



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**
FEBRUARY 2020 No 456

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'Plants of the Great South West',
book on plants of South West Victoria
\$20, available from
Kevin Sparrow at
ksparrow93@gmail.com
Ph: 55626217



New Edition
available soon.



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EDITORIAL

Hi members,

What a difference a bit of rain makes, both to the plants in the garden and to the gardeners! It makes us all enthusiastic again and motivated to buy some more plants. Our plants are also looking enthusiastic going gang busters now with the warmth still in the soil, bringing lots of things into flower.

I dropped the last 10 x **Plants of the Great South West** books off at a book shop today, this means there are none left. I really must get this next edition finalized and printed. Lots of interest out there from people wanting to get a copy.

We begin our first Members Night in style, our speaker this month is new **APS Victoria President, Chris Clarke** who will show us some of the plants of the Victorian alps. He was planning a trip there over the summer but this had to be cancelled due to the fires but not to be beaten, he will show us some photos from his earlier visits. As president, he plans to eventually visit all regional groups so lucky us, we have got in early. Please come along and welcome him to Warrnambool.

That's about all for this month, hope to see you at our Members Nights on February 28th and don't forget to bring something along from your garden.

Cheers, Kevin

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We wish to acknowledge the Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Next Members Night: Speaker is APS Vic. President, Chris Clarke "Hi From The New Prez!"

Group Diary Of Activities

Feb 28th: Chris Clarke - APS Vic President - Alpine Flora
Mar 3rd: Committee Meeting at Mattner's 5.00pm
Mar 27th: Royce Raleigh
Apr 7th: Committee Meeting at Andrew Grey's
Apr 24th: Cathy Powers speaking on Lepidoptera (Moths)
Apr 25th: Evening moth trapping at Kurri Kurri - BBQ from 5.30pm
Apr 28th: Committee Meeting at Joan's
May 22nd: AGM & Gavin Prentice on Lower Glenelg RAMSAR site.
May 26th: Committee Meeting TBC
June 26th: Jacqui Balazs (WCC) - Gardens For Wildlife
June 30th: Committee Meeting TBC

From Laura Prentice (DeWp)

I'm working with ANOS (Australasian Native Orchid Society) to plan some orchid surveys of areas burnt in the recent fires. We will be going out in spring to see if we can find any native orchids, particularly rare ones. We can then map them and keep an eye on these populations.

If you or any of the APS members are interested in helping out with this please get them to get in touch with me and I will add them to the volunteer list.



If you are interested Contact Laura at:

unamanna2017@gmail.com

Photo: *Prasophyllum littorale*

Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

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Public Officer: John Sherwood. **APS Reps:** Bob Artis, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.
Other Committee Members: Michael Mattner, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger

The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

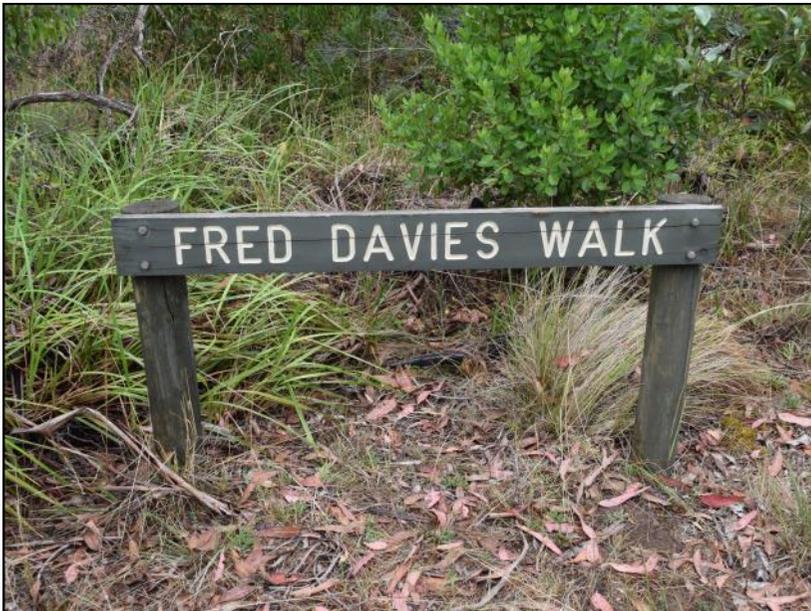
Day Trip To Cape Bridgewater by Kevin Sparrow



Last month, members travelled over to Cape Bridgewater for a day trip to start our year off. Most of us met up at Seawinds Nursery at Portland first for a look around and stock up on some plants. They are located in Wellington Road, have a great range of natives and are well worth a visit. At Cape Bridgewater, after a quick walk, we ventured on to the Petrified Forest for a look at the limestone formations, This is not a fossilized forest as we have often been lead to believe but unique limestone formations “carved” by the environment. After the obligatory photo shoot it was time to return to Cape Bridgewater for lunch, we were booked into the Bridgewater Bay Café which puts on a great spread.



