



AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter July-August 2024



APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo - 14-15 September 2024 10am-3pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham



GARDENS FOR LIFE

ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference - Melbourne

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th September to 4th October 2024

From your Editorial Team

Dear Members

A warm welcome to our new members: Sarah MacLeod, Sharon Blyth and Michele Zimmerman.

Spring is just around the corner, and so are two unmissable events for lovers of Australian native plants.

First up is our **Australian Plants Expo** on 14 and 15 September 2024. This two-day Expo is the major event on our Yarra Yarra calendar, and it needs members' support to make it happen. Details on how to volunteer for the roster are on page 3. Be sure to do your bit to make this iconic event on the Eltham calendar a wonderful success yet again.

The **ANPSA Biennial Conference** starts next month, and volunteers are needed for a range of tasks, none of them onerous but all of them essential for smooth running. Only registered attendees can volunteer. See page 4 for details. And don't forget that, although the conference is now fully booked, cancellations do occur, so be sure to add your name to the waiting list.

Lastly, but really most importantly, **your Yarra Yarra committee urgently needs help from members.**

An enormous load is being carried by just a few stalwarts, and long-serving committee members are reaching the time limit to which they are allowed to serve under our rules. Many a great group has folded for lack of administration, and we're not going to let that happen to our dynamic group! There are many

contributions you can make, big and small. Bigger jobs can be shared (just ask your Editorial Team!) You will be supported all the way: give as little or as much time as you can spare. So please dig deep and get in touch with any committee member to find out how you can become involved. Committee members' contact details are on the back page, or send an email to yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au which is monitored by several committee members. (See, the work really is shared!) See page 5 for more information.

And ending this editorial on a real high, members will be delighted to hear that **Jill Lulham** is the recipient of an Impresa Award for Outstanding Service to a District Group. See Sue Gwilym's CoMM report on page 24 for more information. Congratulations, Jill, and our deepest gratitude for all you do!

Your Editorial Team

Future speakers - see page 6

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| Thurs 5 September | Warren Tomlinson from Nillumbik Shire Council |
| Thurs 7 November | Andrea Dennis from Maranoa Gardens |

Future garden visits - see page 6

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Sun 6 October | Linda and Neil's Garden |
| Sun 10 November | Maranoa Gardens |




AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO

native plant fair Eltham

14 - 15 SEPTEMBER 10am - 3pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre

801 Main Road, Eltham



native & indigenous plants, books on related subjects,

Pots & gift stalls, new displays, refreshments & more

Adults \$5, Concessions \$4

Organised by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group Inc No. A0039676Y

**Call for volunteers
Set Up Friday 13 September
Expo Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September 2024**



APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo - 14-15 September 2024 10am-3pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham

Expo is coming and we need your help! Expo is our major event, and it is a great opportunity to engage with the public on one of the prime purposes of our Society, to promote and maintain interest in growing and propagating Australian plants in home gardens and public spaces.

A roster has been emailed and we would appreciate your contribution no matter how small, so please get back to us as soon as possible with your available times. You will also have the opportunity to add your name to the roster at the September general meeting when we will also have an idea of where we might have gaps to fill.

To begin with, our venue is the Eltham Community and Reception Centre (ECRC) and we will be setting up on Friday from 9.00am to roughly 5.00pm (depends on how many helpers we have) with the main tasks being to move everything into place, setting up the trestles and other infrastructure, putting on table coverings, then getting flowers into displays, labelling, helping plant sellers and generally getting things ready for opening on Saturday morning.

Donations of flowers and plants, hanging baskets and display pots can be delivered to the back verandah area of ECRC between 9.00am and 2.00pm. Please bring cut flowers (long stems & named if possible) and place in buckets of water and remember to put your name on any pots or buckets you bring so we can return them. Let us know if you need help with getting flowers or plants to the Expo and if you are bringing them yourself, please unload at the bottom carpark, but then move your car when finished to allow others to do the same. No further donations of flowers will be required after 2.00pm on Friday, thank you.

Saturday and Sunday helpers will be assisting from 10.00am to 3.00pm (note earlier finish time) and we will need help as outlined on the rosters and help with packing up from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. If you need more information about any of the roles just ask. You also get free entry if you are assisting and you are a financial



Photo by Sue Gwilym

Yarra Yarra member. Don't forget to sign in and wear your name badge. Signing in is a must for insurance purposes both with ECRC and our own accident insurance.

Members can also help with advertising, and we will have flyers available at the general meeting for distribution in your local area or letterboxes in your neighbourhood. We have attached an email version if you want to send to your contacts as well or print your own. Please share as widely as possible to get the word out.

Please come along and help if you can, it's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know everyone in the group. A lot of work has already been done in the months leading up to the Expo by Jill Lulham and the sub-committee members, but we really need you to help us put together an event to be proud of. Looking forward to seeing you all at Expo!

