



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)**  
**Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**  
 APRIL 2021 No 472

*Correa reflexa* 'Grannys Grave'

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## EDITORIAL

### *Hello members,*

It was great to finally be back to face to face meetings again last month, with our first Members Night in 13 months, although I did miss the cuppa at the end. Under Covid rules, the kitchen is out of bounds as it encourages people to congregating around the window breaching social distancing rules. We also trialled a new arrangement with the seating to keep people apart a bit and I think everyone was happy with that. Please remember to sign in on the sheet just inside the front door (this stays with the hall committee) and again in our attendance book in the hall which records your attendance for public liability reasons.

We are aware that members missed out on the opportunity to visit the two **gardens at Illowa** last month due to limitations to numbers under Covid rules, therefore we have decided to have a Members afternoon at the gardens of Linda and David Handscombe and Sue Blood/Ross Dawson on Sunday 25th April. Obviously this is Anzac Day and in respect to this, we wont meet at the Handscombe garden until 1.30pm. (See page 3 for directions) I hope this does not offend anybody, people will still be able to attend marches in the morning. Plants will be for sale here and we will move on to Ross and Sue's around 3.00pm where a cuppa will be available with some of Dorothy's left over Xmas Cake I'm told.

We are feeling a bit more confident now in organising our diary for the year, so far we have a **speaker for May** (Royce Raleigh - "Lesser Known Plants for the Garden") and **day trips planned** for Colac - July 24th, Hamilton - Aug 28th and a **weekend trip away** to the Grampians on Sat 2nd/Sun 3rd October for the Pomonal Flower Show.

Our **Annual Meeting** is coming up in May and there are vacancies on the committee available, so please consider nominating, there is no pressure on anyone and it gives you the opportunity to have a say in how your group operates. That's about all for this month, hope to see you on Friday 23rd at 8.00pm at the Mozart Hall, our speaker is Rob Wallis talking on the history of Tower Hill. See you there. Cheers, Kevin

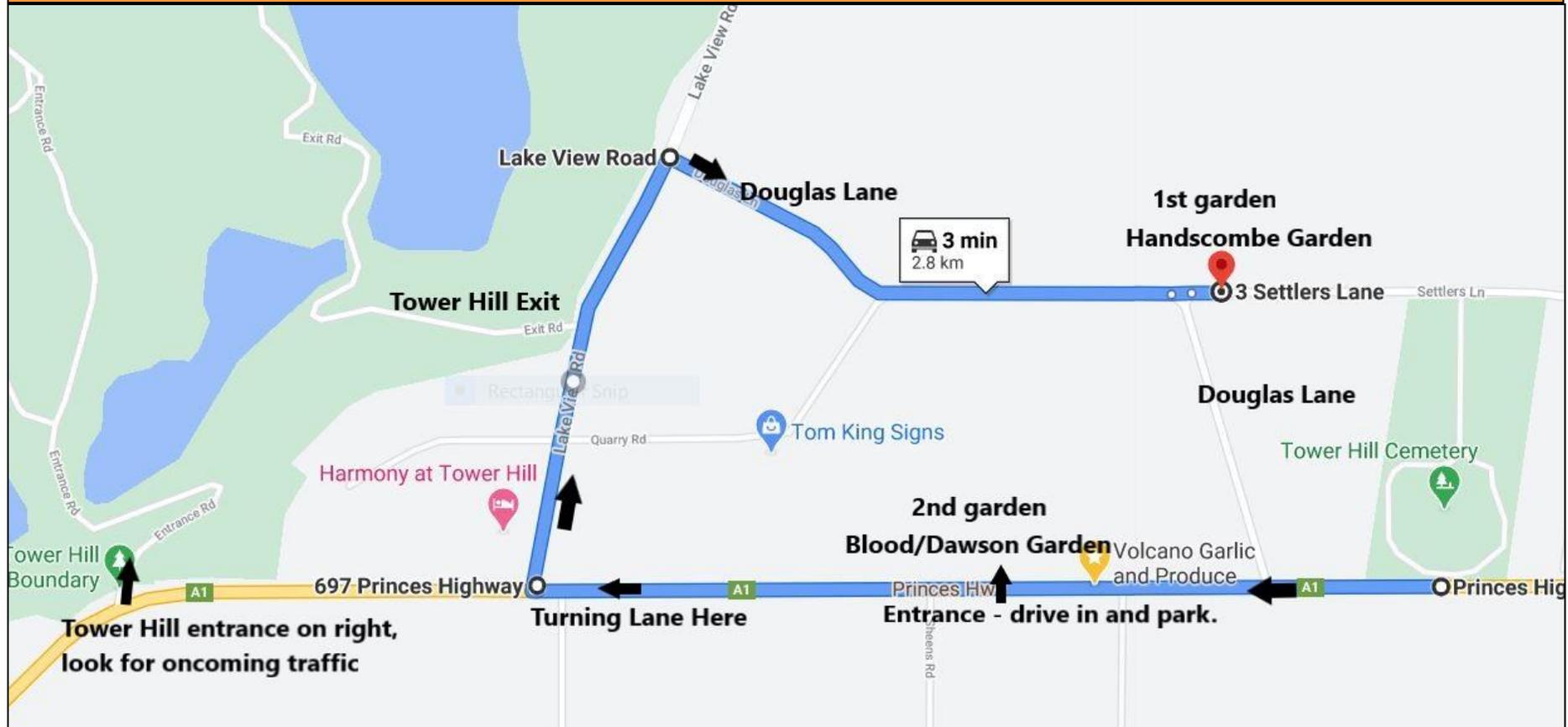
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**We wish to acknowledge the Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their elders past and present.**

