

Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. November 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.

The next meeting is on Thursday November 23rd. Guest Speakers will be Graham and Maree Goods. Their topic is 'Desert Discovery'. Details are on page 6.

Outings are usually held on a Saturday or Sunday following each meeting. This month our outing will be our last for 2023. It will be our Christmas celebration at the home of Jenny & Richard Kjar. Details on page 3.

Propagation Days are held on selected Saturdays in the warmer months. Our next Propagation Day will be on Saturday 2nd December. The final one for this season will be on 10th February. Details are on page 8.

Visitors are always welcome.

COVID19

With the upsurge in infections, we suggest that masks be worn indoors.
Hand sanitizer will be provided.

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events – Wangaratta	Page 2
Changes to log-in procedures for APS Victoria Website	Page 2
Next Meeting – Guest speakers “Desert Discovery” – Maree and Graham Goods	Page 3
Shows, Conferences and other Items of Interest – APS Victoria	Page 5
Next Outing details – Christmas break-up Celebration	Page 6
From our October meeting	Page 7
Acacias – a growing experience by Tina Piso	Page 8
Propagating Day – 2 nd December	Page 9
Rare purple Banksia spinulosa – Article of Interest	Page 10
Your Committee	Page 11

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

There are 3 exciting events coming up to wind up 2023 with gusto!

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
NOVEMBER		
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	11.00am for 11.30m. NOTE LATER TIME . 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		
No meetings or outings in January.		
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	TBC Phytophthora cinnamoni [fugal root rot] in the Warby-Ovens National Park & threat to Xanthorrhoea glauca [grass trees]
Saturday 24 th	Garden Visit	Outing to the garden of Philippa and Neil Duggan, Boweya. Early evening garden walk and shared BBQ tea. From. 6pm.
MARCH		
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 21 st	OPEN GARDEN	475 Shanley Street, Coordinated by Greta Valley Landcare Group. To encourage Gardens for Wildlife' in Wangaratta district.
MAY		
Thursday 23 rd	Club Meeting	TBC
Sunday 26 th	Outing	TBC --- Outing to Winton Wetlands - Leader – Lisa Farnsworth.
JUNE		
Wednesday 5 th	TBC	Committee meeting
Thursday 27 th	Club Meeting	TBC
Sunday 30 th	Outing	TBC

CHANGE TO LOG-IN PROCEDURE FOR APS VICTORIA WEBSITE

The Website of APS Victoria is a terrific resource for members and the general public. Much of the website material is publicly available.

There is also a Members Only section. This gives you access to the seed bank, event planning aids, rules and regulations, “Growing Australian Magazine” etc.

There used to be a password to access this area. The system has now become more secure, and you will need to use the email address you used when you signed up as a member of APS Wangaratta & APS Victoria, and your Membership Number. You will also find your Membership Number on the front of the yellow mailing envelope in which you received your “Growing Australian” magazine.

NEXT MEETING

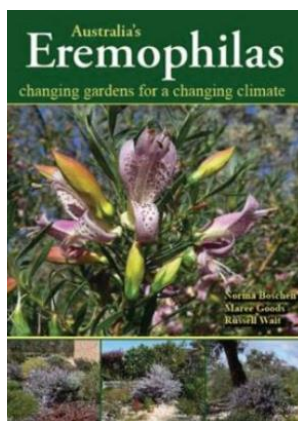
Desert Discovery – with Graham & Maree Goods



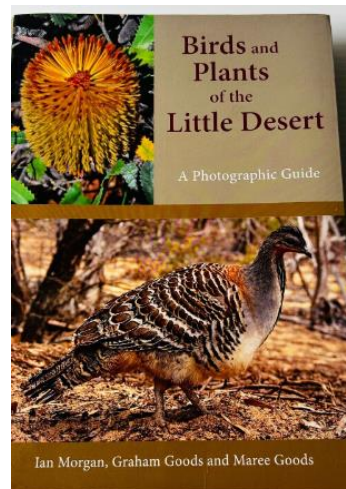
Our meeting on Thursday 23rd November will feature guest speakers Graham and Maree Goods. Their chosen topic is “Desert Discovery”.

Graham and Maree live at Horsham.

They have travelled extensively to the drylands of our great continent and have contributed significantly to the knowledge and appreciation of our unique flora and fauna.