For more information and to sign up for the roster, please contact Cathy Mann or Sue Gwilym at yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au

Call for volunteers - ANPSA conference



The **2024 AJ Swaby Address** will be **Connected through nature** by **Phillip Johnson**
3.30pm on 2 October 2024 at The Round, 379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Please register your attendance to this free lecture by emailing anpsa2024@gmail.com

Conference attendees are asked to join the roster of volunteers for the conference. Only people who are registered for the event can volunteer, as you must have a valid registration lanyard upon your person at all times. A roster of tasks is being drawn up, including greeting delegates, assisting people on and off the buses for excursions, and deploying the roving microphone for question time - not hard but essential! Donations are also requested for raffle prizes, suitable to be transported overseas or interstate or attractive to our Victorian members. If you can help, please call Miriam on 0409 600 644 or Nicky on 0401 975 191.

Membership renewals due!

A reminder from **Sue Gwilym**

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so promptly as APS Victoria will be removing you from their system if your membership still remains unpaid as at 30th September. If you no longer wish to remain a member please send me an email at the address below so we can stop chasing you (we really hope you'll stay!).



Here is a guide to the new membership renewal process:

- 1) Go to <https://apsvic.org.au/Login/> to start the renewal process.
- 2) Type in your email address where indicated in the first box of the screen. Ensure that the email address you use is the one recorded by APS Victoria.
- 3) Type your membership number in the box labelled Password - This 4 digit number is on the envelope in which your 'Growing Australian' magazine arrives (or contact me if you've discarded it).
- 4) Click the box labelled "I am not a robot".
- 5) Click on the "login" button - A new page will open with the first sentence reading: "Welcome (your name)".
- 6) Select your APS Vic Membership and District Group option(s).
- 7) Check your membership details are correct - amend if not.
- 8) Under payment options select EITHER credit card OR pay by bank transfer:
 - If paying by credit card, enter your card details and proceed.
 - If paying by bank transfer click on the box labelled 'Contribute'. An invoice will be sent immediately to your email address. It will contain the APS Victoria bank details to which payment is to be made.
- 9) Logout by closing the webpage - There is no logout button.

If you're having difficulties, I can process your renewal for you, either at a meeting (bring cash if you prefer or I can help you pay by credit card), but please try sorting out the issue with the online renewal system first.

If you have any questions or need help with your membership renewal, please call me on 0401 250 331 or email yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au

APS Yarra Yarra 2024 AGM held on Thursday 1 August 2024

Report by **Cathy Mann**

Our 2024 AGM was held at Edendale Farm, Eltham with approximately 31 members in attendance.

Kevin Ley hosted proceedings with his usual flair and gave proceedings a very French flavour (in honour of the Olympics) with a rendition of La Marseillaise to begin the meeting. Merci beaucoup to Kevin!

The minutes of the 2023 AGM, financial report (2023-24) and President's report (2023-24) were accepted by the members present.

All Committee positions were declared vacant, and as there was only one nominee for each position, all were declared elected unopposed.

Peter Smith has stepped down from the Committee after 7 years of service (3 years as President), and Andrew thanked him sincerely for his contribution to the group in so many ways.

We have a number of vacancies on the Committee – Vice-President, Secretary and general member. (There can be 5 general members on the Committee)

Many thanks to all those who have volunteered. **And another plea for more members to step up to assist on the Committee. We really need all positions filled for the smooth running of the group.

Your new APS YY committee 2024-25 is as follows:

President	Andrew McCann
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Sue Gwilym
Secretary	Vacant
Committee member	Suzie Gordon
Committee member	Sonia Gatti
Committee member	Suzanne Craine
Committee member	Cathy Mann
Committee member	Vacant

Sue Gwilym has also offered to represent APS YY as our delegate to APS Vic COM meetings. Thanks Sue – for all you do!

Yarra Yarra needs you!

Every volunteer organisation relies on its members doing their bit to keep the group thriving and growing.

If you have an hour to spare (or maybe even a little more), your Committee - and all your fellow Yarra Yarra members - will be delighted for your contribution, large or small, formal or informal.

Remember: many hands make light work.



How can you help?

All help is welcome, but there are three areas that particularly need help.

Secretary ... or Secretaries

We urgently need a Secretary! This is a role which could be shared by two people if desired - maybe a Minutes Secretary and a General Secretary - or any other way you would like to divide the tasks.

Cathy Mann is more than happy to mentor and help you and has prepared copious notes on all aspects of the job, so you will not be alone! Please call Cathy on 0409 706 610 to discuss.

Treasurer

Sue Gwilym will be stepping down as Treasurer at the next AGM, in July 2025. Treasurer is a vital role for the group and has traditionally been difficult to fill.

