

# Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. August 2023 Newsletter

<u>Meetings</u> are held in the Masonic Lodge Hall, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta, @ 7pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of months February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October & November.

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

The next meeting is on Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup>. The main focus of our meeting will be a silent auction. Details are on Page 5.

The meeting will include the AGM. Regardless of whether or not all committee positions are filled, there is NEVER any pressure on members to accept nomination.

Visitors are always welcome.

# Membership Renewals Are Now Online

Go to apsvic.org.au/membership and follow the instructions. Important: Keep your yellow Growing Australian envelope – when renewing your membership, you will need your membership number that is printed on the front. You must use the same email address that you have previously provided to our Membership Officer, Gillian.

If you do not have internet access, please contact Gillian Anderson, our District Group Membership Officer on 0411 111830 or contact APS Vic Membership Officer Marj Seaton on (03) 9570 6293.

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

Refer to 'Membership Matters' in the June 2023 <u>Growing Australian</u> Magazine for more details.



## EXHIBITION IN THE BAINZ GALLERY OF THE LIBRARY

During the month of July our group [coordinated by Janice], organised an exhibition of fabric banners which had been crafted by our members some 10 years ago, together with botanical illustrations by John van Riet. We have had lots of positive comments about the exhibition – a different way of raising the awareness of the general public about the beauty and diversity of Australian plants. Our thanks go to John and Janice for this initiative.









#### Annual General Meeting update

The Committee are responsible for assisting in many different ways to ensure that our Club can function effectively and can offer an interesting and informative program. We encourage everyone to consider whether they could help our group by nominating and/or being nominated for an office-bearer of general committee member position.

At the time of sending out this newsletter, the Committee have received nominations for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, APS Victoria Representative, Membership Officer and four general Committee positions.

To date we have not received nominations for the positions of President or Secretary. Both these positions are essential for the good-functioning of our Club. The Committee ask that you consider offering yourself or talking to another APS member about nominating for one of these positions. In the unlikely event that any positions on our committee do not have a nomination, we DO NOT put anyone 'on the spot' or accept nominations 'from the floor', unless the nominee has already agreed to that nomination.

#### Nomination forms are on page 13.

Following the AGM we will enjoy the traditional silent or Dutch Auction. It's lots of fun and everyone wins one or more bargain=priced plants of their choice. Cash or direct debit are accepted. Details are on page 5.

# Visit to "Paul & Gillian's Paradise" @ Hamilton Park on 23<sup>RD</sup> July.



Sunshine was a welcome guest for this club visit. Seventeen club members gathered on the north-facing patio to enjoy a sumptuous morning tea [with scones, jam and cream]. The garden had had a serious tidy-up and major renovation. In every nook, closer inspection revealed surprising treasures and Paul and Gillian's concerted efforts in preparation for our visit. Botanical delights included the family heirloom Hoya, lemon myrtle, Acacia leprosa 'Scarlet Blaze' just budding up, and a bright red Correa --- 'Fat Bastard'.

A quote from Gillian in our July newsletter ---





"Coming up to 10 years on our acre, Paul is having a renovation spurt --- Replacing some older plants and bringing in new ones.

He's just taken out all the Naked Ladies, divided my Kangaroo Paws into many new plants, spread mulch, weeding and making the place look amazing."

After a leisurely garden tour, punctuated with happy chats and anecdotes, the group gathered once more on the patio to soak up the sunshine over lunch.



Our thanks to Gillian and Paul for this most interesting and enjoyable outing to 'their patch'.







## WATTLE DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August our Club celebrated Wattle Day at the Wangaratta Farmers Market. This was the first time that we had held a stall in the Market. We were thrilled that the organisers of the Market offered us a free space and a contribution towards our costs for the day.

We were well prepared. Two working bees before the day ensured that we had 32 different species packaged and labelled. Bill Aitchison, the Convenor of the Acacia Study Group of the Australian Plants Society had provided us with some interesting seed, and this, together with seed from our own members resulted in a great selection for the visitors to our stall to choose from.

The species on offer were Acacia acinacea, boormanii ,brownii, buxifolia, calamifolia, cardiophylla , chinchillensis, chrysocephala ,dealbata , denticulosa, drummondii ssp. drummondii, fimbriata, flexifolia, genistifolia, hetereochroa, howittii , idiomorpha, imbricata, implexa , jibberdingensis, lasiocarpa var. sedifolia, lineata ,melanoxylon, pulchella, pulchella kamballup dwarf , pycnantha , retinodes, spectabilis , triptera , varia var. parvifolia, verniciflua and williamsonii.

