



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP) Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2022 No 491

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

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'Plants of the Great South West 3', book on plants of South West Victoria \$25, available now from Kevin Sparrow at ksparrow93@gmail.com Ph: 55626217

New Edition out now.



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On Eastern Maar Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

This is our **last newsletter** for the year, our last Members Night is on Friday 25th (next Friday) from 8.00pm, please come along and join in, see below.

Visit to Tozer Reserve, Warrnambool on Saturday 26th November from 2.00pm. See page 12 for more info.

Christmas Breakup - We have decided to hold our annual Christmas Breakup at Mattners home at Hervious Lane, Cudgee on Sunday 11th December 12.00 - ~3.00pm BYO everything, new members are especially invited to come along, BBQ is available onsite if required. Come and enjoy some of Dorothy's marvellous Christmas Cake and enjoy a walk later around their garden. Contact me 55626217 for more details.

January Get-Together: Koroit Rail Trail Buildings (old Railway Station) at 11.00am followed by lunch at Noodle-Doof Brewery and Café at 12.00noon. TBC.

This Month's Meeting Friday 25th November 8.00pm: Members Night, no speaker - 'Giant Plant Table'. (See page 3) Members and non-members are invited to bring along anything native to talk about, plants, cutting material, food, anything native. Members can 'Bring a Friend'. Happy for people to bring in plant material from their/other gardens/ Swan Reserve gardens for identification. Free advice available. Plants for sale. That's all for this month, 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 25th November 8.00pm - members Night - Bring lots of plants to discuss.

<i>Members Activities</i>	<i>Plants For Sale</i>
<p>November 25th: - Members Night and “Giant Plant Table” 8.00pm</p> <p>November 26th: Visit to Tozer Reserve 2.00pm. Depending on weather.</p> <p>Committee Meeting: Tuesday 29th November - John Sherwood</p> <p>Christmas Breakup: Mattners at Cudgee 12.00 - ~3.00pm.</p> <p>January Get-Together: Koroit Rail Trail Buildings at 11.00am followed by lunch at Noodle-Doof Brewery and Café.</p> <p>February 24th 2023: Members Night - John Sherwood speaking on Fraser Island/K’Gari trip.</p> <p>More Ideas Wanted for Speakers. Any Suggestions?</p> 	<p>Large <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> [Kurrajong] for sale in 8 inch pots only \$15. A small to medium sized tree suitable for large gardens and acreages.</p> <p>Pick up at Handscombes 0429 866 862 or we can bring to the next meeting</p>  

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.



Swainsona formosa

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.

UPDATE: We have decided to hold our annual Christmas Breakup at Mattners home at Cudgee on Sunday 11th December 12.00 - ~3.00pm BYO everything, new members are especially invited to come along, BBQ is available onsite if required. Come and enjoy some of Dorothy's marvellous Christmas Cake. Contact me 55626217 for more details.



Banksia coccinea



Elaeocarpus reticularis

Member Profile by Kevin Sparrow

I grew up on a dairy farm leaving school at the end of 1965 at age 16. I quickly realized that I wanted something better in life so moved into Warrnambool to get a job. I was very lucky to be given an Optical Mechanic apprenticeship by Fred and Geoff Bennett who owned the only Optometrist business in Warrnambool at the time. They treated me as one of the family and taught me the ‘Optical Game’ as well as lots of other things in life. The work standards they taught me still influence everything I do today, it is especially noticeable in the publications that I have been involved with. I repaid them with my loyalty working for 46 years (and under subsequent owners) before retiring in 2012 after suffering some health issues. I am rather proud to say, that I walked out the door not looking back or missing it at all, I simply went on doing all the other things I had been involved with.

Joyce grew up in Warrnambool and after leaving school, worked at the old Warrnambool Woollen Mill where she became friends with my sister, Joy. This was how we met and got together, marrying in 1976. We have lived in our home in Swan Street ever since, coming up 47 years of marriage in January. We have two daughters, one living in Warrnambool (two boys), the other living in Melbourne (a boy and a girl – so 4 grandchildren) Joyce also retired in 2012 and we have enjoyed sharing our lives together, travelling to all corners of the country, this only being halted with the arrival of Covid. We still have places to see, hopefully we will get back out there again soon.



