

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Wangaratta Inc.)

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

Visit the APS Vic website at <https://apsvic.org.au/>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please arrive at 7.30 for meetings.

Meeting:- Thursday 27th February Club Night

Guest Speaker: Jan Hall Topic – Trip to Western Australia for National Conference

Outing **Sunday 1st March** to Arthur & Joan Meyers'

Optional Walk to Lake Sambell and Visit to Chinese Gardens followed by Lunch at Retirement Village Community Centre at 32 Sydney Road Beechworth Arrive at 10.30 for 11.00

Meeting Thursday 26th March

Guest Speaker: Chris Findlay from Flora Victoria. Speaking about Grassland Restoration

Outing **Sunday 5th April** : Running Creek Castle & Garden

Kancoonah South Between Myrtleford and Mount Beauty

Meeting:- Thursday 23rd April

Guest Speaker Phillip Vaughan who will bring his beautiful grafted plants for sale (Bring your Cash or Credit card !)

Outing **Sunday 26 April** first to Buffalo River Nursery to see their garden and buy some local plants. Then to Malcolm & Mirella McKinnon at Eurobin for lunch and tour their beautiful plantation of Waratahs and Woolamai Pines.

Meeting:- Thursday 28th May TBA

Outing **Sunday 31st May** Peter & Anne Brain Garden Wangaratta

From the editor

Your committee are working hard to plan an exciting year of speakers and outings.

What a start to 2020!! We hope that everyone was safe and you and your garden survived the intense heat. My garden is suffering terribly from lack of water & heat exhaustion. After the tiny bit of rain we have been graced with in Glenrowan, some things are looking a little better, others did not make it.

The committee have voted to join the Australian Flora Foundation who support cultivation and research into Australian Native plants. There are some interesting newsletters and reports on their website to read.

Our March Speaker is Chris Findlay from Flora Victoria. Chris's roles include marketing, consulting for direct seeding projects and developing new directions for the company.

He has always had an interest in plants, especially ones with nice flowers, which has developed over the years into a passion for re-creating inspiring indigenous landscapes and high diversity ecological restoration.

Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains are now listed as critically endangered, the only way to expand them is by providing high quality seed and the ability to sow it at scale. Some local and state government organisations have embraced direct seeding and have commissioned Flora Victoria to create many hectares of new grassland and grassy woodland.



Launch of Helen and Peter Curtis Collection - March into Sustainability

Join the Curtis family as the library officially launches the Helen and Peter Curtis Archive. The archive encompasses invaluable material on the Warby Ranges and Kaluna Park, as well as detailed information relating to the activities of the Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group.

Date: 18th March 2019

Time: 10.30am

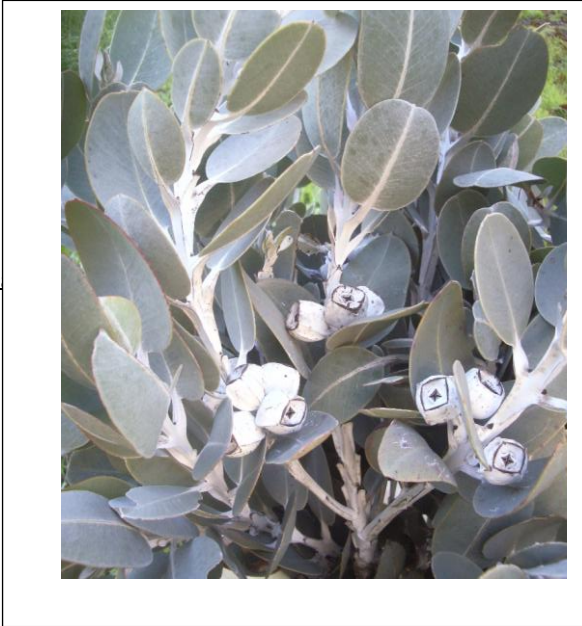
Venue: Wangaratta Library

Cost: FREE

To RSVP please email library@wangeratta.vic.gov.au or call (03) 5722 2366.

<https://www.wangeratta.vic.gov.au/community/events/enviro-events-2020/launch-of-helen-and-peter-curtis-collection>

GUM TREES WITH SILVER-GREY FOLIAGE by Helen Van Riet



Eucalyptus pleuracarpa with silver-grey foliage



Mottlecah – stunning contrasting silver-grey foliage

Gum trees - Eucalypts are undeniably Australian. They occur east of 'Wallace's Line'; a map demarcation running south from the northern Philippines, through Indonesia and West of Australia. About 900 different species have been identified.

