



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
 October 2021 No 478

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On Eastern Marr Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this months newsletter, it shows great support and interest in our native plants both in our gardens and also in the wild.

Last month we had an interesting presentation by Trevor Kennedy on the butterflies of the south west and 13 members attended. We had planned for APS Vic. Vice President, Miriam Ford to travel to Warrnambool this month for a presentation on Prostanthera and other Mint plants. Unfortunately, due to Co-vid restrictions she is unable to travel from Melbourne. We will reschedule this for next year. John Sherwood has offered to stand in and do a presentation on his visit to Kangaroo Island, this was before the disastrous fires that occurred a few years ago.

A number of members travelled to Pomonal for the weekend of 2 & 3rd October and from all accounts, the trip was enjoyed by all. The Flower Show was cancelled but the visit to the Raleigh garden still went ahead. See part 1 report on pages 6 & 7 by Ross Dawson. Unfortunately we were not able to go .

I received notification this week that my application to the Warrnambool City Council's "Community Development" fund has been successful for funding to produce an environmental weed booklet. The previous one is dated and now largely out of stock.

STOP PRESS: Due to the current Co-Vid situation and the possibility of some members being unvaccinated, we have decided to play safe and hold our next meeting on Zoom. We will review this next month.

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We acknowledge the Eastern 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 22nd November on Zoom at 8.00pm - Speaker- John Sherwood - Kangaroo Island
 Have something ready for "Show & Tell". I will send out a link next week.

Members Activities

October 22nd: Members Night from 8.00pm: ON ZOOM - Speaker - John Sherwood will give a presentation on his visit to Kangaroo Island pre-fires.

October 26th: Committee Meeting at 2.00pm on Zoom:

November 20/21st: Visit by Geelong APS to Warrnambool visiting Handscombe/Blood-Dawson and Swan Reserve Gardens.

November 26th: Members Night from 8.00pm: Denis Crawford speaking on "Photographing Insects".

November 30th: Committee Meeting at 2.00pm on Zoom:

December 5th: Christmas Breakup from 12.00 noon. Venue is Sue and Ross's home at Illowa.

February 25th: Adam Mattner speaking on Kakadu National Park.

Orchid photos on right that I took this week are: Two color forms of *Caladenia fragrantissima* and *Thelymitra ixioides* (Dotted Sun-orchid)

Orchids Photographed This Week by Kevin Sparrow



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 Rep:** Michael Mattner, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper:** Liz Halls.

Other Committee Members: Dorothy Mattner, Michael Mattner, Joan Krygger, Ross Dawson.

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.

Our Hard Working Committee Meeting On Zoom - Thanks John.



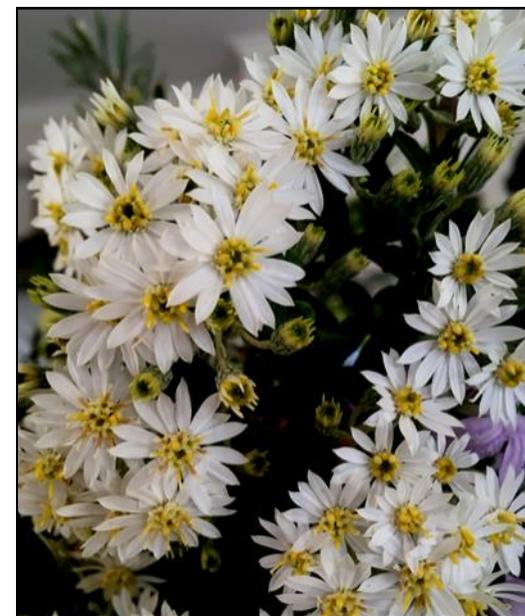
Last Months Display Table by Linda Handscombe

Moving to Illowa has been a learning experience for us. We brought hundreds of stock plants with us to plant in our new garden. Amongst them were quite a number of beautiful Dampieras. They did well for us in Pomonal but have not enjoyed our delicious chocolate brown volcanic soils or possibly the salty wind and we've lost most of them. Kevin brought a very striking potted purple *Dampiera purpurea* to our last meeting and this prompted me to put a few in pots to try too. Coming from the eastern states of Australia, *D. purpurea* is a small suckering perennial that is suited to medium to heavy soils and dappled to full sun.



