

# Australian Plants Society (Wangaratta Inc)

## September 2022 Newsletter

In this Issue, see p2

### **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. 27th Oct. Chris Clarke, President, APS Victoria. Topic: Alpine Plants.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Wednesday 21st 4.30pm at the Van Riet's.

### **OUTINGS:**

Sun. 25th September 10.30am at Rosemary Buchanan's property near Edi in King Valley.

Address: 404 Edi-Meadow Creek Road (a very rough road), Moyhu.

Rosemary says only the most intelligent people get lost, but for those who do, her number is 0428 998 336. If people bear in mind that the King River is her boundary to the west and that the road is her eastern boundary, they should keep on the track okay. **More details p4.**

November (Date TBC) Christmas break-up at the McLean garden in Benalla.  
Details to come in our October issue.

**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 **Sep 22**, and click on the date.

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## ***Your new Committee:***

**President:** Janice Jones                    0427 319 943

**Vice-President:** John van Riet        0357 257 207

**Secretary:** John Podubinski        0428 360 787

**Treasurer:** Joanne Diver            0412 985 501

**Membership Officer:** Gillian Anderson (03)5766 2397 pdga280@bigpond.com

**Newsletter:** Glenda Datson        0428 401 090 gdatson@bigpond.net.au

**APS Vic Representative & Specimen Table:** Therese Graham 0407 563 614  
therese238@westnet.com.au

### **Non Official Roles:**

Jenny Davidson (02) 6032 8442

Helen Wrigley (03) 5722 2824

Rosemary Buchanan, Supper Roster 0428 998 336

Helen van Riet (also APSV Lone Member Officer) (03) 5725 7207

Joye Podubinski 0428 360 787

## **AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Wangaratta) President's Annual Report, 2021-2022**

At our last AGM, postponed from August 2021 to February 2022, I reported on the few meetings we were able to have in 2021 because of Covid19 restrictions. This report runs from September 2021 to August 2022.

### **Monthly meetings and/or outings**

September, October and November meetings in 2021 were cancelled due to Covid, but proceeds from a successful plant stall at van Riet's Open Garden in November was shared 50/50 with Oxfam. We combined a Propagation Day and our end-of-year Christmas party on Saturday 4 December at John and Helen van Riet's home.

In February 2022 we combined outing and AGM ( held over from August 2021) at Glenda and Bernie Datson's garden in Baranduda. The AGM nominated and re- elected the existing Committee.

The AGM also agreed to have one gathering per month, alternating between meeting at the Masonic Hall and garden outings. Sometimes outings included meetings.

The March meeting and outing combined at Jenny and Ian Davidson's garden in Gooramadda.

In April, Geoff Lay presented "Plants in Cradle Mountain N.P." at our meeting in the Masonic hall.

In May, we visited Anne and Peter Brain's garden in Wangaratta.

In June, Joye and John Podubinski presented "Establishing a small- town garden", in the Masonic Hall.

In July we followed up on the June meeting by visiting the Podubinski then Janice Jones gardens in Wangaratta.

### **Eldorado Off-Grid Festival- 9/10April**

We had a stall over the weekend, sold many plants and advertised our APS group. It was difficult to find volunteers for Sunday so it was decided that in future we only have the stall on Saturday.

### **Fungi workshop**

Those who attended Alison Pouliot's fungi workshop on Monday 4 July are still talking about it. Read the story in the July newsletter!

### **Farewells to Jan Hall and Jill Judd**

Jan moved to Melbourne earlier this year. Unable to organize a farewell, our group sent her a letter expressing our appreciation for her dedication and years of service to our group. Helen Wrigley and Janice Jones organized a farewell for another long-time member, Jill Judd, held at Helen Wrigley's home. After 26 years with our group, Jill moved to East Ivanhoe in Melbourne to be closer to family. We will miss her bright personality.