Palaeontologists have identified fossils of flowers, fruits and leaves dating back 52 million years. They are true survivors!

There is no 'typical' gum tree. They vary in their bark, leaf and bud shape, flower colour and size and growth rate. *Eucalyptus regnans* [Mountain Ash] from the cool temperate mountainous regions of south-eastern Australia is the tallest flowering plant in the world. It can reach over 100 metres. By contrast, from Tasmania, *E. vernicosa*, [Varnished Gum] is a diminutive prostrate shrub.

The wide range of gum trees suitable for garden planting provides a broad palette for the more adventurous home gardener. Some eucalypts, particularly smaller ones from arid regions, permanently retain waxy, silver-grey, broad-surfaced juvenile leaves. This bright foliage contrasts dramatically with the varied greens of adjacent plantings.

Eucalypts with a lignotuber are collectively known as mallees. Mallees have a marvelous capacity to withstand dryness and to regenerate after fire. In the home garden this regenerative capacity can be exploited by coppicing to encourage bushy, juvenile growth from the lignotuber.

A further bonus – Eucalypt leaves have oil glands that emit distinctive and pleasant aromas. Some peppermint, others lemony, yet others emit a distinctive 'traditional' eucalyptus smell.

Eucalypts establish well if planted in late winter

Some diary dates

See "Growing Australian - December 2019" edition or <https://apsvic.org.au> for full information

17 February to 17 April Banks & Solander Exhibition - "Australian Plants Revealed"
at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery

18 February to 18 April Banksias- "Banksias & Unique Australian Flora"
Karwarra Australian Botanic Gardens

**28 March - Presentation by Tim Entwistle Keynote Lectures: Indigenous Plant Uses-
About Banks and Solander**

With strong connections with the exhibitions two lectures will be presented.

1. **Auntie Janet Turpie-Johnstone***, currently a lecturer in Aboriginal studies at the Australian Catholic University and a PhD candidate at the Australian National University, will speak on Aboriginal plant use for sustenance, medicine, tools and habitation.
2. **Professor Tim Entwistle**, Director and Chief Executive, RBGV will speak about Joseph Banks who financed and participated in the 1770 collections.

*Regrettably, Prof Bruce Pascoe will not be able to present his lecture as formerly advertised.

The lectures will be followed by afternoon tea and an inspection of the exhibition.

24 & 25 October 13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 on "Mint Bushes & Allied Genera". Hosted by APS Yarra Yarra in Eltham. Saturday venue Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham.

Australian Plants Society Wangaratta would like to thank Park Lane Nursery for their continuing generosity and support, allowing APS Wangaratta the use of their meeting room and propagating area for meetings and propagating workshops. Our members greatly appreciate this

Corymbia Ficafolia flowering on Orchard Drive Glenrowan



Meetings

Meetings are held at Park Lane Nursery, Park Lane, Wangaratta usually on the 4th Thursday of the month from February to November.

Please arrive at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start.

It is a good idea to bring a torch with you. **Visitors are always welcome.**

Members are encouraged to bring along exhibits for the specimen table which is a regular feature of each meeting.

Pre-meeting dinner get-together Those that are able share dinner together at Café Martini, 87 Murphy Street, Wangaratta, 6.00 – 7.15pm . All members and friends are most welcome. It's a chance to relax with a nice meal and a glass of wine

Australian Plants Society Committee 2019-2020

President: John van Riet Ph:5725 7207 email: helenvanriet@bigpond.com

Secretary: Alison Earp Ph: 0414 715376 email: kalisetptyltd@gmail.com

Treasurer: Arthur Meyers Ph: 5728 1654 email: pianoman@netc.net.au

Membership: Linda Huzzey Ph 5726 1875

Newsletter: Gillian Anderson Ph: 5766 2397 email: pdga280@bigpond.com

APS Victoria Representative: Helen van Riet Ph:5725 7207

General Committee:

Joan Cochrane Ph: 5728 1654

Jenny Davidson Ph: 02 6032 8442

Joanne Diver Ph: 0412 985501

Alan Gibb Ph: 5727 3362

Michael O'Sullivan Ph: 5725 1784

Jan Hall Ph:

Helen Wrigley Ph: 5722 2824

Therese Graham Ph: 0407 563614