





AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
 SEPTEMBER 2024 No 513



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Incorporation No: AOO13120X

ABN: 51672752196

Web: apswarrnambool.org.au

Email: warrnamboolpresident@apsvic.org.au

warrnamboolsecretary@apsvic.org.au

warrnambooltreasurer@apsvic.org.au

On Eastern Maar Country

EDITORIAL

Hello members,

For those members yet to renew their membership, if you are not financial by 30th September, this will be your last newsletter.

For those not aware, both John Sherwood and Ross Dawson have had serious surgery recently. They are both back home now and we wish them well for their recovery.

I put the call out last week for photos taken on the recent trip to the Fleurieu Peninsula for the newsletter and I was not disappointed. Thanks to Linda, Greg and Dorothy who gave me plenty to choose from and together with Linda's great write up, we now have a excellent report for the newsletter, Part 1 is on page 11. Sounds like it was a fantastic trip.

I always remember being told by a past newsletter editor, that 'the newsletter is the glue that holds the group together'. This is just as true now as it was when I heard it. Thank you to all who contribute to our newsletter. This is at a time when our group membership is growing and some other groups not doing so well! We must be doing something right. All I do is put together what others have written and jazz it up a bit. Why don't you join in and write a few paragraphs about something that interests you, chuck in a couple of photos and I will do the rest.

Last month, Chris Clarke gave us a very interesting presentation on "A Snapshot of Victorian Alpine Flora" following this he was invited out the next day to Illowa for a look at the gardens of Ross and Sue and after a quick lunch in Koroit, David and Linda's. He left for home on Sunday morning pretty impressed with what he saw.

Note: we don't have a Members Night this month, our next night is on October 25th, That's all for this month, see you then. Cheers, Kevin

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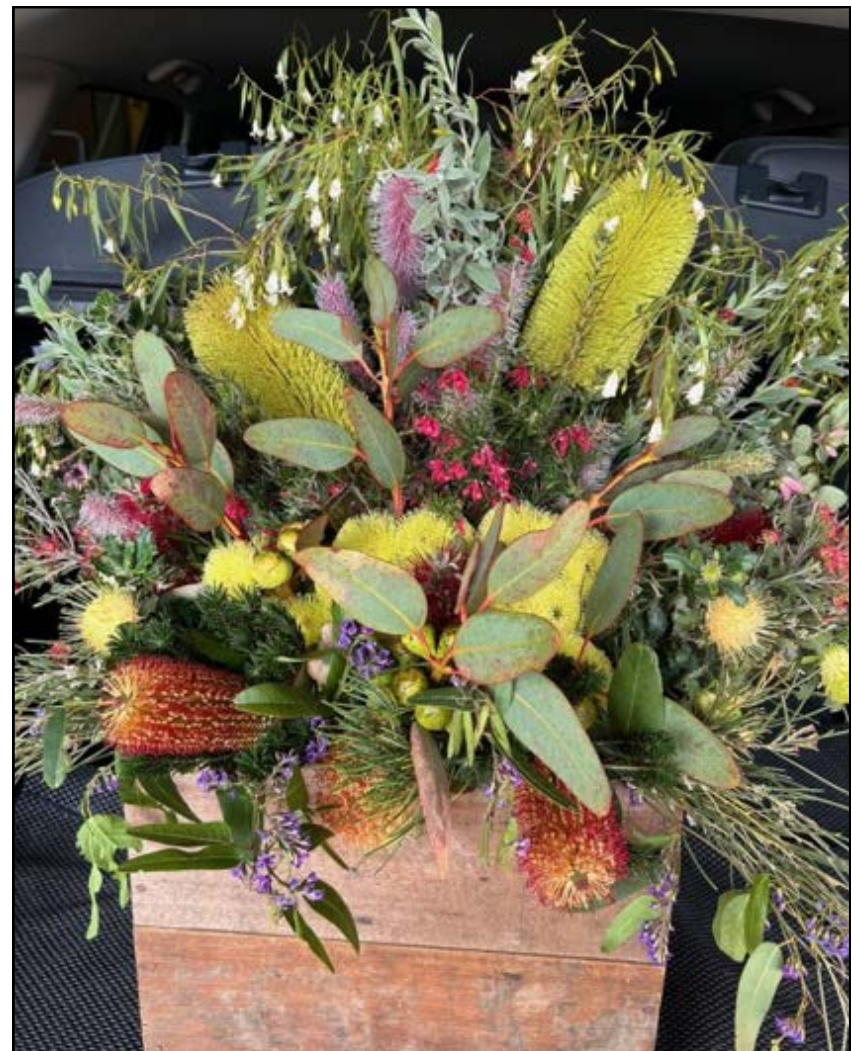
We acknowledge the Eastern Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Next Members Activity: Friday 25th October - No Members Night this month.

