



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**
OCTOBER 2022 No 490

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On Eastern Maar Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

How lucky are we? The recent rains in eastern Australia seem to have largely passed us by in Warrnambool but of course we are thinking of our fellow Australians doing it pretty hard at the moment in the flood zones.

What a great job Joyce Sparrow and Linda Handscombe did with the displays at the Seniors Festival. Following on from our very successful displays at the Celebrate Festival last month (see page 4), we have been invited to contribute to the Worn Gundidj/Casuarina Nursery display at the **Warrnambool Show** next week. Joyce will again be doing a display, so we will be looking for some flowers, particularly banksias to do another boxed display. Please let me know if you can contribute from your garden. Also **Casuarina Nursery** are wanting to grow more banksias and are asking for any seed cones from a variety of species. Drop them in to me and I will pass them on.

For our November Meeting, we are planning something different - **no speaker!** (see Dave Handscombe's comments on page 3). We will be asking everyone to bring in lots of plant material for a giant plant table for discussion by members. If you don't remember the plant names, no problem, someone will probably know it for you.

We are also **looking for ideas** about what you would like to see your group do in the coming year, would you like more garden visits, day trips or even an afternoon Members Meeting? Please let us know what you prefer.

Our speaker this month is Geoff Lay who will be speaking on his trip along the Gunbarrel Highway. We will be having a meal beforehand at the RSL so please let me know if you are coming so I can book enough tables. 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.

Next Members Night: Friday October 28th 8.00pm - Speaker is Geoff Lay - His Trip along the Gunbarrel Highway

Members Activities

Members Night: October 28th - speaker Geoff Lay - Gun Barrel Highway.

Committee Meeting: Sparrows - Tuesday 1st November - 4.00pm

Colac APS visiting: Sunday November 13th. 12.00 Swan Reserve and on to Handscombe garden.

Members Night: November 25th - Members Night and "Giant Plant Table"

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 29th November - TBD

Christmas Breakup: TBA



Geoff Lay Speaking on the Gunbarrel Highway



The Gunbarrel Highway runs 1500 km through the deserts of WA finishing near Alice Springs. Following good rains in the last 5 years we were able to travel this way (during a short break in Covid restrictions) when the hills were green and there were many wildflowers. Come along and enjoy the comforts of this highway but watch out for the dust and the flies and the camels. It's almost totally free of civilisation.

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, Linda Handscombe, 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.

A Message From Our President - Dave Handscombe



Epacris impressa double flower form

Hi Everyone,
I thought I'd take this opportunity to invite all members or potential members to come along to the Mozart Hall on Friday the 25th of November for our last meeting in the hall for this year. We want the night to be a relaxed social get together to talk about our plant growing experiences. We used to do this every year in the Grampians group. The theme is a 'Giant Plant Table'. I am asking all participants to bring along some of their favourite plants from their gardens to be placed on tables in the middle of the hall. If you don't know the name of the plant that doesn't matter, we may be able to help you identify it. If you feel up to it you can tell the rest of the group why the plants are special to you. We can all then admire the selection while we have a prolonged supper. It also gives everyone the chance to take home some cutting material or possibly seed so that they can add plants to their garden. If you need advice on propagation techniques there will be members who can provide that as well. So bring along a few plant specimens and some cake or biscuits to share and join in.

It's now time to think about our end of year breakup. Do you want to have a picnic lunch in the bush somewhere or a visit to a member's garden, let someone from the committee know your thoughts.



Swainsona formosa



Banksia coccinea



Elaeocarpus reticularis

Celebrage Festival Launch - Thanks From WCC

Ngata everyone, Hello everyone

Thanks very much for your part in making the CELEBRAGE Festival Launch a lovely celebration yesterday.