Most popular were A. boormanii [Snowy River Wattle], pycnantha [Golden Wattle],

brownii, genistifolia, verniciflua and drummondii, ssp. drummondii. We gave away over 120 free packets of seed, together with growing instructions. We demonstrated how to grow acacias from seed – replete with a thermos very hot water, propagating mix, etc. Everything on our stall was free. Free plants, free information and Wattle Day Badges [so craftily assembled by our volunteers] were very popular. There was a lot of interest in the flowers on display. Enthusiastic visitors took some cutting material to try.



We were all so busy on the day that no-one remembered to take a photo. However, some of the flowers that were on display were incorporated into flower arrangements for a funeral which was held on the following Monday.

Our thanks to all our helpers in preparing for the day and on the day itself. It was well worthwhile, and plans are afoot for something similar in 2024.

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

#### Provided by Nicky Zanen, APS Victoria

#### IMPORTANT ----- PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS

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 Committee of Management & AGM. DETAIIS AND REGISTRATION LINKS ARE ON PAGE 13 OF THIS NEWSLETTER 30 September & 1 October 2023 – APS Grampians Group Romonal Native Flower Show, Romonal Hall

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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.
7 & 8 October 2023 – Open Days at Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia. 9 am to 4.30 pm.
14 October 2023 – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From

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. Please check web for confirmation.

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: <u>rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au</u>

20th April 2024 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn plant sale. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm

14 & 15 September 2024 APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 4pm

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria.

## PROGRAM FOR THE MEETING ON 24th AUGUST 2023

Our next APS Wangaratta meeting will include the annual general meeting.

Our AGM does not take any more time than is necessary. In the unlikely event that any positions on our committee do not have a nomination, we DO NOT put anyone 'on the spot' or accept nominations 'from the floor', unless the nominee has already agreed to that nomination.

<u>LUCKY NUMBER SILENT AUCTION.</u> To round out the evening and by popular demand, our fourth HYBRID 'SILENT LUCKY NUMBER AUCTION' will keep us all on our toes.

<u>How it will work</u>.....

We will have purchased approximately 30 lovely Australian plants from various nurseries on which to try your luck. Each plant will have a receptacle into which identifying numbered voting slips for the corresponding plant may be placed.

Each person will be registered and given an identifying number.

You will receive 20 voting slips with your identification number and space to write how much you would be willing to pay for a particular plant. You will be invited to place each of your 20 slips in the corresponding receptacles beside each plant you would like to purchase. We suggest that your nominated amount could be anything from \$1 upwards.

There may be just a few plants that you really want to win. You could put quite a few of your voting slips in one bucket, or not be fussed, and distribute your voting slips amongst the 30 buckets in any way you wish.

Lots will be drawn from the accumulated voting slips for each plant. The lucky winner gets to purchase the plant for the amount they have nominated on their slip.

To ensure that everyone gets an equal chance, once a member has drawn a winner, they will not be included in subsequent draws until everyone who has made a bid has drawn a winner. There will also be consolation prizes for those who don't draw a winner. And swapping of plants among ourselves is always an option.

All payments will be collected at the conclusion of the silent auction. Cash or direct deposit is fine.

To: Bendigo Bank Account Name: Australian Plants Society Wangaratta BSB: 633000 Account Number 122 784 283 Please add your identity - Surname & 'plants'



### Wangaratta Australian Plants Society CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Please note that there will not be an outing in October. In lieu there will be a propagating day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Learners and observers all welcome!

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS				
AUGUST						
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	AGM & Dutch Auction	7pm Freemasons Hall.				
Sunday 27th	Outing	To the garden of Jenny Davidson.				
		172 Up River Road, Gooramadda.				
		10.30am for 11am . Bring Morning tea to				
		share. BYO lunch. Details: page 7.				
SEPTEMBER						
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.				
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Grand Spring Display table.				
OCTOBER						
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Outing	10.30 for 11am. Waratah time @ Malcolm and				
		Mirella McKinnon's Garden. 261 Wabonga				
<b>•</b> • • • • •		Lane, Eurobin.				
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Propagation Day	At van Riet's. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta				
Thursday Ooth		South. 9.30am onwards.				
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	Club meeting. Video and discussion. Details to				
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	NO OUTING.	come. In lieu of this outing, we are having a learn-as-				
Sunday 23		you-go propagating day on 14 <sup>th</sup> October. [see				
		abovel.				
NOVEMBER						
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.				
Thursday 23rd	Meeting with Guest	Guest Speakers – Graham and Maree Goods.				
	Speakers	"Desert Discovery" - the protection and				
		enhancement of the natural environment in				
		remote regions of Australia.				
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Outing	10.30 for 11am . Christmas Party. To the home				
		and garden of Jenny & Richard Kjar, Sessions				
		Rd, Killawarra.				
DECEMBER						
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Propagating Day	At van Riet's. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta				
		South. 9.30am onwards.				