“Birds and Plants of the Little Desert” is testament to Graham’s photographic skills and Maree’s specialist knowledge of Australia’s unique flora. Maree was a significant contributor to “Australia’s Eremophilas – changing gardens for a changing climate” .



Desert Discovery Inc. is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation with the principal purpose of ensuring the protection and enhancement of the natural environment in remote regions of Australia. This aim is achieved by selecting and researching a remote location on a biennial basis, and placing the findings on the public record.



CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

To the garden of JENNY AND RICHARD KJAR

234 Sessions Road, Killawarra.

TIME: 11.00am for 11.30am to approx. 2.30pm.
Please note the later arrival time.

WHAT TO BRING:

Morning tea to share

Something Christmassy to share

Your own lunch

Folding chair

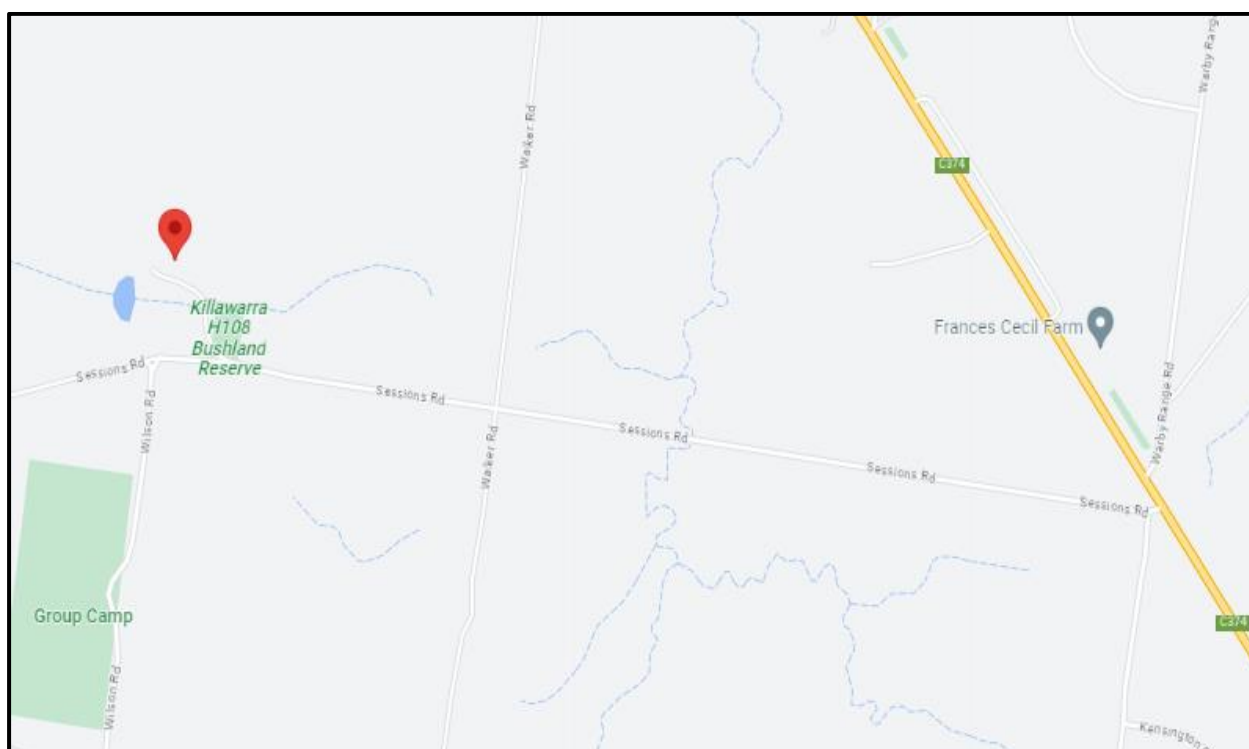
Sun protection, mozzie spray

Tea and Coffee will be provided. Please bring your own cup or mug.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

234 Sessions Road, Killawarra (about 10 mins from town)

From Wangaratta, drive out the Yarrawonga Road about 8km, Sessions Road is signed on left (after 2 big green water tanks). Drive along the gravel road about 2 km until the road becomes sealed and the property is up the driveway on the right. Park at the house.