In the 1980’s, I was looking for something else in life besides family and work and becoming interested in environmental issues, joined some local community groups which I really enjoyed. I became a shareholder in the Kurri Kurri Co-operative which purchased some uncleared bush at Naringal and I soon joined the board of directors. I have been Treasurer for 32 years now. I also joined the Ralph Illidge Sanctuary owned by the Trust for Nature, actually forming the current Friends of Ralph Illidge Sanctuary. I was Leader for 11 years and now a Life Member.

I joined what is now the Australian Plants Society (this group) in 1989 and soon discovered a passion for growing native plants. I was keen to know more about our local plants but could not find any books devoted to our region. With the advent of Landcare in the 1990’s, lots of other people wanted to know as well. As a group, we decided that we could write our own book and applied to the new ‘Envirofund’ for funding to print it and I was very surprised when we actually got it. This gave us twelve months to produce the book starting from scratch and it fell to me to do the desktop publishing, something I knew little about. I learnt a lot from this, mainly what not to do! We launched the book in 2004, got 2000 books printed, giving away 1000 copies and selling the rest. The ‘Bennett’ influence over me though meant that I always thought I could have done better given more time. The arrival of digital cameras was the stimulus I needed get better photos with the thought maybe I could do a second edition. This is where my passion totally took over my life, I set out to photograph everything I could find and identify. The first book was 165 pages with 185 species photographed and described, the second edition, 360 pages and 490 species. This book was launched by APS Vic. President, Cathy Powers in 2013 and proved to be very popular with many people calling it their ‘bible’!

Member Profile by Kevin Sparrow - Page 2

Come 2019 and starting to sell out of the book, thoughts turned to a possible third edition, mainly at the behest of Jodie Honan (editor) and I soon realized that I had by then a lot more plants photographed and stored on my computer. I had been introduced to Citizen Science whereby I put my photos up on a web site recording where the photo was taken and thereby adding to the public records. This meant I had a lot more photos than I realized and after a complete revision of the book, it then extended to 480 pages covering 608 species. The book was launched in 2021 during a lull in Covid restrictions by new APS Vic. President, Chris Clarke.

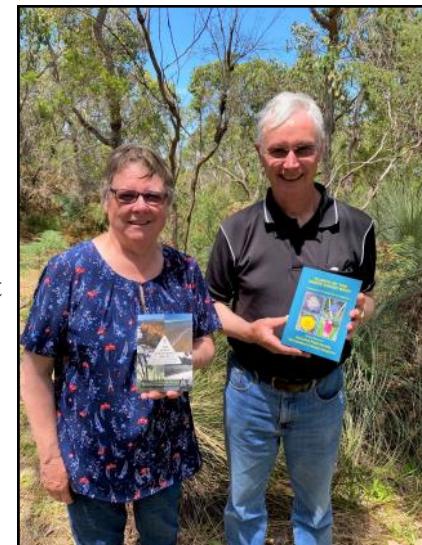
How many times can you sell the same plant book? Lots obviously, if you put the work in, make revisions and improvements along the way, people will buy it again and again. Today we have less than 100 books left and funds to do it all again - maybe! TBD!

In 2010, a few of our APS members decided to form a separate group to concentrate on the management of the Swan Reserve Garden that our plant group had set up after forming in the 1970's. The garden was seriously in decline and needed major refurbishment. I became the President of the new group and we set out to clear out overgrown beds and establish new ones. This included the addition of a Childrens Playground and Aboriginal Recognition site as well as new garden beds. This was funded by council through a state government grant and was launched by Mayor, Mike Neoh in 2014. We have created a beautiful area for people to enjoy while they eat their lunch or walk around and check out the garden.

Along the way, I was nominated by John Sherwood for a GHCMa regional Landcare Individual Award in 2015 and totally unexpectantly, winning it! This meant we had to travel to Melbourne to Government House for the State Awards. I didn't win the State Award but we did get to meet the new State Governor (what a lovely lady).

