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# Australian Plants Society Waverley

October 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

### **OCTOBER Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 8.00 pm**

#### **Meeting via Zoom**

**APS Foothills nighttime group meeting  
open to APS Waverley Members**

*Kerry Davis "Dry Weather Gardening".*

To join Zoom meeting ...

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6746285270?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6746285270?pwd=alZma2pMSCtxdWcxNFluRHR6c254Zz09)

[pwd=alZma2pMSCtxdWcxNFluRHR6c254Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6746285270?pwd=alZma2pMSCtxdWcxNFluRHR6c254Zz09)

Meeting ID: 674 628 5270

Passcode: 3GVKcw

### **NOVEMBER Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 8.00 pm**

#### **Meeting via Zoom**

**"In the Wild" – Member's photos of gardens and trips.**

To join Zoom meeting ...

[https://zoom.us/j/95552663901?](https://zoom.us/j/95552663901?pwd=T0FvTUVSTDBYYjV2R0hlclIyQXdLUT09)

[pwd=T0FvTUVSTDBYYjV2R0hlclIyQXdLUT09](https://zoom.us/j/95552663901?pwd=T0FvTUVSTDBYYjV2R0hlclIyQXdLUT09)

Meeting ID: 955 5266 3901

Passcode: 451022

#### **A date for your diary**

### **DECEMBER Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**End-of-year Breakup dinner**

Details TBA

**Monthly meetings in Wadham House cancelled until  
permitted by government regulations**

## Other Events

### **13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 "Mint Bushes & Allied Genera"**

Hosted by APS Yarra Yarra  
Due to health regulations major  
changes have been made to the  
program.



It has been decided to postpone the  
garden visits until the weekend of November the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>,  
when we hope that the numbers allowed will make them  
viable. Everything will be BYO – lunch, snacks, drinks,  
sanitiser and masks.

For further information and registration forms to the garden  
visits etc go to <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020>

Enquiries: Miriam [Send email](#)

**ALL EVENTS HELD ONLY IF PERMITTED  
BY HEALTH REGULATIONS.**

**PLEASE CONFIRM WITH EVENT  
ORGANISER THAT EVENT DETAILS  
HAVE NOT CHANGED.**

**STORIES & PHOTOS OF NATIVE PLANTS ARE  
URGENTLY NEEDED; CAN YOU HELP?**

Please email them to [graham.oliver.au@gmail.com](mailto:graham.oliver.au@gmail.com)

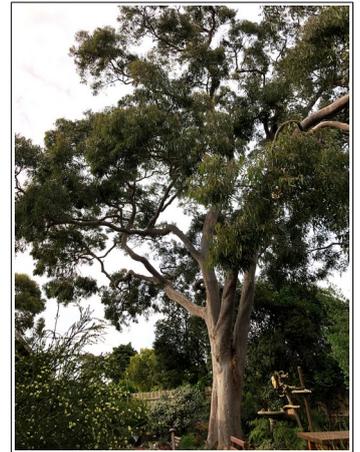
## JOHN WATSON'S HOUSE TURNS 50

In the late sixties we purchased a block of land in Glen Waverley with a small frontage and a large "backage".

We designed a flat-roofed house with large windows down one side which would look out onto our dream native garden. We were poor in both cash and native plant expertise - as shown by the planting of two *Eucalyptus pauciflora* (Snow Gums - not the dwarf variety), an *Angophora cordifolia* and one *Eucalyptus maculosa* in our small front garden. Over the years these trees provided income for tree choppers and are no more.

A feature of our back garden was to be an *Angophora costata*, the label assuring us it would grow 15 to 20 feet tall [5 to 7 metres]. Early in its life it was run over by my four-year-old son on his trike and the height reduced from 40 cm to 5 cm. The decision not to pull it out and start with something smaller was incredibly significant. Now it is nearly a magnificent 20 metres tall. Do we regret the decision? No way.