Some more about 234 Sessions Rd...

Richard and Jenny Kjar bought their 40 acre property 17 years ago and set about transforming it into their much loved home. Initially, they did a lot of revegetation, fencing and developed a small garden with the focus on their 2 young children. In 2014 they built their dream home based on environmental principles and Jenny who works as a Landscape Designer began designing the outdoors.



Slowly the garden has evolved into a happy blend of native and exotic plants that are often planted as a trial for Jenny's design work. She has fallen in love with the natural style and using plants that are appropriate to the north east. The garden started off dry climate/Mediterranean style but over the harsh seasons irrigation has been added to some beds. A native grassland has been established north of the house and small seasonal soak has been developed into a very happy frog pond. They are looking forward to sharing it with you.

.....and from Green Magazine December 2017.

"During the house design process I made sure that I had a lot of interaction with the architect about landscape design," Jenny says.



Jenny worked in stages to replace her interim garden with more ambitious landscaping on a grander scale. "Although the house was quite contemporary and linear in its design I wanted to create a garden that was more organic in its forms," she says. "It was a space I knew needed a certain flexibility for changes as the family grew up."

First came a raised lawn and gravel area connected to the north-facing living areas. It's cradled by a low, curved wall of granite handpicked from the local quarry. There's space for soccer, and running, and for entertaining around a fire-pit. Planting is deliberately minimal.

"I was busy with young kids and we were building this house, and I knew it would be somewhere I could get ready for when we moved in. "I love the kids appreciating the outdoors and think the strong connection between inside and out with our place – all the glass we've used – there's just a natural feeling to move in and out. We love the views from the indoors, but we



love being outdoors. And having a safe, beautiful place close and easy to access was important for young children." Next came a pool area well used in summers that often top 40 degrees. It features glorious views westwards to the Warby Ranges, a sloping lawn children love to roll down, and soft, playful, ground covered mounds even adults love to touch. A fence of rusty mild steel "blades" helps blur the edges in a garden that begins formally at the house with terraces and mass plantings of tufted native grasses and transitions outwards using more natural, random spacing of local indigenous species to merge with established trees.

Exotics such as succulents, roses as well as natives were road-tested for resistance to frost and intense heat. Features such as a 100-year-old grass tree salvaged from a demolition

site and a scraggly *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* with divine silver foliage and brilliant red and yellow flowers bring the designer endless pleasure. Drawing on her experience in designing for children, Jenny's aim was biodiversity and maximum sensory punch. Hence the transformation of a little hole left by a tractor into a ten-by-eight-metre "soak" that animates the property with the sights and sounds of wild ducks and native birds. "Since we've lived here I've developed an appreciation for wildlife, particularly birds, and their needs for biodiversity," she says. "And also the plants like it when there's a real mix. I think they grow better, generally, when there's a harmony of different species."

SHOWS, CONFERENCES, PLANT SALES AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Provided by Nicky Zanen, APS Victoria

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

23 & 24 March 2024 - 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

6 & 7 April 2024 – APS Wangaratta take part in Off-Grid Living Festival & Campout, Chiltern Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, NE Victoria. Providing information about Australian plants – growing, maintenance, suitability and also selling plants which we have propagated ourselves.

13 April 2024 – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

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

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Further details to follow.

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

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

21 & 22 September 2024 – 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.

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



19 & 20 October 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

From our October Meeting

A highly focussed group of members tried their hand at grafting Eremophilas. At our next propagating Day on Saturday December 2nd, we may further hone our skills.....



And there's more a lovely purple Brachyscome prize was won by Pina. And a big thank you to Helen Wrigley who month by month, brings a wonderful selection of carefully nurtured plants for the raffle.



**There will not be a Newsletter for December or January.
The next issue will be in February 2024.**

Acacias

Pina Tiso

As part of preparation for Wattle Day in 2024, members from Wangaratta APS are growing acacias from seed provided by Helen van Riet as well as Bill Aitchison, from the APS Acacia study group. While I am familiar with a few of the local species, there were many species that were unfamiliar to me, and I thought it would be opportune to learn more about them and so have undertaken a little research to share. To date, we have sown 13 different species with mixed germination success. The *Acacia boormanii* seeds started germinating within 11 days of treatment with boiling water and are growing well.