### **Vale Alan Gibb 1943-2022**

With much sadness many of our members attended Alan's funeral at Mason Park chapel and Milawa cemetery on the 8 March. Alan was a humble man with time for everyone. He was a long-time member of our APS group and served for many years on the committee. He delighted in talking about his beloved Acacias and other Australian plants. We look forward to the publication of the book on Acacias which he was working on. Good friend Neville Walsh is following this up. Thanks go to Helen van Riet and others for organizing the magnificent flower tribute on the coffin.

Finally, **thank you to all Committee members** for your attendance and input at our quarterly Committee meetings, usually held at John and Helen van Riet's home; to the Supper Roster people who provided us with that vital cuppa; to the specimen table presenters, now overseen by Therese Graham; to others who helped in some way to make our year, despite its interruptions, successful. A special thanks to our secretary Alison Earp, treasurer Arthur Meyers, membership officer Gillian Anderson and newsletter

editor Glenda Datson, for keeping records and informing us; and to Helen and Therese for representing us on APS (Vic) Management Committee as Lonely Member Officer and Branch Representative respectively. A special thank you to my partner Helen to whom I turned many times for assistance, especially with computer matters.

Thank you to all for the privilege of being your president for the last six years. We have been through a difficult time with Covid19, but it appears we are past the worst. Let us all continue to make our contribution with energy and new ideas, and endeavour to grow our group.

*John van Riet, President, August 2022*

### **Vale Laurice Kneen**

Former long-time member Laurice has passed away in Wangaratta. She was an active member, hosting and helping out with garden visits for our members. As well, she was an active member of the former Ovens & Murray Bird Observers' Club and the Broken Creek Field Naturalists' Club. Our condolences go to her husband Doug, and her family.

### ***This month's outing—to Rosemary Buchanan's garden, 404 Edi-Meadow Creek Road, Moyhu***

This will be a foray up a firetrail into the beautiful bushland where some of the orchids which abound here will hopefully be in flower. It is rough walking for we elderly folk, so she'll probably just take people up the fire track a bit to where she often finds orchids and other nice plants. We could also drive those who cannot walk up the hill.

**Bring morning tea to share, BYO lunch and folding chair.**

**Time: 10:30am In case you get lost ring Rosemary on 0428 998 336**

#### **Directions**

- ◆ Leaving Wangaratta, travel on C521 Wangaratta-Whitfield Road for about 16km to Moyhu.
- ◆ Turn left at Moyhu-Meadow Creek Road (the Moyhu Lions Park is on the left as you turn).
- ◆ Travel 4.04km.
- ◆ Turn right at Edi-Meadow Creek Road
- ◆ Travel 4.04km on the dirt road.
- ◆ On the right is 404 Edi-Meadow Creek Road with a steep drive up to the house.



## ***Native species seed bank brings rare plants back from the brink of extinction***

[ABC Eyre Peninsula](#)/ By [Jodie Hamilton](#)

Posted Mon 20 Dec 2021 at 3:49pm Monday 20 Dec 2021 at 3:49pm, updated Mon 20 Dec 2021 at 3:49pm



*Dr Jenny Guerin, front, with Dan Duval and Cath Dickson collecting seeds. (Supplied: South Australian Seed Conservation Centre)*

A project to help recover some of South Australia's rare flowering plants is blooming on Eyre Peninsula, thanks to a seed bank that aims to ensure more than 80 per cent of the state's most-threatened species survive into the future.

Key points:

- Australia has more than 23,000 flowering native plant species, and the seeds of 13,000 have been collected for a national seed bank
- The national seed bank aims to collect seeds from all our flowering plants to protect them from extinction
- Twelve native plants have been successfully grown from the seed bank at Secret Rocks Reserve

Unlike Australia's extinct native animals, flowering plants have the unique insurance of seeds that can regenerate lost species.

Some seed pods can lay dormant for hundreds of years before germinating — and that's just what researchers and volunteers across the nation are banking on to safeguard diminishing vegetation.

The South Australian Seed Conservation Centre is working on recovering some of Eyre Peninsula's rarest native plants, including the Corunna daisy and the chalky wattle.