- **Thank you Uncle Locky and Mel for the Welcome to Country.** As Rosalie, one of our nominees said, your voices echoed and filled the room in a powerful way and it is moving every time.
- **Hooray Uncle Locky** – it was wonderful to finally celebrate you winning the **2021 Victorian Seniors of the Year - Healthy and Active Award** provided by the Victorian Government. Glad you were pleased to receive your award in Warrnambool from our Mayor and your friend Vicki Jellie, in front of a room full of people who really appreciate all you do for our Community.
- Thank you **Cr Vicki Jellie** for making the presentations to our Award Winner and Nominees and for launching the Celebrage Festival 2022
- Thanks to **Wata Waetnanda members and Gunditjmara Co-operative colleagues** for taking the time to gather at Archie in support of Uncle Locky yesterday.
- Congratulations and thank you **Di Pettigrew, Denise Richards, Rosalie Meadows and Helen Bunyon...** for volunteering so generously. You all clearly enjoy your volunteering and it is great to share that perspective and inspire others. As Vicky Jellie said, our community is richer as a result of what you do. Thanks to all who contributed to the nominations and wrote letters of support.
- Thanks to our MC **Rachael Gleeson**, for the warm welcome and for highlighting the value our seniors bring to our community and advocating for the need to address the challenges they face.
- **Dr Lachlan Farrington and Jess Chatfield** – thanks for sharing your passion and expertise in your presentations about Nature. Lachlan, thanks for shining a light on how engaging with nature and taking care of it is good for our health. Jess there is so much that we can learn from the Indigenous way when we take the time to listen and learn. We are so fortunate to have you both in our community.



CELEBRAGE
Warrnambool's Seniors
Festival
Monday 3rd - Monday 31st
October 2022
BOOKINGS OPEN 1ST SEPTEMBER



Above: Lovely display of native flowers put together by Joyce Sparrow for the Celebrage Festival

Celebrage Festival Launch - Thanks From WCC

- Thanks to the Friends of Australian Plant Society / Friends of Swan Reserve: **Kevin and Joyce Sparrow, Linda Handscombe, Dorothy & Michael Mattner and Mike and Liz Halls** for donating native flowers from your gardens and for making the floral displays and posies.
- The Council Media Comms Team promoted the event, did graphic design work and captured our people and the event in photos so perfectly. Thanks **Andre Elhay, Callan McDuff and Josef Gardner**
- Last but not least thanks to our Archie Volunteers, **Wendy Grigg, Valerie Cameron, Vicki Ward, Marian Tait, Sharlene Whiteside, Marg Gillin and Pam**



Dowd as well as Senior Citizens Club Secretary **John Parker** and Council colleagues **Jill Bourke, Esmae Gray, Terese Jones, Jenni Katsaros, Meryl Murphy, Nerissa Lovric, Wendy Clark, Mary McLeod and Robert Eagan...** for all the behind the scenes work done to prepare the Celebrage Festival program, take bookings & payments, decorate, move furniture, welcome guests and provide the refreshments.

Together we do better – thank you all!

Kind regards,
Clare

Photos above right: Mayor Vicki Jellie presenting Locky Eccles with his award.
Photo left: One of the posies presented to the award recipients created by Linda Handscombe.

September Display Table - Report by Linda Handscombe

Sue kicked off the September display table with a lovely fragrant specimen of *Prostanthera incisa* (Photo above right). It came from one of the two large bushes along her front fence. Coping with traffic, wind and full sun, they have been remarkably tough and forgiving. *Incisa* refers to the deeply and irregularly lobed leaves which is why it's called the Cut Leaved Mintbush. Reaching 1 – 3m x 2 – 4m it grows in a range of moderate to very well drained acidic soils and hails from NSW. Her other specimen was an equally fragrant *Boronia* 'Purple Jared' that she purchased from Pearson's. After several losses, she has found the ideal spot in a shady area under her clothesline. Purple Jared is a hybrid between *Boronia megastigma* and *Boronia heterophylla*. It has a PBR placed upon it that forbids the sale without the proper label. The University of Western Australia lodged the PBR in 1999 and it was granted in 2003. The initial hybridization was conducted on 19th -26th of September 1995 so it's a long journey from start to market.



Lou brought a piece of *Acacia verticillata* - Prickly Moses. Occurring in Tasmania, SA, Victoria and NSW it's a variable species 2 – 8m x 3- 8m with phyllodes [leaves] in whorls around the stems and it has rod like flowers. It suits alkaline soils and is an excellent small bird habitat.

Bryan brought two specimens in for identification. The first was a Eucalypt that appeared to be a yate. The unknown wattle had a series of lumps that were believed to be galls made by an insect.

Kevin once again brought many interesting specimens. Several were beautiful, potted terrestrial and epiphytic orchids. One of the terrestrials was *Pterostylis curta* - Blunt Greenhood. From the eastern states of Australia it has a rosette of 2 – 6 leaves and a flower scape up to 30cm high. It has a twisted tongue [labellum]. Several members were lucky to take one of these beautiful plants home.