Our group also nominated me for an Australian Plants Society 'Impressa' Award in 2017 for contributions to our local APS group. This was presented to me in Wangaratta by APS Vic. President, Chris Long.

I have held all positions in our group at some stage, 2 terms as President, many terms as Treasurer and currently, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, I enjoy the challenge and the many friends I have made along the way.



Floral Display for Warrnambool Show



Last month, Joyce Sparrow put together another amazing floral display, this time for the Warrnambool Show. We were asked by Worn Gundidj - Casuarina Nursery to help them with their table at the show to show off our native plants. We were more than happy to help. Thank you to Dorothy and Michael Mattner and David and Linda Handscombe for supplying the plant material that was used. It was later taken back to the nursery and used as a display there.

October Display Table - Report by Kevin Sparrow



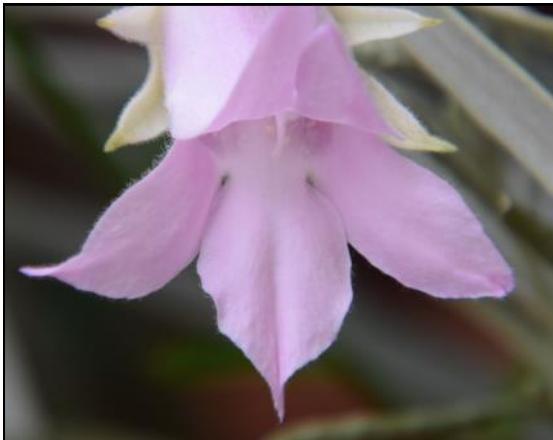
While our numbers were down for last meeting, we still managed to have a very colorful Display Table. Mike Halls brought in all the above flowers. Top row L to R are: *Grevillea longistyla*, *Leptospermum* hybrid 'Purple Haze', *Isopogon formosus*, *Darwinea leiostyla* 'Coolamon Pink'. Bottom row L to R: *Callistemon citrinus x viminalis* 'Harkness', *Telopea speciosissima* - NSW Waratah, *Grevillea petrophiloides* - Pink Pokers.

October Display Table - Report by Kevin Sparrow - Page 2



Michael Mattner's contributions were Top row L to R: *Eucalyptus nutans*, *Verticordia plumosa*, *Chamelaucium x Verticordia* hybrid 'Paddys Pink',
Bottom row L to R: *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Acacia gracilifolia*, *Melaleuca wilsonii*.
He also brought in 3 different colored *Boronia megastigma*, white flowers, normal brown flowers and a pink flowered one.

October Display Table - Report by Kevin Sparrow - Page 3



Flowers I brought in were top row L to R: *Goodenia albiflora*, *Dampiera purpurea*, *Coopernookia georgii*, Bottom row L to R: *Scaevola nitida*, all these are in the Goodeniaceae family as well as a grafted *Eremophila phyloploda* and *Eremophila lucida*. I also brought in orchids: *Dendrobium kingianum* 'Red Rocket' and *Sarcochilus hartmannii*, as well as *Arthropodium strictum* - Chocolate Lilies.

October Display Table - Report by Kevin Sparrow - Page 4



I also brought in top row L to R: *Conostylis candidans*, *Eremophila hygrophana*, *Orthrosanthus multiflorus*,
Bottom row L to R: *Banksia laevigata* subsp. *laevigata* - Tennis Ball Banksia, *Leptospermum rotundifolium* 'Julie Anne'.
Lorraine Charles brought in the magnificent *Kunzea baxteri*, bottom right, .

New Neutrog Biological Fertilisers Ordering System

Hi Everyone,

If you are one of the many gardeners that use Neutrog products you may be interested in placing an order through our APS group. In the past the group placed a collective order with Neutrog on behalf of members. With the new process individual members place and pay for their orders separately but are linked to the Warrnambool APS group. Neutrog then collate the order for the members of the group (this is done 4 times a year) and send out the product to a nominated delivery address, (I think Kevin has been the nominated delivery point in the past), members then pick up their order from that location. If the total order from members of the club is over a certain level then no delivery fee is charged. There is no obligation to order and I would think a group such as ours would probably only put an order in once a year.