**Members Night: Friday 23rd April at Mozart Hall 8.00pm - Speaker Rob Wallis - History of Tower Hill**

<i>Members Activities</i>	<i>Members Activities</i>
<p><b>April 23rd Members Night from 8.00pm:</b> Rob Wallis speaking on the history of Tower Hill.</p> <p><b>April 25th : Visit to Gardens</b> of Handscombe and Blood/Dawson.</p> <p><b>April 27th Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b> Sparrows, 35 Swan St.</p> <p><b>May 28th Members Night from 8.00pm:</b> Annual General Meeting, speaker Royce Raleigh - "Lesser Known Plants for the Garden"</p> <p><b>June 1st Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p> <p><b>June 25th Members Night from 8.00pm:</b> Dinner at RSL followed by a members night where people can bring along their favourite piece of native art or favourite plant etc for discussion.</p> <p><b>June 29th Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p> <p><b>July 23rd: No Members Night.</b></p>	<p><b>July 24th: Day trip to Colac</b> and to Special Effects Nursery at Barongarook for a discussion on Bush Tucker plants.</p> <p><b>July 27th Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p> <p><b>Aug 27th Members Night from 8.00pm:</b></p> <p><b>Aug 28th: Day trip to Hamilton members gardens</b></p> <p><b>Aug 31st: Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p> <p><b>Sept 24th: Members Night from 8.00pm:</b></p> <p><b>Sept 28th: Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p> <p><b>October 2/3rd: Weekend visit to Grampians.</b></p> <p><b>October 22nd Members Night from 8.00pm:</b></p> <p><b>October 26th: Committee Meeting at 1.30pm:</b></p>
<p><b>Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month</b></p>	
<p><b>President:</b> Dorothy Mattner Phone: 0447 676 477 dmmattner@bigpond.com <b>Vice President:</b> Kevin Sparrow Ph: 55626217  <b>Secretary:</b> Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 55626519 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com  <b>Treasurer:</b> John Sherwood. 26 McConnell St, Warrnambool Phone: 55628064 Email: jsher@deakin.edu.au  <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Kevin Sparrow, 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com  <b>Public Officer:</b> John Sherwood. <b>APS Reps:</b> vacant, <b>Group Historian:</b> Joyce Sparrow. <b>Supper Organiser:</b> Liz Halls.  <b>Other Committee Members:</b> Michael Mattner, Joan Krygger, David Handscombe.</p>	
<p><b>The APS Warrnambool &amp; District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.</b></p>	
<p>APS Warrnambool &amp; District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic) All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.</p>	
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## How to get to the Open Gardens at Illowa.