Kevin also brought a white *Olearia phlogopappa* that comes from the eastern states too. We looked forward to having success with these in a wetter climate. Heralding from higher elevations including Tasmania, they are going to survive better here than they did in Pomonal. Affectionately called 'Flog yer pappa' by Neil Marriott, they come in white, pink, purple or blue and are very butterfly attracting. As these shrubs grow quickly, tip pruning is advised to prevent them from becoming leggy. Kevin displayed a *Billardiera ringens*. It is a slender orange climber that flowers from August until February. It originates from rocky and sometimes limestone soils north of Perth. It appreciates water during dry periods. We saw an enormous one at the Melton Botanical Gardens in their nursery in a very large pot where it was thriving.

Lou and Mick brought an *Acacia verticillata* 'Prickly Moses'. Their shrub is only 4 years old and already it's a great crowd and wallaby control because of its prickly foliage. It's great for nesting birds too. Growing naturally from NSW all the way around to Sth Australia, it's a medium to tall shrub tolerating slightly alkaline soils. They also displayed a lovely *Pandorea pandorana* that's been meandering through their *Acacia melanoxylon* and providing a great splash of colour. A very widespread plant from all over Australia and from rainforests, woodlands and coastal regions, its tubular flowers can be white, cream, yellow, pink or brown with purplish blotches or stripes. We have a cream one that has just reached the canopy of the daisy bed and looks delightful. It's advisable not to linger too long by the bed in case the *Pandorea* reaches out and grabs you.



Sue and Ross brought a beautiful *Kunzea ericifolia* [we think]. (Photo above right) David thinks he grew it from seed originally and it comes true to type when sown from seed. It also strikes from cuttings but it has been a bit hard to identify. We had a row in the paddock in Pomonal for cut flowers that were always in their prime for the Flower Show on the first weekend in October. It was a large shrub 2m high and 2.5m wide. It can be picked as a tight ball or with a few stamens open. Don't pick it fully open or it will shower your home with yellow bits. We also have 2 different pink seedlings that are quite pretty.

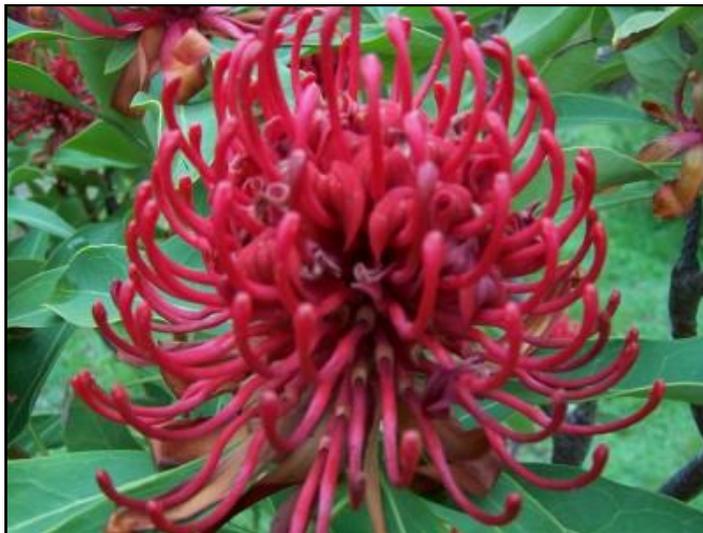


Dave Handscombe showed a pretty selection of Boronias. Several were hybrids but *Boronia clavata* (Photo below right) is a species in its own right. It's a medium shrub reaching 2m high and 2.5m wide and flowering for a long time from late winter through spring to early summer. Originating in WA, it grows on floodplains near riverbanks but is very tolerant of coastal areas, some frosts and dryness. We have always found it to be very hardy and I've used it a lot as a floral filler in flower arrangements. It has a sweet perfume [possibly a bit sickly] that is quite different to *B. megastigma*. It is used as a hardy rootstock for grafting.

Mike and Liz Halls brought one of my favourite plants, *Philotheca myoporoides* 'Flower Girl'. This beautiful wax originated at Moorillah Gardens just up our road in Pomonal at the nursery business owned by Rodney and Mary Tonkin. It is a medium shrub and its most striking feature is its beautiful pink buds before the mass

of white flowers open. It's a great insect attracter and a floral filler too.

I was lucky enough to take home one of Liz and Mike's Waratahs [*Telopea speciosissima*] (photo left). Thank you! Maybe in 30 years ours will look as good. According to the Karwarra Australian Native Garden and Nursery brochure, this NSW Waratah naturally grows in dappled light but will survive in full sun if its soil requirements are met. Soil should be open and moist but well drained and it appreciates leaf litter or mulch. If worms are happy all year round in your soil, then it's probably a suitable site for a Waratah. Supplementary watering needs to be regular in hot and dry conditions and pruning is essential. Just keep filling your vases and you'll get a better shrub and more flowers next year.



