

Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. September 2023 Newsletter

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

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

Propagation Days are held on selected Saturdays.

The next meeting is on Thursday September 28th. This will be our traditional Grand Spring Display Table. Details are on Page 2.

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 APS Wangaratta. Our new District Group Membership Officer is Linda Huzzey.

If you do not have internet access, please contact Linda, 0439 608 130 or contact APS Vic Membership Officer Marj Seaton on (03) 9570 6293.

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

Your 2023/2024 Committee:

President: John Van Riet 04 2812 9007 (03) 57 257 207 helenvanriet@bigpond.com

Secretary: Pina Tiso 0409 602 885 pinatiso48@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joanne Diver 0412 985 501 divers@aappt.net.au

Membership Officer: Linda Huzzey 0439 608 130 huzzey@westnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor: Helen van Riet 0401 021 448 helenvanriet@bigpond.com

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

Non-official Roles:

Janice Jones 0427 319 943 wang.jones@bigpond.com

Rosemary Buchanan (Supper Roster) 0428998336

Gillian Anderson (03) 5766 2397 pdga280@bigpond.com

Jenny Davidson 0418169917

Helen Wrigley (03) 5722 2824

SHOWS, CONFERENCES, PLANT SALES AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Provided by Nicky Zanen, APS Victoria

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

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 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: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

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.



GRAND SPRING DISPLAY TABLE

PROGRAM FOR THE 28TH SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our next APS Wangaratta meeting will be a Grand Spring Display Table. This is how it will work. Everybody is invited to bring flowers from their garden or the local area. Bring them in a bucket or in bunches. 'In your face' show-stoppers, demure or tiny, whatever you can bring will get its moment to shine. We will spread all the different specimens out on tables in the middle of the meeting room. The business meeting will be short, then we will grab a cuppa and workshop together in a sorting out and naming of the anticipated amazing variety of specimens into plant groups.



Therese has prepared labels and we'll all give a hand to work out which plant belongs to which plant family. There are bound to be some tricky unknowns, --- [is it a grevilliea or a hakea?], and maybe some educated guesses. This aspect is always a valuable shared learning opportunity. It will be a time for sharing stories of successes, disappointments, even some surprises. And, foremost for us all, the joy of our gardens and the countryside bursting into springtime glory.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 20 th	Committee Meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.
Thursday 28 th	Club Meeting	Grand Spring Display table.
OCTOBER		
Sunday 1 st	Outing	10.30 for 11am. Waratah time @ Malcolm and Mirella McKinnon's Garden. 261 Wabonga Lane, Eurobin.
Saturday 14 th	Propagation Day	At van Riet's. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South. 9.30am onwards.
Thursday 26 th	Club Meeting	Club meeting. Grafting Eremophilas – video & workshop.
Sunday 29 th	NO OUTING.	In lieu of this outing, we are having a learn-as-you-go propagating day on 14th October. [see above].
NOVEMBER		
Wednesday 15 th	Committee meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall meeting room.
Thursday 23 rd	Meeting with Guest Speakers	Guest Speakers – Graham and Maree Goods. "Desert Discovery" - the protection and enhancement of the natural environment in remote regions of Australia.
Sunday 26 th	Outing	10.30 for 11am . Christmas Party. To the home and garden of Jenny & Richard Kjar, Sessions Rd, Killawarra.
DECEMBER		
Saturday 2 nd	Propagating Day	At van Riet's. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South. 9.30am onwards.
JANUARY 2024		
FEBRUARY		
Saturday 10 th	Propagating day & Committee meeting	At van Riet's. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South. 9.30am onwards. Committee meeting will follow the lunch break.
Thursday 22 nd	Club meeting	Freemasons Hall Guest speaker TBA
Saturday 24 th	Garden Visit	Outing to the garden of Philippa and Paul Duggan, Boweya. Early evening garden walk and shared BBQ tea. From. 6pm.
MARCH		
Wednesday 5 th	TBC Committee meeting	
Saturday 23 rd	Garden visit	Outing to the garden of John and Trish Gibbons, Mt Beauty. Including tour of the local Landcare Rehabilitation project.
Thursday 28 th	Club meeting	Topic TBC
Sunday 31 st	NO OUTING	Easter Sunday. Note: Date of outing has been changed to Saturday 23rd March.
APRIL		
Saturday 6 th and Sunday 7 th	OFF GRID LIVING FESTIVAL	CHILTERN – Information and publicity & plants for sale.
Thursday 18 th	Club meeting	Guest speaker - Lisa Farnsworth – The Winton Wetlands Rehabilitation Project.
Thursday 25 th	ANZAC DAY	NO MEETING.
Sunday 28 th	Outing	Outing to Winton Wetlands- Leader – Lisa Farnsworth.
MAY		
Thursday 23 rd	Club Meeting	TBC
Sunday 26 th	Outing	TBC
JUNE		
Wednesday 5 th	TBC	Committee meeting
Thursday 27 th	Club Meeting	TBC
Sunday 30 th	Outing	TBC

