



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
 NOVEMBER 2020 No 468

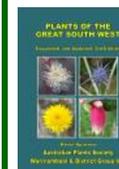
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'Plants of the Great South West 3',
 book on plants of South West Victoria
 \$25, available soon from

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New Edition
 available now.



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EDITORIAL

Hello members,

Great to see Melbourne finally coming out of lockdown and re-joining the rest of Victoria. Hopefully this will mean we can soon get back to holding our normal members nights, our first one is due for February next year. At this stage, we will plan to be back to normal then, barring another outbreak of virus. Plans for a book launch have been postponed until next year too when we might legally be able to cater for a reasonable number of people. I will look to the changes to state government regulations following the announcements this coming Sunday.

For those people wanting information on growing native plants in pots and tubs, I have with permission, re-printed an article written by Gill Muller from Port Elliott in South Australia. Gill is an expert at growing native plants in pots in fact she has hundreds of them. She has been very generous in allowing me to reproduce her article written for the Facebook group "Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts Forum". I thought it was so good that I would print it here so you could read it too. Thank you very much to Gill for allowing me to use it. I am giving her root pruning technique a try.

I have included the new ordering system for Neutrog products see page 12. Products can be ordered online for delivery, just remember that for a bulk order like we did earlier this year, freight will be free. Otherwise freight will be charged.

This month we have Cathy Powers speaking on Zoom on the subject of "Mini Beasts", those critters that inhabit our gardens and have us panicking about what to do about them. See page 2. I will send out the Zoom link after this newsletter goes out, log on around 7.45 pm for an 8.00 pm start.

Don't forget to bring along something for a quick Show and Tell from your garden before our speaker begins.

That's about all for now, see you on Zoom on Friday 27th. 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.

Members Night: Cathy Powers will be speaking on "Mini Beasts" on Zoom on Friday 27th November at 8.00pm

Zoom Meeting on Friday 27th

November 27th: Cathy Powers will be giving us a presentation called Minibeasts via Zoom From 8.00pm Log on anytime after 7.45pm



Huntsman spider



December 1st: Committee Meeting on Zoom or in person if government regulations allow, from 5.00pm.

Minibeasts



Millipede



Slug



Centipede

- Minibeasts are small animals that do not have an internal skeleton
- Scientifically known as invertebrates
- Popular name = bugs
- They live all around us in a multitude of habitats, even in our yards and in our homes



Slater



Praying mantis



Stag beetle



Cockroach

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

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Other Committee Members: Michael Mattner, Andrew Gray, Joan Krygger, David Handscombe.

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.

Show and Tell - On Zoom by David & Linda Handscombe

David and Linda Handscombe showed a couple of *Isopogon* that are flowering beautifully at the moment.

Top row is the well named, *Isopogon anemonifolius* 'Sunshine'.

Bottom row is *Isopogon* "Stuckeys Hybrid"



Show And Tell - On Zoom by Cathy Powers

Hakea auriculata = Small, very prickly shrub.

Leaves are stiff with spiny teeth and of variable shape. Flowers of the common form are creamy white. My specimen form has the reddish purple flowers and are not so free flowering however the plant does flower over a protracted period. Grown from seed, it is the only one which germinated out of about 15.

It took about 5 years for the first flower to appear and it seems that for each year of maturity, the flowering gets better. I am hoping to have a fruit this year for the first time.



Cathy also had a surprise plant, *Diuris sulphurea* or Tiger Orchid suddenly appeared in her garden unannounced.

Diuris sulphurea can be variable (photo left) with very obvious markings on labellum and dorsal sepal (front & back) or more plain like the sample from her garden (photo right).

Show and Tell - By Zoom by Kevin Sparrow

Kevin Sparrow had a number of *Scaevola* in flower. These are in various colours and are putting on a lovely display.

