



Arthropodium strictum

Australian Plants Society Waverley

April 2020

Australian Plants Society Waverley Inc. Reg. No. A0013116G
<https://sites.google.com/view/apswaverley> PO Box 248 Glen Waverley Vic 3150

Meetings Third Thursday of month, Ground floor, Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mt Waverley (Melways Map 61 E12) Commencing 8pm

APS Waverley Group Events	Other Events (cont.)
<p>Monthly Meetings Cancelled Until Allowed by Government Regulation</p> <p>Other Events</p> <p>APRIL 4th <i>APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale</i> Cancelled "Wirrawilla", 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks</p> <p>APRIL 18th - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm <i>APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant and Herb Sale</i> Cancelled Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham</p> <p>MAY 2nd - 10.00 am to 3.30 pm <i>APS Mornington Plant Sale</i> "Seawinds", Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat</p> <p>MAY 9th - 9.00 am to 1.00 pm <i>APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Annual Plant Sale</i> Cancelled St Andrew's Uniting Church, 18 Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh</p> <p>JUNE 27th and 28th - 10.00am to 4.00 pm <i>APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show</i> Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens</p> <p>JULY 25th and 26th - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm <i>Growing Friends Winter Plant Sale</i> Australian Gardens Cranbourne (near the Kiosk)</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 5th and 6th <i>Open Garden Scheme</i> Bill Aitchison and Sue Guymer 13 Conos Court, Donvale Save the date</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 12th and 13th - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm <i>APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo</i> Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham</p> <p>OCTOBER 10th - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm <i>APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase</i> Masonic lodge hall, 426 High Street, Echuca</p> <p>OCTOBER 17th and 18th - 10.00 am to 4.30 pm <i>APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show</i> Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens</p> <p>OCTOBER 17th - 9.00 am to 3.00 pm <i>APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale</i> Kilmore Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street, Kilmore</p> <p>OCTOBER 17th and 18th - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm <i>Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale</i> Australian Gardens, Cranbourne near the Kiosk</p> <p>13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020</p> <p>OCTOBER 24th and 25th <i>13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020</i> <i>"Mint Bushes & Allied Genera"</i> Hosted by APS Yarra Yarra in Eltham Saturday venue: Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham</p>

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY UNTIL THE CORONA VIRUS SUBSIDES AND WE CAN MEET AGAIN

Stories and photos of native plants are urgently needed for this newsletter so we can keep in touch with one another during the corona virus outbreak.

CAN YOU HELP?

Please email them to graham.oliver.au@gmail.com

Graham Oliver – Newsletter Editor

MY GARDEN IN MARCH – By Virginia Barnett

Good rainfalls this year have resulted in most gardens looking healthy and well. I was surprised, this month, to see for the first time, the bright red star-shaped fungus, *Aseroe rubra*. I have traced it back to a couple of years ago, when I spread mulch from old leaf litter collected from the banks of Scotchmans Creek, near Waverley Road. *Aseroe* thrive in this type of mulch.

At the same time, I had heard it was a bumper season for mushrooms and they were springing up everywhere. Collectors and restaurateurs were out and about reaping varieties along with common field mushrooms and the edible, prized forms which occur near copses and rows of pine. So that explains why the fungi have appeared here, and I hope to see them annually from hereon. They are ephemeral and for one to two days the central spore-producing tissues liquefy to form a foul-smelling slime, attracting many shiny little flies, which dabble in the slime and then head off into the gardens to disperse the spores.

The beauty of these ‘stinkhorn’ fungi far outweighs the smell. A year ago I had actually stumbled upon one of these fungi whilst weeding; it was one of those ‘good grief, what’s this?’ moments, but I just left it alone, a white, gelatinous ‘egg’ 2-3cm diameter, with white rhizomorphs at its base. Covered it over and forgot about it until it surfaced a few weeks ago. The mature fungus is as big as the palm of my hand, bright red and very obvious.

Fungi are fascinating. Some never break the soil or litter, their spore dispersal mechanisms hidden underground. Symbiotic relationships between fungi and plants hold gardens and even whole ecosystems together. Almost every plant is intimately entwined with microscopic fungi, necessary to life, helping plants access water and nutrients and increasing resistance to drought and disease. A system is more resilient if you don’t make a monoculture. The key to encouraging fungi is to be aware of their existence and needs and then causing as little disturbance as possible. Mushrooms in the garden should be celebrated. Fungi-friendly habitats, such as fallen leaves, coarse woody debris and small logs are to be encouraged.