Only a single population of Corunna daisy *Brachyscome muelleri* remains, and is found on the slopes of Corunna Hill station north of Iron Knob, while only 50 chalky wattle plants (*Acacia cretacea*) are left in the wild on northern Eyre Peninsula.

Botanists from the centre have collected seeds from the two species, germinated them and translocated the plants to Secret Rocks Reserve, near Kimba, which has a fenced area to protect the plants from introduced and native herbivores.

Ecologist and Secret Rocks co-owner John Read said they had been working with the Seed Conservation Centre for about six years and had brought back about 12 plant species.

"It's really important not to have all our eggs in one basket in case a fire or something goes through that only known population," Dr Read said.

"The Corunna daisy and *Acacia cretacea* have grown, had seeds and we're getting new recruits coming up and it's really rewarding seeing these rare plants," Dr Read said.

"Now some of them, that were only one, now we've got 20 or 30 and we hope they'll keep spreading."



Secret Rocks co-owner Dr John Read in the fenced refuge area where flora is grown from seeds and plants from the state herbarium. (ABC Eyre Peninsula: Jodie Hamilton)

But there have been challenges.

"We planted some chalky wattles two years ago in that terrible drought and despite lugging water out to them, and we had the Kimba Area School coming out and watering them, most of them just didn't make it," Dr Read said.

"But this year, with really good winter rains, we've got much more success."

SA Seed Conservation Centre seed officer Jenny Guerin said translocating the rare plants meant there would be a back-up population if the original wild plants were wiped out.

*"There have been a few species lost, about a quarter of our [SA's] plants are listed as threatened, so that's about 400 plant species, or taxa ... there are many that are in decline."*

### ***Climate, invasive species taking toll***

Dr Guerin said loss of habitat through historic clearing for agriculture, pressure from herbivores and exotic species, and the unpredictable nature of climate change was having an impact on plant survival.

"Already we've seen some effect of hot days and drought that gives some plant populations a hard time," Dr Guerin said.

Australian Seed Bank partnership national coordinator Damian Wrigley said the concept of seed banks was not new.

"There have been seed banks for thousands of years, ancient Egypt had seed storage, and Bruce Pascoe wrote about Indigenous seed collection and movement," Mr Wrigley said.

He said Australia had 23,000 flowering plant species and seeds had been collected from 13,000 of them.

*Tiny dust-like seeds are collected from this rare spider orchid at Secret Rocks. (Supplied: South Australian Seed Conservation Centre)*



*"Seed banks are like having house insurance — without them we could very quickly lose species in the wild."*

There are 10 seed banks around the country, including the South Australian Seed Conservation Centre at the State Herbarium, which has been collecting seeds since 2003.

Dr Guerin said the seed bank was used for research including seed collection and monitoring after a bushfire burnt almost half of the Secret Rocks 26,000-hectare property in the summer of 2019/2020.

"A lot of seeds might germinate after a fire because it's a very favourable environment in that there's a lack of competition [and] there's extra nutrients in the soil," she said.

"Some species will only germinate after a fire and you'll only ever see them after a fire."



Only 50 chalky wattle plants (*acacia cretacea*) are left in the wild on northern Eyre Peninsula. (*Supplied: Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species*)

### ***Rescued in the nick of time***

The work at Secret Rocks was already saving plants.

"There's a very small plant, it's called a granite mudwort [*Limosella granitica*], and it only lives in the little ephemeral pools within granite rocks, so we've been able to plant that in Secret Rocks, which I think is very important because it's a very niche habitat," Dr Guerin said.

*"Where we've collected it previously, it's a no longer there."*

She hoped in the future everyone could have access to planting the rare plants.

Mr Wrigley said a team of volunteers across the nation was helping to preserve Australia's vegetation.

"We don't just put the seeds away like in a museum — they are used for restoration or research; we grow them, and can translocate them," he said.

**Note:** Helen van Riet and Jo Watkins both received seeds of *Acacia cretacea* about 5 years ago from Bill Aitcheson of the Acacia Study Group and have had success in growing them. Helen's is flowering, and Jo's has set seed.