#### Your 2022/2023 Committee:

President: Janice Jones 0427 319 943 wang.jones@bigpond.com Vice-President: John Van Riet (03) 57 257 207 helenvanriet@bigpond.com Secretary: John Podubinski: 0428 360 787 j.podubinski@gmail.com Treasurer: Joanne Diver 0412 985 501 divers@aappt.net.au Membership Officer: Gillian Anderson (03) 5766 2397 pdga280@bigpond.com Newsletter Editor: Helen van Riet 0401 021 448 helenvanriet@bigpond.com APS Vic. Representative & Specimen Table: Therese Graham 0407 563 614 Non-official Roles:

> Jenny Davidson 0418169917 Helen Wrigley (03) 5722 2824 Rosemary Buchanan (Supper Roster) 0428998336 Joye Podubinski 0403048791

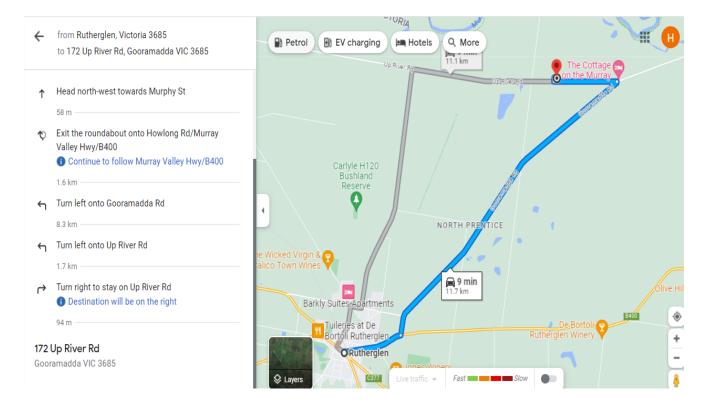
#### OUTING FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 To the garden of Jenny Davidson. 172 Up River Road, Gooramadda.

10.30am for 11am . Jenny's phone number is 0418 169 917

#### WHAT TO BRING:

- Morning tea to share
- Your own lunch
- Folding chair
- Coffee mug

#### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS**



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.

# WILDFLOWER & ART WEEKEND



#### 16 4 17 September 2023 10 am – 4 pm Anglesea Memorial Hall McMillan Street, Anglesea

The show includes spectacular displays of native flowers and opportunities for people to take guided walks and bus tours to visit the bushland and flora reserves to see indigenous flowers in their natural habitat. There are also native plants books on environmental subjects, cards and various forms of craftwork for sale.

These are the typical weekend attractions:

- Spectacular displays of indigenous flowers
- Guided wildflower walks and bus tours
- Indigenous plants for sale
- Art and craft exhibitions and stalls
- Hooded Plover activities
- Light refreshments throughout the day
- Exciting children's activities
- Swap an environmental weed for a local plant

Adults \$5 Children Free Students and Pensioners \$2

ANGAIR (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna) is dedicated to protecting our indigenous flora and fauna, and to maintaining the natural beauty of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet and their local environments. It was established in 1969 through the influence of a local resident Mrs Edith Lawn.

Visit online at: www.angairnatureshow.org.au

Enquiries: email admin@angair.org.au phone 5263 1085 www.angair.org.au

# Some good news on the environment from the Victorian National Parks Association

From Chris Long

Back in January we heard about a plan to remove a considerable number of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) from Macedon Regional Park's Memorial Cross. The reason? To



create a better view of Melbourne.

With their striking multi-coloured bark, Snow Gums are revered for their beauty and tenacity. In Macedon they're part of a Significant Landscape Overlay, a protection given to places with unique values 'for current and future generations'.

Now I reckon you're like us and would say that the Snow Gums are the view. So we

worked with locals and nature groups to get to the bottom of this nonsensical idea. There were discussions with the local council, horticulturalists and Parks Victoria. It felt like we were making progress and not as many of the trees would be axed as originally planned.

So I was pretty excited when the Macedon Ranges Shire Council voted to oppose an application to remove the Snow Gums (and other native vegetation). Meaning every single Snow Gum would stay.

# NSW government buys Comeroo Station for land conservation

by Penny Timms [edited] 30 Jul 2023

More than 100,000 hectares have been purchased recently for conservation in NSW, including Comeroo Station.