OUTING FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 TO THE GARDEN OF MIRELLA & MALCOLM MCKINNON

261 Wobonga Lane, Eurobin

Malcolm's phone number is 0408 826 955

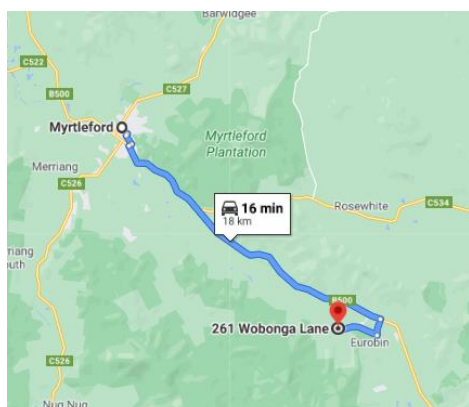
Meet 10.30am for 11am for a shared morning tea. T & C provided.

What to bring

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

Driving directions from Myrtleford:

16 min (18.0 km) via Great Alpine Rd/B500 Travel towards Bright.



Look for this road sign at the corner of Wobonga Lane:



Turn right into Wobonga Lane and turn right again to stay on Wobonga Lane. No. 261 entry will be on the left.

PROPAGATING DAY
SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER
9.30am onwards.

Location: The van Riet garden, 475 Shanley Street -Wangaratta South.—
 Garden is at the Corner of Cox Road and Shanley Street.

Parking : First gate on Cox Road on the right.

This is the first of three propagating days being organised for this Spring & Summer.
 We will be doing both seeds and cuttings.

THE PLAN.....

In the company of like-minded folk, to socialise and enjoy propagating a variety of acacias from seed in preparation for our Wattle Day stall in August 2024 & to propagate a variety of plants from cuttings which will be suitable for sale at our market stall at the Off Grid Living Festival to be held in Autumn 2024.

If you have any rooted cuttings or seedlings which are due for pricking out, then please bring them.

Learners welcome!

WHAT TO BRING

- Garden snips
- Table knife
- Cutting material of plants from your garden
- Seeds – acacias or other species
- 3-inch pots and forestry tubes if you have any to spare
- Propagating tray
- Something to carry your cuttings or seeds home in – a roller box is ideal.

If you have none of the above – just come – we have spares of everything to share!

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

Tea and coffee etc. will be on tap all day.

Please bring Morning tea to share & your own lunch.

MISCELLANEOUS

If the weather is wet or very hot, we will work indoors.

A sunhat, sunscreen & insect repellent is recommended.

Propagating gel, propagating mix, pots etc. will be provided.

Further information –ring Helen or John on 0401 021 448.

President's Annual Report 2022- 2023

I would like to begin my report by thanking all those members who have come along and enjoyed our monthly meetings and outings. We have had a variety of speakers who have interested us in many topics; plants that grow on our local roadsides; the Murray River and the Macquarie Marshes; why bees are so great to have in our gardens; books, both fact and fiction that we love to read ourselves or read to our grandchildren; the 'I Naturalist' computer program which helps us to identify and record those plants that we see when we are out and about; and finally botanical illustration and artists who draw and paint the plants we love to grow. The important thing is that many of the people who led our discussions are members of our club who are willing to share their expertise and knowledge.