Top row: *Scaevola aemula* "Pink Fairies", *Scaevola aemula* Purple flowers,

Bottom row: *Scaevola globulifera*, *Scaevola striata*, *Scaevola aemula* "Bondi White".



Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Reprinted with permission from the Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts Forum (Facebook)

We've had a number of requests for choices for container plants recently, and that also inevitably leads to caring for them. I thought I'd do a couple of posts covering those topics, with Caring first, Choices second. This is the Caring for Post.

This is my experience and advice from 40 years of growing Australian plants in pots. I know other members will/may disagree with what I say, but it's worked for me, and I now have a very varied collection here at Port Elliot, SA, around 280 in terracotta and glazed pots, from desert lovers to rainforest species. In my other post I explain why I headed down this track, and give more information on my conditions etc. I wanted to concentrate this post on potting, feeding, pruning, weeding, and the most asked question I get, watering!

Terracotta and Glazed pots

I much prefer terracotta pots, and I do like glazed pots too. I don't seal them, I have never experienced this issue that so many people talk of, of moisture leaching out in hot weather. I find the opposite, that is has a cooling effect. If you have watered deeply till the water runs out of the drainage hole before the hot weather/day hits, and poke down into the soil in the midday sun you'll find it quite cool. Compare it to a similar size pot of black plastic. I think terracotta lets the soil and moisture in the pot breathe, helping it to keep cool. Glazed pots are similar, they may not breathe, but the thickness of the wall of the pots is a great insulator. I try and pot up any tubestock or 140mm pots that aren't ready for planting or larger pots (or any I don't know what to do with!) into terracotta pots. It's better for them, it looks a lot better in the garden, and I'm lucky that I still haven't got to the end of my supply yet! I'm not a huge fan of the plastic pot inside a terracotta or glazed pot, but I have done it when undecided about what to do with the plant.

I think the light fiberglass and other light weight material pots on the market today are brilliant for Balconies, Rooftop Gardens, anywhere weight is an issue. And lightening the mix that goes into them in those circumstances is important too. They'd also be a hell of a lot easier moving around a garden than some of the very large pottery ones I have. We have two sack trucks and a special trolley John had made for moving my big pots.

I do like half wine barrels too, you can make amazing small gardens in them, but you must drill drainage holes, sit them on bricks or something else to prevent them being in contact with the ground, and not let them dry out, the staves can shrink, and the hoops drop if they aren't secured properly. In this garden I have a 31 year old half wine barrel, but it does have rot in it now.



Photo above K. Sparrow: *Kennedia coccinea*.

Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Watering

So many people ask me how often do I water my pots, or how often should they water theirs, and they are looking for an answer like twice a week in the morning. And it just doesn't work like that. There are so many factors to consider. Weather is a major influencing factor on my watering regime. In winter, with decent rainfall (it does happen here sometimes) I only have to think about the pots under the eaves, the verandah and in the rainforest area. Even without rain, when it's cold it takes a lot longer for them to dry out. But they still can, so watering in winter is still necessary, just not as often. I use my trusty water meter, my pointer finger, poke it 5-6 cm into the soil, under the pebble mulch, if it's damp, it's fine, if it's dry and doesn't stick to my finger, it needs watering. I have a couple of "marker" plants, they droop when they are dry, this also helps me to know if it's time.

Wind is very drying, so as soon as the weather starts to warm even if it's low 20's, if there is a warm wind with it, it will dry out your plants, they'll suck up more moisture, and it'll dry the potting mix too. Definitely check more often in windy weather. Look ahead at the forecast? Today may be lovely, your pots may be fine, but the next few days may be heading for high temperatures, and you may be going to work, or for some other reason not be around to water. So do it today. And get to know how much rain will water your pots if you have a few? This helps for your garden too. I know I need a good 15mm, preferably at once to water all my pots enough that I don't need to worry. Install a good rain gauge so that you can work that out too. I constantly say in summer I may water every day, but I don't water everything every day. The really big pots, mulched well with pebbles will go much longer than small pots. So I do try and group the small pots all together. This looks better, and they also protect each other in the really bad heat.