We also had a couple of magnificent *Eucalyptus sideroxylons* but after 20 rewarding years they took a strong dislike to our Glen Waverley clay, deteriorated, and were removed. We gave the wood to a friend to be chopped up for his open fire. His enthusiasm at receiving the gift lasted until he started to chop them up and found why they are called black iron-barks.



I am not enthusiastic about most garden ornaments, perhaps influenced by my mother's gnome strewn garden and most of our non-living garden occupants have come as gifts. And when the giver is one of my grandchildren, who am I to refuse? However, Serenity gives a tranquil air looking down on us from above the bird bath, albeit it with her eyes closed. Perhaps some-day she will awaken.

Little remains of our original planting in the backyard where we were to hold two wedding receptions.

One essential for a native garden if we are to encourage native wildlife is some form of cat deterrent. A succession of dogs has filled this role very effectively for 50 years, as well as enriching the calcium phosphate level of our soil in the form of buried bones. But with our Staffie now 13 and aware that my dog walking days will end with his passing, I am researching ways to keep the garden cat free. Suggestions so far have been either illegal or inhumane. Any suggestions???

Thanks John

## FERDINAND VON MUELLER – Leading Australian botanist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century



Ferdinand von Mueller was born on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1825 at Rostock, in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, then part of Denmark and now part of Germany. He is widely considered to be the leading Australian botanist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

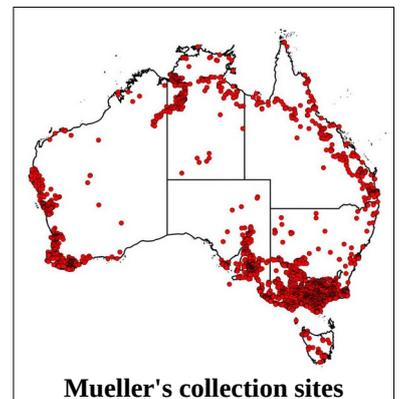
Due to his sister's poor health and possibly his own, Mueller was advised to leave Rostock and seek a drier climate, so with his two sisters he migrated to Adelaide in 1847. In 1849, he was naturalised as a British subject and anglicized his name from Müller to Mueller.

In 1851 Mueller moved to Melbourne with the intention of opening a pharmacy. Instead he was appointed the first Government Botanist of Victoria in 1853, a position created for him by Lieutenant-Governor Charles Joseph La Trobe and which he held for 43 years until his death in 1896.

Mueller was a prolific collector of indigenous flora from all over Australia. His many field expeditions, often conducted alone, contributed significantly to Australian botany taking him to areas such as Mt Buffalo, Mt Buller, Port Albert, the Grampians, the Snowy River, and Western Australian forests and coastal regions as far north as Shark Bay. In 1855-57, he joined the A.C. Gregory expedition to

Northern Australia exploring Victoria River and Sturt Creek in the Northern Territory and Moreton Bay in Queensland. The expedition travelled 5,000 miles in 16 months and Mueller observed 2,000 species, 800 of which were new to science. It was at Moreton Bay that Mueller discovered the Macademia tree naming it after his Scottish-Australian friend Dr. John Macadam.

From 1854 to 1872, Mueller was a member of the Victorian Institute for the Advancement of Science, which later became the Royal Society of Victoria. He was an active member of the society's "Exploration Committee" which established the Burke and Wills expedition of 1860.



Mueller's collection sites

In 1857 Mueller took on the role as Director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, which at the time also housed the colony's zoo. However, Mueller's view of the garden as a scientific and educational resource clashed with local nurserymen who wanted to develop it as a public pleasure space; an English-styled landscape garden with statues and art works. In 1873, Mueller's position as director of the garden was abolished, effectively dismissing him, much to his dismay.

It was during his time at the Botanical Gardens that Mueller was responsible for building what is now known as the National Herbarium of Victoria, the oldest scientific institution in the state. He named more than 2,000 new plant species and acquired over half of today's collection. Within a year of securing a building to house the collection in 1861, Mueller increased its size from 45,000 to 160,000 specimens, and under his direction the Melbourne herbarium became one of the world's greatest. Today the collection comprises approx. 1.4 million specimens.