Kevin also brought a lovely specimen of a rare and endangered plant *Chorizema varium* - Flame Pea. Kevin grew his plant from a specimen at the Swan Reserve. Rodger Elliott in his encyclopedia believes it is most likely a form of *Chorizema ilicifolium* - Holly Flame Pea. With amazing fluorescent colours it will light up a corner in your garden.



September Display Table - Report by Linda Handscombe - Page 2

Annette brought a heart stopping specimen of *Grevillea leucoptervis* - Old Socks Grevillea or White Plumed Grevillea (Photo centre right). This was special because last year's flower spike broke off. A round shrub to 3m with flower spikes to 5m, it comes from South West WA. It is a hardy plant but is susceptible to wind damage.

I took a specimen of *Diplolaena angustifolia* [narrow foliage] - Yanchep Rose (Photo centre left). This was to continue on from Joan's beautiful *Diplolaena grandiflora*. A member of the Rutaceae family, this small shrub 1 – 1.5m has large pendant flower heads. It occurs in limestone and sand near Perth so should do well in Warrnambool. Unfortunately rabbits find the roots and leaves attractive and if it's not guarded they seem to pull it to pieces.

Mike brought a lovely *Darwinia lejostyla* - 'Coolamon Pink'. *D. lejostyla* a small compact shrub to 1m comes from the Stirling Ranges in WA and the cultivar 'Coolamon Pink' is a selection from Doug MacKenzie's garden in Ocean Grove. *D. lejostyla* is the most hardy and cultivated of the bell type of Darwinias.

Dave took a spray of a seedling grown *Allocasuarina torulosa* - Rose Sheoak (Photo left). Usually a beautiful upright tree with weeping needlelike foliage that turns reddish brown in winter this seedling was grown from a beautiful tree in Pomonal affectionately called Aurora. Growing up to 25m in Queensland/NSW in open forests and on rainforest margins, it hasn't grown that big for us in Victoria. Dave grew numerous seedlings from Aurora and we kept any with interesting colour and sold all the rest. Dave also showed a specimen of *Lasiopetalum schulzenii* - Drooping Velvetbush (Photo right) from Snake Lagoon Kangaroo Island. A coastal plant from western Victoria and Sth Australia it can grow to 2m generally with white flowers. It grows in highly alkaline soils but adapts to most well drained soils. This specimen has lovely pink flowers and grows to 1.5m and does better in part shade. The area where he

found the parent plant was by a river with steep sides. I ed at the edge and slid towards the water grabbing a dead thistle to save myself. Just like being in a movie, I distinctly remember looking up at David as he put his hand out to save me. He had a brand new and expensive camera over his shoulder. Just for a nano second he had a quandary... Linda or camera? He managed to save both and I'm here to record it.

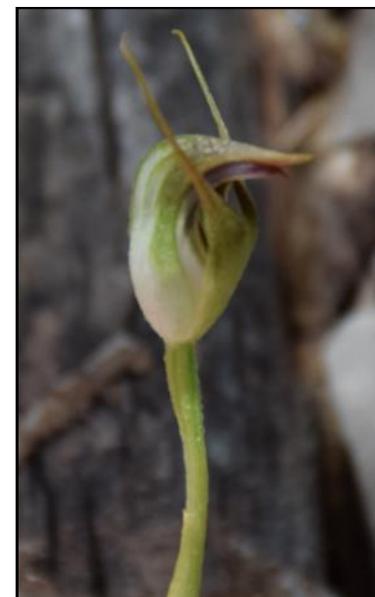


Looking For Orchids at Pallisters by Kevin Sparrow

At the Open Day last month at Pallisters Reserve, Joyce and I came out to try and map out where orchids occur at the reserve. We began by surveying the southern Pallisters Bush area by walking around the loop walking track and recording everything we found along the way. I photograph every plant I find, download it all onto my laptop and then put a name to them all to produce a list. I ended up with a list of 49 plant species from the roughly 2 hours walk which included 7 orchid species. Greenhood orchids are fairly common at the reserve, these occur in the vegetated more shaded areas along with Helmet and Mosquito orchids. Sun orchids by their nature occur in the more open areas as they require bright sunny days for them to open up. If they miss the opportunity and don't get pollinated for whatever reason, they must wait another year before trying again.