Pomonal Flower Show 2021 Cancelled! But Someone Forgot To Tell Mother Nature by Ross Dawson

The story of our trip to Pomonal will be over three parts.

Accompanied by David and Linda Handscombe (David for both his plant and Grampians region knowledge and Linda for her plant knowledge and eagle eye for locating the invisible plants) Sue and I undertook a 3 day plant odyssey to the Grampians /Deep Lead / and Wartook area to witness the stunning flora, only seen if you get out of the car.

Day oneGrampians

Day twoDeep Lead Conservation Reserve /Lake Fynes

Day three.....Wartook Gardens

Day One Grampians

The first stop was at the Dunkeld Information Centre to be teased by the small but impressive native garden that surrounds the Centre.

Picture 2: *Grevillea Penola Form*, an example.

Next stop the Grampians and the Mt Sturgeon track.



Picture: 1 shows the panorama of the Mt Sturgeon track.



Picture 3: The landscape of *Eucalyptus baxteri* was only interrupted by *Xanthorrhoea australis* and a carpet of *Calytrix alpestris*. This formed the backdrop to the hidden under story of the smaller but not less impressive plants and flowers.



Picture 4-7 Record but a sample of the plant species that adjoin the trail. Onward to the Piccaninny walk car park for lunch before the climb to the top before the rain and fog set in and reduced our view across the land scape



It was interesting to note the insect gall presence in all the Eucalyptus around the car park. With-out exception each tree had been attacked Picture 8 Sample of the gall attack.

Picture 9 Track to summit through typical Grampians Forrest with Xanthorrhoea adorning the trail



Pictures 10-11 A small sample of the flowers before the rain. Unfortunately the mist and rain set in and made photography of the flora difficult. Never the less we were able to continue to enjoy the array of wild flowers (Just proves the old eye camera wins again)

Day Two of our odyssey will be continued in the next newsletter.

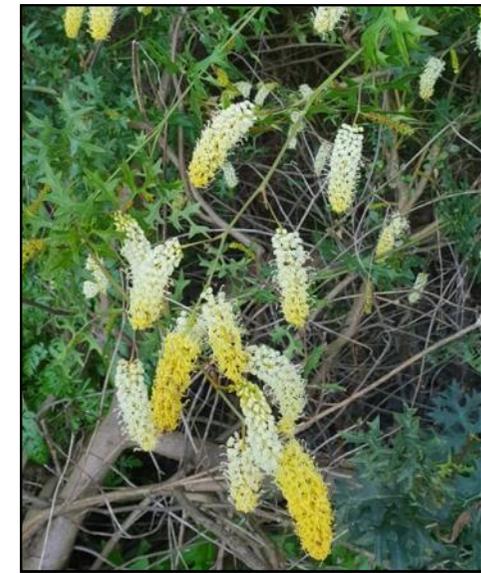
Photos above:

(4) Caladenia venusta - Spider Orchid (5) Stylidium soboliferum - Trigger Plant (6) Hakea rostrata (7) Glossodia major - Waxlip Orchid (8) Eucalyptus galls (9) Xanthorrhoea- Grass Trees (10) Bulbine bulbosa - Bulbine Lily (11) Leucopogon sp. - Beard Heath

What's Flowering At Wrenhaven by Dorothy Mattner

Thryptomene calycina (Photos upper) starts out white changing to pink, it has flowered for weeks, we were lucky enough to see this in the Grampians recently it is such a rewarding plant to have in your garden.

Photos Lower Left to Right. The view from the pathway lined with fragrant *Prostanthera*. *Banksia grossa* is a small shrub, with lots of flowers. *Acacia glaucoptera* a spreading shrub with ornamental foliage with red tinted new growth. *Grevillea flexuosa* the zig zag Grevillea is an endangered shrub endemic to WA.



What's Flowering At Wrenhaven by Dorothy Mattner

Photos below Left to Right. *Hakea corymbosa* is extremely prickly and has sweetly scented flowers. *Hakea purpurea* a small shrub 1 to 3 mt. *Hakea salicifolia* is a fast growing small tree. *Derwentia arenaria* (unusual white form) 0.5 mt masses of white flowers.



What's Flowering At Wrenhaven by Dorothy Mattner

Eucalyptus petiolaris an attractive tree to 15 mt with a graceful habit, bird attracting. *Petrophile biloba* 1.5 mt pale pink flowers the leaves are prickly. *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* are putting on a wonderful show. *Boronia heterophylla*, we have three colours, below are two, all with beautiful perfumes.