Map above of Illowa showing the location of both gardens that we will be visiting on Sunday 25th April from 1.30pm beginning at the Handscombe Garden. Note: there is no right turning lane at Douglas Lane, therefore the safest option is to travel on to Lake View Road where there is a safe turning lane and turning right onto Douglas Lane from there and travelling back to The Arc Garden at Settlers Lane. All members are welcome to come along and join in. Retrace your tracks to go back to Ross and Sue's garden on the Princes Highway, look for the large rocks at the main gate and drive right on in.

## *Gardens for Wildlife - Warrnambool - Beginning Soon!*

An exciting free program has been developed to help Warrnambool residents encourage wildlife into their garden. Only a small portion of the indigenous vegetation that used to cover the Warrnambool area remains, generally in small isolated patches which makes it difficult for native wildlife to survive, thrive and move between patches. You can improve the habitat for wildlife in your garden by creating a wildlife friendly garden that provides shelter, food and water. Your garden can contribute to the survival of our local wildlife and provide a stepping stone for them to move through the area.

### **What makes a garden wildlife friendly?**

A wildlife friendly garden includes some or all of the following:

- A mature tree, native to the area
- A mixture of plant layers such as trees, shrubs and groundcovers
- Dense shrubs for birds to shelter in
- Nectar plants for honeyeaters
- Cat-safe bird bath
- Warm sheltered area for lizards
- Butterfly hosting plants
- Frog friendly pond or bog
- Patch of natural mulch for beetles and worms



### **How will the Gardens for Wildlife program work?**

A garden visit, by trained volunteer garden advisors, will provide helpful, practical advice, to assist participants to make their garden more wildlife friendly.

A pilot program will be launched in May 2021 with limited spaces available. This webpage will be updated with details on how to register your interest for the pilot program. <https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/gardens-wildlife>

**How to become a Wildlife Garden Advisor:** If you are interested in volunteering as Wildlife Garden Advisor please contact the Natural Environment Unit on 5559 4800 or email [jbalazs@warrnambool.vic.gov.au](mailto:jbalazs@warrnambool.vic.gov.au) for further information.

### **Information on local plants**

The plant selector tool is available for more information on local native plants. See: <https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/plant-selector-tool>

## Report on Last Month's Speaker, Gavin Prentice - Glenelg Ramsar Site

Taken from <https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/>

The Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay is one of Victoria and Australia's newest Ramsar site – Glenelg Ramsar – with its listing announced in 2018. A Ramsar listing provides additional protection for highly significant wetland values, raises the national and international profile of these wetland values and increases the level of management and funding support for this area. The Ramsar site includes the majority of Lower Glenelg National Park and Discovery Bay Coastal Park.

How is the Glenelg Ramsar area managed?

The Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Management Plan (Glenelg RMP) guides the range of activities for the site. The Glenelg RMP provides a focus for management strategies to protect site values and that support the unique ecological character of the area.

Parks Victoria, as the Site Manager, will work on behalf of Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, the Crown Land Owner, through collaboration with Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, the Ramsar Site Coordinator. Together with a community representative and other agencies (Gunditj Mirring TOAC, Southern Rural Water and Glenelg Shire Council) these agencies will implement management requirements for the Glenelg Ramsar site. The Ramsar nomination has no effect on how people use the Parks and or how neighboring property owners manage their adjoining private property.



# Glenelg Ramsar Site



**“Basalt Peppercross - *Lepidium Hyssopifolium*” fact sheet by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2016.**

Basalt Peppercross is a perennial herb which belongs to the Brassicaceae family. A plant which grows in favourable conditions will grow up to a meter tall and up to 1.5 meters wide. It will have many erect branches, creating a dense bush. Basalt Peppercross looks more like a weed than something that would be selected for a floral arrangement, but this species shouldn't be judged by its appearance. Basalt Peppercross is a very interesting native plant.

