

# Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. June 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.

There may be a garden visit in July 2023.

Visitors are always welcome.

## Next Meeting -Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Presentation by John van Riet

The History and Art of Botanical Illustration This will be an introduction to the history and art of Botanical Illustration, from the Renaissance to the present, illustrated with many examples from the masters of botanical illustration.

### HANDS-ON INVITATION



John says: "The evening will include an opportunity to learn first-hand the how of botanical illustration.

John is encouraging us all to 'have a go'. He says: "Don't be put off by thinking you can't draw. Botanical illustration is about copying – you just draw what you see.



You could be amazed at what you create when you just follow instructions. If you'd like to 'have a go', here's what to bring

- two pencils, an H or 2H,
- a small ruler marked in centimetres,
- a flower or sprig of leaves from your garden
- a small vase or jam jar in which to place your flower.

If you don't have a suitable flower from your garden, there will be flowers on the display table.

Drawing paper & erasers will be provided, as well as extra pencils & rulers for those who cannot bring their own.

For those who prefer to browse John's many books on botanical art, there will plenty to keep you enthralled with the delights of illustrators from centuries past to the present.

## VISIT --SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

### TO THERESE & GARETH

### GRAHAM'S GARDEN

\*\*\*Hot slow-cooker soup  
and sourdough bread are promised.\*\*\*



Therese and Gareth's have poured more than sweat and hard labour into constructing their house and garden, the love shows and the journey continues.

The house has now been officially declared 'job done'. The garden has many delights, and continues to mature and evolve with continuing new plantings. Who can forget the magnificent flower stalk of her Gymaea Lily which Therese brought for our display table a few years ago!



Our visit will incorporate a special bonus-- a trip to the nearby **Buffalo River Native Plants Nursery**, which has a terrific selection of Australian plants for sale at very reasonable prices. Their website is informative, including a current plant list. Therese has arranged for the nursery to be opened especially for our group.



A visit to the Buffalo River Nursery will be included in our outing for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. EFTPOS is available.

**REPORT -- GARDEN VISIT TO ALEX AND KERSTY TRAILL'S GARDEN ON SUNDAY MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>**



Despite the grey and drizzly weather, a curious and enthusiastic band of Wang APS stalwarts donned raincoats and unfurled their umbrellas in anticipation of enjoying the delightful garden of Alex and Kersty Trail.



A major challenge for establishing an ornamental garden, together with an orchard and veggie beds has been the Wangaratta floodplain curse --- ubiquitous clay.



The property backs onto the Ovens River. The house pad has been built up to above flood level, but the back area, including the veggie beds can be inundated in wet weather. Notwithstanding these challenges, Kersty and Alex have established a delightful garden, and through trial and error are continuing to refine the species which will thrive in these challenging conditions. The veggie garden has raised beds



with heaps of organic material yielding good results. All garden areas are regularly and heavily mulched. Kersty had major input into planning the passive solar house. Large windows outlook the garden, and wide verandahs are draped with ornamental grapevines. The garden surrounding the house is relatively well-drained and is developing well. So well, in fact, that the broad-leaved form of *Myoporum parvifolium* [Creeping Boobialla] has become so successfully established that Kersty and Alex had stripped a trailer-full of excess growth the previous week to make space for other precious plantings.



After the garden tour, our group of 12 APS visitors left their umbrellas and raincoats to dry and enjoyed a happy social time around the kitchen table.



Our thanks to Kersty and Alex for offering to host the

visit at 2 days' notice, due to the unavailability of the previously advertised garden visit due to COVID. We greatly enjoyed your generous and warm country hospitality and sharing the delights of your lovely garden and home.



# REPORT - MAY MEETING - OUR GOOD READS

The subject of the May meeting was Books on Australian Plants that we have enjoyed. We shared our treasured books and memories. We learned, we laughed, we listened. Some happy snaps of this most enjoyable and informative evening tell some of the story.....



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<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	To the garden of Therese & Gareth Graham & including a visit to Buffalo River Nursery where plants will be for sale. Map & directions on page 9
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>For the month of July there will not be a Club meeting.</b>		
There may be a garden visit to Gillian & Paul's garden, as we were not able to visit their garden in May.		
For the whole month of July 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.
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBC OUTING	To Gillian Anderson & Paul Derezyckj 's garden TBC
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	WATTLE DAY DISPLAY & SALES	Wangaratta Community Market . 8am – 12 noon. Setting up from 7.00am.
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. TBC
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!

[helenvanriet@bigpond.com](mailto:helenvanriet@bigpond.com) 04 01021448

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

Provided by Nicky Zanen, APS Victoria

- 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: [rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au)
- 2 September 2023** – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Acoonah 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: [rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au)

### CELEBRATING WATTLE DAY IN WANGARATTA

Following up from the positive response from our members to the proposal that we should celebrate Wattle Day in Wangaratta, we're doing it!

Wattle Day is traditionally celebrated on or around the 1<sup>st</sup> September. The Wangaratta Farmers' Market is held at Holy Trinity Cathedral lawns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 8am to 12 noon and is strongly supported by the locals and visitors to our region.

