



# Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. March 2024 Newsletter

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES TO OUR NORMAL MEETING SCHEDULE:** our meeting and outing dates for March and April are different from the normal - due to the Easter Holiday break, the open Garden to launch Gardens for Wildlife in Wangaratta, & Anzac Day. PLEASE READ THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND NOTE THE CHANGES FROM OUR NORMAL SCHEDULE!!!

**Meetings** - our meetings are usually held in the Masonic Lodge Hall, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta, @ 7pm, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday February thru' November, with a mid-winter break in July.

**Outings** - Visits to local gardens and places of natural beauty are organised on a Saturday or Sunday, usually following the monthly meetings.

**Propagation Days** are held on selected Saturdays in the warmer months. The final one for this summer was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Visitors are always welcome.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2024

| DATE  | EVENT                        | DETAILS   |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>MARCH</b>  |                              |   |
| Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>                           | Garden visit                 | Outing to the garden of John and Trish Gibbons, <b>4 BRAESIDE COURT, TAWONGA SOUTH</b> . including tour of the local Landcare Rehabilitation Project. Details on pages 3 & 4  |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>                           | <b>NO MEETING</b>            | <b>THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING THIS MONTH AS THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY WEEKEND.</b>   |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>                             | <b>NO OUTING</b>             | <b>THIS OUTING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, DUE TO THE EASTER HOLIDAY WEEKEND.</b>  |
| <b>APRIL</b>  |                              |   |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> | OFF GRID LIVING FESTIVAL     | CHILTERN – Information and publicity & plants for sale. Volunteers required for both days and setting up on Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> . Details on page 5.   |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>                           | Club meeting                 | Guest speaker - Lisa Farnsworth – The Winton Wetlands Rehabilitation Project.   |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>                             | OPEN GARDEN                  | 12 noon to 4pm. 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South. Coordinated by Greta Valley Landcare Group. To encourage establishment of Gardens for Wildlife' in Wangaratta district. We will have some plants for sale. See page 6 |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>                           | ANZAC DAY                    | NO MEETING.   |
| <b>MAY</b>  |                              |   |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>                           | Club Meeting & Guest Speaker | Guest Speaker - Sophie Enders. <i>Gardens for Wildlife</i> .  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>                             | Outing                       | Outing to Winton Wetlands – Contact -- Gillian Anderson.  |
| <b>JUNE</b>   |                              |   |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>                           | Committee meeting            | 5.30pm at the Masonic Hall. Appin Street  |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>                           | Club Meeting & Guest Speaker | Guest presenter – Isabel Young. <i>Dyeing materials using native plants</i> .   |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>                           | Workshop                     | 9.30am – 12.30pm. Workshop with Isabel Young. <i>Dyeing materials using native plants</i> .<br>@ 475 Shanley Street Wangaratta South.   |

## 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.

# SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

## OUTING TO TAWONGA SOUTH GARDEN OF JOHN & TRISH GIBBONS & MT BEAUTY REVEGETATION PROJECT 4 Braeside Court, Tawonga South

John and Trish Gibbons are long-time supporters of Wangaratta Australian Plants Society and continue to demonstrate their commitment to *Growing Australian* through involvement with their local community at Tawonga South. They were formerly residents of Hamilton Park, and were 'originals' in the re-establishment of the Wangaratta APS group some 40 years ago.

Having moved to Tawonga South in retirement, they are establishing their own patch of paradise, and have been instrumental in working towards a native plant Arboretum at Mt Beauty.

John provided some background info. in preparation for our March 23<sup>rd</sup> outing, which was included in our [February 2024 newsletter](#).

TIME: 10.30am for 11am.

LOCATION: 4 Braeside Court, Tawonga South. [locality map on next page] .

John & Trish's phone no. is 0407520542

### WHAT TO BRING:

Morning tea to share & your own lunch.

Folding chair

Mozzie spray & sunscreen, sun hat & solid shoes

Tea & Coffee will be provided.