Greenhood orchids found were *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood) (Photo above right) and *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Maroonhood) (Photo bottom right) and interestingly what looks like a hybrid of the two (Photo centre). They were all growing in the same area, so it is a real possibility (see photos).

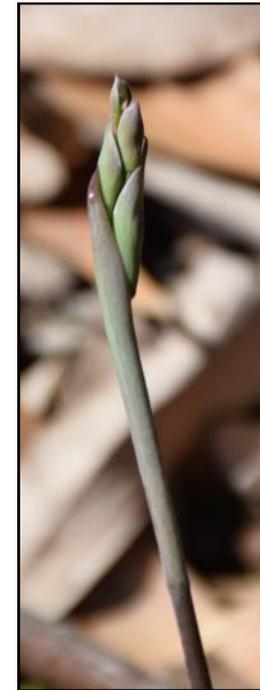
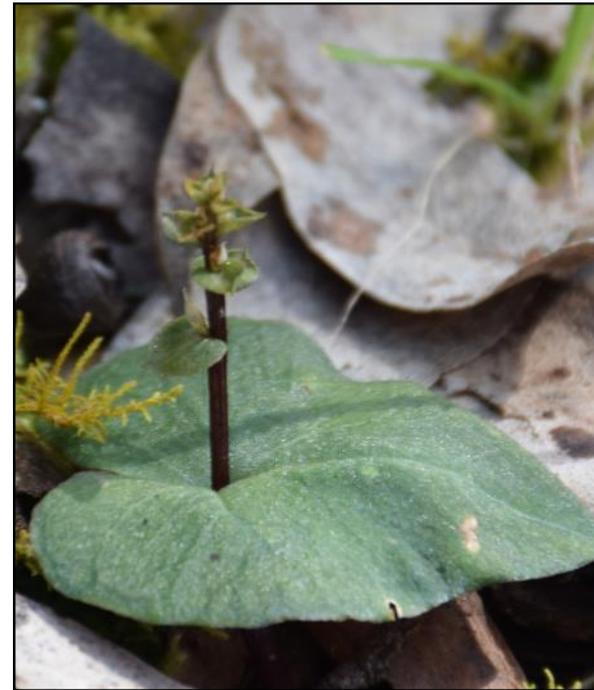
Also found were some leaves of what appears to be a *Corybas* (Helmet Orchid) (Photo bottom left) . Most Helmet orchids flower during winter, some into September. This one looks like a flower is starting to appear (see photo) but it would have to be very late flowering at least well into October. There is a late flowering Helmet orchid (*Corybas* spp. aff. *diemenicus* [Coastal]) which flowers into October, maybe it is this one which is listed as "Critically Endangered". A check of the Pallisters plant list shows that it has been recorded here before. It would be great to get a photo of this one in flower!



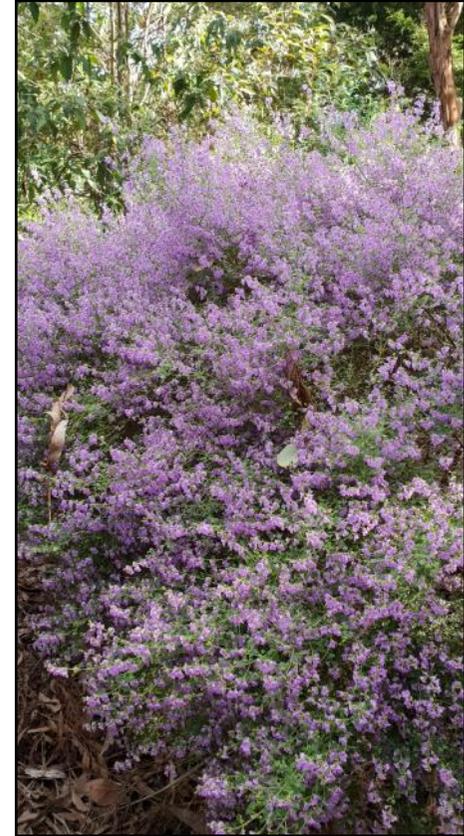
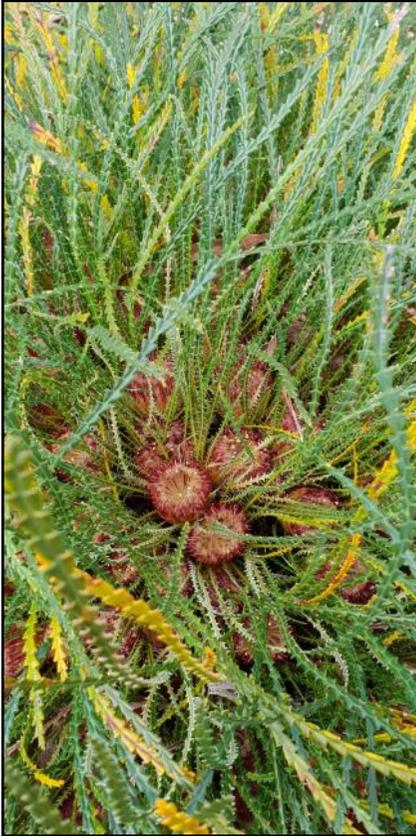
Looking For Orchids at Pallisters by Kevin Sparrow Page 2.