We've booked a stall for **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. The Market Organising Committee have been very supportive of our enquiry and are providing a site free of charge. We've accepted their invitation to present a demo [@ 11am] on how to propagate plants.

We hope to make a 'spectacular splash' with buckets of wattle flowers on display. We'll also have some plants for sale. We'll give away sprigs of wattle for folks to wear in celebration of our national emblem and small packets of wattle seeds suitable for small gardens with instructions on how to grow and care for them.

***Editor's note --- We'd appreciate your help in preparing for the day and on the day itself. Please email me on [helenvanriet@bigpond.com](mailto:helenvanriet@bigpond.com)***

***Thank you all!***

# CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

APS Victoria is introducing online handling of 2023/2024 renewals and new memberships. Membership applications and renewals fall due on 1st July of each year.

Unless your membership renewal is received by 31st October, it will lapse.

Most members with an email address will login to <https://apsvic.org.au/membership/>.

Your membership name needs to be the same as on your address label of the envelope you receive the Growing Australian Magazine in.

Please ensure that if you are a family membership, that you include all names on the address label. The envelope also has your membership number. **DON'T THROW IT AWAY!** The membership number is your log-in code.



Choose your subscription type [Single, Household, Student], update your details as necessary, choose the 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. 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.

If you run into difficulties, Marj Seaton, the Victoria APS Membership Officer will help. Marj's email is [membership@apsvic.org.au](mailto:membership@apsvic.org.au).



## WANGARATTA AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

### OUTING FOR SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### ORGANISERS – Therese & Gareth Graham

**10.30am for 11am start**

**238 Buffalo Creek Road, Myrtleford.**

**& including a visit to Buffalo River Native Nursery.**

#### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

From the B500 in Myrtleford:

Turn right at the intersection of Standish Street into C526 Buffalo River Road. [The road sign is to Lake Buffalo.] Continue on Buffalo River Road, passing Clemens Lane on your left, then the Myrtleford Scout Centre. Turn next left into BUFFALO CREEK ROAD. At 2.38 km from this Junction, turn right into the driveway, and take the left fork of the 'Y' junction.

If you get lost, Therese's phone number is 0407 563 614.

#### **NOTE THAT BUFFALO CREEK ROAD RUNS SOUTH OFF BUFFALO RIVER ROAD .**

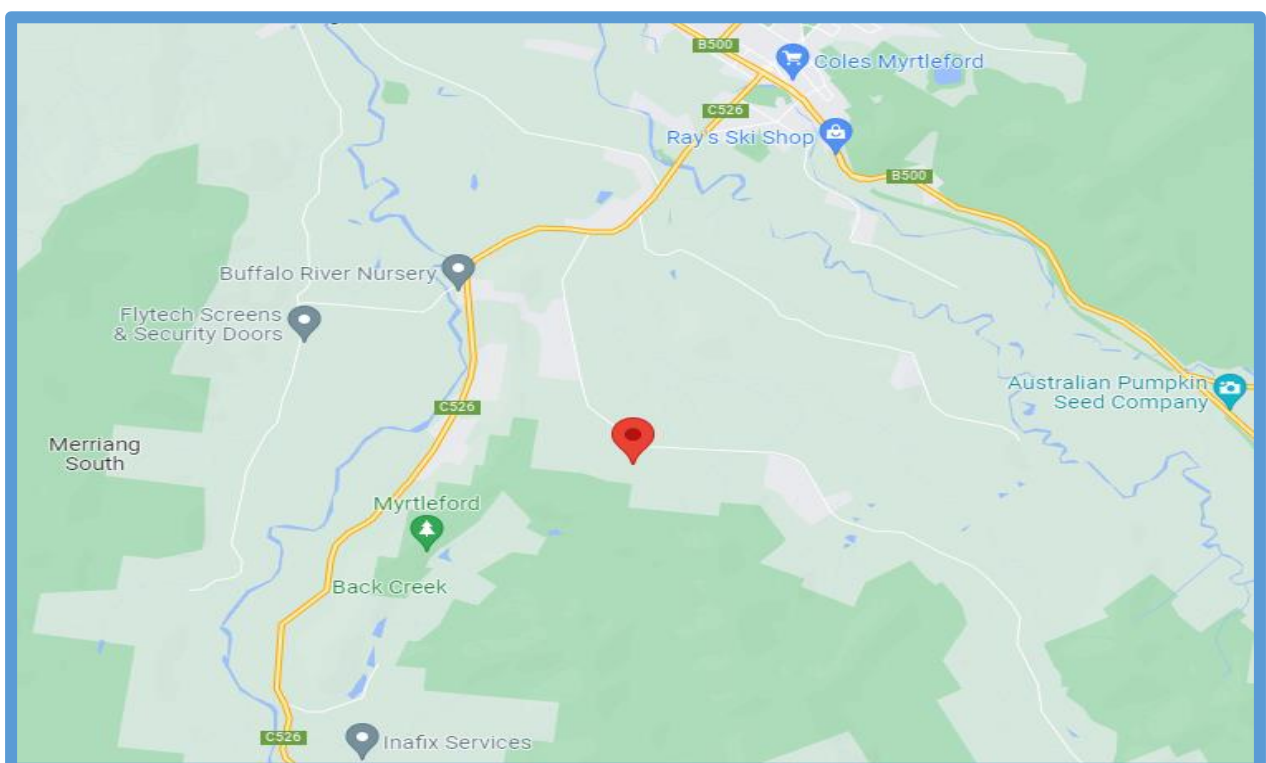
There will be plenty of shelter indoors if the weather is unkind, and Therese has promised hot soup and crusty sourdough bread. Thank you Therese & Gareth!