John has suggested that after morning tea, we will enjoy a tour of the garden at 4 Braeside Court. After lunch, we plan a short walk [about 150m each way] along the riverside to view the development of the revegetation project. We may take a short walk to a second location where further revegetation is progressing.

### Additional information – for our Tawonga South outing.

The travel time from Wangaratta to Mt Beauty is approx.. 1 ½ hours.. John has suggested that you may wish to book accommodation in the local area for either Friday or Saturday evening. Suggestions are:

- Snowgum Motel, Kiewa Valley Highway Tawonga South, ph (03)57544508
- The Park, Mt Beauty (caravan park) Kiewa Valley Highway Tawonga South, ph (03)57544396.

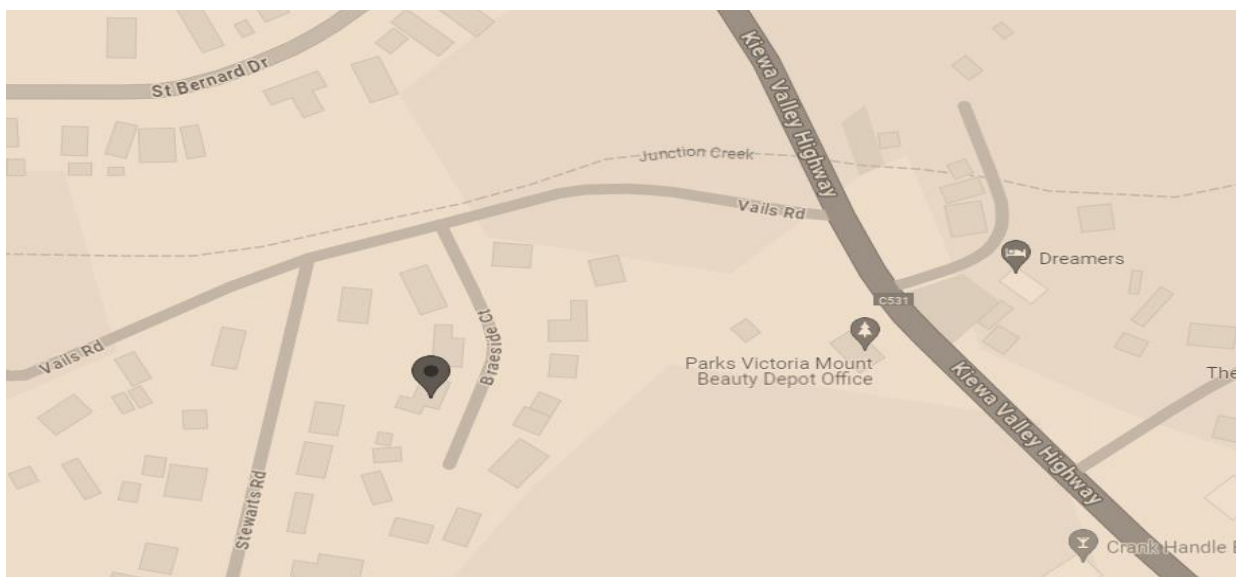
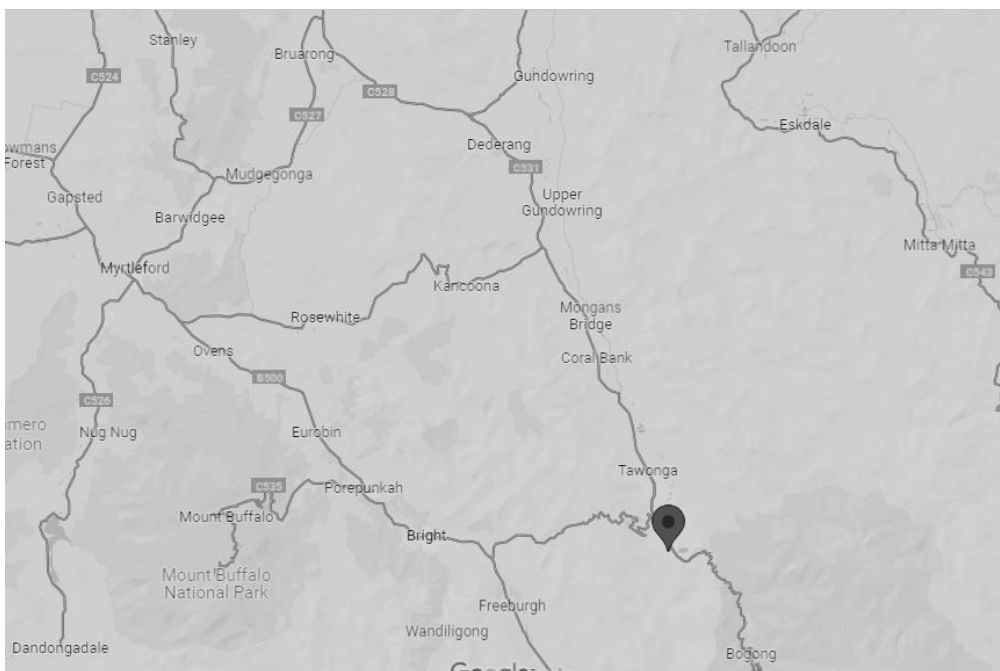
## LOCALITY MAP