<i>Members Activities</i>	<i>Members Activities</i>
<p>September 28th: No Members Night this month.</p> <p>September 30th to October 4th: – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne.</p> <p>October 25th 8.00pm: Members Night - Greg Lemmens</p> <p>October 28th 2.00pm: Committee Meeting Mike Halls TBC</p> <p>October 29th 2.00-4.00pm: U3A Propagation Day at Handscombe's</p> <p>November 3rd: Warrnambool Rotary Open Gardens</p> <p>November 17th Sunday in Portland: Members activity - Ian Chivers - Grasses</p> <p>November 25th 2.00pm: Committee Meeting - Sparrows</p> <p>December Friday 6th Christmas Breakup 6.00pm: Anita Hay.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER IN PORTLAND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Presentation by Ian Chivers (Grasses) approximately 1 hour 2 Field excursion to be finalized <p>VENUE Meeting Room . Portland Community Gardens DATE Sunday 17th November 2024 TIME 10.00 am</p> <p>Amenities available at Community Gardens Meeting Room: easy parking, audiovisual facilities, refreshment facilities, toilets</p>
Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month	
<p>President: David Handscombe, 7 Settlers Lane. Illowa. 3282 Phone: 0429 866 862 Vice President: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 0476 250 435 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com Secretary: Mike Halls, 127 Rooneys Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 0476 250 435 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com 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: Vacant Group Historian: Joyce Sparrow. Supper: Liz Halls. Other Committee Members: Linda Handscombe, Ross Dawson, Peter Robertson, Brian Waters.</p>	
APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.	
<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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Community Gardens Open Day.

Floral Display by Joyce Sparrow for Library Event



Joyce Sparrow did this display for the recent Gardens for Wildlife talk at the Warrnambool Tafe Library



Rotary Club of Warrnambool **OPEN GARDEN EXPO**

SAVE THE DATE!

NOVEMBER 3

- Four gardens for you to view
- All located in Warrnambool
- A range of garden types
- Interesting stalls
- Rotary raffle

PUT THIS on YOUR CALANDER

Greg and Gail Lemmens garden will be the first of 4 gardens open on the day. Put this in your diary now. More info to come.



Australian Plants Society
APS Ballarat District Inc.



Spring Plant & Flower Show

Saturday 19 October
9 am – 4 pm

Robert Clark Horticultural Centre
Ballarat Botanical Gardens
Gillies St, Ballarat
(next to the Conservatory)

Admission \$5 (includes tea & coffee)
ballarat@apsvic.org.au

Display Table Report by Linda Handscombe

Ross began the August meeting display table by encouraging us all to 'Smell the Roses' and not to just enjoy the visual attractions in our gardens. Amongst his specimens was *Boronia megastigma* x *Boronia heterophylla* 'Purple Jared' (Photo above right). It's a beauty and has always been one of the hardier boronias for us. It measures approximately 1.2m x 1.2m and has a lovely brown boronia perfume. He also had a piece of *Hakea florida* (Photo left). It's a stunning hakea from south west Western Australia. It's about 1.5m x 1.5m and is very prickly with heavenly perfumed white flowers in the leaf axils. It's a hard one to find but can be grown from seed.