Basalt Peppercross is known as the gypsy of the plant world due to an ability for its populations to move from one location to another if the opportunity presents itself. One healthy plant can produce an enormous amount of fertile seed and this will germinate prolifically in the right conditions. The life span of most plants is between 2-5 years, so frequent germination events are important to the survival of the species.

Bare soil is essential for seedling establishment. In the past native animals like bandicoots, echidnas and ground foraging birds would have played an important role in turning over the soil and creating bare patches for establishment in our woodlands and grasslands. Fire and flooding events would have also created suitable seed bed areas.

How does the seed move to bare soil? It is thought that animals usually transport the seed. The fine seed produces a sticky mucus coating in wet conditions which allows the seed to stick to the wet fur of animals who brush past the plants. The mucus coating also allows the seed to float for approximately 24 hours, which provides a wonderful mechanism for the seed to travel via water to different areas.

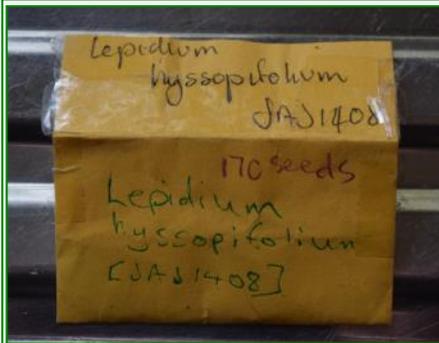
Basalt Peppercross seems to be very responsive to climatic conditions, and will grow vigorously when rainfall is high. A plant will put on all its growth over spring and summer. During summer the plant flowers, and from summer and through to autumn the seed drops, ready for germination in the Autumn break.

In Victoria there are seven naturally occurring populations of Basalt Peppercross and four reintroduced populations, with a fifth population established in 2016. Depending on the management actions for this species, over a period of 2 or 3 years a population can rise from <10 plants to >100 and then on the third year return down to just a handful of plants again.

Considering the large amount of seed that can be produced from a single plant, and the seed's high viability, it may seem surprising that this species is Endangered across Australia (Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales). Historically, this species also existed in South Australia. The Basalt Peppercross is listed as threatened under *Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.



## Growing *Lepidium hyssopifolium* to collect seed for revegetation by Kevin Sparrow



In September 2020, I was asked by DEWLP Threatened Species Officer, Laura Prentice if I would like to germinate and grow some *Lepidium hyssopifolium* or Basalt Peppergrass plants to collect as much seed as I could for later revegetation. The very rare plants come from Belfast Loch near Port Fairy and the idea was that the seed could be used to grow further plants that could be planted back or the seed used to sow directly onsite. 170 seeds were sourced from cold storage at The Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, seed that was originally collected by Andrew Pritchard some 20 years ago. I sowed the seed into seed raising mix and covered to retain humidity and was pleasantly surprised to find that approximately half of them germinated readily. I then pricked them out and planted them individually into a tray of cells, to grow them on until I could pot them on into individual pots. After doing this, I had 69, 8 inch pots of *Lepidiums*.



*Growing Lepidium hyssopifolium to collect seed for revegetation by Kevin Sparrow*



*Growing Lepidium hyssopifolium to collect seed for revegetation by Kevin Sparrow*



Before long the plants had grown to about 50cm tall x 30cm wide and had outgrown the pots that I had them growing in. With potting on into larger pots difficult if not out of the question, I decided to keep them growing by sitting them into plastic trays and bottom feeding them with liquid fertilizer. Before long they started to produce the smallest of flowers which continued to grow on and on after being pollinated, leaving the small seed containers sticking out along the stem. As they dried, they opened up, the bottom ones first and then upwards, releasing the seed. Each day I would 'milk' the seeds and sieve them into a container. An amount of 'chaff' would also go through with the seed. How many did I get?