In order to participate we have to register our interest in the process and provide Neutrog with members email addresses. Neutrog will then register you and email a unique activation code which allows you to access the members section of their online store (you will then be able to see their complete product range). You will have to create a password which gives you access to the site in the future. I think you will be offered a once off \$20 discount with your first order if your order is over \$40. If you don't have access to the Internet but wish to participate then we can arrange to have your order buddied onto one of the other members.



If you don't want to participate in the program then let Kevin or myself know and we won't give Neutrog your email contact. I would like to get the process finalised soon so either call or email me or alternatively catch up with me at the November meeting.

I can be contacted on 0429866862, or email me at dlhandscombe@bigpond.com

All the best,
Dave

New Species of Chocolate Lily Found at Tozer Reserve



Last month a new species of Chocolate Lily was found at Tozer Reserve, see photos above. While the flowers are very similar, the plant itself is much sturdier, the flowers are on shorter stems (petioles) and without the traditional chocolate smell. The normal Chocolate Lily is below. We have been in contact with a botanist working on the Arthropodium's at the moment and he is aware of this one from elsewhere. It is planned for this species to be called *Arthropodium suaveolens* (means sweet smelling). **NOTE: We are planning a visit to the reserve on Sat 26th November 2.00pm, the Chocolate Lilies might be finished by then but there will be plenty more to find..**



Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe



Species: *Conospermum caeruleum*
Conospermum: from the Greek conos meaning a cone and sperma a seed. The name refers to the conical shape off the seeds.
Caeruleum: Latin for blue

Common Name: Blue Smoke Bush, Blue Brother

Family: Proteaceae

Dimensions: Height: Up to 1m Width: up to 2m

There are no registered cultivars on the ACRA site and no Plant Breeders Rights current.

Conospermum caeruleum occurs in WA in a triangle from Bremmer Bay in the east, to Augusta to the west and north to Boddington. It is variable in habit ranging from a ground cover to a small shrub. It flowers from late winter into spring and will tolerate a range of soil with a pH ranging from acidic to alkaline. A position in full sun is preferred but it will tolerate partial shade if planted in a warm location, is drought and light to moderate frost tolerant once established. Flower colour varies from light blue to dark blue. Ground cover forms work well when planted amongst taller plants or on the edge of retaining structures when allowed to cascade over the edge. Plants will often go unnoticed in a garden until they come into flower when the plants spread becomes a sea of blue. Propagate from seed (note Conospermum seedling damp off easily so seed propagation can be difficult) or cutting using a high strength rooting hormone.



Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe



Photo 1: *Conospermum caeruleum* prostrate form in a garden setting.

Photos 2: The prostrate form will grow up and through other plants.

Photo 3 – 5: When in flower the prostrate form looks quite striking when allowed to cascade over a retaining feature.

Photo 6: The upright form in the Stirling Ranges, typically grows up to 1 metre.

Photo 7: In contrast the prostrate form grows to 10 to 15 cm.

Photo 8 – 11: Looking progressively closer at the inflorescence.



APS Vic. Calendar of Events



26 November 2022 – APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting, commencing 10 am at Iramoo Grasslands Centre, Building 1J, McKechnie Street, St Albans. Melway 25 K3. Hosted by APS Keilor Plains.

March APS Vic COM – to be advised.

25 & 26 March 2023 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

29 March to 2 April 2023 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

1 April 2023 – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, ‘Wirrawilla’, Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

22 April 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

29 April 2023 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. 10 am to 3 pm. The Briars, Mt Martha.

13 May 2023 – APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm.

The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, to be confirmed.

APS Vic. Calendar of Events

24 & 25 June 2023 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

2 September 2023 – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

9 & 10 September 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

23 & 24 September 2023 – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM. To be confirmed.

30 September & 1 October 2023 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

7 October 2023 – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

28 & 29 October 2023 (to be confirmed) - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.