Michael brought several specimens along. One was a piece of *Verticordia staminosa* ssp *staminosa* (Photo right). Listed as critically endangered it occurs inland north of Perth, and is endemic to this area. It is distinguished from other verticordias by its long stamens that extend well beyond its feathery yellow sepals and petals. It is approximately 60cm tall. It's more of an interesting plant than a beautiful one and its low numbers are thought to be due to climate change and an increased frequency of fire. It was the favourite flower of John Malligan who bought Philip Vaughan's first nursery in Pomonal. Unfortunately John and Bronwen lost everything to the February fires in Pomonal. John gave us some cutting material of this weird little plant last November and I just checked them but they haven't struck so I we can't give him back any new plants.

Michael also had a piece of *Correa alba* 'Moonlight'. It's not in the Correa Book by Maria Hitchcock and I couldn't find it on line so it must be a new release. Can I see the label Michael? I'm wondering if it was a cutting from a Correa Crawl?

Annette brought some specimens too. She said the first one was from our little nursery so that was pleasing. *Thomasia purpurea* ssp *undulata* (Photo next page) was originally a cutting from the Pomonal Native Flower Show so came from one of the Grampians APS members' gardens. This shrub is also endemic to the south west of Western Australia. For us it has always been about .6m x 1.5m. It is best in part shade. Pruning will keep the plant dense and floriferous. It has variable leaves, hairy especially on the underside with wavy edges. It does not have noticeable petals. The ring of purple is in fact calyx lobes. We have since learned from Trevor Blake's book 'Lantern Bushes of Australia', that this plant is actually *Thomasia purpurea* x *solanacea* Trevor also comments on its use as a cut flower. I'll have to give it a go.



Annette had some *Indigofera australis* too. Commonly called the 'Austral Indigo', it hails from all states varying in size depending on where it's growing. Often straggly in the wild, with proper garden care it can be beautiful with sprays of blue green foliage and soft purple/pink pea flowers. It is hardy to most soils but not lime. The genus name *Indigofera* arises from the dye that comes from the leaves of some of the species.



Kevin brought another lovely selection of specimens. Amongst them was *Gastrolobium celsianum* (Photo below), the 'Swan River Pea' [previously *Brachysema lanceolatum*]. It's super hardy to soil types, climates, sun or shade and can tolerate medium frosts. It's 1.0m x 2.5m and is a bright red pea that attracts bees, butterflies and nectar eating birds. Kevin also brought in the intriguing little *Melaleuca blaerifolia* (Photo bottom right). We had never heard of it before but it grows naturally in south west Western Australia. The small flower heads are yellowish green to green and the leaves are heavily clustered on the stem. Sue grew several from Kevin's cuttings last year and we're going to plant one soon in well drained soil in full sun.

Brian brought in one of my favourites. *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*. It's a member of the daisy family!! It occurs from central Queensland to South Eastern NSW. And here's an example of the importance of scientific names. Commonly called 'Rice Flower' it can also be confused with *Pimelea* which are also called 'Rice Flowers', which is why we've always called it 'Sago Bush'. It's an erect shrub to 1.5m x 1.5m and the flowers can be white, cream and all shades of pink and they all fade to dirty cream as they age. It's a champion of the cut flower industry. It gets straggly after a few years and should be propagated by cuttings. Marilyn Sprague has some lovely colour forms that grew from self sown seedlings in her garden.



David brought along some stunning *Grevillea bipinnatifida* flowers. It's a straggly shrub up to 1m with a lignotuber. Again from south west Western Australia, it is often a parent of well known grevillea cultivars including G. 'Coconut Ice', 'Peaches and Cream', 'Robyn Gordon' and 'Superb'. If you have trouble spelling *bipinnatifida* on a regular basis, remember that is a derivative of pinnate [as in pinnate leaves like a fishbone fern and it has double n]. No clues on how to pronounce it though!!!



