



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**
MARCH 2021 No 471

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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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EDITORIAL

Hello members,

It is 13 months since we last had a face to face Members Night so we are all a bit excited now that we will be back to holding our usual night at the Mozart Hall on Friday 26th from 8.00pm. Speaker will be Gavin Prentice speaking on the Glenelg Estuary. There will be some changes to the set up at the hall though, seating will be the required 1.5m apart, members will be required to sign in on arrival and sanitizer will be available for your use. We will not be allowed to use the kitchen due to spacing and we ask that members not congregate in the doorways but instead move into the hall and take a seat. We will have our usual Display Table and I ask that members bring something along from their garden for discussion. It is important when moving around the hall that we all keep to the required distance of 1.5m apart. I am sure that we all will be Covid safe as per the government guidelines.

I would like to welcome 3 new members, Luke Foster, Richard Dahl and Sally Walsh who joined at the weekend. I hope that you all enjoy your involvement with our group, we are a friendly lot so please make yourselves known to other members and come along to our activities.

Our group hosted the Australian Plants Society (Vic) Quarterly Meeting in and around Warrnambool at the weekend and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We had 70 people booked in from all over the state, in fact we had to close off registrations due to Covid limitations. Gardens being private property, were limited to 30 visitors per day so it meant rejigging our agenda to fit in with this. We also held a Book Launch for my new book, "Plants of the Great South West Edition 3", this was to be held at Swan Reserve but due to the inclement weather we had to move it. Big thank you to my daughter, Kylie and Surfside Caravan Park Manager, Paul who allowed us to use their camp kitchen. Despite all the chaos of moving the location at the last minute, the book launch was extremely successful and it began with a Welcome To Country by indigenous elder, Brett Clarke. See pages 6/7/8/9.

Thank you to all the owners of the gardens, David and Linda Handscombe, Sue Blood and Ross Dawson, Michael and Dorothy Mattner and the Friends of Swan Reserve who made their gardens available for APS members to enjoy. By all comments received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the gardens and the program that we provided.

That's about all for this month, hope to see you on Friday 26th at 8.00pm at the Mozart Hall.

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 26th March at Mozart Hall 8.00pm - Speaker Gavin Prentice - Glenelg Estuary .

Members Activities

March 26th at 8.00pm: First members night for 13 months, speaker Gavin Prentice speaking on the Glenelg Estuary.

March 30th at 1.30pm: Committee Meeting at Handscombe's at Illowa.

April 14th at Hamilton: Cathy Powers will be coming to Hamilton to run a moth talk and trapping event at Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning. Traps will be set up at dusk followed by a talk by Cathy for about an hour. After this the traps will be inspected to see what moths have been attracted. Warrnambool members are particularly invited to attend.

April 23rd at 8.00pm: speaker to be decided.

Map of Glenelg Estuary site



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 Reps:** vacant, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.
Other Committee Members: Michael Mattner, Joan Krygger, David Handscombe.

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.

Last Month Visit to Walker Swamp Saturday 27th February



Greg Kerr (pictured - Nature Glenelg Trust) showed us around the restoration works at Walker Swamp which is located in the southern Gram-pians. The wetland had been artificially drained in the past in an attempt to open up the floodplain to agriculture and more recently plantation forestry, which left the area in a modified state. In 2019, NGT completed the restoration of the site hydrology by blocking the majority of the drains across the 450 hectare wetland complex. Today sees the swamp now holding much more water than it has in the past and it has become a haven for birds and other wildlife.

Photo: J. Sherwood

Last Month Visit to Walker Swamp Saturday 27th February



Walker Swamp has now filled to the point that it overflows and eventually flows into both Brady Swamp and Gooseneck Swamp and on into the Wannon River.
Photo: J. Sherwood.

Last Month Visit to Walker Swamp Saturday 27th February



The photos above left and right were taken in 2018 at an open day showing the levy bank holding back the water. Lower left shows the water level now covered in Azolla fern. Photos: K. Sparrow

Last Month Visit to Walker Swamp Saturday 27th February



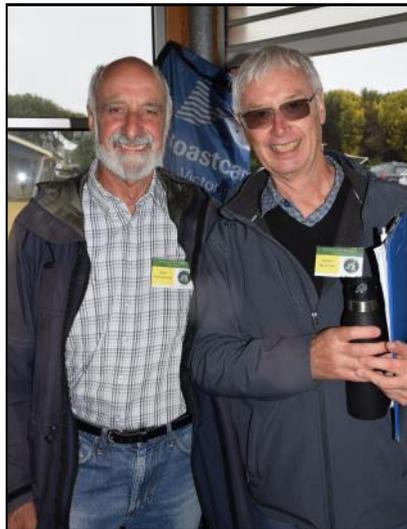
Members photographed after inspecting Brady Swamp. Photo: K. Sparrow

Book Launch Held at Surfside Caravan Park - Saturday 13th March



The Book Launch began with a “Welcome To Country” by indigenous elder, Brett Clarke after having to be moved from Swan Reserve due to the inclement weather. Kevin Sparrow (me) then gave a brief history of the book and then thanked everyone involved with the production, especially Jodie Honan who was the editor and writer of a number of chapters. John Sherwood and Jenny Emeny helped by writing other chapters and many other people supplied photos. All up, it was a tremendous effort by all involved to produce such a high quality publication. Book was then officially launched by APS (Vic) President, Chris Clarke. Funding for the book was received from Moyne Shire Council, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and a grant from Coastcare Victoria. A big thank you is extended to all funding bodies for making the production and printing of this book possible. Photos: Kylie McDonald

Book Launch at Surfside Saturday 13th March



Book Launch at Surfside Saturday 13th March



Book Launch attendees photographed outside the camp kitchen at Surfside Caravan Park. Thank you to all who attended.
All Photos: Kylie McDonald

Coastal Connections by Jarred Obst

Hello and welcome to the January/February instalment of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's '**Coastal Connections**' email.