The role is not an onerous one, and Sue would be happy to have a sidekick this year to help her so you can do a long handover and share the role, especially for the events and end of financial year, as these are the biggest commitments of time and energy for the whole year.

If you would like to find out more, call Sue on 0401 250 331 to discuss.

Social media

Jill, our wonderful Webmistress, needs a few helpers with social media publicity and communication. If you use social media, this is the job for you! Contact Jill through yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au

Future speakers

Saving our orchids from extinction
Warren Tomlinson
Thursday 5 September 2024

Nillumbik local native orchid diversity is immense, with over 120 different species of terrestrial orchid having been recorded within the Council area. However, habitat loss and degradation, climate change and pest animals threaten many of the local orchids.



Nillumbik Shire Council has been working with partners including plant conservationists, government agencies and Royal Botanic Gardens to save the most threatened orchids from extinction, including Charming Spider-orchid *Caladenia amoena* and Rosella Spider-orchid *Caladenia rosella*. These two species are now only found in north-east Melbourne, and numbers in the wild have historically dropped to less than 100, making them some of Australia's most threatened plants.

Warren is a Senior Environment Project Officer, involved in implementing Council's biodiversity strategy including partnering with the Nillumbik Threatened Orchid Recovery Team. Hear about the challenges and recent achievements in recovering some of the local area's most threatened orchids.



October and November

October Grand flower table (no speaker)

November Andrea Dennis from Maranoa Gardens

Future garden visits

Remember that there will be **no garden visit in September** because of the Eltham Plant Expo.

Linda and Neil's Garden
Sunday 6 October 2024 at 1.30pm

28 Braeside Drive, Launching Place
(Melways 287 C7)

Linda worked for a number of years at *Bushland Flora*, so members are in for a special treat.

Linda describes their half-acre garden as "an ongoing 35-year project. We started with a paddock covered in clay (and weeds) after the construction of our home. We spent many years constructing the design of the garden and improving the soil. The garden has seen many changes over the years, and plants from many parts of Australia have been trialled with many failures, particularly varieties from WA. We now have a fair idea of what will grow in this environment; however, seasons of drought and wet weather can cause problems.

"The garden contains many varieties of Banksia, Grevillea, Callistemon and smaller plants such as Dampiera, Brachyscome and Chrysocephalum and several types of grasses." Peter Smith adds that the garden is delightful, particularly the Epacris.

Are you interested in taking a bus to Linda and Neil's garden?



If there is enough interest, Peter Smith has kindly offered to hire a bus and make a day of it.

The bus would leave Eltham Lower Park at 9.30am and call at Wanderslore Sanctuary for a short visit. Lunch could be at the Bakery or the pub or BYO, depending on members' preference, then to Linda and Neil's garden at 1.30pm, returning to Eltham Lower Park by 5pm.

If you would like to register your interest for this bus trip, please contact Peter on 0425 798 275.

Maranoa Gardens
Sunday 10 November 2024 at 2pm

Parring Road, Balwyn (Melways 46 G7)

The garden visit follows our November speaker!

Speaker reports

Across the Nullarbor and back Mike Williams 2 May 2024

By **Maeve Kennedy**, photos by **Mike Williams**

In May, long-time APS YY member Mike Williams presented on his most recent trip across to Western Australia. In September 2023, Mike travelled across the Nullarbor and back with fellow APS YY members Ray Barnes and Robert and Carmen Cooper for around three weeks.

Although the sense many Easterners can get about the Nullarbor from TV is 'dry, flat and boring' – it's not that at all. Mike has driven across to WA for the flower season about 7 times and highly recommends it. Last year, among many other flowers, there was *Acacia papyrocarpa* brightening the trip all the way across the Nullarbor.

This included many varieties of colourful peas, like the classic Sturt Desert Pea (*Swainsona formosa*) as well as the vibrant *Swainsona affinis*.



One of the differences Mike noted in this trip, compared with earlier ones, is that there had been widespread fires through much of the area in recent years which had an impact on the environment. There was visible evidence of the fires in places, and also enthusiastic plant growth including along cleared roadsides, e.g. this *Ptilotus spathulata* heading out of Coober Pedy, which was the most colourful Mike had seen before.



Highlights

The trip between Coober Pedy in SA and Southern Cross in WA had the most flowers at the time the group was travelling last year, particularly around the Boorabbin National Park in WA.



Around Southern Cross and Marvel Loch in WA was an abundance of flowers, like the *Hemiphora elderi* which ran down the fenceline along Emu Fence Road.



Urodon dasyphyllus was also widespread in the area around Southern Cross, and up near Buntine in the Wheatbelt region.



The *Apatelantha vicida* is striking – looking a little like lamb's foot – but was only seen once by the group on the whole trip.