The Station was purchased for just under \$13 million by the NSW government and The Nature Conservancy. The purchase will help meet Australia's commitment to protect land, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems.

Comeroo features alluvial flood plains and swamps with permanent waterholes, ephemeral wetlands, grasslands, woodlands, and shrublands. The diversity of its bioregions is unique. It's the type of place that responds remarkably to the seasons. Over the next year and a half, parks staff will gradually convert it from



a mixed grazing property and transform it into a new national park.

Four traditional owner groups will also be consulted to help with cultural heritage surveys. The park includes a watercourse that feeds into the Murray Darling Basin. The site is in the Mulga

Lands bioregion, an area which has had very little protection. There are over

28 plant types that are considered threatened. There are 13 threatened (animal) species, and a wealth of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Part of the property also takes in the Yantabulla Swamp

— one of Australia's most important wetlands. It's connected to an unregulated river system that's in very good condition.

Director of the Centre for Ecosystem Science at the University of NSW Richard Kingsford, said the significance of the purchase cannot be downplayed. He has been studying the swamp since the 1980s. "We can get up to 40,000, maybe even up to 70,000 waterbirds here and of those, up to 3,000 will be these migratory shorebirds that make their way right up from Russia and China to spend the summer here. It's still got the same river system, so it's still got the same flooding patterns but there's very little development that's occurred on this river and so it's a real 'prevention is better than a cure' case study," he said.



Lack of development would also prove invaluable as the impacts of climate change intensified. Extreme temperatures raise the threat of evaporation, especially in areas without a permanent flow of water. It makes protecting inland water systems important for both nature and people, especially in areas that are still healthy like the area around Comeroo.

"These types of partnerships will be critical to achieving large-scale protection outcomes and meeting Australia's commitment to protecting 30 per cent of land, freshwaters, and ocean ecosystems by 2030," said James Fitzsimmons, senior advisor with The Nature Conservancy.

# This pea tricks bees into thinking it is an orchid and has food

by Adrian Dyer and Daniela Scaccabarozzi.

A winter donkey orchid (left) and a prickly bitter-pea. Credit: Cal Wood/iNaturalist; caitlind164/iNaturalist, CC BY

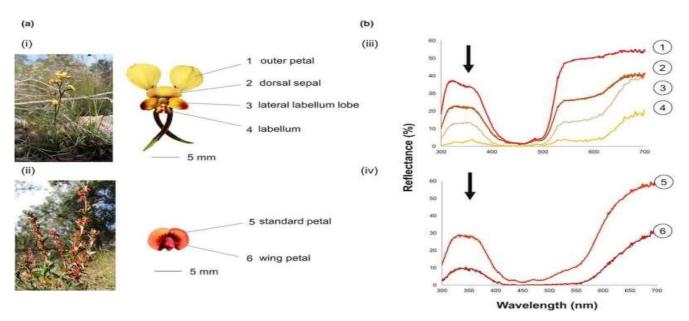
If you've ever compared a frozen pizza to the photo on the box, you know the feeling of being duped by appetizing looks.



In our latest study published in *Ecology and Evolution*, we show that animals—in this case, bees—are also prone to being tricked into making poor decisions, which explains a lot about how gaps in perception are exploited in nature.

When Charles Darwin was testing the theory of evolution 150 years ago, he looked at the interaction between flowering plants and the animals that forage to collect nectar.

This helped establish that flowers have adaptations to promote easier pollinator access, making it beneficial for the animal who gets a food "reward" from them. At the same time, it means the <u>plants get</u> <u>pollinated and can reproduce</u>.



Flower shape and colour properties of an orchid (upper row) and a native pea flower (lower row) shown in the field, as individual flowers, and with spectral measurements. Credit: <u>Scaccabarozzi et al., 2023</u>.

One perplexing problem is some <u>flowering plants</u> that reproduce by pollination are non-rewarding—the animal doesn't get nectar from visiting the flower. This is true of <u>certain orchids</u>, yet these flowers are

still visited by pollinators and survive well in nature. With the benefit of modern scientific tools like a spectrophotometer that measures the amount of colour, <u>digital ultraviolet (UV) photography</u> and computer modeling of how bees see the world, our international team set out to understand how some orchids have evolved dazzling floral displays.

Our chosen species was the winter donkey orchid (Diuris brumalis), <u>endemic to Western Australia</u>. This non-rewarding, food deceptive plant blooms at the same time as rewarding native pea plants (Daviesia).