We were also able to let the community know about our group. Twenty-eight people came along to a talk at the library and this was followed up by an article in the local paper. Those people who came along asked lots of questions then stayed on to chat when the talk was finished. They were given a copy of our booklet, 'It's Only Natural' and an Australian daisy. I hope they have now read the booklet, had success with keeping their plant alive and thought more about starting their own garden of Australian plants.

A special thankyou to Helen van Riet for her many articles in the local paper. In July we were able to have a display, in the Wangaratta library. On show were John van Riet's paintings of Australian wildflowers and the machine embroidered panels made about 11 years ago by members of APS and the Peechelba Machine Embroiderers Group. These panels will be on display at the Henty Field Day in September. The panels were previously displayed at Park Lane Nursery and have now been returned to us. There were many positive comments from the people who saw them.

The stall at the Off-Grid Festival was successful, many plants were sold and of course it was great advertising for our group. Thank you to all those people who grew plants and worked on the stall. We also had a successful promotional stall at the Wangaratta Saturday Market and despite the inclement weather many people stopped by to chat, collected a few plants and ask questions.

We have members who do special jobs and without them our club would not function successfully; vice president John van Riet, secretary John Podubinski, treasurer Joanne Diver, membership officer Gillian Anderson, newsletter editors Glenda Datson and Helen van Riet, Therese Graham who organised the specimen table, and committee members Jenny Davidson, Helen Wrigley and Rosemary Buchanan.

Thank you all once again for making APS such an enjoyable club and all the best for future meetings.

Janice Jones [Retiring President]

FROM OUR AUGUST MEETING & AGM & COMMITTEE UPDATE

On August 24th we held our Annual General Meeting. Although not all the positions on the Committee were filled on the night, the Committee met on September 20th, and agreed that John van Riet should relinquish his position of Vice-President in order to take up the position of President. We are delighted that Pina Tiso has taken up the position of Secretary. These appointments will be endorsed at our next general meeting on September 28th.

Following the AGM, we enjoyed the excitement of our traditional silent auction. A terrific selection of plants were eagerly selected by our members and the lucky recipients from the very random process were delighted with their winnings.

Our display table featured Gillian Anderson's *Acacia Scarlet Blaze*. Gillian has subsequently promised that if her plant sets seed, we are welcome to try our luck at growing some from seed. Although any seedlings are not guaranteed to come true to type, *Acacia leprosa* is a handsome Acacia in its own right.



VISIT TO JENNY DAVIDSON'S GARDEN SUNDAY 27 AUGUST



A beautiful sunny day saw 17 of our members and guests Neville and Jan Walsh visit Jenny's garden at Gooramadda, north-east of Rutherglen. After a sumptuous morning tea, we started the walk to the main part of her garden, near the entrance



to the property. Jenny showed and explained some of the beauties we passed, such as a magnificent *Eucalyptus preissiana* with its bright yellow/green flowers and a bit further a *Stenocarpus sinuatus* with its glossy green leaves and delicately shaped flowers.



The main garden has seen much growth since Jenny first established it. Consisting of several oval shaped mounded garden beds, it has some delightful aspects with several *Eucalypts* gracing the side of a pond, one with a seat for a quiet repose below it. The garden

beds have been tastefully planted and many are maturing with some in need of pruning.

A variety of wattles, each with their different hues of yellow, were a feast to our eyes. After lunch on the front verandah, overlooking the mighty Murray with several magnificent *Eucalypts camaldulensis* on its shore with many hollows, homes for birds,



Jenny was thanked, and members journeyed back home.

Thank you, Jenny, for opening your garden to us. Inspirational !!

LAST CHANCE FOR THESE FREE APS MAGAZINES

Some months ago, our APS group were gifted several boxes of Australian Plants magazines and books from a Wangaratta resident who was downsizing and which were surplus to requirements.

These gems have been taking up space on John van Riet's study floor and they need to be moved on. He will bring them to the September meeting. They are free to anyone who would like them. Perhaps you would like to take some [or all] of them to browse – they are full of interesting articles! – and maybe pass them onto someone else who would appreciate them? Any that remain after the September meeting are destined for the recycle bin.