Other orchids recorded are *Eriochilus cucullatus* (Parson's Bands), leaf only not yet in flower, an unknown *Thelymitra* sp (Sun orchid) waiting for a bright sunny day to flower and an *Acianthus pusillus* (Small Mosquito Orchid), we found this one in flower.

Another interesting plant found is *Muellerina eucalyptoides* (Creeping Mistletoe), I found this one at Pallisters 7 years ago, so I was keen to locate it again. As a mistletoe, it attaches itself to a host tree (in this case it is an *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry Ballart) another parasite!) and creeps (grows) along the branches to attach again and again. Interestingly, the plant I found previously has died back a bit, so it is not as big. Nearby though, another plant has appeared attached to another Cherry Ballart so now there are two! The plants produce berries which are eaten by the Mistletoe Bird, the seed passes through the bird to be subsequently deposited on another branch to start the cycle again.



What's Happening in our Garden by Dorothy & Michael Mattner

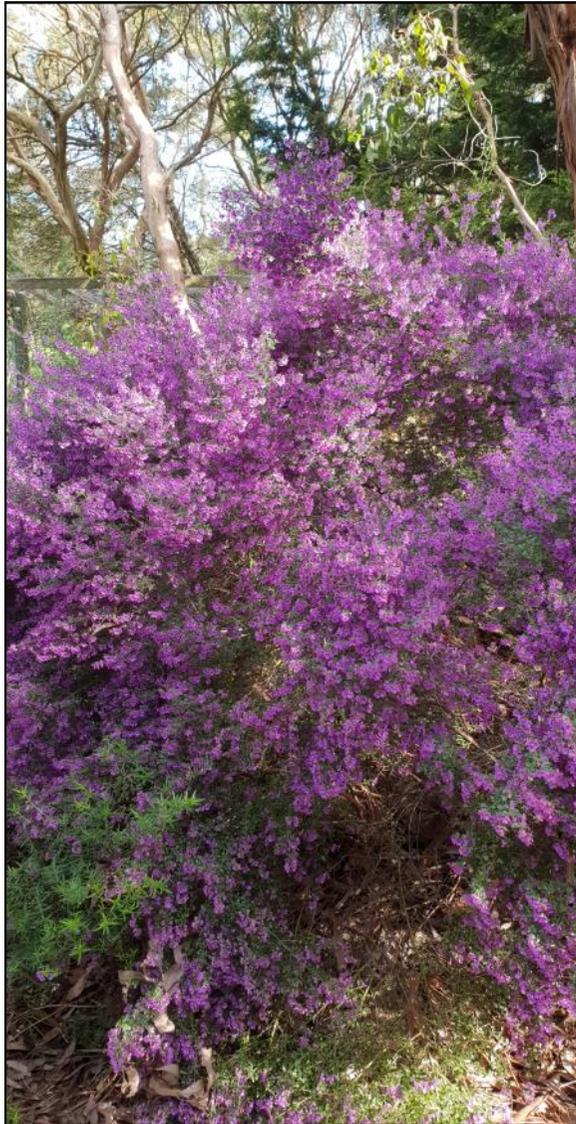


Above: *Banksia (Dryandra) nivea* also known as honeypot dryandra. A lovely rounded plant with a mass of flowers, the foliage is almost fern like with silver underneath. The birds love it , grows to 1x1 m and it likes a sunny spot, although ours only gets the morning sun.

