

# Australian Plants Society (Wangaratta Inc)

## November 2022 Newsletter

**MEETINGS:** *Venue: Masonic Lodge, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta.*

*Visitors are always welcome.*

**Thurs. 23 Feb.2023** Glenda Datson on Garden Design.

### COMMITTEE MEETING:

**Wed. 15th Feb.** 4.30pm at the Masonic Lodge.

### OUTINGS:

**Sun. 27th Nov.** 10.30am. Christmas break-up at Les & Robyn McLean's garden at 21 South Street, Benalla. Bring something 'Christmassy' to share and BYO lunch. BYO: Folding chair, Hat & sunscreen, Drinks, (& optional) alcohol, and **mossie repellent!**

**Sun. 26 Mar. TBC:** 10.30am. A digital presentation & walk, talk & show of pollinators with Karen Retra, at Helen Wrigley's, 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta, 3678. Bring morning tea to share & BYO lunch.

### PROPAGATION DAYS:

**Sat. 3rd Dec.** 9.30am on till about 2pm. Helen and John van Riet's. See p2.

**& Sat. 11th Feb.:** The February session may include pricking out.

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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.

## PROPAGATION DAY—December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

475 Shanley St, Wangaratta South.

[Corner of Shanley St & Cox Road]

Please park in the paddock – Cox Road, 1<sup>st</sup> gate on the right.

### PROPOSED PROGRAM

9:30am onwards – making cuttings, planting seeds.

11am - morning tea

12.30pm – lunch break

1.30pm - pack up

Approx. 2pm - finish!

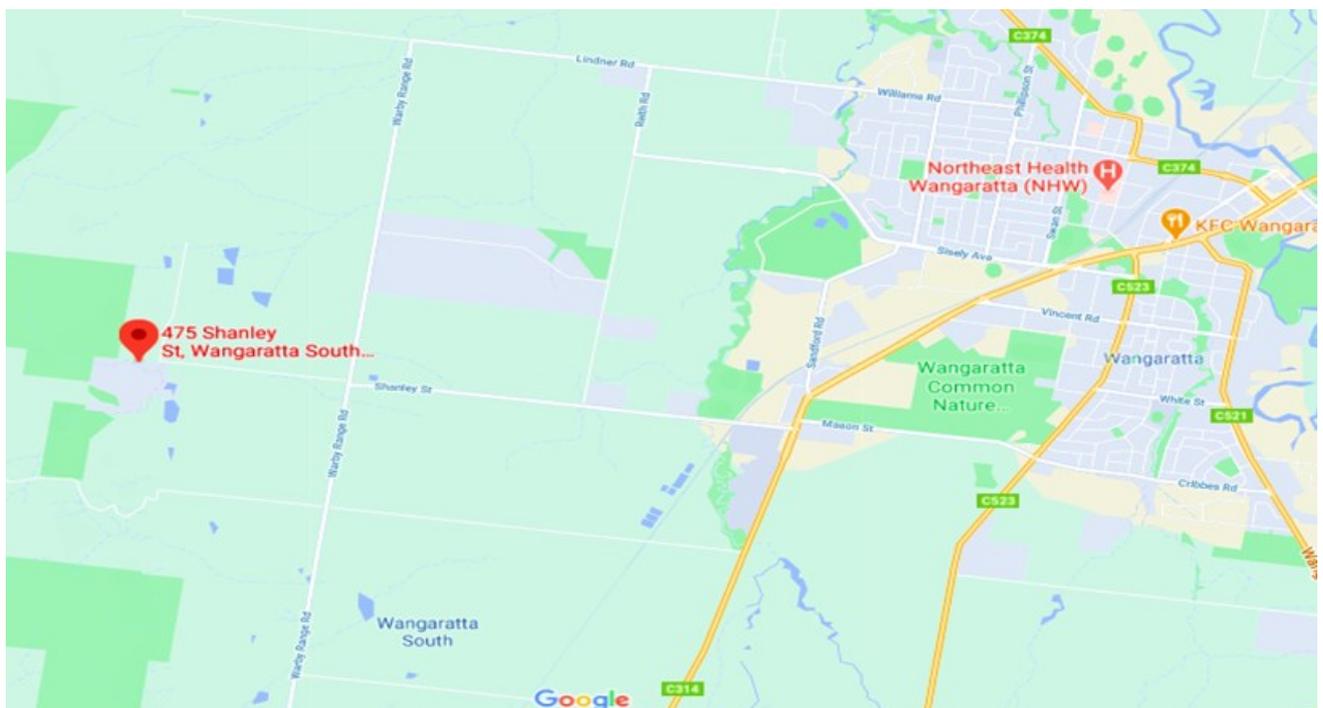
### BRING

- morning tea to share
- your own lunch
- a container - e.g. roller box - to take your cuttings home
- your favourite plants cuttings - especially those which you think will be attractive and ready to share for sale at our proposed Market Stall in early autumn.
- Seeds --- if you have some to try
- snips

We will provide propagating mix, Clonex gel, pencils, labels, seed raising mix, 3 inch pots and seedling trays, tea, coffee, chairs and tables.

Learners welcome!

John & Helen van Riet H: (03) 57257207 M: 0401 021 448 [helenvanriet@bigpond.com](mailto:helenvanriet@bigpond.com)



## ***A soggy spring garden at the foot of the Warby Ranges***

In my garden near Wangaratta, on a sunny mid-November day with no rain, there is a cool wind blowing, snow on the Alps and water, water everywhere. The ground is so wet that a branch off a gum speared several inches into the ground, looking like it had been planted.

