

# Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc.

## May 2023 Newsletter

Meetings are held in the Masonic Lodge Hall, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta, @ 7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of months February to November, except for the month of July.

Outings are held on a Saturday or Sunday following each meeting. Refer to the Calendar of Events for details.

Visitors are always welcome.



### NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Please bring along a book or books you would like to share with other members. It could be fact or fiction, one you enjoyed reading and would like to let others know about so that they may enjoy it. The book should have a connection with Australian plants. It could be a book you read to your children or grandchildren.

Outing for Sunday 28<sup>TH</sup> May 2023.

TIME – 10.30 am for 11am.

280 ORCHARD DRIVE, GLENROWAN.

Locality map is included on Page 9.

We will be visiting the garden of Gillian Anderson and Paul Derezyckyj.

This garden is located within the Hamilton Park development. Gillian writes:

*Our property is one acre at the foot of the Warby Ranges. Moving here 10 years ago, we had to discover a whole new suite of indigenous plants and learn the soil & climate.*

*The garden had several beautiful mature trees interspersed with weedy plants – privet, lantana, agapanthus etc & 1/4 acre of tradescantia.*

*Our vision was to plant local indigenous species and some pretty natives. Our first efforts were eaten by the neighbour's cows and we started planting further from the fence. Our orchard and vegetable gardens go from strength to strength depending on our energy. Like all gardens it is still a work in progress.....*

**BRING:** Folding chair, morning tea to share & your own lunch.

Paul and Gillian will provide tea, coffee and shelter if the weather is unkind.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<b>MAY</b>		
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	7pm. Books that have inspired us with gardening. Leader: Janice Jones.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	10.30 for 11am To the garden of Gillian Anderson and Paul Derezycki at Hamilton Park.
<b>JUNE</b>		
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club meeting	7pm. John van Riet. The History and Art of Botanical Illustration.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	Details TBC.
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>For the month of July there will not be a Club meeting.</b>		
There will be an exhibition of Botanical Embroidery, Fabric Art and Botanical illustration created by our past and present members in the Bainz Gallery in the Wangaratta Library , Docker Street, Wangaratta.		
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	5pm. Freemasons Hall meeting room.
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	AGM & Dutch Auction	7pm Freemasons Hall.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	Kaluna Park , Wangaratta. TBC.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Details TBC
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Outing	10.30 for 11am. Mary Reid's garden.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Details TBC
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	10.30 for 11am. Waratah time @ Malcolm and Mirella McKinnon's Garden.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Club meeting	Details TBC
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	Christmas Party. Details TBC
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Propagating Day	Details TBC

## From your Editor.

Please consider writing an article or sending some interesting photos to me. Short or long, every contribution adds to this Newsletter's interest and relevance to our Club. Our Newsletter belongs to all of us! Please give me a ring or text or email if you would like to discuss an idea. Thank you all!  
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## WETLANDS OF THE MURRAY DARLING RIVER SYSTEM

**Our guest speaker in April was Adrian Wells, from the Petaurus Education Group.**

### What we learned:

- A wetland is an area which is frequently or sometimes inundated with what e.g. a swamp, billabong, marsh, lake, estuary.
- They are the richest and most diverse yet least understood areas on the earth.
- There are over 30,000 wetlands in the Basin, the Macquarie Marshes in NSW is one of the largest.



- President Janice heard Sirocco perform the Marshes Wetland Suite at the Macquarie Marshes some years ago. It's special treat, and on YouTube. The link is <https://youtu.be/0QvVE66erVM>
- More than a billion people around the world rely on wetlands for their living.
- 40% of the world's birds, fish and mammals breed in wetlands.
- Wetlands formed when the climate changed about 10,000 years ago, and the meanderings of the rivers formed billabongs.
- Most of the Murray Darling wetlands are ephemeral.
- Healthy wetlands are the 'kidneys' of our river systems.
- Since the 1830s many wetlands have been impacted by western agricultural practices and become unhealthy.
- From the 1970s there have been programs to restore degraded wetlands. The Winton Wetlands is one example.
- Restoration continues on both public and private land.
- The NSW Murray Wetlands Working group is one community/government partnership. They have rehabilitated hundreds of wetlands between Albury and Wentworth.
- Some projects return rehabilitated country back to Aboriginal ownership.
- Under international agreements, wetlands in Australia are required to provide nesting and habitat for migratory birds from China, Japan, Korea and Russia.
- Healthy lakes, rivers and wetlands are essential for future generations.