A couple of summers ago we had a scorcher of a day when it went over 45C. I had watered thoroughly the night before, and I covered really vulnerable plants like ferns etc with shade cloth. We hadn't had many 40C+ days like Adelaide had, so it hit Port Elliot/Victor Harbor hard, I think every Lilly Pilly was very badly scorched, a lot died. And a lot of people didn't water beforehand, so they lost a lot of plants in their gardens. All my finger limes were cooked on the bush, and my Huon Pine, *Lagarostrobos franklinii* in a pot had a corner scorched slightly where the afternoon sun touched it, but otherwise I didn't have any damage. So preparing before a really hot event is important.

And plants love rain, so if you do have pots under eaves, or on verandahs etc, and can get them out into a good rain occasionally (without doing yourself an injury do it), they'll really thank you for it. Now I've got all that off my chest, I'll cover the other points with the photos!

And of course, I'm in Port Elliot, 80Km south of Adelaide, average annual rainfall 450mm, warm to hot summers, cold winter, no frost. 1km directly inland from the Southern Ocean, no salt spray, prevailing winds in summer hot north westerly.

Photo K. Sparrow *Eremophila mirabilis*



Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Photo right: So these are the tools and products I've got together over the years, and use for my potting. I do love a good tub, purpose made ones, and empty fertiliser etc ones. I use them for mixing my potting mix recipe, soaking pots in Seasol and water, holding pebbles/gravel scraped off when potting up, prunings, just everything. As you can see I have a number of different shapes and sizes. The same for scoops, for scooping potting mix, gravel, pebbles, fertiliser, perlite etc.,

Photo below left: Potting mix with this certification meets that Australian standard for quality, air filled porosity but it doesn't contain any fertiliser.



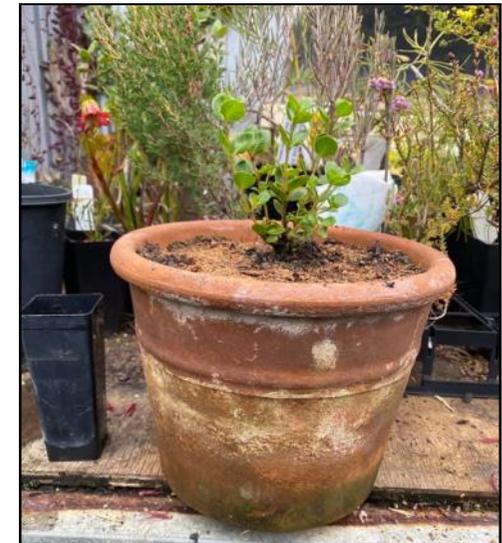
Photo above right: Potting mix with this certification meets that Australian standard for quality, air filled porosity and it does contain enough fertiliser to support the plant for 3 months. I still always add fertiliser when I pot up. I very rarely find that the prills (little balls of fertiliser) are hard and haven't already released. The bags can have been sitting in a nursery for sometime, or in my shed, and the prills release on warmth.

I always cover drainage holes with a piece of nylon flywire. This is a small hole, but often the holes are much larger, and the soil can fall out, but also slaters and ants etc can get in, so this helps. As does making sure the pot is not in contact with the ground. Pot feet are great for that. I don't use saucers.



Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Above right: I potted this Logania up from its tube into this terracotta pot, I've not decided what to do with it yet. On the surface of the pot is some Saturaid and Troforte M. Note how the Troforte is really close to the tube, there's no point putting it out away from the roots at this stage. After this photo I mulched it with gravel. This pot was probably bought in 1997/8, I just recycle them constantly, and love the aged look.



Below: This is when you go "Oh bugger". A Verticordia I really want to keep, obviously in need of potting up poor thing, but also full of root aphid. If it wasn't a plant I really wanted I would have binned it.