Visit To Bat's Ridge by Kevin Sparrow



After lunch, we travelled back to Bat's Ridge Wildlife Reserve where we went for a walk and explored the vegetation along the walking tracks. We found lots of plants in flower including of note above, *Ptilotus macrocephalus* (Feather-heads) and right, *Lobelia gibbosa* (Tall Lobelia). There was also masses of *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria) in flower. Unfortunately there was also lots of introduced weeds, taking over from our native species. *Asparagus scandens* is a particular bad one, mostly laden with berries ready to be spread around by birds. We walked on to find the ruins of an old building long since deserted. All up, we had a great start to the new year with great company and interesting and easy walks.



Some Flora and Fauna Found at Cape Bridgewater & Bat's Ridge by Kevin Sparrow



Some of the photos taken on the day are above left to right: *Wilsonia humilis* (Silky Wilsonia). This plant is completely prostrate growing on hard stony ground, you wonder how it could possibly survive in the conditions. We encountered a stressed looking koala on the roadside, not injured but not happy looking, no doubt due to the Blue-gum clearing that has been going on. We left him to continue on his way.

Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria) top right was flowering spectacularly and even *Alyxia buxifolia* (Sea Box) was doing its best. Finally, I found *Muehlenbeckia gunnii* (Coastal Lignum) growing almost on the beach at Cape Bridgewater, this is one of the few places where this plant occurs. It and the *Wilsonia* are two more new species for inclusion in the next edition of *Plants of the Great South West*.



November Display Table Report by Kevin Sparrow

John and Marilyn Berry kicked off our display table with some interesting specimens. *Hakea commutata* was one that they grew from seed obtained from the very first Fred Rogers Seminar. They also brought in *Hakea ambigua*, it and *Banksia praemorsa* have been the attention of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos lately. They love chewing on the cones. They also brought in a couple of Eucalyptus, *E. petiolaris* which has lovely pink flowers, the seed came from Alby Lindner and *E. diversifolia*, which grows in the south west over at Cape Nelson.

Lorraine Charles brought in *Hibbertia procumbens*, a prostrate shrub with pretty yellow flowers and *Halgania preissii*, a low growing plant with blue-purple flowers and prickly leaves.

Kevin Sparrow brought in *Scaevola aemula* 'Fairy Pink' and *Scaevola aemula* with pretty purple flowers. These prostrate scaevolae are very easy to grow and strike very easy by cutting. I also brought in *Goodenia macmillanii*, an unusual pink colored Goodenia unlike the usual yellow colors. *Eremophila macdonnellii* is a spectacular large purple flowered eremophila. This also grows easy by cutting. Finally, I also brought in an orchid in a pot, *Sarcophilus hartmannii* in full flower.

I also brought in a number of specimens from the **Swan Reserve garden**, *Kunzea pomifera* (Muntries) (photo below right) is very spectacular in flower and doubles up with producing edible and tasty berries which you can eat raw or cook up into jam. I also brought in a spectacular flower which seems to be an *Eremaea purpurea*, (Photo above) not the name it was purchased as. That's OK, it is a very special plant that you don't see in propagation very often - bonus!

Myoporum floribundum is a spectacular plant when in full flower, the flowers look like snow on the branches and is easy to propagate by cutting. *Eucalyptus woodwardii* (photo bottom left) is a flowering euc with large vibrant yellow flowers. It is going gang busters in the Wollemi Bed, has not missed a beat over the dry summer, so a great plant for Warrnambool.

Other species from Swan Reserve are: *Dryandra praemorsa*, *Banksia petiolaris*, *Grevillea magnifica*, *Isopogon formosus*, *Eryngium ovinum*, *Malva preissiana* and *Chamelaucium* "Paddy's Pink", that wonderful hybrid between Geraldton Wax and *Verticordia plumosa*.