### IN JUNE .....

John van Riet has been honing his botanical illustration skills for 20 years or so.

*The Art of Botanical Illustration* will be the focus of our June meeting. This centuries-old art form pre-dates mobile phones and Artificial Intelligence and has a fascinating history. Come and find out more!



# SHOWS, CONFERENCES, PLANT SALES AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST 2023

Provided by Nicky Zanen, APS Victoria

**IMPORTANT-- PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIA WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS**

**3 June 2023** – APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting at 10am at Deep Creek Reserve Function Room, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham.

**24 & 25 June 2023** – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**22 & 23 July 2023** – Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**2 September 2023** – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

**9 & 10 September 2023** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

**16 & 17 September 2023** – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM.

**30 September & 1 October 2023** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**7 October 2023** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

**14 October 2023** – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)



The next Conference will be held in Melbourne, Victoria from 30th September to 4th Oct 2024, with the theme "Gardens for Life". The conference will be hosted by members of the Australian Plants Society (Vic).

#### Promotional Video

This video is a brief introduction to plans for the 2024 Conference. The video covers the venue, topics for discussion and speakers, the two-day excursions to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne and the Melton Botanic Garden and the three Pre- and Post-Conference tours to the Grampians/Wimmera, the Great Ocean Road/Otways and South Gippsland/Wilsons Promontory.

The link to the video is <https://youtu.be/LojRXa3oKow>

From our President  
**CELEBRATING WATTLE DAY**

**What should we do to promote Wattle Day this year, or next year—or both? We could hire the booth by the lights in town. I have no idea how much it would cost. It is one way of letting people in town know that there is a club interested in growing Australian plants, and that wattle is our national emblem. We could also give people wattle seeds [if we have any]. We have done it before.**

**All we need is wattle and safety pins so people can pin the wattle on. It would mean giving up a couple of hours.**

**Net year we could also plan for something bigger and better – get some plants ready so we could either sell them or give them away.**

**What do people think?**

## CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

APS Victoria is introducing online handling of 2023/2024 renewals and new memberships. Membership applications and renewals fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> July of each year. Unless your membership renewal is received by 31<sup>st</sup> October, it will lapse.

Most members with an email address will login to <https://apsvic.org.au/membership/>, choose their subscription, update their details as necessary, choose their method of payment and submit. This is a secure website.

If you pay by card (the preferred method), your membership will be immediately renewed; if by another method, your membership renewal will be confirmed once the deposited amount has been reconciled.

The district group portion of the payment will be transferred monthly to each District Group. (APS Vic will absorb any card fees).

If you do not have internet access, membership renewals and registration of new members will be facilitated by our Membership Officer, Gillian Anderson. Our District Group will no longer provide separate Membership renewal forms.

There are two separate components to the annual membership fees. These are Australian Plants Society Victoria, and Wangaratta Australian Plants Society District Group.

There is a third optional component to receive the National Plants Magazine “Australian Plants”.

The annual membership fees for the Wangaratta District Group component are ---  
Single \$12, Household \$14, Student \$10.

The Australian Plants Victoria membership component from July 2023 will be ---  
Single \$38, Household \$44, Student \$28.

This includes the quarterly magazine “Growing Australian”.

The optional additional subscription to receive the national magazine “Australian Plants” is \$20.

**FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN OUR WANGARATTA APS JUNE NEWSLETTER.**

## Garden visit on Sunday 30 April



What a delight to walk up a winding timber boardwalk surrounded by an acacia, a waratah with promising buds, a magnificent flowering hakea petiolaris (Sea-urchin hakea), then a flowering Eucalyptus erythricorys (Red-cap gum), followed by many more beauties!

Ten of our members experienced the magnificent garden of Glen and Heather Miles, on their property along Sessions Road, Killawarra, in the foothills of the Warbies, on what was a cool overcast day.

After lunch at the house with its great view of distant Mount Buffalo, Glen and Heather walked us around their sizable garden, now some 20 years old, but constantly changing. A recent fall of a very sizable Lemon-Scented Gum had caused a need to change part of the front garden. They told us of their love of gardening but also the frustrations that come with it.

While most plants were native ones, non-native ones like the rose garden reminded them of family and of their parents who were keen gardeners.

Other significant plants were a black pine, a bunya-bunya pine and a young Eucalyptus caesia with one branch creating a beautiful arch across the driveway up to the house.

Sustainability is important to Glen and Heather, resulting in a bountiful vegetable garden, a large kiwi fruit vine, a chook run and a 50 X 5 metres metre long caged orchard with a variety of fruit trees and berry fruits.

Our group's appreciation was expressed at afternoon tea by Pina Tiso, and we presented Glen & Heather with two new plants. Many thanks to Glen and Heather for a wonderful afternoon!

- John van Rjet.



Grevillea Peaches n Cream



Hakea petiolaris



Eucalyptus erythricorys



What's in the pond?



Glen & Gynea Lily



Banksia ericifolia X



## Blueberry family has new member after workers investigate strange plant species by roadside

By [Emily JB Smith](#) From [ABC Esperance](#)



On a sleepy roadside in rural Western Australia, Katherine Walkerden and Julie Waters stumbled upon a plant unknown to science.

In the spring of 2021, the two members of the Esperance Shire's environmental team were looking for threatened species and sensitive environments in a road reserve, ahead of a plan to widen the thoroughfare, when a strange shrub caught their eye.

It looked like a blueberry, only with slightly flatter fruit."I went, 'Oh hang on, I don't know what this one's called,'" Ms Waters said. They took a sample and tried to study it, before consulting a colleague with 30 years' experience. Still without answers, they sent it off to the WA Herbarium."The relevant expert [Michael Hislop] was extremely excited," Ms Walkerden said. "[He] believed it was almost certainly a new species."

Mr Hislop was right, although the pair would need to collect about eight more samples over following years to prove it was morphologically distinct.

But the work has finally paid off — [\*Acrotriche platycarpa\* was described in a journal called \*Nuytsia\*](#) at the end of April, with Ms Walkerden, Ms Waters and Mr Hislop listed as authors.

In the past, new species were often named after the people who discovered them, but Ms Waters was pleased to see *Acrotriche platycarpa* named for its biological traits.

She said *platy* meant 'plate-like' and *carpa* meant 'fruit', signifying its flat berries and making it easier to remember out in the field.



The discovery brings the number of recognised Australian *Acrotriche* to 19, eight of which are in WA.

The Esperance region is extremely biodiverse and likely home to more unnamed species. (ABC *Esperance: Emily Smith*)

Ms Waters said although the new plant is part of the blueberry and cranberry family, she could not say whether it tasted like the well-known fruits.

"I haven't tried it, but I have tried other *Acrotriche*," she said. "There's one that grows on the coast that tastes kind of like apples, crunchy apples."

So far, the pair have found about 60 *Acrotriche platycarpa* plants in rural road reserves. Ms Waters said although it was a tiny distribution, the plant was not listed as threatened so the area was not protected.

But she believed it would be fairly safe, with neighbours aware of it and the shire no longer planning to widen the road. "The road reserve where we found is quite an interesting space," she said. "It's sort of in that interface between two bio-geographic areas, which is probably why you get interesting species there."