From the Archives.

Originally published in the June 2018 Newsletter

Waratahs at Eurobin - Malcolm and Mirella McKinnon

Eurobin is situated in the picturesque Ovens Valley, not far from the tourist town of Bright in north – east Victoria. About 10 years ago we commenced growing a small plantation of waratahs, firstly as a nice way of winding down from the pressures of my work as a school principal and also to give us a small income in our future retirement. Our site is a well-drained, sloping block with a north easterly aspect with an annual rainfall of 1000-1200mm which makes it ideal for waratahs.

After much research a decision was made to plant 2 main varieties- Corroboree and Gembrook. The advantage of this has been that Corroboree flowers here 2-3 weeks later than Gembrook. The other advantage is that Corroboree is much less susceptible to frost damage. Gembrook is more prone to bract burn and we have had several crops destroyed by severe frosts just as harvest has commenced. It can be quite demoralising to cut 5 off 1000+ blooms that are not saleable. Fortunately then Corroboree comes through untouched. Since these initial plantings we have planted further varieties into the plantation to broaden the range we grow and sell. These include the stunning Fire and Brimstone, Tutu, Emperor's Torch and some of the Shade Lady forms. As a general rule we plant our new waratahs immediately after the first autumn rains, usually late April –May. They are then watered over the first summer and occasionally also the second.



We have found the most critical waterings are those of early summer, with no second chances once a plant begins to look stressed. We fertilise twice a year linked to the growth times-March and straight after harvest. We use Campbell's Gold to fertilise. It is a low phosphorus, quick release pellet. Initial pruning happens at harvest and is then finished straight after harvest. However as we frequently get quite a lot of rain in Spring and with the addition of fertiliser,

growth can be very vigorous so regular pruning is important through into early January, with a focus on removing drooping and bent stems which may not be saleable.

We are fortunate to have virtually no pest problems, apart from a few parrots who perch on the tallest buds and chew them. At the moment we have around 250 waratah plants ranging in age from 10 years right through to our annual additions. We now propagate all our new plants using pretty much the same process outlined in the November newsletter. The only difference in my process is a little trick I learnt from a production nursery where once the cuttings have been prepared, dipped in hormone and placed in the mix the foliage is sprayed with 1:7 IBA/water mix. We frequently obtain 100% strike rate. (I also do this with all my cuttings).

We have been very lucky in marketing our flowers. We have a wholesale florist 10 minutes from home and have developed close links with a number of local florists. We have found farmers markets a fantastic outlet and for the last several years we have struggled to meet demand, which is a nice way to be. A couple of our favorite venues to which we provide flowers are a local winery and specialist bakery – no money changes hands but barter is a wonderful thing.

As well as the waratahs we are growing for the markets we are slowly building our collection of waratah species, hybrids and cultivars. Currently we have around 20 different waratahs and are always looking to build the collection. If you happen to have any unusual hybrids or cultivars we would love to hear from you and we are always happy to share propagating material or plants when available. If you happen to be travelling through north east Victoria we are more than happy to have enthusiastic waratah growers and native plant enthusiasts drop in.

Nature Strip Planting Joye and John Podubinski

After relocating to the city of Wangaratta 5 years ago from a rural property and giving the new garden a complete makeover, we have decided to continue our garden to the nature strip. Our house is located on a corner block which gives us heaps of scope to grow many more plants. We researched Council

bylaws regarding nature strip planting and discussed our plans with Krystal Speakman and Andrew Snowden (the environmental team from Rural City of Wangaratta) and applied for a permit to plant on this area.



This included a visual plan of garden beds as well as the type of plants we intended to plant. These had to be no more than 50cm high and



not impinge on the pathways. It also goes without saying we wanted plants that require minimal watering.

We are now in the early stages of removing the Kikuyu grass, and when the weather permits some soil drying, topping up and mounding with some more appropriate soil. So far due to weather we have been able to do only one side of the nature strip and our intention is to be ready to plant in Autumn.

Hikers urged to stop using sticks as walking aids

By [Rachel McGhee](#)



When hiking through a national park, it may seem harmless to pick up a stick from the bush and use it as a type of walking aid.