### For Outing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### 4 Braeside Court, Tawonga South.

Driving towards Mt Bogong on the Kiewa Valley Highway, cross Junction Creek, then next turn right into Vails Road. The first street on your right is Braeside Court. No. 4 is on your right.

John & Trish's mobile -- 0407520542





**Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 12 noon – 4pm.**  
**Launch of Gardens for Wildlife -- Wangaratta**  
**475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South.**

This venture was initiated by a request from the Greta Valley Landcare Group, who will be launching Gardens for Wildlife in the Wangaratta district on the day. It's a joint venture ---- The GV Landcare Group will be looking after the car parking & entry gate and other necessary logistics.

Wangaratta Oxfam will be serving Devonshire Teas – included in a small entry fee to help raise urgently needed money for the ongoing need for access to clean water across the world.

Wangaratta APS members will be helping with a plant stall, leading guided tours around the garden & providing general information about garden planning, planting and maintenance.

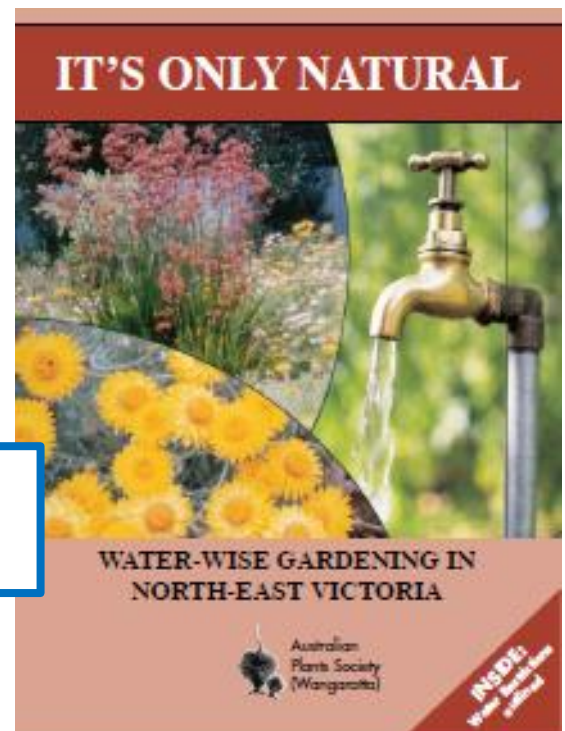
The launch will include Helen & John giving an overview of the establishment and maintenance of their garden, with an emphasis on providing habitat for wildlife. .

Some years ago the Wangaratta Australian Plants Society initiated the production of a free booklet *It's Only Natural - Waterwise Gardening in North-East Victoria* which was funded by various instrumentalities in the region. This booklet ran to a second edition, and is now available online as a PDF. This has sound advice about planning a wildlife-friendly garden, and a continues to be a terrific reference for Helen & John when planning the garden, and which has now matured.