I used my knife to cut away the roots. But the aphids were still there deep inside.

I still potted it up, and I'll give the soil a drench with Pyrethrum. Luckily the other 3 Verticordias that were waiting were free of the root aphid. I washed my hands, and used Methylated spirits to clean my knife.



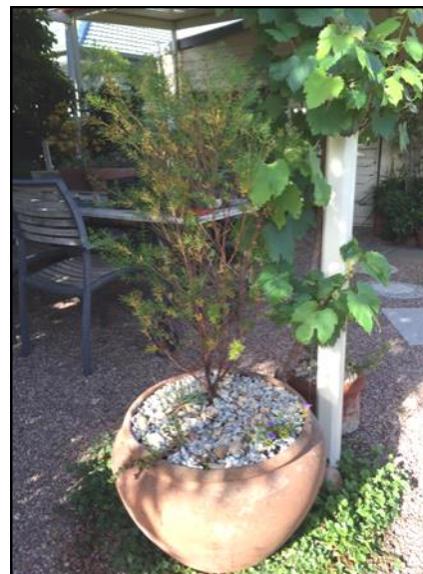
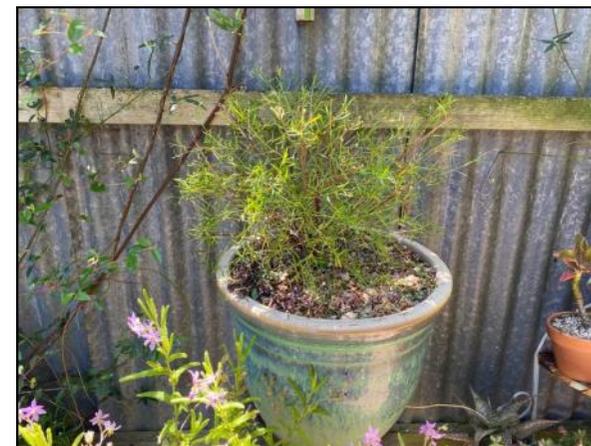
Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Pruning is probably more important in pots than in the garden if you want to not be constantly potting up. This *Boronia heterophylla* 'Lipstick' has only just finished flowering, but it's really pumping out the new growth. So I really gave it a good haircut. And a feed with Troforte M, and a good drink. If I'd had the energy I'd have set some cuttings.

Below: Potting up. Or root pruning and keeping in the same pot. *Boronia* 'Purple Jared' 1&2: After the slice and dice on the root ball in the previous photo, going from the pot on the left.

3: Newly potted up, pebble mulch.

4: 5 years later, and after another in pot root pruning in 2017/ 2018? Don't be afraid to go heavy on roots.



Natives For Pots, Caring For Them by Gill Muller

Another example of hefty root pruning recovering a failing plant. *Crocea saligna* this time.

- 1/ It was just a matted mess of roots.
- 2/ Soaked the sliced up root ball in a Seasol solution
- 3/ 6 months later, flowering and looking much happier.



Weeds are as much a pain in pots as they are in the ground, I find this creeping red oxalis to be the worst of all, and nothing I've ever done has got me on top of it. It's particularly difficult when it gets tangled through the stems of plants like this *Conostylis*.

ED: A tip I got from an orchid grower is to spray this weed with "Aerogard" insect repellent. You can get a thin tube which fits into the aerosol can spray nozzle so that you can direct the spray directly onto the weed. I have tried it with immediate success and it doesn't harm the plant.

Online Ordering System For Neutrog



Manufacturers of biological fertilisers

Dear Member,

The process of ordering your Neutrog products has now moved to an online platform called 'Shopify'. This is a change from the manual system that has been in place for a long time, but ensures a smoother transaction with the club and at Neutrog. It gives you more control over your order and takes away the need for order forms and money collection. The payment and collating of the orders is now done by Neutrog.