The areas further north in WA were less floriferous and did not seem to have the same degree of rainfall, but there was still lots to find – like the *Dasymalla terminalis*, which looks like a native foxglove. Mike has it in a pot in his garden and managing well though it is hard to propagate and struggles with the cold.



When you're passing through the area, Mike says it's also worth allowing a few hours to call into the Port Augusta Arid Lands Botanical Gardens. Established in the 1990s, the Gardens feature plants for areas with average rainfall of 300mm or less per year.

There are also lots of non-flora sights to keep an eye out for, like a whale at the Head of the Bight ...



and a local posing for a photo ...



and the unmistakable Wave Rock.



The art scene

Victoria's Silo Art Tour has grown in popularity and size over the past decade and there are many other examples of silo art around Australia. Mike snapped these photos in Sea Lake, Victoria, and Kimba, SA.



More information on the Australian Silo Art Tour is at <https://www.australiansiloarttrail.com/>

Australia's next opening batsman? This sculpture was only one of many in Kulin, in the Wheatbelt region of WA. Built by farmers and other locals, Mike said there are many sculptures on the roads around Kulin that are well worth a visit.



Tips for interested travellers

Be prepared

Consider your safety when travelling, as you will go through remote areas and access to medical services can take time. Mike suggests bringing an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) which can be activated and alert authorities if you are in distress.

Choose what you'd like to see

This time, the group left Melbourne on 13 September and returned in early October. Ideally, Mike says, it's best to leave in mid-August to see the most flowers along the way and to catch the whales at the Head of the Bight. In the past Mike has seen around 15 or 16 at a time there.

Mike suggests checking the rainfall over the past few months for the towns/areas along the way for insights into what is flowering well this season.

Take your time!

Mike plans the trips on Google Maps, aiming to pass as many reserves as possible, and not driving more than around 550km in one day, to allow time for multiple stops. For example, driving along the 260km Lake King Norseman Road in 2017 took around 6.5 hours with stops because there was so much to see along the way.



Speaker reports

Correa & relatives
A potted history of Correas and their
Rutaceae relations since 1699
John Thompson
4 July 2024

Report by **Maeve Kennedy**

In our July meeting, John gave an entertaining presentation on Correas and their relations in the Rutaceae plant family, weaving in history, art, and fittingly – stained glass windows.

The Rutaceae family is a large worldwide family of strongly scented trees and shrubs and more rarely herbaceous perennials. There are roughly 320 species of Rutaceae in Australia in 45 genera, most of which are endemic. They are distributed widely across most areas of Australia except arid land and include the well-known Boronia, Australian Citrus, Correa and Crowea.

Correa and its relatives in Australia post-European settlement

John began his presentation by walking us through the history of Correa and its relatives in Australia. He provided an interesting overview of how First Nations people are likely to have used plants from the Rutaceae community traditionally, including for medicine, food and tools. More information about traditional bush medicine in different First Nations communities is available at SBS's NITV and *The Conversation*.

John also spoke about the study of Australian plants in the Rutaceae family post-European settlement, which dates back to 1699 with the first known European collection of the Wild Rose *Diplolaena grandiflora*, by William Dampier on Hartog Island, near Shark Bay in Western Australia. The first documented European collection of Correas was not until a century later, in Botany Bay, by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. For more about their expedition, search 'Joseph Banks' at <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au>



Masthead for the 'Australian Native Flowers' articles by 'Correa' in the 'Australian Garden Lover' (image courtesy of John Thompson)

CATALOGUE OF PLANTS

FOR SALE BY

MICHAEL GUILFOYLE,

NURSERY AND SEEDSMAN,

EXOTIC NURSERY, DOUBLE BAY,

NEW SOUTH HEAD ROAD.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

. Gardens laid out and planted with Plants suited to their soils.

N.B.—Parties resident in the Colonies may rely upon the prompt execution of their orders, and from the proximity of the Gardens to the Shipping, no difficulty will be experienced in transmitting Flowering Specimens.

CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE,
AND THE USUAL ALLOWANCES MADE TO THE TRADE.

SYDNEY:

PRINTED BY KEMP AND FAIRFAX,
LOWER GEORGE STREET.

1851.

Cover of the plant catalogue for the nursery of Michael Guilfoyle, father of William Guilfoyle who became Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (image courtesy of John Thompson)

John described the first classification of Correa by H. C. Andrews in 1798, *Correa alba*, which was raised from seed given by Joseph Banks to James Vere, a wealthy silk merchant. The genus was named after Portuguese ambassador and botanist, Jose Francisco Correia de Serra.

Correas were first introduced into cultivation in Europe in the early 19th century, with many Correas, including *Correa harrisii*, selected or bred in Britain in the mid-1800s.

Australian gardeners began being offered Rutaceae plants in the 1850s, including *Boronia serrulata* and *B. pinnata*.

