



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
 April 2022 No 484

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On Eastern Maar Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

Apologies for our unexpected absence at the last meeting, sounds like we weren't missed all that much fortunately, and the meeting went off well.

This month we will have a presentation by Justin Harzmeyer from Warrnambool City Council before he officially launches our new **Environmental Weed Book**. (See page 5). The books have arrived from the printers and look great. Please come along and get your free copy. The meeting will be open to the public so we expect to see a few visitors. Please bring along something from your garden for the Display Table.

Eleven members have expressed interest in attending our **weekend away in Horsham** in July. We intend travelling up on Friday 22nd and returning home on Sunday 25th. Members will need to book their own accommodation. We will be hosted by the Wimmera Group. Maree Goods has suggested staying at the Horsham Riverside Caravan Park, there are plenty of cabins available, also for members who wish to, they can bring their own caravans. The plan ATM is for Maree and Graham Goods to show us around parts of the Little Desert on Sat 24th, and then have dinner together with Wimmera members in the evening. On Sunday we will be shown some of the local gardens in Horsham ending up at Royce and Jeanne Raleigh's garden at Wartook for lunch before travelling home afterwards. If you haven't done so already, please let me know if you would like to join us, we do need to know numbers. See me for more information.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday 25th, Cheers, Kevin

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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.

March 25th - Members Night - Justin Harzmeyer - Launch of new Environmental Weed Book..

<i>Members Activities</i>	<i>APS Vic. Articles Required</i>
<p>Members Night - April 22nd: - Justin Harzmeyer WCC - Launch of Environmental Weeds of Warrnambool booklet.</p> <p>Committee Meeting - April 26th: - Ross & Sue 4.00pm</p> <p>Members Night - May 27th: - AGM, speaker Miriam Ford speaking on “Marvellous Mints and More”.</p> <p>Committee Meeting - May 31st: - Mattners 4.00pm</p> <p>Members Night - June 22nd: Lachlan Farrington - Nature Glenelg Trust and Wetland Plants</p> <p>Committee Meeting - June 28th - TBD</p> <p>Weekend away in Horsham- July 22 - 25th: guided tour of Little Desert and local gardens.</p> <p>Committee Meeting - July 27th - TBD</p> <p>Members Night - August 26th - TBD</p>	<p>From Lachlan Garland <lachlangarland@bigpond.com> Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 4:36 PM</p> <p>Greetings DG secretaries, Once again, could you forward the following to your members. It is time to write and send in contributions for the June 2022 issue of <i>Growing Australian</i>. Articles, shorter items and gardening tips about native plants are needed. The slightly flexible deadline is Tuesday 26 April (sooner is better). If sending photos please ensure they are high-quality JPEGs of a reasonable size (about 500kb–1MB file), and not embedded in Word documents. Submissions can be sent to: newsletter@apsvic.org.au.</p> <p>Regards, Lachlan Editor <i>Growing Australian</i></p>
<p>Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month</p>	
<p>President: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 0476 250 435 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com Vice President: David Handscombe, 7 Settlers Lane. Illowa. 3282 Phone: 0429 866 862 Secretary: Kevin Sparrow 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Treasurer: John Sherwood. 26 McConnell St, Warrnambool Phone: 55628064 Email: jsher@deakin.edu.au Newsletter Editor: Kevin Sparrow, 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com 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.</p>	
<p>The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
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Email To & From Cathy POWers

Dear Cathy,

On behalf of the Warrnambool & District APS, I wish to thank you for your involvement and friendship with our group over many years. You have presented talks to our group on several occasions, about moths, about Native Orchids and their pollinators, and Critters- Mini Beasts. Your presentations were entertaining, and your enthusiasm and detailed knowledge of your subject matter was clearly apparent and informative. We particularly thank you for your willing advice and experience in helping to guide the committee planning the Fred Rogers Seminar in October 2016. Your experience and knowledge of previous seminars was invaluable to the committee.

We wish you well as you return to your extended family in US, and we hope to hear from you again when you are settled. We note that you intend to return to Australia on occasions, and we would love to see you then. Thank you and best wishes,

Michael Halls,

President,

APS Warrnambool & District

From: Cathy Powers

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 3:11 PM

To: Mike & Liz Halls

Subject: Re: Wishing you well as you return to US.

Good afternoon Mike

Gosh, thanks so much for your kind comments and good wishes. This has been a monumental decision requiring lots of planning and living in a tornado for the past few weeks. I sold my home and property to a young couple who will have the energy to sustain this place and enjoy all that it provides. It will be a wonderful environment to raise their 2 year old son and be away from the influences that living in Melton might have. I am sure it will benefit both of the adults as well. If all goes to plan, I will be leaving the shores of Australia on the 10th of April headed for Mitchell South Dakota and staying with my sister for a few weeks. I am so looking forward to being with her and her husband again (I stayed with them for 4 months last year) but not too excited about the weather forecast for today and tomorrow (snow and cold). Some adjustments will need to be made by me, that is for sure. When I finally get settled, I will be making contact with friends here so that everyone knows where I am and also what I am doing to further my interests in nature.