We anticipate that there will be some plants remaining from



our Off-Grid Living Festival Stall that will not be suitable to hold over winter, which we will place on the plant stall for sale. Proceeds will be donated to Oxfam.



**Volunteers to help with the plant stall and with the garden tours would be greatly appreciated. .**

**We would also greatly appreciate some help with getting our garden a bit more ship-shape after the exceptionally wet and stormy summer. Please give us a ring if you can help.**

Helen & John van Riet. -- 04 0102 1448 [helenvanriet@bigpond.com](mailto:helenvanriet@bigpond.com).



## From our February meeting.....

### Presentation by Andy Kimber on *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Warby Ovens National Park

[Contributed by Pina Tiso]

Andy gave an interesting presentation on the formation of WONP and the history of its Greenlisting by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN]

.

The following link provides more detail.

(<https://iucngreenlist.org/sites/warby-ovens-national-park/>). The use of phosphite to enhance susceptible plants' immunity to the *Phytophthora cinnamomi* disease has been successful in various locations throughout Australia but it will not eradicate it. A large scale aerial trial is underway in the Otways NP.

(<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/news/2023/03/10/00/36/collaborating-to-protect-australian-grass-trees>).



Ground truthing of satellite imagery of the dieback in WONP was undertaken by Deakin University students in 2023. An App is currently being developed to assist in surveying the status of the dieback, with the addition to photo-points at select locations in WONP to be used to monitor change.

Handouts on *Phytophthora cinnamomi* were provided at our meeting. If members are interested in assisting the monitoring of the disease in the park, contact Andy Kimber [andynumbat@gmail.com](mailto:andynumbat@gmail.com)

## Display Table from our February meeting



Pina

The tail-end of summer had some interesting specimens.

Thanks to Jenny Davidson, Helen van Riet, Isabel Young, Tiso and Peter Dewez for their contributions.

Specimens included two examples of *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, (Firewheel tree) one with larger flowers and simple leaves, while the other had smaller flowers and highly lobed leaves. Both were spectacular.

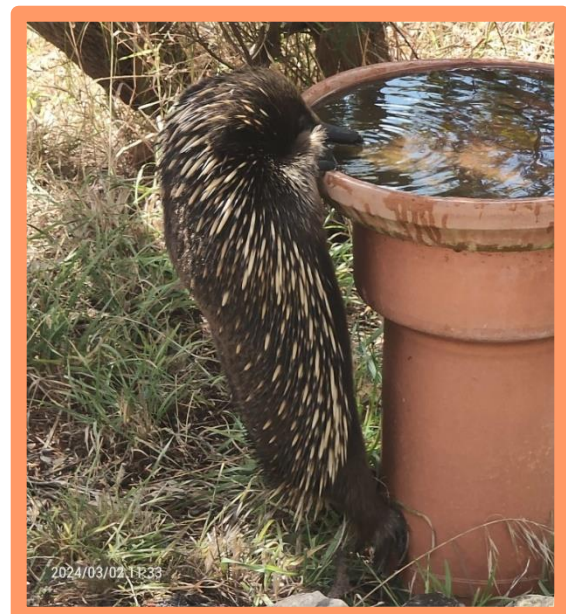
Other specimens included *Clematis aristata* (very hardy and prolific flowers), also known as Old Man's Beard,

*Scaevola amea*, *Myoporum floribundum*,

*Podolepis jaceoides* (Showy podolepis), *Callistemon* sp., *Pelargonium australe*, *Grevillea bipinnatifida* and *Leptospermum petersonii*.



And furthermore .....  
 Birdbaths are not just for birds on hot days!  
 This photo arrived yesterday from our Portland friends, Pat & Mary Ward.