Community Gardens Quarry Progress by Bruce Campbell - Quarry Project Manager

The machines have gone quiet in the quarry these past few weeks but soon they will roar into life again. After the initial cleaning out of most of the quarry floor weeds and rubbish, there has been a pause as we waited for final approval to commence the earth moving that will create the amphitheatre. This approval has now been granted and as soon as some design work is finalised Tim Bligh and his crew will return to work.

Richard marks, our water engineer, has also largely completed his design of the gully creek and the management of storm water from the large pipe near the quarry floor. This storm water (and water from Wannon Water's storage facility if they need to dump it) will be diverted to an area underneath the northern rock wall. There will be a large 'rain garden' built here - a porous area that will help water soak into the ground without causing erosion.

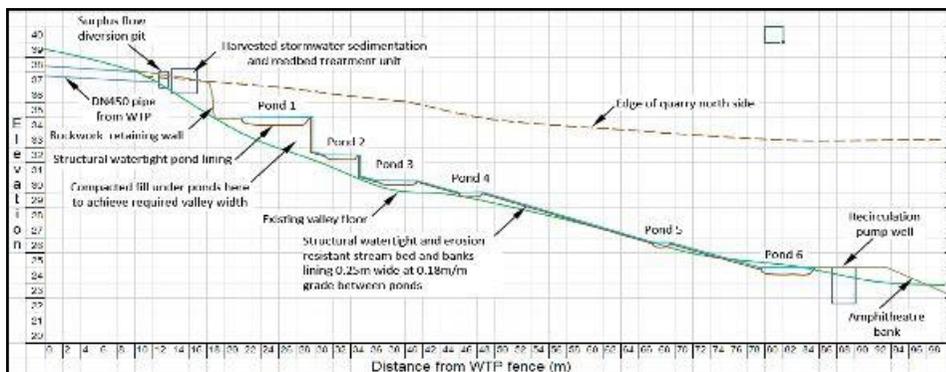
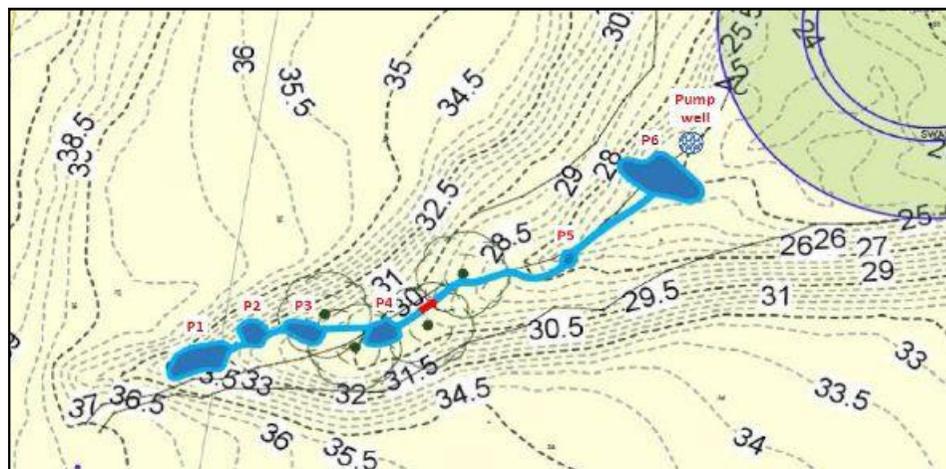
More than 3,000 plants have been ordered for planting out the walls of the quarry in early winter. Stocky and Wilma are growing some of these at WCG and others are from commercial nurseries. In the next few weeks we will be assisted by Conservation Volunteers Australia who will roll out and pin down more than 4,000 square metres of weed mat to prevent erosion of the walls and stop weed regrowth.

The project is a race against the clock, with late April being the official completion date. Considering the funding was delayed and a permit for construction was only received recently, we are hoping the State Government will give us an extension to May or June.

On the Winter Solstice in July, the quarry will have its first test as an event space with the spectacular Fire In The Hole event. Stay tuned for more on this in the next couple of months.

Below are a plan and elevation of the development planned in the gully. The long term aim here is to do some interpretative work on where Warrnambool's water comes from, hopefully with a major partner.

Bruce Campbell,
Quarry Project Manager.