The delivery/collection process will remain the same. Individuals will receive an invoice and you simply bring this to the collection point on the date indicated to collect your order.

To participate, Neutrog has asked that we provide them with your email address. If you do not wish to participate, please let me know by return email and your details won't be passed on to Neutrog. Once set up in their system they will send you a unique activation code which will take you to their member section on their online store. There will be instruction provided with the email. You will then enter a password. This will be your own password which will allow you to access the store at any time. You can then scroll through all products and make your purchase. The store is always open, so you can order whenever you like. You simply select the drop off point and date and you will collect as normal. They are offering on your first order a one off \$20 discount on an order over \$40.

ED: Remember freight will be added unless our group puts in another bulk order.

If you don't have an email address, you won't be left out. We suggest you 'buddy-up' with someone who does have an email address either within the club, or a family member. Alternatively the club can have their own account and orders made on your behalf. In this instance the order and money will need to be collected and paid online by the club.

You are stepped through the process online, but if you are having any difficulty there is a freecall number 1800 656 644 should you need any help or you can contact me direct, and I will pass on your concerns to Neutrog.

Kind Regards
Club Order Co-ordinator

Coastal Connection by Jarred Obst

Hello and welcome to the Sept/October instalment of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's '[Coastal Connections](#)' email. I hope this finds you well and that you've been able to bring some normality back to 2020.

Seasonal Weather

If something out of the ordinary is going to happen then 2020 appears to be the year for it - and this has definitely been the case for seasonal weather patterns! After a winter of well below average rainfall and streamflow, it was fantastic to see spring head in the opposite direction with excellent rain received throughout September and October. This also included significant flooding after much of our coastal region received greater than 100mm of rainfall in the first week of October. La Nina was however predicted prior to the shift in weather patterns, and with this now established and underway, further above average rainfall is predicted over the coming months.

Estuary Update

The state of our regions estuaries shifted dramatically over the past two months, due to widespread rainfall and seasonal flooding, particularly during the first week of October. All estuaries are subsequently open and water quality profiles have since been dominated by highly turbid freshwater. Such flooding can unfortunately have damaging impacts in the short term, particularly from a water quality perspective as seen in the lower Glenelg estuary, however the long term benefits of seasonal flushing and sediment cycling is vital in maintaining healthy, dynamic and diverse estuarine systems for many years to come.

Information & Engagement

There continues to be a lot of COVID safe opportunities to stay involved and connected to our environment, *here are a few options:*

[Australasian Bittern Funding](#) – is currently available through the CMA to support landholders in the protection and management of swamps with Bittern habitat; EOI close 31st November.

[State of the Climate 2020 Video & Report](#) – has recently been released which unfortunately adds weight to the concerns many people have about the state and trajectory of our climate...

[Tangaroa Blue, Spring 2020 newsletter](#) – contains some very interesting information about events and activities for those passionate about marine debris and litter reduction in our waterway.

[Coastal Birds; Online Workshop Series 2020](#) – one last workshop remains in November for anyone wishing to learn more about our fascinating coastal birds

CMA Revegetation 2020

Excellent spring rainfall has provided fantastic conditions for native revegetation works and the CMA have subsequently been very busy in this space. Through a recent funding initiative, know as Working for Victoria, combined with existing CMA on-ground projects, over 50,000 plants have been revegetated across our region in recent months.

For anyone wishing to learn more about potential options to work with the CMA, please check out the [Budj Bim Connections video](#).

***Please note, this was filmed in 2019 prior to COVID-19 and social distances requirements.

NAIDOC Week 2020

Lastly, I hope everyone has had the chance to become involved and learn more about Australian Indigenous culture during the current NAIDOC week. Here is a link to the [NAIDOC website](#) for further information, plus check out this fantastic locally produced short film [Ngatanwarr - An Open Door](#), aimed to increase cultural history awareness and language of the Port Fairy area.

Regards Jarred