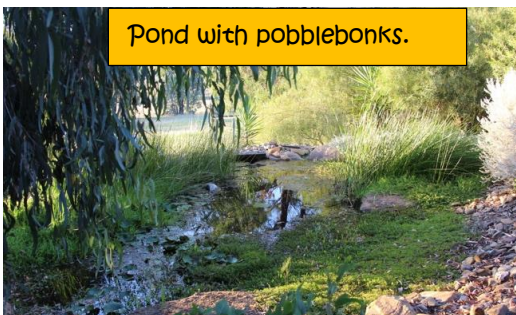
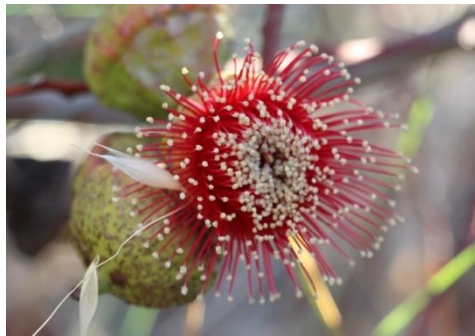
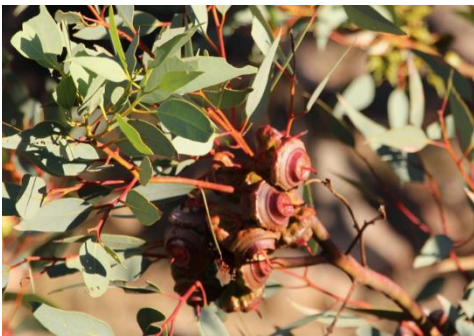




Some happy snaps from our outing and evening BBQ  
At the garden of Philippa & Neil Duggan, Boweya  
on 24<sup>th</sup> February.



The dryland garden uphill from the house, merging with the WONP.



Pond with pobblebunks.



*Allocasuarina torulosa*



When the bushfires came through the Warby Ranges and Lake Rowan Boweya in December 2014, there were large logs used along this driveway for a retaining wall. The fire burnt up to the log retaining wall, but was stopped before it reached the house. The logs burnt for a week afterwards, and were reduced to ash. Since then Philippa & Neil have remade the retaining wall with large rocks.

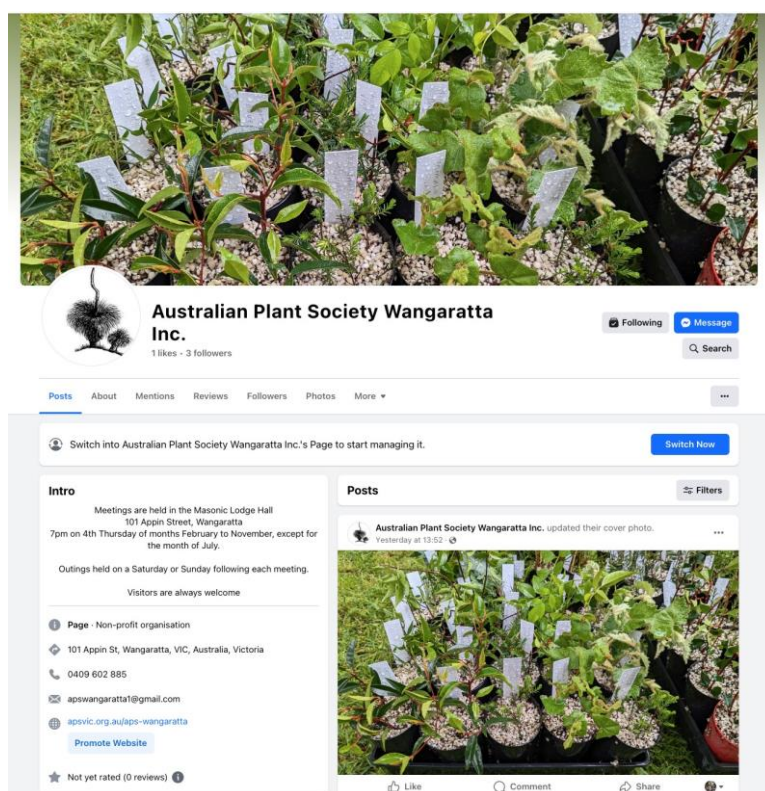


## *APS Wangaratta Inc now has its very own Facebook Page.*

We look forward to reaching a broader audience with social media. Our facebook page is public to anyone searching to find out information about APS Wangaratta Inc online. We will keep it up-to-date with current information by sharing events, articles and posts from other APS clubs and the like. Please like and share with other facebook users.