Hibbertia stellaris a lovely WA plant growing to just .5m likes a sunny to part shaded position. *Derwentia arenaria*, (white) *Prostanthera incisa*,

Next page: *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, *Thomasia purpurea*, *Grevillea confertifolia* from the Grampians and *Hakea corymbosa* 2x2m very prickly and grows into a rounded bush (page 12) .

What's Happening in our Garden by Dorothy & Michael Mattner



What's Happening in our Garden by Dorothy & Michael Mattner



For the last 3 years we have been fortunate to have the female and immature Male Satin Bowerbirds visit our garden from August to November. Its such a treat to see them hopping around while they feed on the grass and weeds they also love the fruit of a succulent that is not a native but we leave it in the garden for food for these magnificent birds. Our two Grandsons James and Alex enjoyed a week here during the school holidays making a bush shelter from sticks and the leaves of the Gynea lily palmeri (Photo Bowerbird: A. Mattner, all others D. Mattner)

Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe - *Grevillea synapheae*



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

Species: *Grevillea synapheae*

Family: Proteaceae

Grevillea – named after Charles Greville, an algae expert and a founding member of the London Horticultural Society.

synapheae – named because of the likeness to the Genus *Synaphea*.

Common Name: Catkin *Grevillea*.

Dimensions: Height: variable spreading shrub to 1.5 metres.

There are 2 subspecies: *Grevillea synapheae* ssp *synapheae* and *Grevillea synapheae* ssp *pachyphylla*.

Cultivar Name: There is no registered cultivars listed on the ACRA website. There are no PBR (Plant Breeders Rights) listed for the species.

Grevillea synapheae occurs inland to the east of Perth, north along the coast and inland to Eneabba.

Both sub species have a lignotuber and tolerate frosts down to -6C. Grow in full sun or partial shade and regularly prune to maintain shape. Sub species *synapheae* grows in lateritic loam in Eucalypt woodland but should do well in well-drained acidic sandy or loamy soils. Sub species *pachyphylla* grows on rises in laterised loam or sandy loam over laterite in open heathlands and is slightly more adaptable growing in a pH range from slightly alkaline to slightly acidic. Propagate from seed or cuttings which strike readily. Rootstock for grafting includes *Grevillea robusta* and *Grevillea* 'Royal Mantle' although it southern areas it grows quite happily on it's own roots.



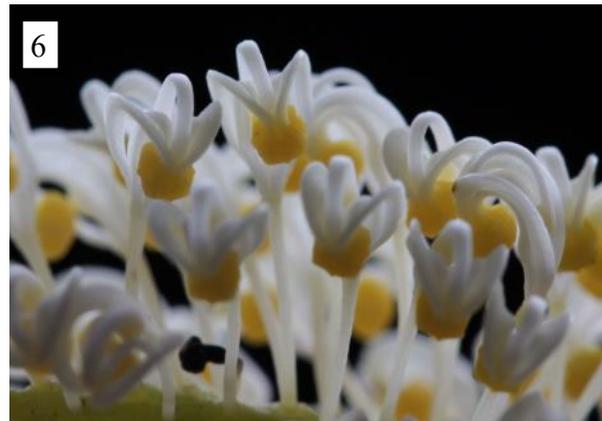


Photo Captions:

Photo 1: Grevillea synapheae approx. 1m X 3m.

Photo 2: A closer look at the flowers which are prolific when in full flower.

Photo 3-5: Different stages of the flower bud.

Photo 6-8: A closer look at the flowers showing the typical form of flowers in the Proteaceae family.

APS Vic. Calendar of Events



21 October 2022 – Tall Trees Festival, Warburton.

22 & 23 October 2022 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

22 & 23 October 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. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

12 & 13 November 2022 – Garden Design Fest Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula organized by various Rotary Clubs. For details visit <https://gardendesignfest.com.au/>

19 & 20 November 2022 – Garden Design Fest Regional Victoria.

19 or 26 November 2022 - APS Victoria Committee of Management November quarterly meeting hosted by APS Keilor Plains at the Iramoo Grasslands Centre and reserve. <https://www.friendsvic.org/2017/01/05/iramoo-grassland-centre-and-nursery/>

Dates for 2023 – more details to follow. 1 April 2023 – APS Geelong Plant Sale. Details to follow.

22 April 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra - Autumn plant sale.

9 & 10 September 2023 – APS Yarra Yarra Plant Expo.

16 & 17 September 2023 – Angair Wildflower Show (admin@angair.org.au)
– Nat Utmar, Admin, 5263 1085