Chris Clarke's Visit To Illowa - Dawson/Blood Garden



Last month at our Members Night, Chris Clarke presented an excellent talk to us on the Alpine Plants of Victoria, While he was with us, we took him out to Illowa the following day to visit the gardens of Ross and Sue and then after lunch in Koroit, David and Linda. The photos on this page and the next one were taken on the day. I know he was pretty impressed with both gardens.

Chris Clarke's Visit To Illowa - Handscombe Garden.



Plant Profile - Dave Handscombe

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

Species: *Thryptomene denticulata*

Family: Myrtaceae

Thryptomene - from the Greek meaning diminished referring to the small flowers and low habit of most species

denticulata – from the Latin dentatus meaning toothed.

Common Name: Purple Myrtle.

Dimensions: Height: Up to 1.5 metres X 2 metres.

Cultivar Name: There are no registered cultivars listed and no Plant Breeders Rights listed.

Distribution: From just south of Shark Bay to Wongan Hills north of Perth.

Thryptomene denticulata is a prostrate to low shrub that tolerates summer dry, winter wet conditions. A form from Shark Bay is completely prostrate and will layer when conditions are right. It is tolerant of a wide range of soils from mildly acidic to mildly alkaline. It will happily grow in full sun to light shade and will survive light frosts. It copes with salt laden winds making it ideal for coastal plantings and will reward gardeners with a spectacular display of pinky mauve flowers during the winter months. Propagate from seed or cuttings which should strike readily.





Photo Captions:

Photo 1: A low growing form of *Thryptomene denticulata*.

Photo 2 - 4: Different views of the flowers.

Photo 5 - 6: Prostrate form from Shark Bay.



Group Member Visit to South Australia by Linda Handscombe

Eleven intrepid Warrnambool members made the journey to the Fleurieu Peninsula on the first weekend in September to see some fabulous gardens along with the Currency Creek Eucalyptus Arboretum. They joined forces with seventeen members from the Wimmera group, nine from Grampians APS and two from Hamilton and a great time was had by all [apart from the dinner on Saturday night but we won't mention that].

Judy and Andrew Baghurst.

On Saturday morning we all climbed the picturesque hill in Port Elliott that led to the remarkable garden of Judy and Andrew Baghurst. After buying their 21 hectare block in 1997 they began the task of removing a lot of woody weeds, ripping and smoothing beds, mulching and revegetating with local indigenous flora. They began the smaller native garden around the house in 2001. Battling winds, no mains water, drought, rabbits, hares and kangaroos, they have achieved a beautiful, free flowing garden



with a tall canopy of *Corymbia citriodora*, *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, *E. pulverulenta*, and *E. scoparia*. Repeat plantings of medium shrubs has given a lovely sense of continuity. Hakeas, Calothamnus, Chamelauciums, Lasiopetalum, Leucophyta and more, all combine to provide a lovely array of colours and textures. Different ground covers open up large areas of the gardens with nothing crowding out anything else. How does that happen? Their plants kept low and sculptured by the wind enabled stunning views over the coastline. Judy is launching her book 'Down the Garden Path ...from bald hill to bush and native garden' later in September.

Photos: Linda Handscombe



Judy and Andrew Baghurst Garden. Photo: Greg Lemmens

Pat and Gerald Uphill Garden.

Our second garden was that of Pat and Gerald Uphill at lower Inman Valley. They moved to this 2 hectare plot 20 years ago. It was a low cow paddock with two swamps. Four original local tree species abound in this garden giving it a lovely parklike feel. *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* [Blue Gum in South Australia], *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* Pink Gum, *Eucalyptus odorata* Swamp Gum and *Eucalyptus cosmophylla* Cup Gum were plentiful. Other indigenous remnant plants were *Acacia paradoxa* and *A. retinodes*, *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, *Bursaria*, *Pultenaea daphnoides* and *Leptospermum continentale*. They have recorded 80 species of birds. Pat and Gerald have added a wide range of other non local natives to their garden including an alarmingly large *Banksia integrifolia* 'Roller Coaster' (Photo below). Dave and I need to have a word with ours.