<https://www.facebook.com/apswangaratta/>

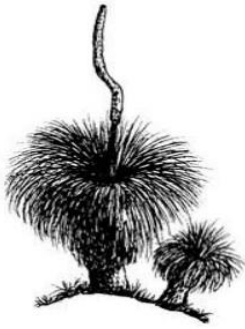
Our profile picture is the grass tree logo and the current cover page image is a tray of propagated plants. We are on the hunt for a **cover page image** that best represents the area. If you have an image of a plant/plants in a landscape format, we'd love to use it with your permission.



If you have **photos or articles** you'd like to share please send them to Isabel via email [isabelninayoung@gmail.com](mailto:isabelninayoung@gmail.com) or tag the Facebook page in comments and she will share on the page.

Your **Privacy** is our concern: addresses and phone numbers will not be shared on this public FB page. A photo consent form is now available for members to fill out, please let us know if you DO NOT want your image shared and you do not want to be photographed at events, meetings, around the specimen table and on garden tours.

**Please return signed consent form to our secretary Pina via email [apswangaratta1@gmail.com](mailto:apswangaratta1@gmail.com)** This form will also be available at club meetings and outings for your convenience.



# Australian Plants Society Wangaratta **Facebook Photo Consent Form**

As APS Wangaratta venture into the world of social media, we would like to take this opportunity to ask for your consent to use images of you taken at events, meetings, around the specimen table and on garden tours.

- **Please select your preferred option and enter your name**

.....

*By submitting this form I ..... consent to APS Wangaratta Inc. using my image on social media posts and in their newsletter.*

Or

*By submitting this form I ..... do not consent to APS Wangaratta Inc. using my image on social media posts and in their newsletter.*

- **Date**.....
- **Signature** .....

**Your 2023/2024 Committee:**

**President:** John Van Riet 04 2812 9007 [helenvanriet@bigpond.com](mailto:helenvanriet@bigpond.com)  
**Secretary:** Pina Tiso 0409 602 885 [apswangaratta1@gmail.com](mailto:apswangaratta1@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Joanne Diver 0412 985 501 [divers@aapt.net.au](mailto:divers@aapt.net.au)  
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## ***Acacia phasmoides* (Phantom Wattle)**

**(Contributed by Pina Tiso)**

First discovered on Pine Mountain in 1964, *Acacia phasmoides* has a limited range and small total population (500 plants, in 2016). It is currently listed as critically endangered under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Several small populations also exist in the Woomargama National Park in NSW (approx. 2400 plants as of 2016). DEECA (formerly DEWLP) had been working on conservation of this species for many years with translocations in 2011 and 2013 (lead by Glen Johnson). In 2019/2020 fire severely impacted the Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park, however Parks Victoria have indicated that they observed resprouting from larger plants and mass reseedling from plants that had died, so numbers are increasing. Culling of deer in fire effected landscapes is also a major contributor to the Phantom Wattle's survival.



Photo Walsh, Neville G, [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)

There are several different stories as to the origin of its common name (Phantom wattle). The first is that when not in flower, the shrub is unobtrusive, and “ghost like”, blending in with other shrubs. A second reference suggested that surveying this species was problematic as the location of the plants appeared to have “moved” from one survey to the next.



Germination of this shrub was quite slow for older seed, though fresh seed germinated more readily after treatment with boiling water and leaving to soak overnight. The erect open, understory shrub grows between one to four metres high, has widely spaced long thin phyllodes (5-10 cm by 1-2 mm) and bears yellow spike shaped flowers in its axils, during October – November. On Pine Mountain this species is found on sheltered granitic slopes, at altitudes upwards of 600 metres. Soil cover is thin over a rocky substrate and annual rainfall is between 700 – 1000 mm. This species has been grown successfully for many years in gardens near the Warby Ranges and in Neil Marriot's garden near the Grampians, where it vigorously resprouted from the epicormic root buds, after a bushfire. A well-drained, sunny position is recommended, and its final size will depend on available moisture. An historical article in an *Acacia Study* newsletters from 2018 reflected that Alan Gibb had grown a lovely specimen of *A. phasmoides* (4m x 4m) in his garden at Bobinawarrah.