## Colour in the Datson garden this month



A young dwarf, suckering form of *Acacia acinacea* forming a focal point, especially on dull days



*Pimelea physodes* showing off its wondrous bracts



A potted *Eremophila cuneifolia* with a deep purple corolla and long lasting pinkish-mauve mauve sepals



Hybrid seedlings of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* have sprung up at the letterbox providing a mass of long lasting flowering as a resource for New Holland, Yellow-faced, Yellow-Tufted and White-plumed Honeyeaters and Spinebills

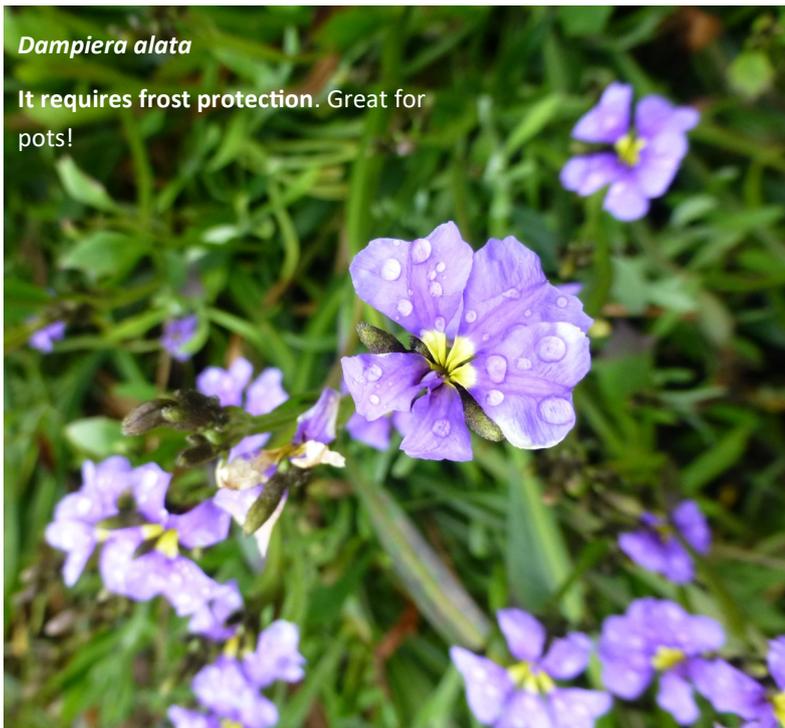
*Acacia acinacea*. Another beautiful form from the Bendigo area with red buds and tips



## More colour

*Dampiera alata*

It requires frost protection. Great for pots!



*Dampiera stenophylla*

A tough, small suckering sub-shrub for well-drained soils. Scatterings of this along path edges is very eye-catching.



*Hakea invaginata*



*Philotheca myoporoides* "Winter Rouge"

*Correa* sp. One of many of this beautiful genus.



## Reminder

### APS Victoria YouTube Channel

You may not be aware of APS Victoria's YouTube channel, so here are the links and some more information about it. Miriam Ford in particular has been making some terrific short videos on her travels around different groups. The amazing Handscombe Garden near Warrnambool, Paul Kennedy on Hakeas and Kevin Sparrow on the Swan Reserve are the latest offerings. We publicise them on Facebook – but many members choose not to be part of that.

Below you will find the link so that you can easily access the videos. It costs nothing and if you "subscribe" you will be notified of new videos. You can also share with friends to promote APS membership and what we get up to together.