**Blue Gums in California**

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Mueller established contacts with other botanic gardens and scientists around the world. He exchanged seeds and plants and thereby introducing the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) into the south of Europe, North and South Africa, California, and the extratropical portions of South America. He was a main collaborator with the English botanist George Bentham to generate the *Flora Australiensis*, the first text on Australian plants.

During his career he was active in the Royal Society of Victoria and was President of the Victorian Royal Geographical Society. At the age of 36, he was elected to membership in the Royal Society of London and in 1871 he was made a Baron by the King of Wurtemberg and later knighted by Queen Victoria in 1879. He was also given the Order of Dannebrog by the Danish King.

Mueller died on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1896 and is buried at St Kilda Cemetery. Following his death, the Mueller Medal was created by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science to recognise important Australian

contributions to science.

A diverse range of species bears his name in recognition of his extensive botanical endeavours. They include the Sydney Cypress pine, *Callitris muelleri*, the reddish Slaty She-oak, *Casuarina muelleriana*, the Yellow Stringybark, *Eucalyptus muelleriana*, and Mueller's Bush-pea, *Pultenaea muelleri*.

### ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF A NEW GENUS – *You've probably seen them on your bushwalks!!*

CSIRO scientists recently discovered *Scapisenecio*, a new genus of Australian daisies, and they did so on the computer screen, during what was meant to be a routine analysis to test a biocontrol agent against a noxious weed.

This accidental discovery shows how much is still to be learned about the natural history of Australia. *Scapisenecio* is a new genus, but thousands of visitors to the Australian Alps see one of its species flowering each summer.

For a comprehensive news article for the layman on the discovery [<<Click Here >>](#)

### CURRENTLY IN FLOWER – *in member's gardens & out and about*

#### John Watson's Garden



***Eutaxia obovata***

**Egg and Bacon**

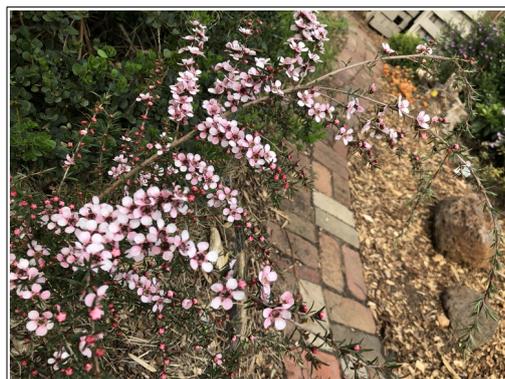
This recently planted dwarf specimen is one of the best of the many Egg and Bacon plants.



***Alyogyne***

**"Blue Heeler"**

Low shrub with large flowers which can be encouraged into extra flowering into summer with a judicious haircut.



***Leptospermum*** "Pink Cascade"

A low arching shrub covered in flowers in spring.



***Indogofera australis***

This specimen is a smaller more compact form of the normal rather straggly one. I got it from Joe Wilson of Maroondah group who says it grows readily from seed. Each year I try to collect seed but there is a very short gap between maturity and shedding of seed. Any suggestions? The reward is one of the successful new plants that grow from the seed.



***Marianthus ringens***

A not too vigorous, but dense, climber which thrives against my front wall in a mixture of sun and shade. Flowers in my garden in September.

**Graeme Stone's Garden**



***Bulbine bulbosa***

Planted 2012 but this one self sown under *Phyllothea myoporoides*.



***Pimelea ligustrina***

About to burst into flower, planted 2013. 2m x 1.5m – easily. Growing in full morning sun. Clay soil. Needs hard pruning to fit space.



***Grevillea curviloba***

Planted some years ago on a retaining wall with morning sun. A ground cover which grows up to 2.5m x 3–4.6m wide.



***Tetratheca ciliata***

Happily growing in loam and clay. In a mostly shaded position.