I have enjoyed my relationship with your APS group and the friendships that resulted. And yes, I do intend to return as a tourist thus enjoying Australia from a different perspective but far more knowledgeable than most visitors from the US.

Thanks again, stay well and stay safe. Give my regards to Liz.

Cathy

On Wed, Mar 30, 2022 at 2:40 PM

Warrnambool City Council's Green Warrnambool Strategy

GREEN WARRNAMBOOL

The new Environmental Weed Booklet is part of WCC Green Warrnambool strategy which was adopted by Council in 2018 and reflects the community aspirations as set out in the Warrnambool 2040 Community Plan. The Green Warrnambool strategy contains six goals to assist in addressing specific issues such as the health of our waterways and our coast; land, air and water pollution; biodiversity and conserving our natural environment. The strategy identifies actions that Council will do and actions that the community can do. By working together Council and the community can achieve the vision of the Green Warrnambool strategy making Warrnambool the most sustainable regional city in Australia.

The most relevant goals of the Green Warrnambool strategy in relation to vegetation include '*Naturally Warrnambool*' – where we will enhance and protect our environment and biodiversity, '*Blue Warrnambool*' – we will ensure our water is protected, conserved and unpolluted and '*Green Warrnambool*' – our green spaces will be thriving and connected and our food sourced locally.

A number of actions have been taken to assist in the achievement of the Green Warrnambool strategy goals, including the introduction of the Warrnambool Gardens for Wildlife program, creation of the Plant Selector Tool, creation of the Merri River Landscaping Guidelines and updating the Warrnambool Revegetation Guidelines.

The Environmental Weeds of Warrnambool update contributes to the goals of Green Warrnambool through the provision of environmental weed information and the encouragement of their removal.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

If you would like to assist in revegetation efforts, removal of environmental weeds or become more involved in the environment in general there are a number of community groups and associated Friends of Groups you can join such as the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network, Making a Difference for the Merri, Australian Plants Society – Warrnambool and District and the Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club. A full list of community clubs and groups can be found at <https://www.connectwarrnambool.com.au/>

PLANT SELECTOR TOOL

If you're looking to include more Australian plants in your garden and need some tips on choosing the right plants, check out the on-line Plant Selector Tool. This plant selector tool allows you to make an informed plant choice based on the size of your garden, how much gardening you like to do and how much water a plant needs to thrive. See: <https://plantselector.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/>

Environmental Weeds of Warrnambool



Kevin Sparrow

**Australian Plants Society
Warrnambool & District Group Inc.**

Environmental Weeds of Warrnambool

Environmental weeds have invaded Warrnambool's coastline, wetlands, rivers and creeks, farmlands and public spaces. These areas are also our greatest natural assets. This booklet is a guide to many of the weeds and potential weeds that are to be found in and around Warrnambool and their suggested removal techniques.



All photos, text and desktop publishing, except as indicated, by Kevin Sparrow (Australian Plants Society - Warrnambool & District Group).

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April 2022



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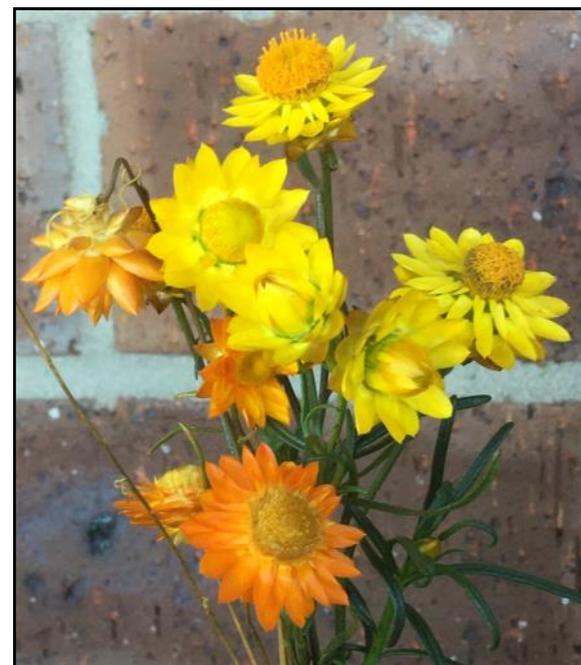
Get Your Free Copy At The Next Members Night On Friday 22nd April.

