between legumes and soil-dwelling bacteria known as rhizobia is of global importance to both natural and agricultural ecosystems. The symbiosis is initiated when the legumes and the bacteria send chemical signals to each other that allow the rhizobia to infect the host plant and result in the formation of a specialized organ known as a root nodule. Within the root nodule cells the rhizobia supply nitrogen to the legume in exchange for plant-supplied nutrients. Although many different species of rhizobia have been described, most legumes are very selective and will only nodulate with one or a few rhizobial species.

While much is now known about the rhizobia that nodulate agricultural legumes, we still know comparatively little about the symbiotic relationships between wild legumes and their rhizobia. This is especially true for the diverse and species-rich Australian legume flora. However, recent interest in growing native Australian plants and in using legume species to help with rehabilitation of disturbed sites has prompted new research into the rhizobia that nodulate Australian legumes. This talk will provide an overview of the legume-rhizobia symbiosis and will also present our recent research findings on identifying the rhizobia we have isolated from a range of Australian legumes and our progress in developing rhizobial inoculants that can be used to improve the growth of these legumes in plant nurseries, or in rehabilitation sites.

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 \(apsvic.org.au\)](http://AustralianPlantsSocietyVictoria(apsvic.org.au))

4 June - APS VIC COMM: Hosted by APS Shepparton. North Shepparton Community & Learning Centre, 10/14 Parkside Drive, Shepparton, 3630. Registrations from 9.30am. Meeting 10am to 12 noon. Garden visit to Drew Baglin's garden, Kialla. For more information call Jenny Polinelli—03 5829 8416.

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.

23 & 24 June 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Winter Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. For more information see: <https://rbgfrienscranbourne.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. A one day in-person event but exploring options to make the seminar available to an online audience. Theme "Image of Biodiversity" which aims to explore how imagery is used to monitor, engage and inspire people towards greater biodiversity conservation efforts. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

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.

24 & 25 September 2022 - APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30am to 4.00pm. Entry \$5, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

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. 9.30am to 5pm on Saturday, 10am to 4pm Sunday.

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

15 October 2022—APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale. 9am—3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.

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

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