**Jenny Kelso's Garden**



***Hibbertia scandens***

Climbing up neighbour's Silver birch. Makes an excellent screening plant on walls, fences, or growing as a scrambler among more established plants.



***Aphanopetalum resinatum*  
Sun vine**

On fence facing west. A useful foliage plant for shaded corners. It needs support to raise itself above ground level.



***Hardenbergia comptoniana* &  
*Aphanopetalum resinatum***

On garage wall.

### And for Bird lovers ....

This Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*) was seen by Jenny Kelso beside the Yarra River at Kooyong in early September.

After an absence of many years from the area these parrots have returned, and are breeding due to plantings of native ground cover in the Royal Botanic Gardens and generally in private gardens.



### Anna Kane's Garden



#### ***Myoporum floribundum***

Slender, fragrant shrub to 2.5m high. Anna's specimen grows in part shade. Cuttings strike readily.



#### ***Leptosperum "Pink Cascade"* *Pacific Beauty x L. scoparium***

0.5 high x 1-1.5m  
Small, attractive shrub with a weeping habit. Likes well drained soils in full sun or light shade. Propagation is easy from cuttings.



#### ***Eucalyptus spectatrix***

A multi-trunked mallee which may grow up to 4m. Suitable for a suburban garden. Anna's specimen is just coming into bloom.



#### ***Prostanthera rotundifolia***

1.5 metres high by a similar spread. Flowers are generally purple in colour and are prolific in spring. It is one of the hardier members of the genus, is quick growing and should be pruned back annually by about one third if a bushy shape is to be retained. Prefers a well drained, moist position with some shelter from direct summer sun. Propagation is easy from cuttings.

### Geoff Schroder's Pot Plant



#### ***Eremophila glabra ssp. tomentosa* – Tar Bush**

There are many forms of *E. glabra* in cultivation. Geoff's is one of the "Murchison River" forms which have attractive silvery foliage with bright red flowers. In the garden they form a shrub to about 1 metre high.

Other forms of *E. glabra* range from completely prostrate plants to shrubs up to 1.5 metres high. Leaves may be glabrous (without hairs) or greyish and conspicuously hairy. The flowers also vary considerably and may be green, yellow, orange or red. Flowering occurs from late winter to summer.

*E. glabra* should be grown in an open, sunny position with good drainage. Geoff's grows in a pot.

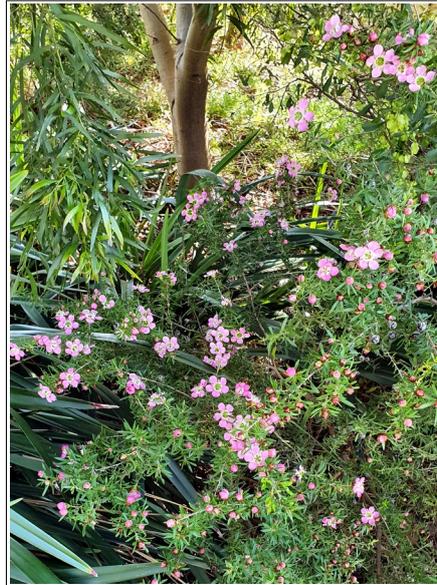
Most forms strike readily from cuttings.

## Mirini Lang's Garden



### ***Senna artemisioides***

Woody shrub, with a silvery appearance, to 3m. The form most commonly seen in gardens (ssp. *artemisioides*) is usually about 1.5m. This species has been in cultivation for many years and is grown successfully in a wide range of climates. It is particularly suited to most drier areas as long as it is given full sun and good drainage. Propagation from seed.



### ***Leptospermum* "Tickled Pink"**

*L. polygalifolium* "Cardwell" x *L.* "Rhiannon"  
2m

Plant is a very attractive cultivar. It is a hardy shrub for moist soils in temperate climates. Prefers full sun or partial shade and may be pruned severely if necessary.