Correa in literature and art

John then carried us forward into the 20th century, discussing various appearances of Correas in arts and crafts as well as garden writing. He noted that, when writing a native plants column for the Australian Garden Lover magazine in the 1920s and 1930s, writer and botanist Jean Galbraith used the name 'Correa' as her byline.

John cited several books on or with substantial information about Correas:

- Maria Hitchcock's *Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens*
- W. Rodger Elliot and David L. Jones' *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants: Suitable for cultivation*.

Correas have featured prominently in Australia's arts scene since the 1800s, including being used in the production of musical instruments (e.g. the wood of the Australian maple *Flindersia* is used as the backing for guitars and satinwood, *Nematolepis squamea*, used in some small drums). Australian artists have included Correa and its relatives in botanical and other illustrations and visual art pieces for over 100 years. This included the traditional botanic work of Harriet and Helena Scott and Ellis Rowan in the late 1800s to early 1900s, and as May Gibb's *Boronia Babies*, as well as contemporary works by artists including John's partner Amanda Loudon, whose decorative glasswork often features flowers and plants.



The *Correa reflexa* was featured on Australian stamps in the 1980s and 1990s. The first image above was designed by S. Titcher and issued on 12 March 1986.

The second image was designed by Wayne Rankin and issued on 8 April 1999. For more information about Australian stamps on plants, search 'Australian Plants' <https://www.anbg.gov.au>



(Images courtesy of John Thompson)



Correa 'Red Empress' (photo by Andrew McCann)



Correa baeuerlenni 'Chefs Hat' (photo by Ben Eaton)

Growing tips

John's strong advice for growing Correas is to take cuttings rather than growing from seed – as Correas are 'very promiscuous'! This means the junior plants can appear quite different from the parent plant if grown from seed; for example, having the same type of flower but different leaves.

He suggested a range of Rutaceae plants suitable for the home garden (see the table on the next page).

Further information

John encouraged anyone who is interested in learning more about Correas to get in touch with the APS Correa Study Group, led by Linda Handscombe (dlhandscombe@bigpond.com).



Crowea 'Festival', a hybrid of *Crowea exalata* and *Crowea saligna* (photo by Andrew McCann)

John's suggestions for Rutaceae plants suitable for the home garden

Genus	Species
Asterolasia	<i>Asterolasia correifolia</i> <i>Asterolasia astericophora</i> <i>Asterolasia hexapetala</i>
Boronia	<i>Boronia</i> 'Telopea Valley Star' - John noted this hybrid is reasonably reliable <i>Boronia megastigma</i> <i>Boronia crenulata</i> 'Pink Passion' – John noted this does very well in southern Melbourne's dry sandy soil <i>Boronia clavata</i>
Correa	<i>Correa alba</i> <i>Correa backhouseana</i> subsp. <i>orbicularis</i> <i>Correa baeuerlenii</i> <i>Correa eburnean</i> <i>Correa glabra</i> <i>Correa lawrenciana</i> - John noted this is good in our conditions, with lots of people in the group growing it <i>Correa pulchella</i> <i>Correa reflexa</i> Hybrids like 'Candy Pink' and 'Marian's Marvel'
Crowea	<i>Crowea exalata</i> <i>Crowea</i> 'Festival' - which showed up on our plant table in May! <i>Crowea saligna</i>
Diplolaena	<i>Diplolaena angustifolia</i> - John mentioned he has one from Phil Vaughn that is doing well and extremely floriferous – “well worth it but needs to be grafted” <i>Diplolaena dampieri</i> <i>Diplolaena drummondii</i> <i>Diplolaena ferruginea</i> <i>Diplolaena grandiflora</i>
Eriostemon	<i>Eriostemon australasius</i>
Leionema	<i>Leionema ambiens</i> <i>Leionema coxii</i>
Nematolepis	<i>Nematolepis frondose</i> <i>Nematolepis phebalioides</i>
Phebalium	<i>Phebalium stenophyllum</i> <i>Phebalium speciosum</i> <i>Phebalium squamulosum</i> <i>Phebalium whitei</i> <i>Phebalium woombye</i>
Philothea	<i>Philothea myoporoides</i> <i>Philothea verrucosa</i>
Zieria	<i>Zieria cytisoides</i> <i>Zieria smithii</i>



Speaker reports

1 August 2024
Vikki and Wayne Tonissen
Weeping Grevillea Nursery

Report and photos by **Sally Collyer**

One of life's delights is to hear experts share not only their knowledge and experience but their passion for their field. Vikki and Wayne have been grafting Grevilleas for more than 40 years, and their enthusiasm is infectious. But with so many plants to choose from already, is grafting really worth the effort? Absolutely!

Why graft?