As a result, native Trichocolletes bees appear to mistake the orchid for legume plants <u>frequently</u> <u>enough</u> that the orchid gets pollinated.

The main component of the visual information perceived by a bee was in the short wavelength UV region of the spectrum. While our vision sees blue, green and red wavelengths of light as primary colours, bees can see UV reflected light but lack a channel for perceiving primary red.

By using computer models of bee pollinator perception, we observed the orchid mimic species and the native pea plant species did actually look similar in colour to bees. What was surprising, however, was the non-rewarding orchid flowers—pollinated by deception—actually have more conspicuous advertising for bee vision. The main display outer flower petals were significantly larger on the orchid plants, and also produced a stronger UV colour signal.

To understand if such signaling was biologically relevant, we next conducted <u>field experiments</u> with the plants. We used a special UV sun-blocking solution to remove the strong UV signals in half of the orchid species, while the other half retained their natural appearance. At the completion of the field season, several months later, we could measure which plants were more successfully pollinated by bees, revealing the strong UV signals had a significant role in promoting pollination in the orchids.

A second interesting finding of the field experiments was the distance between the pea flowers and their copycat orchids was a major factor in the success of the orchids' deception strategy. If the orchids with strong UV signals were within close proximity—a meter or two—to the rewarding native pea flowers, the deception was less successful and few orchid flowers were pollinated. However, if the deceptive <u>orchids</u> were about eight meters away from the rewarding model species, this produced the highest success rate in pollination.

A distance of about eight meters is important because of the way bee brains process colour. When bees see a pair of colours in <u>close proximity</u>, they can evaluate them at the same time. This leads to <u>very precise colour matching</u>. A similar process happens in <u>human brains</u>—we also have <u>to see colours at the same time</u>. However, seeing colour stimuli with a time interval in between means the brain has to remember the first colour, inspect the second colour, and make a mental calculation about whether the two samples are indeed the same.

Neither bee brains, nor our own, are good at successive colour comparisons. This is why when we purchase paint for a repair job we take a sample to get a precise match, rather than try and remember what we thought the colour should look like. Deceptive flowers are successful by exploiting this perceptual gap in how brains have to code information when <u>bees</u> need to fly several meters in search of more food. By using a "look at me" strategy (essentially, better advertising than other plants) it is possible to survive in nature without actually offering a food reward to the pollinators. To do this, the plants need to be at an optimal distance from the plants they are mimicking. Not too close and not too far, and success is assured.

*More information:* Daniela Scaccabarozzi et al, Mimicking orchids lure bees from afar with exaggerated ultraviolet signals, Ecology and Evolution (2023). <u>DOI: 10.1002/ece3.9759</u> Provided by <u>The Conversation</u>

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# APS Grampians

# INVITATION - A REGISTRATION INFORMATION APS Victoria Quarterly Meeting & AGM 23rd & 24th September 2023,

# 4 Pomonal Flower Show 30th September 4 1st October

This is your personal invitation to register for this once-a-year event. Below is an extract from the email from Chris Long, APS Victoria Secretary. You can control + click to follow the on-line links.

#### September 2023 Event Registration Form

This is the registration form for the APS Vic. Quarterly Meeting & AGM on the weekend of the 23rd & 24th September 2023, and for the week leading up to the Pomonal Flower Show on the 30th of September & 1st of October.

APS Grampians Group welcomes the APS Vic committee, district group delegates and those accompanying them.

This form is for you to register your intent to attend; there are no payments required in advance.

#### Registration deadline: Friday 15th September

You may pre-order any books from the APS Vic booklist to collect on the Saturday of the Committee of Management Meeting.

There will be a registration fee to cover light refreshments on Saturday & Sunday and ancillary costs. Lunch and dinner will be paid separately.

Any payments are to be made in person on Saturday the 23rd Sep. EFT & card payments will be accepted.

If you have to cancel, please advise grampians@apsvic.org.au.

#### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY WANGARATTA INC. NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023 – 2024

POSITION - (Please circle) Pre Nev		sident Secretary APS Victoria Repre		Membership Officer Committee Member
I nominate			(Name of pe	erson being nominated)
Name & signature of pr	oposer			
Name & signature of Se	econder			
Signature of person bei Nomination forms to b				
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		PLANTS SOCIETY V R OFFICE BEARERS		
		2023 – 2024		
POSITION - (Please circle) Pre Nev		sident Secretary APS Victoria Repre		Membership Officer Committee Member
I nominate			(Name of pe	erson being nominated)
Name & signature of pr	oposer			
Name & signature of Se	econder			
Signature of person bei Nomination forms to b				