February Display Table Report by Linda Handscombe

It seems we all had the same idea, Kevin was absent and we all needed to bring flowers! My daughter's friend Candice McLeod, a travelling musician, brought me a little bunch of yellow everlasting daisies that had been drying on her dashboard. They could have come from her new stomping ground in Yackandandah or from anywhere really. Anyway, I sowed the seeds last autumn and got some to germinate. Now they're flowering happily. *Xerochrysum viscosum* (photo right) grow in heavier soils especially towards central Victoria. With xero meaning dry, chrys meaning gold and viscosum meaning sticky, the common name is the sticky everlasting.

Sue brought a specimen of lemon myrtle, *Backhousia citriodora* (photo bottom right), from her native food hedge. Sue and Ross bought the plant at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in 2018 and it's now 1.5m tall and covered in bees. A member of the Myrtaceae family, it comes from Queensland where it can reach 8m. Its foliage is valuable as an essential oil and can be used in cleaning and beauty products and also in cooking.

John brought a specimen of *Alogyne hakeifolia* (photo below). From South Australia and southern Western Australia, this native hibiscus is a medium branched shrub to 3m in height. There are mauve, yellow and pink flowering forms and the individual flowers last only 1-2 days but new flowers continue to open over a long period generally from November until March. John also brought the pink flowering form of *Myoporum parvifolium* the creeping boobialla. A good spreading groundcover to 3m in diameter, it originates from NSW, western Victoria and eastern South Australia. It copes with a wide range of soils and climates and so has become very popular in cultivation in gardens and public spaces. It is also used as a rootstock for grafting of *Eremophila*.



David brought *Lambertia orbifolia* (photo right) the round leafed honeysuckle that hails from south west Western Australia. In the Proteaceae family, it can reach 5m but is usually a large shrub with red orange flowers. In Pomonal it grew well and was regularly pruned into a large round ball by visiting yellow tailed black cockatoos. We weren't sure why they did it but the surrounding area was always covered with tip prunings! David also showed us the silver leafed mountain gum *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* 'Baby Blue'. This beautiful small tree is looking its absolute best right now covered with waxy white buds and stunning silver leaves. It can grow to 5m but as it makes a brilliant cut foliage for floral arrangements, it can be kept smaller. Unlike many similar Eucalypts, it retains its rounded foliage into maturity but is very susceptible to grub attack. Sue tells us that it dyes beautifully in eco dyeing. She keeps pinching mine when I'm not home!



Susannah brought *Eremophila hygrophana* (photo below left). As a florist she admired its beautiful soft silver leaves and purple flowers. Originating in the arid regions of central Western Australia, northern South Australia and southern NT, it grows in most soils in full sun or filtered shade. However it does not like humidity as moisture is trapped in the hairs of the leaves so an open position with air movement is essential. Growing to less than a metre tall and wide, it is often confused in the nursery trade. Our hygrophana is about 2.5m x 2.5m and still growing so is possibly something else. (Editor: See page 10, Linda)

Mike brought locally occurring *Correa alba* 'Western Pink Star' which according to Maria Hitchcock's book was collected by Patrick Laher on a cliff top in a limestone pocket at Childers Cove. A low growing mounding shrub, it flowers over a long period with pink tinged star shaped flowers that split right up to the calyx. I believe that the Warrnambool APS group registered the cultivar name. (registered by Cherree Densley) Mike also brought a specimen of *Eremophila nivea*. The species name nivea meaning snow or snow white refers to the overall appearance of the shrub which is a distinctive beautiful and silvery ball about 1.5 x 1.5m. Preferring similar open and airy situations as Susannah's hygrophana, it can be subject to fungal diseases if humid or overcrowded. The mauve coloured flowers contrast beautifully with the foliage and appear from late winter to early summer.



Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe - *Backhousia myrtifolia*

1



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

Species: *Backhousia myrtifolia*

Backhousia – Named after James Backhouse, a nurseryman in York, England, an early Quaker missionary among convicts and a botanical collector.

myrtifolia – from the Latin, myrtos, a myrtle (a southern European shrub) and folia, pertaining to the leaves. Leaves like a myrtle.

Common Name: Cinnamon Myrtle, Ironwood or Grey Myrtle.

Dimensions: Height: variable up to 7 m, Width: up to 4 m, although in the wild it can grow much larger if the climate is suitable and soils are rich.

Cultivar Name: There are no cultivars listed on the ACRA website.

Backhousia myrtifolia occurs in subtropical, warm temperate and dry rainforests from Bega in southeast NSW to Gladstone in Queensland. Long-lived and adaptable to a range of well drained soils which, as stated above, will have a bearing on the size of the plant, *Backhousia myrtifolia* can be slow to establish. Tolerant of full sun in cooler climates, it prefers dappled shade and should be provided with supplementary watering during extended dry periods and protection from frosts while young. Oils extracted from the leaves is said to have a cinnamon aroma and have anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties. Historically the timber was used to make axe handles. A compact form is available which should flower for most of the year.