Photos: Linda Handscombe





Nangawooka Flora Reserve.

We enjoyed their charming hospitality and ate lunch between showers before heading off to Nangawooka Flora Reserve.

This beautiful 5 acre reserve is a credit to the volunteers who maintain it. Founded in 1982 and formerly a cow paddock it was opened in 1984. Now under the wing of the City of Victor Harbor who provide help with roads and fencing, it is largely maintained by volunteers. Beautiful wide paths wind under the canopies of tall trees and many local species mix with natives from all over the continent especially Western Australia. Thanks for leading us Leonore.



Photos left: Greg Lemmens, right: Linda Handscombe

Hindmarsh River Estuary.

After a frantic convoy in the rain we met the charming **Malcolm Worthing** in an area of the Hindmarsh River Estuary. Such a young man with so much passion and knowledge, Malcolm led us through a block of the last remnants of pink gum/ heathy woodland recently purchased by the Victor Harbour Council to be maintained for conservation purposes. All credit to them. Bordered by housing and weedy garden plants, this area is a biodiversity hotspot. It contains the last remnants of *Eucalyptus baxteri* in the Victor Harbour area. It also contains *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, *Adenanthos terminalis* the South Australian Woolly Bush, *Correa reflexa* var. *scabridula* and the nationally threatened *Spyridium coactilifolium* Butterfly Spyridium (Photo below).

We were all hugely impressed by this beautiful bit of bushland . We made another mad convoy dash to the other side of the river to an area of riparian bushland. The predominant remnant plants were *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Acacia mearnsii*, *Melaleuca halmaturorum*, *Acacia dodonaeifolia* the Sticky Wattle and Triglochin. This area was also interesting and a lot of revegetation work was being undertaken. Malcolm is recording the increasing number of birds to the area.



Photos: Linda Handscombe





Hindmarsh River Estuary. Photo: Linda Handscombe

To Be Continued Next Month

Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.

IMPORTANT PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 40th Anniversary. Special feature Edible Australian Native Plants. Speakers scheduled each day are Clarence Slockee, Julie Weatherhead and Neil Marriott. 9 am to 4 pm, \$5 entry.

21 & 22 September 2024 – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

21 September till 8 October 2024 - Special Banksia Exhibition at Karwarra, featuring over 60 paintings by Ian Wallace, Juet Sculptures and plant display by Kuranga Native Nursery. Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Gardens, 1190 - 1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama. 10 am to 4 pm week days, 1 - 4 pm weekends.

28 & 29 September 2024 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria. Visit <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>.

2 October 2024 - 3.30 pm. AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson - "Connected Through Nature". As part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, this session is open to the public, free of charge, at The Round, Nunawading. Phillip Johnson is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. *"By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time"*. Registrations are required via the website <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>

5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

12 & 13 October 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

19 October 2024. – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. (Next to the Conservatory). 10am to 4pm. Native Plants for sale.

23 & 24 November 2024 – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Quarterly Weekend - Early Summer in 'The Warbies'. Committee of Management meeting in the Uniting Church Hall, Central Wangaratta and AGM in Old Town and Country Tavern on Greta Road.

22 & 23 March 2025 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au



Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.

24 to 30 March 2025 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

12 April 2025 - APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale.

2 & 3 August 2025 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025 on Epacridaceae hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula in the Mornington Secondary College.

16 to 24 August 2025 - Banksia Week. Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Includes plant sales, plant walks, exhibitions and displays in the auditorium.

13 to 14 September 2025 - APS Yarra Yarra Plants Expo.

11 & 12 October 2025 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

24 to 28 August 2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, in Alice Springs, organised by APS SA and APS Alice Springs. The conference theme is "Amazing Arid Australia".



Photos By: Dorothy Mattner- Left: *Hakea francisiana*, centre: *Chorizema cordifolia*, Right: *Epacris longifolia*