***Acacia boormanii* (aka Snowy River Wattle)**

This species originates from the southern tablelands of NSW, occurring naturally, south of Canberra and down into the Victorian alpine area. Vicflora states that it is generally found in open forests on rocky slopes of the Snowy River and its tributaries, while isolated populations have been identified more locally at both Gapstead and Mt Typo.



(seedlings – 4.5 weeks old)

Acacia boormanii is a multi-branched shrub up to four metres in height and three metres in diameter. While the juvenile plant has bipinnate leaves, the plant is fast growing (2-4 years) and the adult form has grey-green phyllodes which are up to 60 mm long. The shrub has a weeping habit and can be kept bushy by pruning lightly (just behind the flower heads) after flowers fade. The globular heads which appear in spring, are up to 6 mm in diameter, occurring in racemes at the axils.

This plant is known to sucker (especially when roots are disturbed) and so it has been suggested as a suitable option for soil binding and erosion control. It can tolerate many soil types, from rocky soil through to heavy clay and is expected to survive limited inundation but does not like extended soggy conditions. The shrub will grow in full sun to part shade and is tolerant of temperatures down to -7 °C, snow and the occasional frost. The flowering plant attracts many insects and in turn insectivorous birds, and both rosellas and cockatoos are attracted to the seed pods.



PROPAGATING DAY

SATURDAY 2nd December

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 : In the paddock - First gate on Cox Road on the right. Enter through personal gate under the liquidambar trees.

THE PLAN.....

In the company of like-minded folk, to socialise and enjoy This is the second of three propagating days being organised for this Spring/ Summer. We will be pricking out seedlings & rooted cuttings from our September propagating day, and planting more seeds, making cuttings and, if time permits, honing our skills with grafting. The plants which we produce are both for sharing among ourselves, and to sell at the Off Grid Living Festival to be held at Chiltern 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 [if you have them]

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/s [if you have any to spare]

seedling punnets [if you have any to spare]

Something to carry your cuttings or seeds home in – a roller box is ideal.

Cutting board and single-sided razor blade [for those who would like to continue honing their grafting skills]

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 some morning tea to share & your own lunch.

EVERYTHING ELSE

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

A sunhat, sunscreen & insect repellent are recommended.

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

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

Rare purple *Banksia spinulosa* plant excites horticulturalists as cuttings hoped to flower

By [James Tugwell](#)



When Gerard Nicol took his dog for a walk one winter afternoon, he didn't expect to stumble upon a plant that would have horticulturists across the country giddy with excitement.

His Bombay property outside Braidwood in southern NSW is covered with thousands of *Banksia spinulosa*, commonly known as hairpin banksia, all orange, yellow or red. But just a few steps off the dirt trail, Mr Nicol saw a small shrub covered in flowers with bright purple flowers.



"When you saw it amongst all the other *Banksia spinulosa*, you knew it was different," Mr Nicol said. Within a species which has a huge amount of variance, this is probably the most extreme variant.

He posted a photo of the specimen in an online horticultural forum and was amazed at the response.

Jay Cook is nursery manager at IndigiGrow — a Sydney-based social enterprise encouraging the propagation and uptake of native species. When the Bidjigal man stumbled upon Mr Nicol's online post about the plant, his first thought was, "When are we going to go get it?".

Mr Cook travelled to Mr Nicol's property and collected cuttings.

It could take 2 years or more for the rooted cuttings to mature and flower.

Registered specialist horticulturalist Brent Whiter was excited when he first saw photos of Mr Nicol's plant.



"It's an incredible looking flower. I've not seen it before," he said.

The cause for the variant was hard to define, but it could have been the smoke, heat or altered chemical composition of the soil after the Black Summer bushfires, or even the sun's radiation.

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 04 01021448

Your 2023/2024 Committee:

President: John Van Riet 04 2812 9007 helenvanriet@bigpond.com

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

Treasurer: Joanne Diver 0412 985 501 divers@aapt.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) 0428 998 336 rosie_buchanan@hotmail.com

Gillian Anderson 0411 111 830 pdga280@bigpond.com

Jenny Davidson 0418 169 917 jennyld.id@gmail.com

Helen Wrigley (03) 5722 2824 0427 722 824 hjoywrigley@gmail.com