#### **WHAT TO BRING:**

Morning tea to share, & your own lunch.

The outing will combine a visit to Buffalo River Native Nursery, which will be opened especially for our APS group. It is located at 9 Merriang South Road, Buffalo River.

[see map below]



## RARE FLOODS IN SEMI-ARID VICTORIA HAVE LED TO THE DISCOVERY OF A PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED PLANT SPECIES, THE WIRE-STEM CHICKWEED, ON DRYING WETLANDS IN THE MALLEE.



By Tamara Clark

The wire-stem chickweed grows in arid areas including Central Australia, but experts say even there it is uncommon.

The discovery was made on Fiona and Phil Murdoch's 490-hectare conservation property next to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.

Ms Murdoch, who does conservation work on the property, said the historical discovery was only possible due to Raakajlim Creek at their property in Colignan getting soaked for the first time in 50 years during summer water events.

"We've been monitoring how the vegetation has been recovering since the floods that went through our property from the Murray River in December 2022 and the landscape is changing really quickly.



"I was walking along in pretty much a bare area and there's this really strange plant with a red stem so I had a bit of a look and couldn't find it in any of my plant books. "I sent it to some friends and they had no idea [and said] 'never seen that one'. "So I looked into more plant books and eventually sent it down to the [National] Herbarium of Victoria who confirmed the identification of wire stem chickweed.

Ms Murdoch described the less than 10-centimetre tall plant as "quite unassuming" with a red stem surrounded by a small rosette of leaves and tiny white flowers "that look like they're never going to open".



"It spreads out and looks like a little red sprinkling across the ground," she said. "One of the awesome things about living in the Mallee is it's still possible to discover things because not everywhere in the valley has been explored. "I always think being out in the bush is a bit like a treasure hunt. You never know what you're going to find."

"It's super exciting particularly after a big flood because it makes you ask what other species are out there hanging on in very small numbers or, like this, never discovered in Victoria before.



"It shows the role of private conservation sites in improving our understanding of our flora and fauna."

## WIRADJURI AND WALGALU WOMEN PROTECT ENDANGERED TUMUT GREVILLEA PLANT AS PART OF BUUGANG WAMBAL PROJECT

By Penny Burfitt

Megan Considine is a Wiradjuri-Walgalu woman and a coordinator of the Buugang Wambal Conservation & Connecting to Country Project. The project is one of nine in NSW funded by the Department of Planning and Environment that is studying how ecosystems can be improved when Aboriginal people are involved in looking after traditional lands.



Buugang Wambal refers to the Bogong Moth Mountain in Wiradjuri language; one site the project has focused conservation efforts on.

But on the banks of the Tumut River, the critically endangered Tumut grevillea takes centre stage. It almost exclusively occurs in a 6 kilometre corridor in the state's south-west. The project focuses on land management and Aboriginal women are laying the groundwork by planting seedlings. The project also aims to get the Aboriginal people back onto country to care for this endangered grevillea.

Senior threatened species officer with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, David Hunter, works alongside the community as part of the project. The Tumut grevillea has long been associated with women's business. Dr Hunter said the approach being taken through Buugang Wambal was the way of the future.

"We're out on country looking after species in places that are culturally very significant to the Brungle-Tumut community, so we have a real role to play in facilitating access for community to get back on country," he said.

"We're [also] learning a whole new thing about these

species and the possible traditional management

tools that could be used to look after them."



Local men have been involved in conservation of the endangered corroboree frog, but the grevillea project is where the women gather. That is in keeping with long-standing cultural practice, according to Jasmyn Penrith, a

Wiradjuri woman from Tumut.

"The grevillea is usually connected to women's business because we've found it around a lot of women's sites, it's really significant," she said.

For Jamie Freeman, working with the grevillea is about continuity. "It's meaningful, we know that in the future they're going to grow, they're going to be here for our kids and that makes you feel better," she said.

Ms Considine is one of two community coordinators employed on the project, which comprises almost 40 Walgalu and Wiradjuri people. But Dr Hunter said the funding for those roles was due to run out within eight months.



"We see this as a project that needs to be ongoing, this needs to be how we do business in biodiversity conservation," he said. "We need to be moving forward with the traditional owners and doing everything in collaboration, and supporting the traditional owners to be on country."

Projects such as Buugang Wambal would be considered in a new Healthy Country Framework being developed by the Department of Planning and Environment, which would identify caring for country projects with which the community could be engaged.

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.

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