The recently described plant is a type of spreading shrub. Ms Waters believed it probably existed elsewhere. "There's plenty more suitable habitat out there," she said. "It's just that no-one's really looked into it that well."

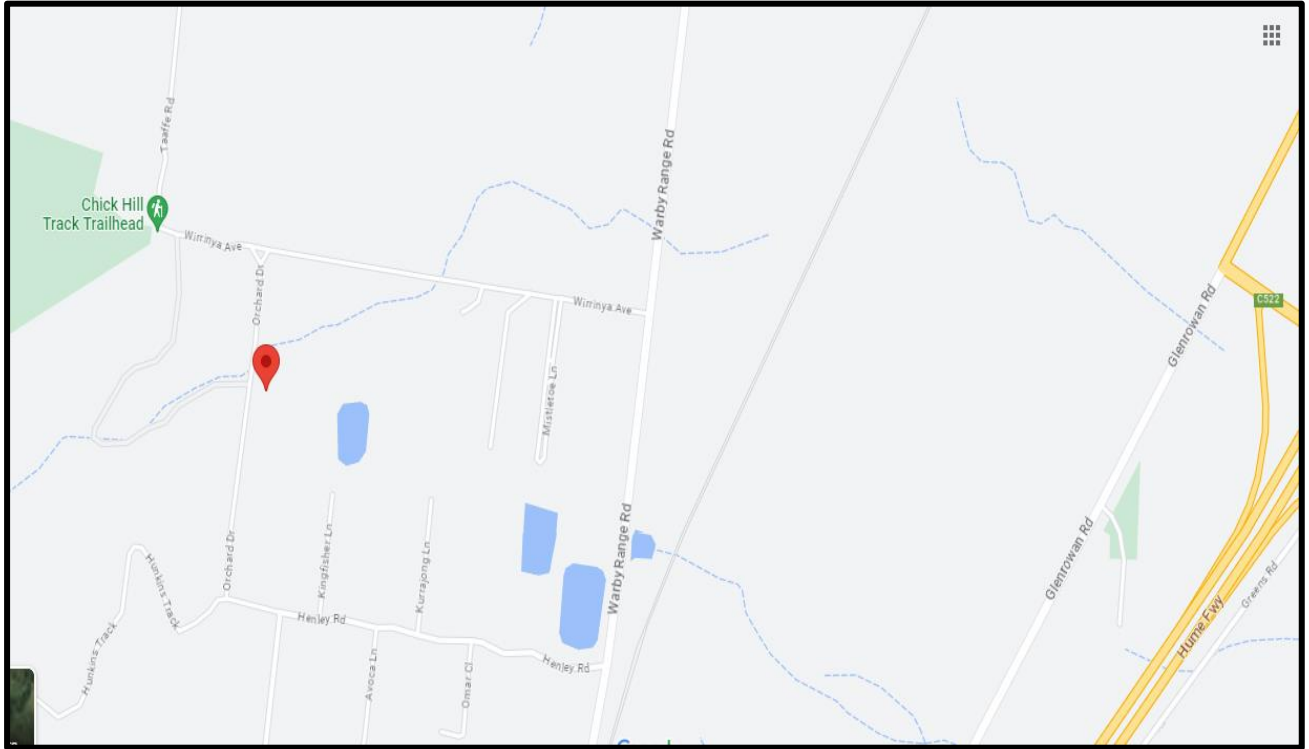
The Esperance Shire is a known biodiversity hotspot, home to more than 3,000 species. Ms Waters and Ms Walkerden are confident there will be plenty more new finds in the future. "That's the whole reason I do my job," Ms Waters said.



# Outing for Sunday 28<sup>TH</sup> May 2023.

TIME – 10.30 am for 11am.

To the Garden of Gillian Anderson and Paul Derezyckyj  
280 ORCHARD DRIVE, GLENROWAN.



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 by clicking on the date.

## Your Committee

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