Ecologist and natural historian, Alison Pouliot, recently visited Australia to promote her book: ‘The Allure of Fungi’ and spend time in the field; she declares this country a ‘fungal utopia’ because of its varying climates and topographies. The paragraph above was extracted from her text.



Aseroe rubra
Sea Anemone Fungus



Alison Pouliot is a natural historian and environmental photographer. She is especially interested in forgotten corners and lifeforms; the stuff that slips between the cracks, changes wrought by human disregard.

MELALEUCAS – by Anne Kerr

There are approximately 210 species of Melaleuca in Australia. Here are five I grew some years ago when I lived in Glen Iris on clay soil.

Melaleuca coccinea

‘Goldfields Bottlebrush’ Native to WA

A medium shrub usually under 2m. The flowers are numerous and brilliant red. Needs a well drained sunny position and regular pruning.



Melaleuca coccinea



Melaleuca fififolia

Melaleuca fififolia (nematophylla)

‘Wiry Honey-myrtle’ Native to WA

Normally an erect shrub from 1-3m tall. Flowers are normally produced in October / November. Spectacular terminal globular heads, deep pink or mauve. Prefers a hot site.

Melaleuca lateritia

‘Robin Red Breast’ Native to WA

This would be my favourite with its bright red flowers and light to mid green foliage. It grows from 1.5 – 4m. Benefits from pruning after flowering. Sunny position, but will accept a little shade.



Melaleuca lateritia



Flower



Melaleuca spathulata

Melaleuca spathulata Native to WA

Grows 1-2m. Flowers September / November with profuse deep pink flowers covering the plant. It has a compact growth habit and could be used for hedging.

Melaleuca incana

‘Grey Honey Myrtle’

Dwarf to tall shrub with grey leaves and a weeping habit. Flowers are cream to yellow. Useful as a screening shrub.



Melaleuca incana

Thanks Anne

WESTERN HIGHWAY DUPLICATION DEBATE – Thanks Graeme Stone

The duplication of the Western Highway from Buangor to Ararat has been, and continues to be, a controversial project. The controversy is not about the need for the duplication, but about the impact of the chosen route on the environment and aboriginal sacred sites, and whether a proposed alternative Northern route is a better option.

VicRoads chosen route

This route will destroy over 17 hectares of Yellow Box Grassy Woodland listed under the Commonwealth Government’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, many hectares of Golden Sunmoth habitat, spring soaks, ancient aboriginal scar trees, middens, stone scatters and massive birthing trees.

Community’s proposed Northern Route

This route would closely follow an old powerline easement, which is partly cleared, and use the



Birthing Tree

existing highway as one lane of the freeway, with a new second carriageway being built beside it. It is said by its supporters to have less impact on the environment and aboriginal sites than the chosen route.

Current Status of The Project

Last year an aboriginal group said to be the traditional aboriginal owners of the land affected by the VicRoads chosen route successfully challenged the Commonwealth environment minister's decision not to protect Indigenous sites along this route. The minister's decision was set aside by the court and referred back for further consideration.

A new decision on protecting the land where the highway would be built, is awaited from the minister.

The Victorian Ombudsman has also commenced an investigation into the Western Highway duplication project, with particular regard to the process for assessing concerns raised about the protection of sacred Aboriginal sites.

Negotiations between the parties to the dispute continue.

April – *No meeting due to the Corona virus*

Our April meeting was cancelled, but will be re-scheduled for later this year if possible.

Plant Flowering in April *Beaufortia sparsa* – Swamp bottlebrush

Beaufortia sparsa is a small to medium shrub native to the south-west of Western Australia. It grows to about 2 - 3 metres high. The leaves are oval shaped and about 10 mm long, bright green in colour. The orange to red flower clusters occur towards the ends of the branches, their size and colour making for a spectacular sight. Flowering occurs in summer and may extend into autumn. Following flowering, seeds develop in woody capsules similar to those formed with *Melaleuca* species.



B.sparsa is more successful in drier climates. The species should be grown in well drained conditions in full sun or dappled shade and it is tolerant of at least moderate frost.

Propagation is easy from both seed and cuttings.

Plant Flowering in May *Acacia iteaphylla* – Flinders Range Wattle



Acacia iteaphylla occurs naturally from the Flinders Ranges to the Gawler Ranges and Eyre Peninsula. It is a decorative shrub 2-4 metres high which is hardy, fast growing and flowers intermittently throughout the year.

The perfumed flower heads are produced in clusters of pale yellow balls which contrast with the foliage. The flowers are followed by masses of flattened blue-green seed pods which become brown when mature.

A. iteaphylla grows best in a well drained sunny position. It can be propagated from cuttings taken between February and April. Seed germinates readily but should be scarified or treated with boiling water before sowing.

Committee

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