Plant Profile by Dave Handscombe

Information on this plant was obtained from various reference books, the internet and from personal experience

Species: *Chamelaucium uncinatum*

There is some conjecture regarding the derivation of the name. One theory is that is Chamelaucium is derived from the shape of the calyx, which resembles headgear worn by the pope in the 8 th century, called a camelaucum. Another theory is that is derived from the Greek, chamai meaning dwarf and leucos meaning white. Uncinatum is from the Latin uncinatus, meaning hooked, referring to the tips of the leaves.

Common Name: Geraldton Wax **Dimensions:** Height: up to 5 m, Width: up to 6 m.

Cultivar Name: There are currently 14 named cultivars listed on the ACRA website.

Chamelaucium uncinatum can be found close to the coast in heath and woodland from Kalbarri south to Perth in WA, it has become naturalised through garden escapes in south west WA and is considered a weed in these areas. It grows in sandy and gravelly soils but is quite forgiving as long as the soils are well drained. Quite tolerant of dry conditions once established it prefers full sun. Flower colour and size vary considerably and are long lasting making it ideal for use in the cut flower trade. Best propagated from cutting of firm new seasons growth, as seed is reticent to germinate unless conditions are ideal. If you have a plant that has outgrown your garden don't be afraid to hack it back as it responds well to heavy pruning, even back into old wood.



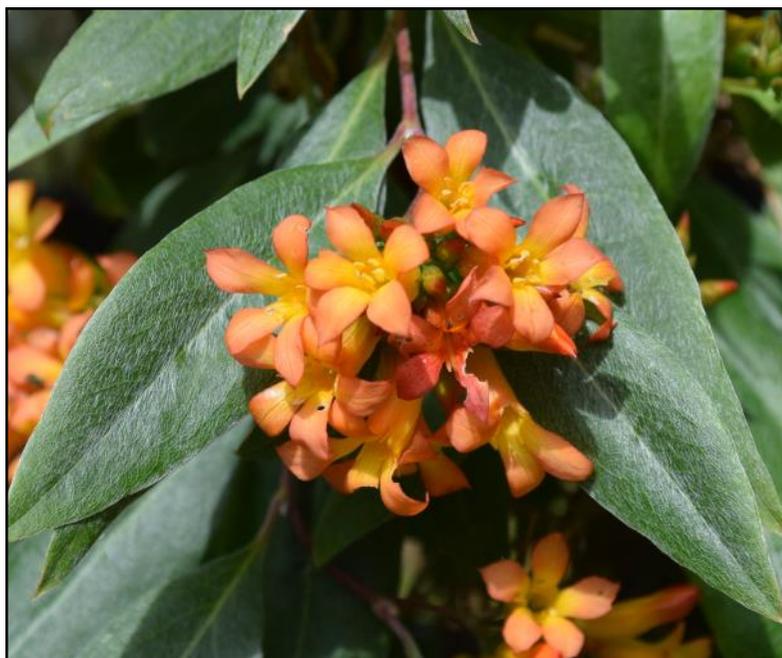
Photo 1: Geraldton Wax in full flower Photo 2: Variation in Geraldton Wax flowers Photo 3: Don't be afraid to give them a hard prune .



Photos 4-8: Close up of flower variations



Feature Plant By Kevin Sparrow



Last month I brought a piece of this plant in for our Display Table and it created a bit of interest, so I thought I would do a feature on it.

Botanical Name: *Billardiera ringens*

Common Name: Chapman River Climber

Origin: Western Australia

Flowering: Spring through to late summer.

This is a terrific non-invasive climber for training on trees, trellises, fences and verandah poles. Its also happy as a ground cover. Grows best in full sun to part shade.



FABULOUS PEAS

F. J. C. Rogers Seminar
15th & 16th October 2022

Mt Evelyn, Melbourne

Learn about Australian pea flowers!
The fabulous plants of the Faboideae sub-family.



Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar
15th - 16th October 2022

Discover the extraordinary world of Australian pea plants.

Saturday York on Lilydale, Mount Evelyn
Speakers with expertise in identifying, growing and propagating peas. Learn about current research into propagation and growing-on techniques. Evening dinner and an entertaining speaker.

Plant sales of common and unusual pea species.
Book sales. Displays. Raffle.

Sunday Coach tours to public and private native gardens which include a wide variety of pea species.

Art exhibition and sale featuring pea plants from 8th – 16th October at Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Expressions of interest:

fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

Hosted: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.