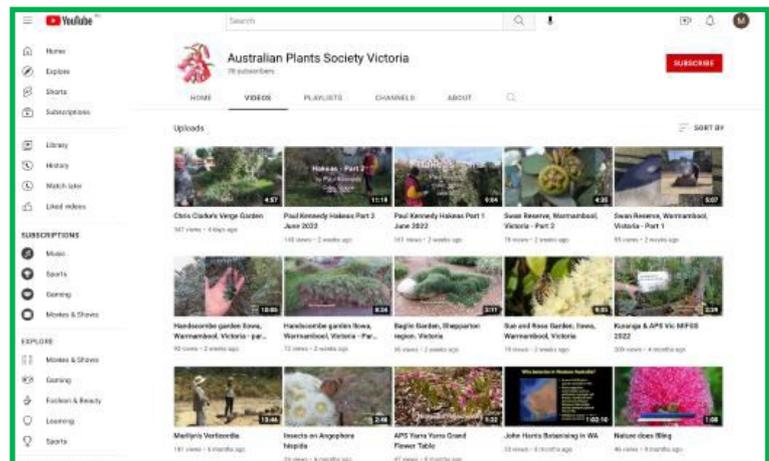
This is the link to the APS Victoria YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWUr8e-AhjROAOGEDqga0aA/videos>

You can also contribute to the YouTube channel. Our APS Vic secretary, Chris Long, says "Why not make a video of your next garden visit? Miriam can assist with how to go about it and upload it."

Some videos are essentially slideshows of photographs, and others are video footage.

If you are interested you can contact Miriam via email: [miriamdfc30@gmail.com](mailto:miriamdfc30@gmail.com).



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY WANGARATTA INC**

**Annual Membership Application 1/7/2022 - 30/6/2023**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Postal) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

In order for each member of APS Wangaratta to be covered by insurance, it is necessary to apply for both membership of APS Wangaratta **AND** APS Victoria. The option of joining only APS Wangaratta applies to those who have joined APS Victoria separately, or who have joined another APS district group through which they have already paid the APS Victoria membership component for the coming financial year.

Please tick as applicable:

- \* I/We wish to receive our newsletter by email
- \* I/We are applying as new members

**APS Wangaratta and APS Victoria**    Single \$47    Family \$54    Student \$36

**APS Wangaratta Only**                      Single \$12    Family \$14    Student \$10

**Optional payment for receipt of the ANPSA National Magazine "Australian Plants"**

**(4 editions per annum ) \$15**

**Total Payment: \$.....**

**Payment by:**

- \* Cash
- \* Cheque (Payable to APS Wangaratta), or
- \* Direct Deposit

**Please return a copy of this membership form to our Treasurer - Joanne Diver: [divers@aapt.net.au](mailto:divers@aapt.net.au)**

## ***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)

**17 & 18 September 2022** Angair Wildflower Show & Art Weekend. Strictly indigenous this year! A special display of the late John Landy's fascinating collection of local butterflies and insects, guided wildflower walks around the district, indigenous plant sales and stalls by local environmental groups. 10 am to 4 pm. Anglesea Community Precinct in McMillan Street, Anglesea.

**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 . AGM 6pm Saturday 24 September at Swan Hill Club, 5/17 McCallum Street, 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.

**8-16 October 2022** - 'Fabulous Peas' Art Exhibition hosted by APS Maroondah, at Karwarra Gardens, 1190 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama. Tuesday—Friday 10am—4pm, Saturday & Sunday 1pm—4pm.

**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). Venue: York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to: [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto: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://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au/>

**22 October 2022**—Ballarat Spring Sale. Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat.

**12 & 13 November 2022** – Garden DesignFest Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula organized by various Rotary Clubs. For details visit <https://gardendesignfest.com.au/>  
19 & 20 November 2022 – Garden DesignFest Regional Victoria.

**19 or 26 November 2022** - APS Victoria Committee of Management November quarterly meeting hosted by APS Keilor Plains at the Iramoo Grasslands Centre and reserve. <https://www.friendsvic.org/2017/01/05/iramoo-grassland-centre-and-nursery/>

Dates for 2023 – more details to follow.

1 April 2023 – APS Geelong Plant Sale. Details to follow.

22 April 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra - Autumn plant sale.

9 & 10 September 2023 – APS Yarra Yarra Plant Expo.

**Native Nurseries and Public Gardens**

<https://apsvic.org.au/nurseries-and-public-gardens/>