### ***Chamelaucium uncinatum***

Medium to large shrub, 2-3m. Suitable for a suburban garden. Requires a very well drained position, preferably in sandy soil in sun or semi shade. The plants respond well to pruning back by about one third annually. Propagation is from cuttings which usually strike readily.

### ***Orthrosanthus multiflorus***

*O. multiflorus*, Morning Iris, is a grass-like clumping plant that looks good with very little effort. The starry blue flowers only last a day but are produced in profusion during spring and early summer. It is a really tough plant that will benefit from a once a year clean up after flowering with the removal of old flower stems. Prefers semi shade, but will tolerate full sun. Mulch to keep the soil moist and to deter weed growth.



## Diana Droog's Garden at Toora

Diana and her husband own a farm near Toora which they have converted into extensive native plant gardens. Here are some of the plants currently in flower.



### ***Banksia undata***

Shrub 3m x 2m.  
Spectacular, fast-growing plant.



### ***Grevillea***

"Bonnie Prince Charlie"  
Shrub 60cm high x 1m spread.



### ***Callistemon pinifolius***

Green  
Shrub to 3m.



### ***Callistemon rigidus* -**

Red  
Shrub 2m.



***Grevillea***  
**"Apricot Glow"**

Shrub 3m x 2m spread.



***Prostanthera***  
**"Mauve Mantle"**

Shrub 3m x 2m spread.



***Eucalyptus gregsoniana***  
**Wolgan Snow Gum**

Spreading mallee 4 to 6m.



***Alyogyne huegelii***  
**Native Hibiscus**

Shrub 2.5m.

### Ruth Robert's Garden



***Banksia blechnifolia***

Prostrate ground cover 50cm high  
and 2-4m spread.

Growing in part shade under a Euky dwarf. The flower  
has a lovely pinkish colour which is one of Ruth's  
favourites.



***Chorizema cordatum***  
**Flame Pea**

Spreading shrub to 1m high.

Growing in part shade. This has given a lovely display  
over many weeks and brightens up a corner of the garden.



***Kennedia macrophylla***  
**Dusky Coral Pea**

Climber, to 5m high.

Growing in full sun/ part shade with  
probably the best display on the back of  
the fence which hopefully passers-  
by enjoy.



***Orthrosanthus multiflorus***  
**Morning Flag**

Clumping plant 50cm to 1m high.  
Ruth's specimen grows in full sun.



***Pelargonium Australe***  
**Wild Geranium**

50cm high

Growing in full sun. Hardy, and  
readily self-seeds around the garden.

## Plant Flowering in October

## *Callistemon citrinus* – Crimson Bottlebrush

*Callistemon citrinus* is a widely cultivated hardy shrub reaching about 2m by 2m. Flowering is normally in spring and early summer when the bright red flower-spikes appear.

Plants should be lightly pruned and fertilised after flowering. Neglected or mis-shapen plants respond to hard pruning.

The species has been responsible for many cultivars such as "Mauve Mist" (mauve), "Burgundy" (purple-red), "White Anzac", "Endeavour" (red) and "Reeves Pink" (pink).

*C. citrinus* (and its various forms) are adaptable to a wide range of soils and climate. They prefer well-draining soil and a full sun position.

Propagation is easy from both seed and cuttings.



## Plant Flowering in November

## *Verticordia plumosa* – Plumed Featherflower



*Verticordia plumosa* is a rounded shrub 1m high x 1m wide.

In spring it flowers with purple-pink, feathery flowers in dense terminal clusters.

It appreciates light pruning as the flowers fade.

Ideal for full sun in gardens, rock gardens, borders, edging, mass plantings and pots. Well-drained soil is required.

Propagation is from cuttings.

## Committee

<b>Leader</b>	Jenny Kelso	9889-1195	<b>Librarian</b>	Geoff Schroder	9882-5213
<b>Secretary</b>	Virginia Barnett	9803-4502		Heather Maplesden	9803-5142
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gavin Cole	0418 543 956		Sandra Wearne	0413 667 368
<b>Newsletter</b>	Graham Oliver	0418 359 067			