But rangers in central Queensland's Carnarvon National Park say this can cause significant damage to the environment. "Visitors might think, 'it's only one stick', but it can have a very

large, accumulated effect over time," Carnarvon national park ranger in charge Lindie Pasma said.

"The sticks are used by the little creatures [and plants] of the national park, the echidnas burrowing underneath it ... insects, lizards, birds, fungi and moss.

"The removal of just one stick can impact these animals in lots of different ways. For echidnas, they're rummaging around the undergrowth looking for food ... so you're taking away the sticks with all the insects in it.

Ms Pasma said rangers had noticed a rise in the number of sticks being left at walking track exits matching an increase in visitation over winter. "In April alone, rangers collected 146 walking sticks that had been left at Crossing 1 exit," she said.

"This is only a small portion of walking sticks being picked up daily by visitors to help them across creek crossings or steep sections of the walk."

75,000 people visit the national park every year and hikers picking up sticks as walking aids can become an "ecological nightmare" when done in volume.



"If only 10 per cent of visitors to Carnarvon Gorge pick up a stick and shift it, that's 7,500 sticks going walkabout each year," Mr Ling said. "Every stick will either be habitat or food for organisms.

"Anything that's living or dead in a national park should be left as it is."

"Hiking poles not only reduce the need for hikers to remove sticks from the natural environment, but they are also useful for reducing the impact on walker's legs, knees and ankles, can be a valuable safety device, and can be used over and over again."

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.

Euroa seed bank warns shortage of supply won't be able to keep up with growing demands for native seed

By Annie Brown [From ABC Rural]



As the weather warms up, wattles bloom and eucalypts drip with grey box, which is particularly delightful for native seed collectors, like Carolena Helderman.

Ms Helderman works for the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank at the Euroa Arboretum collecting native seeds — a job that requires a permit. She spends hours walking in the bush mapping the areas ready to harvest the highly sought-after seeds.

"Right now we're picking black box up in Barmah, also some of the New Holland fuzzy daisies are already there. The week before I was at the Winton wetlands where the river red gums are," Ms Helderman says.

"Some of it is going into deep areas but a lot of it is roadside. "Sometimes it's solo, and sometimes it's with a small team."



Ms Helderman says harvest usually happens around Christmas time, during the peak of summer. During this time she and a small team will head out to collect. The flora bank guideline is to only collect 5 per cent. "The eucalypts are cut with secateurs on poles daisies are picked up using a vacuum, and the rest is by hand."

Harvesting by hand is time-consuming and the demand for seed is only growing.

After the seed is collected from the wild, volunteers clean them using buckets, sieves, and their hands.



The seed bank is part of the Euroa Arboretum, an organisation with a nursery that produces more than 70,000 plants a year.

Executive officer Cath Olive says with the growing demand for biodiversity, revegetation, and carbon abatement projects, they have run into a problem — they don't have enough seed. "We're really starting to see things escalate, and it's only likely to get higher with various government strategies about to kick in," she says. "We have the capacity to be harvesting to 100–500kg per year, but should be aiming for a tonne, so we're harvesting about 10 per cent of what we need.

"One of the state government's goals is 200,000 hectares of revegetation by 2037, that's about 100,000kg worth of seed, but we currently only have 2,500kg of seed across the state of Victoria. At the moment with our current capacity of our pickers, we can harvest around 400kg per year. We are so far short of those targets, it's a bit staggering."

The Victorian government released its 20-year biodiversity plan in 2017, with the aim of stopping the decline of native plants and improving the natural environment.

One of the plan's targets is to have 200,000 hectares of revegetation in priority areas for connectivity between habitats.

Ms Olive says to reach the targets, the seed bank needs more efficient ways to produce seeds. Seed orchards are the way to go, to help build supply.

"We haven't got a shortage of people offering their land, which is fantastic, [but] we do have a shortage financially because it's a costly investment. It will be a minimum of three years before we'll get some harvesting back."

Ms Olive says seed orchards will help seed banks harvest efficiently. "If the state government could support us that would be great, but we really want to see other regional seed banks supported," she said. We need to make sure we work with our Indigenous partners so they are very much a part of the process going forward."

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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