Growing *Hoya australis* from Seed By Kevin Sparrow



Hoya australis is a wonderful plant that is easy to grow in Warrnambool, propagation is also easy by cutting. I have 2 that originated from Byron Bay in northern NSW. A forest species, they grow really well in a sheltered position with filtered light and don't mind being pot bound, so ideal for growing in a hanging basket. In recent years, mine have taken to setting seed in long bean type pods, so as I like a challenge, of course I wanted to germinate some. Alas, not very successfully. Not to be beaten, I thought I would do some research and it appears that you need to sow the seed fresh and keep the pot in high humidity until germination takes place. Luckily, one of the pods on mine happened to split open and dislodge its seeds, they pop out and blow around like dandelion seed. I sowed the seed almost immediately and sat the pot over a drip tray of water with a glass jar over the top to maintain the humidity.

Within a matter of days, success!! I will wait for them to grow a bit and then pot them on. Looks like I will have a few (quite a few) plants to sell to members later on in the year.

PS: I have a couple of other pods coming on, if you would like to try some, let me know and I will get them to you when they ripen.



The Fred Rogers Seminar is on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th October in Eltham



Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc

Sat 24 & Sun 25
October 2020

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Inc



For expressions of interest:

Email: fjcrogersseminar2020@gmail.com

Mobile: Miriam 0409 600 644

Web: apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/



Saturday 24 October

Eltham Community & Reception Centre,
801 Main Rd Eltham, Victoria 3095

Presentations by experts from NSW, WA & Victoria on the identification, propagation and cultivation of Mint Bushes and Allied Genera Plants (Westringia, Hemiandra, Dasymalla etc).

Evening Dinner with Guest Speaker

Plant Sales, Book Stall & Displays



Sunday 25 October

Garden Visits in the local area to Gardens growing a wide variety of native plants including Mint Bush and Allied Genera.



Images: Clockwise Front Page - *Dasymalla terminalis* (Barb Pye), *Hemiandra linearis* (Ben Eaton), *Prostanthera aequalifera* (Ruth Palsson) *Westringia eremicola*, *Prostanthera serpyllifolia* ssp *microphylla* & *Prostanthera arapilensis* (Ben Eaton). This page: *Newcastalia interrupta* (Miriam Ford), *Westringia dampieri* (Jill Lulham), *Prostanthera aspalathoides* Lake Marmal form & *Prostanthera bahriana* (Miriam Ford)

Banks & Solander Exhibition, Ringwood 17th February 2020 - 17th April 2020

“Australian Plants Revealed: 65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science”

An exhibition highlighting Banksias and unique Australian flora.

In April 2020 it will be 250 years since the east coast of Australia was first sighted from the Endeavour when Lieutenant Cook, his crew and passengers saw Point Hicks in East Gippsland.

Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander collected many specimens from the east coast for scientific study.

1. Exhibition ‘Revealing the Floral Treasures of Australia’.
2. Keynote address by Professor Tim Entwisle SATURDAY 28th March 2020: THE SIR JOSEPH BANKS CABINET, Botanical Bounty of the Endeavour’s voyage to New Zealand and Australia
3. Keynote address by Bruce Pascoe SATURDAY 28th March 2020: Aboriginal plant uses for sustenance and medicine

Note: the Ringwood gallery will not be open at all on Sundays but 12-4 every Saturday in March

Details

Start:

17th February 2020

End:

17th April 2020

Event Category: Seminar
Ave, Ringwood, 3134

Venue: Maroondah Federation Estate, *32 Greenwood*





**Are you keen to protect the native plants and animals on your property?
You could earn an income for that protection.**

We at Vegetation Link work with landholders like you who want to manage land for the benefit of biodiversity. But managing and protecting the land can be costly. The Native Vegetation Offset Market in Victoria provides an opportunity to cover those costs.

By setting up an offset site on your property with a conservation covenant, you can generate and sell biodiversity credits. Income from credit sales can be used to improve the land for biodiversity, such as through fencing, control of weed and pest animals, and biomass reduction.

A conservation covenant on the offset site permanently protects the native plants and animals, and your management of them, by restricting some land uses by you and future owners of the property. Restrictions may include limits on development or farming practices.

We also work with individuals and businesses that are permitted to clear native vegetation or impact biodiversity for a development project. They must compensate for that impact in some way, often through the purchase of biodiversity credits.

We link the owners who want to generate and sell credits with the purchasers who want to buy those credits.

If you own 10 hectares (25 acres) or more of quality native vegetation – whether it is coastal, grassland, bushland – and are interested in offsetting, we can help you: understand the offset market and how your land may be valued through the market, navigate the process of assessing and registering an offset site, and sell your biodiversity credits.

For more information, call us or visit our website.

vegetationlink

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