Propagate from fresh seed or cuttings, which may be slow to strike.



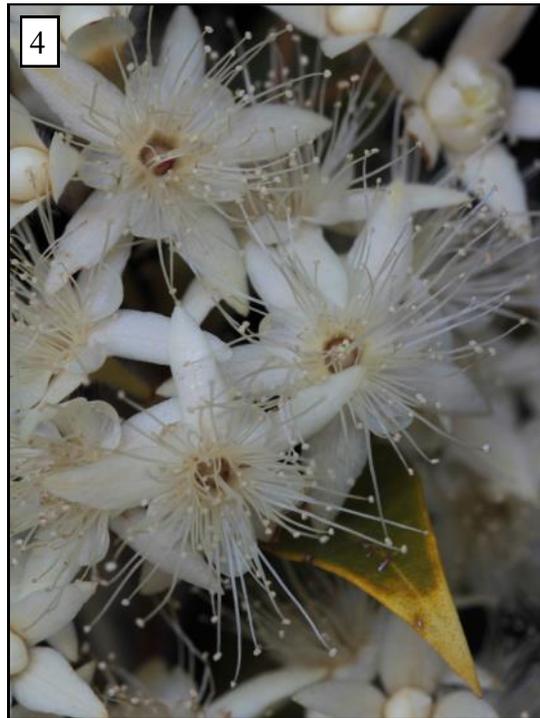
Photo Captions:

Photo 1: This plant is probably the compact form as it is never without flowers.

Photo 2: Profuse flowering hides most of the foliage.

Photo 3: A closer look at a flowering stem.

Photo 4-5: Progressively closer looks at the flowers.



Graft-chimeras on *Eremophilas* - taken from www.austplants.com.au

Last weekend I made a decision to say goodbye to what I thought was *Eremophila hygrophana*. It's a very vigorous grey looking shrub (actually, the colour has slowly turned greenish). When I was pruning it on Sunday I found a *Myoporum* looking shoot emerging from its trunk. The *Myoporum* shoot and the colour change is a tell tale sign of the graft-chimera phenomenon, where at some point in time a change has happened to the cell structure of the original plant as a result of grafting. And unwittingly, the graft-chimera plant has been circulated or sold to other gardeners as an *Eremophila*. A graft-chimera behaves differently to the *Eremophila* it was originally bought as. It affects *E. hygrophana*, *E. mackinlayi*, *E. revoluta*, *E. prostrata* and *E. warnesii*

In the first few years it looks like the true species but then over time morphs into something different and can grow to 5m tall and wide in the blink of an eye. Whereas the true *E. hygrophana* species for example, grows 1m x 1m.



So the graft-chimera needed to come out of the ground. No problem with that, I have lots of holding plants and I'm sure I will find something more suitable to fill its space.

If you are growing an *Eremophila* sold as *E. hygrophana* or *E. mackinlayi*, there is a fair chance that it's actually a graft-chimera that will 'out' itself at a future date. If you would like more info about the graft-chimera plant, I found a very interesting article here: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/.../graft-chimeras.../>

Editor: I have an *Eremophila mackinlayi* at Swan Reserve which is doing the same thing (photo left). I will probably end up having to take the plant out as it has outgrown its position.



Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales And Other Items Of Interest 2022

IMPORTANT PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS

7 May 2022 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha 10 am to 3.30 pm.

14 May 2022 - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. St Andrews Uniting Church, 18 Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. Featuring hakeas and dwarf eucalypts.

4 June APS Vic COM – North Shepparton Community & Learning Centre, 10/14 Parkside Drive, Shepparton 3630. Registrations from 9.30. Meeting 10 am to 12 noon. Garden visit to Drew Baglin's garden, Kialla. For more information call Jenny Polinelli – 03 5829 8416.

25 & 26 June 2022 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

23 & 24 July 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

27 & 28 August - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

1 September 2022 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022. Details to follow.

3 Sept 2022 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

11 – 16 September 2022, ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website. Registrations open now.

17 & 18 September 2022 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free.

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Loddon Murray host COM and Quarterly Gathering in Swan Hill.

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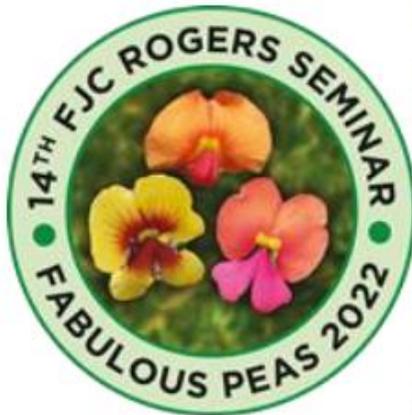
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Fabulous Peas 2022

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.