Grafting can be seen as a specialist skill requiring a lot of effort and patience. So why graft? Wayne made four excellent points. Grafting extends the range of available Grevilleas: gardeners in clay can have those glorious sandy Western species we've always coveted. Grafting allows the propagation of rare and endangered species and is a major tool in conservation. Grafting makes it possible to propagate varieties that are difficult to grow from cuttings or seeds. And, last but not least, grafting allows ... well, as Wayne put it, "Standards. (Oh yeah!!!)"



Grevillea 'Grassfire'

What can be grafted?

Wayne's basic advice was to graft whatever you want to propagate, because the majority of varieties of *Grevillea* can be successfully grafted. However, his own approach is to focus on varieties that have large and striking flowers and to use known compatible varieties. For rootstock, he mostly uses *Grevillea robusta*, but some varieties are not compatible with *G. robusta*. To overcome incompatibility, Wayne recommended using an alternative rootstock, such as for *G. hookeriana* (*black-flowered form*) - see Kevin Ley's garden visit report later in this newsletter for more on this. Another option would be to use an interstock, where the rootstock and scion are both grafted to an intermediary with which they are both compatible, but this doubles the work and the risk and is very time-consuming.

For standards, he recommended using scions that are low growing, ground covering and spreading that you can prune and control, but experimentation is a key part of his approach and his advice was "Anything, really!"

The scion retains its habit, and this affects the nuance of the shape of the standard. A scion with a prostrate habit like *Grevillea* 'Cousin It' will form a weeping standard, with little growth above the graft. Scions which produce growth up to 50cm above the graft will give the standard a mushroom or umbrella habit.

Standards don't have to be tall. Where you graft determines the height of the standard, so grafting at around 200-300mm will produce a short graft, just enough to stay above deep mulching or leaf litter. Ideally a short graft would be 100mm above ground, but having it higher means you have another 2 or 3 shots at it if the graft fails to take.

When is the best time to graft?

Timing is critical. Both the rootstock and cutting material must be growing vigorously. In Victoria, that means from mid-November to mid-February.

What tools do you need?

Wayne uses just four pieces of grafting equipment:

- scalpel - he uses a No. 22 blade with a No. 4 handle
- secateurs - his are Felco No 2
- grafting tape - Ryset 12mm available at most Mitre 10 or Home Hardware stores, not the thicker tape available at Bunnings
- parafilm - 50mm wide and torn in half lengthwise. Parafilm is used in laboratories to cover petri dishes. It stretches and self-adheres but breaks down in UV light, hence the use of grafting tape as well.

How do you graft?

Wayne and Vikki collect the seed for their *Grevillea robusta* in the second and third weeks of February. Then

in early October one seed is sown per tube, with a germination success of around 80% and reaching around 600mm by the time growing season begins.

There are many grafting methods, including approach (also known as inarching), wedge, cleft (multiple wedges), saddle, whip, whip and tongue, and budding.

Wayne and Vikki mostly use the approach and wedge methods. Wayne noted that the wedge method is secure, quick and easy and is forgiving of differences in size between the rootstock and scion. They also use the budding method extensively for citrus.

For the approach grafting method, the rootstock and scion are placed side-by-side in their separate pots. A cut along the side of each at the same height exposes the cambium layer, and the plant stems are bound together at this point. After 6-12 weeks, the scion plant is cut below the graft and the rootstock above the graft.

For the wedge method, see the superb description in Kevin Ley's report. The scion cuttings must be as fresh



The weeping habit of Grevillea laurifolia



The umbrella habit of Grevillea 'Fanfare

as possible. If taking cuttings off-site, Wayne will actually do the grafting at the location rather than transport the cuttings back to his nursery.

It is imperative that the scion never dries out. Cover the graft with Ryset 12mm, very tightly. Wayne then uses Parafilm to cover completely the Ryset and all of the scion.

You will know that the graft has taken when you see a shoot through the tape. Be patient. It could take anywhere from 10 days to 6 weeks.

The *Grevillea robusta* rootstock will need to have shoots rubbed off for the first year or so. Once the wood hardens, it will stop shooting.

Wayne and Vikki's 40+ years of experience haven't dulled their passion for grafting, and they have expanded from Grevilleas to Acacias, flowering Corymbias, Citrus and Hakea. As they said, "Who knows what we will do next?" A room full of plant enthusiasts is eager to find out!



Garden visit reports

Sam Cox's Garden Sunday 7 July 2024 at 2pm

Report by **Kevin Ley**, photos by **Sally Collyer**

For our July garden visit, fifteen adults plus Andrew's two charming young daughters were welcomed by Sam Cox and his partner to their property in Lorimer Road, Wattle Glen. The weather was a little cool but dry, ideal for exploring. The Cox household were still recovering from nasty winter croaks and sniffles and their welcoming was wisely conducted at a distance of a few metres. Then after a brief explanation of the garden layout Sam left us to our devices to wander, to admire the landscape, and (as he knew APS YY members like to do) to ponder matters botanical. He would meet us again later on.