Autumn is here and the year is off to a flying start; I hope you've had an enjoyable and safe start to 2021.

Seasonal Weather

A distinct change in seasonal weather patterns has been evident over recent weeks with shorter days, cooler nights and dewy mornings typical of the autumn season upon us. This shift in seasonal weather patterns comes after an indifferent summer - during which time Australia recorded its wettest and coolest summer in five years – with mixed rainfall and temperatures being recorded across our coastal region. This includes the Warrnambool region receiving 119mm of rainfall January, followed by only 8mm in February! The La Nina system responsible for these patterns is however breaking down, and models looking forward appear relatively neutral; fingers crossed for favourable autumn break ahead!

For details on recent conditions and upcoming weather predictions, please refer to the following [BoM link](#).

Estuary Update

After a highly dynamic 2020, the past two months have been a relatively stable period on the estuary front. Our smaller estuarine systems including the Surry, Yambuk Lake and the Rutledge's Cutting component of the Merri River are in a closed state, while our larger systems including the Glenelg, Hopkins and Fitzroy remain open. Stream-flows into our estuaries have however decreased in recent weeks following dry February conditions, and when combined with the onset of large autumn tide and swell patterns, may signal the end to this stable period with further estuary closures and rising water levels imminent over the coming months.

For more information regarding recent estuary conditions and observations, please refer to the Estuary Update attachment.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA News & Funding Opportunities

It has been a busy start to the year with some exciting news and funding opportunities coming out of the CMA in recent weeks. Here is a quick summary:

[Australian Grayling found!](#) – recent fish surveys have discovered an Australian Grayling in the Glenelg river; only the second found in 122 years!

[CMA 'Pondcast'](#) – the CMA have recently launched their first series of podcasts to give an insight into what happens behind the CMA acronym, including episode 3 on Estuary Management.

[Australasian Bittern Funding](#) – the 2021 EOI period has opened to support landholders protect and manage important wetlands which contain potential Bittern habitat.

Coastal Connections by Jarred Obst

Community Information & Engagement Events

There continues to be a lot of information and engagement opportunities across our coastal region. Here is a quick summary that might interest readers:

[EstuaryWatch Summer 2021 Newsletter](#) - keep up to date with a range of citizen science monitoring programs occurring across our regions waterways, along with events and opportunities to get involved in.

[Marine & Coasts Newsletter](#) – the sixth issue of DELWP’s quarterly Marine and Coasts newsletter has been released and contains some great information and updates regarding our coastal regions.

[Shorebird Workshop, Portland](#) – learn about the fascinating ecology of migratory shorebirds and what you can do to help protect these amazing species at a free event in Portland on Sunday 21st March.

[Community Volunteer Action Grants; Stream 1 & Stream 2](#) - The 2021 Community Volunteer Action Grants are now open and support communities and community organisations to protect and enhance their natural environment.

Lastly, the Australian Plants Society Warrnambool group will be launching the new edition of **‘Plants of the Great South West’ tomorrow, Saturday 13th March at 12.30pm** at the Swan Reserve in Warrnambool. This is a fantastic resource for native plant enthusiasts in our region and a huge congratulations goes to Kevin Sparrow and all other contributors on the new edition of the book. *Please refer to the attached flyer for event details if interested.*

Please feel free to drop me a line if you have any questions relating to the above items & all the best until my next instalment,

Regards
Jarred



**Australian Plants Society
Warrnambool & District Group**



Please join us to launch our new book,
“Plants of the Great South West - Edition 3”
by Kevin Sparrow

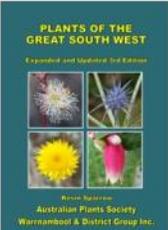
At James Swan Reserve, corner Kepler Street and Raglan Parade,
Warrnambool on Saturday 13th March 12.30pm.

Book will be launched by APS Victoria President, Chris Clarke.

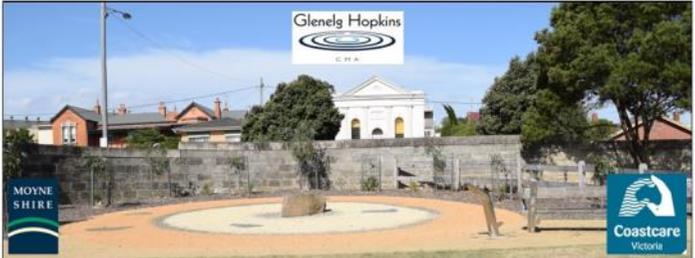
Welcome To Country performed by Indigenous
elder, Brett Clarke.

Books available for sale, cash or direct deposit.
BYO chair, food and drinks.

This is a free event - Covid regulations apply.
Register your interest - email name & phone number
to ksparrow93@gmail.com



**PLANTS OF THE
GREAT SOUTH WEST**
Expanded and Updated 3rd Edition



Glenelg Hopkins
Moyne Shire
Coastcare
Victoria

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.