Growing this plant is one way to help protect the species and reduce its chance of extinction. Perhaps consider growing one in your own garden.

## ***Acacia buxifolia* (Box-leaf wattle)**

(Contributed by Pina Tiso)

Several texts recommend *Acacia buxifolia* as a small garden tree that can be shaped by pruning (after flowers are spent). Endemic to Australia's eastern states, it grows to approximately four meters in the wild, however can be much smaller in some areas and as tall as 10 meters as specimen plants in gardens. It is commonly found on the plains and western slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW. It is less common in Victoria, located in isolated pockets of the granite hills in the northeast of the state. The dull, hairless phyllodes are 1.5 – 3 cm long x 0.3 – 1 cm wide, with a short point on the end. Globular clusters of golden yellow flowers form in late winter through spring.



Photo credit: Alan Fairley

*A. buxifolia* prefers a well-drained soil but will tolerate most soil types. It is known to survive extended dry periods with little or no supplementary watering. A denser form and longer/greater flowering will result from a position in full sun, but it will tolerate partial shade. The flowers attract both moths and butterflies as well as other insects and in turn these attract insectivorous birds. Parrots also feed on the seed. The occasional heavy frost may do some damage though it is generally tolerant of more mild frosts.

Smaller forms (up to 1 meter) and prostrate forms are also available. The longevity of this species is unknown although anecdotal reports from gardeners suggest more than 10-years. The prostrate form is considered a short-lived perennial.

Although acacias are not considered long-lived as a cut-flower, several accounts have stated that *A. buxifolia* lasts longer in an arrangement than many other acacia species.



## **Weaving Eucalypts Project -- Liz Williamson**

24 February - 14 April 2024

This collaborative project by weaver Liz Williamson explores local colour, cultural connections, and shared weaving traditions. In 2020, Williamson began inviting colleagues in Australia and India to colour fabric with eucalyptus leaves collected locally. Once received in her studio, Williamson wove the fabric into panels referencing the traditions of woven rag rugs.

Since 2021, the project has expanded to connect with more colleagues in Australia and India as well as other countries touched by the Indian Ocean – Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Thailand.

Extending from Williamson's research into Australian natural dye plants, the *Weaving Eucalypts Project* features 100 panels woven by Williamson with fabric dyed by 60 collaborators with over 50 eucalypts species identified and sourced from over 50 locations.



# Craft in the spotlight at legendary textile artist Annemieke Mein's retrospective exhibition

By [Rachael Lucas](#) ABC Gippsland



Working with all kinds of fabrics and fibres, collaged together with painted, beaded, stitched, and machine-embroidered embellishments, Mein's work tells the magical story of the Gippsland ecosystem where she has lived for the past 55 years.

Now at 80 years of age, Mein is the subject of a major retrospective at the Gippsland Art Gallery in Sale.

Featuring more than 200 textile works, paintings, watercolour drawings, sculptures, garments, and

development samples from the 1960s through to 2024, the exhibition also features an installation set of Mein's studio and workshop spaces.



Born in Haarlem, in the Netherlands during World War II, Mein was raised by her grandparents and grew up believing that her aunt was her mother as her parents were involved in the Underground. As an only child, her grandparents spoilt her, encouraging her to draw and learn needle crafts.

But her world would turn upside down when her parents, who were strict disciplinarians, decided to immigrate to Australia in 1951. The family, who did not speak English, struggled to establish themselves before eventually moving to Melbourne and building a house on a leafy block in Mitcham with gum trees and big open spaces.

"It wasn't a happy childhood, I was a latch key kid," says Mein, who would keep herself entertained after school by counting the insects on a large gum tree in the backyard, while her parents worked into the evening. "This where I got my love for eaten-out gum leaves", she says. "I'd look for what had eaten out the leaf, and I'd find beetles and all sorts of little critters and put them in a matchbox, take them to bed with me at night, and let them out the next morning."