From the road the ground sloped down, a little at first, but this then gave way to a much steeper gradient. The mudbrick house was higher up the property than otherwise, but nevertheless it was still well down from road level.

One could think that this was a property which had been partly cleared at some earlier time, and that the subsequently constructed house and outbuildings had

been artfully nestled into the remaining bushland. But that would be a quite wrong impression. In fact the 'bush' portion of the property was a deliberately contrived landscape. When Sam took up ownership it was nothing but a grassy paddock which, apart from a few Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylo*n) and Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*), had been cleared of native bush. Early on Sam supplemented these, mainly with non-indigenous trees such as Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylo*n), Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus salignu*s), and some angophoras in the process of shedding their bark in



The corky bark of *Allocasuarina torulosa*

large curls. (Only later did Sam come to realise that there exists an indigenous local form of the Ironbark, namely *Eucalyptus sideroxylo*n ssp. *tricarpa* – this has its buds in 3s; the non-local form, which is actually *E. sideroxylo*n ssp. *sideroxylo*n, has its in 7s, sometimes more. I can't recall if Sam told us whether or not he had planted some of the local form.) Eucalypts were deliberately planted as miniature woodlands or copses each comprised of the one species, rather than as widely spaced individuals distributed randomly mixed over the whole garden.

Perhaps one feels that, for an outer metropolitan bushy locale such as Wattle Glen, it was an odd decision to found a bush garden on the selection of non-indigenous tree species. And yet, now seeing these mature trees with their dramatically contrasting trunks (dark and furrowed in the case of the Ironbarks, relatively smooth, and greyish or mottled, in the case of the other eucalypts and the angophoras) one can now well appreciate that these trees were – in a landscape design sense – an inspired choice. In time the garden acquired a layered look as mid-storey and bottom-storey plantings developed.



A miniature woodland or copse

With Sam having been the last apprentice of the late great Gordon Ford, it is unsurprising that the usual spatial principles beloved of the naturalistic garden movement had been adhered to in this garden – the deliberate eschewing of symmetry in layout, the alternation of mass and void, layering as well as contrasting structure in the plantings, bush litter pathways, non-defined boundaries, sensitive placement of numerous basalt boulders used as isolated outcrops and as steps, aquatic plants, pumped water movement, and the judicious application of water purification products used to maintain a healthy pond life. A place has also been found for a watercourse with reed beds, also a miniature casuarina forest (*Allocasuarina torulosa*, with its distinctive corky bark), an olive grove, and quirky found objects. Indeed also on exhibit was Gordon Ford's quirky old landcruiser work vehicle (think of the vehicle used by the fictional Rosemary and Thyme in the TV series!).



The courtyard pond and water cascade

The rock work was truly impressive. On the side of the house nearest the road, and coming to within a metre of the house itself, was a large pond at the foot of a very steep slope, this slope having been imaginatively stacked with large boulders over which circulated water found its way via several routes to the pond below. Greenery of several sorts was growing from various niches between the boulders. One could only gape at the way each boulder on the rock face had been carefully selected for its particular spot, and had been rotated about so that it looked just right.

Well away from the house and on its other side was an even larger pond, very prettily surrounded with



The large pond with boardwalk and stunning stonework



Gordon Ford's iconic landcruiser

On the day we visited there were very few flowers to be seen, though I did note the following: *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty', an artificial cross which does not occur in nature, and which is well known to APS members – *Hakea myrtooides* × *Hakea petiolaris* (prostrate, having deep pink flowers with cream styles; it rarely sets seed); a *Thryptomene*, about two metres high and covered in pink flowers; a small *Grevillea*, possibly *Grevillea lanigera*, with pink flowers; a *Leptospermum petersonii* with its white flowers, this species being known for its strongly scented leaves; scattered specimens of a *Correa* with bright red bells, a form of *Correa reflexa* I suspect; scattered specimens of *Goodenia ovata*, showing only a few of its yellow flowers at this time of year; bushes of *Meliccytus dentatus* were heavily in bud – this is almost a weed in my own garden. I also saw growing about a number of prostrate specimens of what I thought was the pigface, *Carpobrotus modestus*, not in flower at this time of year; (the other possibility would be the fairly similar *C. rossii*; in the wild this is likely to be found in coastal areas). While touring the garden we saw a pair of Tawny Frogmouths sitting in the fork of a eucalypt.

boulders and vegetation, and furnished on the downhill side with a boardwalk. Elsewhere, between this pond and the house, was a long series of steps carefully constructed from flattish boulders whose upper sides were (mostly!) planar enough to ensure that the steps were safe for the user.