I have not had many losses in the garden, just an *Eremophila* 'Eyre Princess', two *Olearia homolepis* which I had grown from cuttings and a *correa* near a blocked downpipe. It seems my beds are just sufficiently raised up and I do not have a lot of vulnerable plants like banksias and grevilleas. Mowing is a great chore as I have been planting more understorey for the birds and now I have to mow and weed around the young plants.

Most plants are doing spectacularly well and I have a lot of melaleucas and bottlebrushes which love water but survive well on very little. I lost hakeas in a wet year several years ago. I chose a dry spot for a couple of new ones and they are fine. *Hakea salicifolia* can take quite a bit of water. My *correas* are OK because they are under big gums which seem to have prevented the water from lying too long.

Walking around the garden is just a delight at the moment. The tea tree 'Rhiannon' which is pictured Right with the flower of *Lomandra hystrix* is a dense shrub 1 to 1.5 metres both ways which needs only light pruning. The popular 'Tickled Pink', which can get taller, finished flowering weeks ago. I must get more of the large flowered tea trees like *rotundifolium* as they need less water than I used to think.

I have 3 forms of *Melaleuca fulgens* that have been flowering for weeks through all the wet weather. The orange/red form seems to be a little more floriferous than the pink or mauve forms, but they are all fairly small, easy to grow shrubs with a long flowering period that require little pruning. Just coming into flower is the beautiful white *crowea*. The *philothecas* flowered earlier but I hardly noticed them because the weather was so bad.

The Geraldton waxes are nearly finished after a very long flowering period. The gorgeous double 'Dancing Queen' is still looking very pretty and the *Chamelaucium/Verticordia* cross, 'Paddys Pink', is at its peak. Get a load of the pods on the *Hardenbergia comptoniana*. I expect lots of seedlings in the garden this year (put in an order). This West Australian species is a beautiful purple and a bit less vigorous than the common Happy Wanderer.



The rugged *Melaleuca elliptica* has large red flowers which come straight out of the branches.



Also in my bird habitat understorey are *M. armillaris* with cream flowers which requires regular pruning. The mauve flowered *M. decussata* is a great tall shrub which can get very wide. The burgundy flowered *Callistemon 'Western Glory'* is an excellent medium shrub. A new cultivar 'All Aglow' has colourful foliage and lovely pink flowers.



My second favourite bottle brush is *C. rugulosus (macropunctatus)*, the scarlet bottlebrush. The golden stamens are very prominent and the shrub has stiff interlocking branches making it a great refuge for small birds. What is my favourite? You will have to wait for the second instalment. If I keep talking about bottle brushes either Glenda will never get this article or it will be rejected because of excessive length.



I am very pleased with an area under the Lemon Scented Gums where I have let the wallaby grasses and spear grasses go to seed and I am hoping that the Sticky (Shiny) Everlasting will self seed also. I get out and wave my arms madly when the chap comes to mow. A bit of indigenous dianella got scalped last time and I hope the red leg grass will still come up later on. I am planting and gardening more and more with the wildlife in mind. Logs for the bluetongues, grasses for the finches, habitat for the echidna. I hope I don't get any more tortoises. They don't mix with Jack Russells. It looks a bit untidy but, hey, this is my garden.

*Helen Wrigley*

## ***More garden news***

We are blessed to have our garden on granitic sand with a clay base about 18" down. Most of our garden is dry on the surface with all of the plants enjoying a really good drink. 86mm last weekend (12-15th November), over 3 days. Flooding rain, but our block is mostly dry except for a few large puddles.

***Gillian Anderson***



***A stunning Kangaroo Paw in Gillian & Paul's garden***



***Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower) flowering beautifully for Janice Jones***



***Eremophila abietena subsp. abietana  
In Glenda & Bernie's garden***



## **Report on the 14th FJC Rogers Seminar, 15th-16th October 2022**

Entitled ***Fabulous Peas***, what a fabulous weekend it was!

Sessions included “A Guide to Identifying the genera of Faboideae” presented by Marilyn Bull including the provision to attendees of a Simplified Key, a keynote address by Prof. Mike Crisp “The egg and bacon peas: origin, distribution and evolution”, “Legume Rhizobia Symbiosis” by Dr. Julie Ardley, “Propagation of peas” by Mandy Thomson of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Nursery, “Horticulture and Cultivation of peas” by Royce Raleigh, a well-researched history of “Peas in Art” by John Thompson and an Australian Pea Flower Study Group presentation by Shirley MacLaran, including notes provided to attendees on propagating pea seeds. A very informative question and answer session followed each presentation.

During the evening dinner a travelogue of peas was presented by Chris Clarke.

Sunday’s bus tours travelled to Maranoa Botanic Gardens at Balwyn and Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden at Kalorama for guided tours of the pea genera within these establishments. Karwarra in particular I found to be well worth a visit at that time of the year and, aside from the many peas, found several taller growing Thomasias which were simply stunning. As well, the ground layer was scattered with several orchid species. You must all make an effort to visit these gardens. It is so worthwhile.

Attendees also visited the beautiful gardens of Marilyn Bull and Bev Fox. At Bev’s we were all delighted to find Jan Hall waiting for us.

Unfortunately flooding prevented some members from around the State, and interstate, from getting to the seminar but Wangaratta members Lenore De Garis and Glenda Datson were individually able to dodge the potholes and road closures to get there.

***Glenda Datson***



***Your homework for the week:  
Can you identify this pea? It is  
a lowish groundcover, found  
on a roadside east of Albany,  
WA.***

**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

**To: Bendigo Bank**

**Account Name: Australian Plants Society Wangaratta**

**BSB: 633000              Account Number 122784283**

**Surname**

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