After leaving school, Mein studied art for a short time and later moved to Sale with her husband Phillip, a doctor, where she decided to pursue art. During the 1960s and 1970s, Australia was culturally coming of age with many baby boomer artists exploring the Australian bush, and the global hippy movement drawing attention to the natural world.



"I was part of that movement, I saw Australia with different eyes, with new fresh eyes. From all the smallness and tightness and traditions of Europe, Australia was just so free," Mein says.

Mein started as a hobbyist in the early 1970s, at a time when earthenware and macrame craft projects adorned Australian family homes. With her impressive stitching techniques, she had garnered a respectable following by the end of the 1970s. But it was a time when homemaker hobbyists, Australian artists, and

anyone attempting Australiana, were relegated to the echelons of "cultural cringe".

As a migrant woman, making textile bushcraft with a sewing machine, Mein wouldn't be taken seriously as an artist of significance until the 1980s and 1990s.

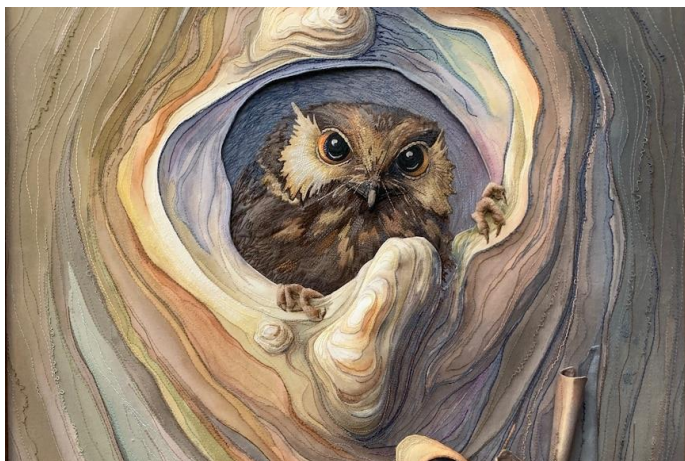
With changing attitudes towards Australian art and artists over the past 30 years, Mein has featured in numerous exhibitions, publications, and private art collections. In the art world, which is largely dominated by mid-career white male artists, Annemieke has been a real pioneer in a lot of ways.

Living in Sale, Mein finds much of her inspiration from a bush block located on the Blackall Creek in nearby Stratford that she and her husband own.

"We have an endless amount of frogs and birds and insects, and insects are my major interest in portraying in textiles, and the catacombs and the erosion areas all make for quite different types of landscapes," she says.

With high plains to snow country, grasslands to rivers to wetlands to beaches — and the endless diversity of flora and fauna — she describes Gippsland, as a wildlife lovers' wonderland.

A collector of specimens, she is known for breeding insects in her studio and researching the anatomical structures, life cycles, and unique behaviours of her subjects through numerous reference books. "I use quite a powerful microscope so I can see every little nuance on an insect's back or wing, and so I can get that texture and portray it accurately," she says. She then creates meticulous sketches and experiments with painting on fabric, in search of the perfect material to exemplify the texture of bark or the slippery sheen of a frog. "Once the design is completed and you've got all the fabric together, the pattern making is quite intensive — one piece of work might have 300 pieces of pattern to take off the master drawing," Mein says.



The intricate restitching and embellishment process then begins, bringing a shimmering magic to the completed work that is subsequently framed. Her most cherished work, the Owllet-nightjar, which she completed during COVID, took more than 30 years to finish, as she had to learn and master new sophisticated sewing techniques. In some works she exaggerates the scale of her subjects, so the viewer can appreciate the immense detail of their natural design often invisible to the naked eye.

"You'll see a shape in a shell, and you'll see the same shape on the skin of a lizard and things that you wouldn't put together. But when you look at them in minutia, they are just about identical," she says. "Nature has used a good pattern and repeated it and repeated it in different ways — certainly it's like a master plan."

The exhibition runs until May 26. You can watch the ABC news item via the following weblink:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-11/annemieke-mein-retrospective-art-exhibition/103554074>