Stone steps leading to the larger pond

Yet further away from the house, and further down the property's general slope, in an area unencumbered by trees, stood a newish large vegetable garden, all wired about and netted over the top to prevent destruction by creatures furred or feathered. The part of the property extending northwards from here to the far boundary contained no trees and is open to the sun. It is Sam's intention to establish in this section of the property a new grove of fruit trees. The location of the presently existing fruit trees and an enclosure of raspberry canes has now become rather too shaded because of the growth of nearby trees. Adjacent to the new vegetable garden were two freely roaming alpacas, the smaller of the two was quite inquisitive and would come up to us for a squiz. Andrew's girls were delighted, as indeed was the child in each of us.

Under a generous awning on the downside of the house there was a large recreation area, expertly done out in slightly yellowish crazy paving. (Peter was telling me that this was slate probably quarried in Castlemaine, and that the blue-grey type of slate is available from a quarry in Mintaro in South Australia.) A large wooden table/bench in this recreation area proved ideal for us to sit around



Sam's COVID project, a fully netted vegetable garden set in an adjoining paddock and backed by the tree boundary

and chat as we drank our hot drinks and ate up the remarkable variety of dainties which we had brought along to share.

At this point Sam had rejoined us, albeit standing at a lurgy-defying distance, and he provided us with more information about the property and his business. He mentioned that the mid-storey of planted species had now grown to the stage where it had become a habitat of refuge for various organisms; moreover this shrub cover had become sufficiently dense to deter entry by the habitat-destroying Noisy Miner and the Indian Mynah, at least for the present time. With respect to the vegetable garden, Sam was hoping that it would provide enough food for the Cox household to be self-sufficient, although I did have the impression that so far Sam hadn't quite got his timing right enough for succession planting of seed, such that produce would arrive in a steady stream rather than in gluts. But anyway, as to Sam's essential message, I believe it was that in its early phases the garden had to survive baking heat, whereas now that the tree cover has developed, the garden has become a place of dappled shade, and is all the more pleasurable for being so.



The perfect entertainment area to soak up the garden

Garden visit reports

Weeping Grevillea Nursery Sunday 4 August 2024 at 2pm

Report by **Kevin Ley**, photos by **Wayne and Vikki Tonissen**

Under pleasant winter sunshine of the sort which is, nevertheless, incapable of dissuading people from wearing their winter woollies, about 21 APS Yarra Yarra members took advantage of Wayne and Vikki Tonissen's hospitality in order to inspect their Weeping Grevillea Nursery. Located at the north-west corner of the T-intersection where Bartletts Lane runs into the Kangaroo Ground-St. Andrews Road, the 15-acre Tonissen property overlooks rolling hills seen in a wide arc from the north through to the west. Although most of the property had been essentially cleared years ago, there remains plenty of thick bushland in the mid to far distance, and according to Vikki those torrid days when bushfires were about were days of real concern.



Grevillea 'Billy Bonkers'

Before Wayne turned to his pet topic of how he makes Grevilleas weep, he gave us a tour of parts of the property nearer the house. We strolled along an informal curving avenue of citrus trees which were very heavily loaded with fruit; indeed quite a lot of fallen fruit lay underneath. And it was near the house that we first got to see fine examples of vigorously growing Grevilleas on rootstock standards planted in the ground.

Then with these preliminaries over, we were led to a small area just outside several roomy plastic covered propagating enclosures where Wayne proceeded to demonstrate his grafting method. Almost invariably he uses *Grevillea robusta* for the rootstock. The piece of a particular plant specimen grafted onto a rootstock is known as the scion. It is most important that both the rootstock and the scion are each at the stage of their yearly cycle when sap flow is at an optimum. Taking a



Grevillea 'Pink Pluriga' - that black frame is a 30cm saucer!

juvenile *G. robusta* growing in a pot, Wayne cut off the wispy top, and then sliced vertically down into the severed end of the stem so as to split it for a distance of about 4 to 5 cm. Next, turning to the particular potted *Grevillea* specimen he intended to use as the source of the scion, Wayne cut out from the stem a firm but flexible piece of about 15 to 20 cm in length; from the lower end of this intended scion he trimmed, from opposite sides, about 4 to 5 cm down to a very elongated V-shape (i.e. down to a thin edge, not down to a point as one does in sharpening a pencil). The scion was then inserted into the split top end of the rootstock, and for the sake of mechanical stability this new junction was then firmly bound with many turns of stretchy Parafilm tape.



Grevillea 'Pink Pluriga' standard



Grevillea 'Lasseters Gold' standard

Note that for the graft to 'take' it is absolutely critical that the cambium layers of scion and rootstock be in close contact. Now it usually happens that the stem of the scion is of a somewhat smaller diameter than that of the rootstock, in which case it is difficult to position the scion so that the cambium layers of scion and rootstock are in intimate contact. But if the split in the top end of the rootstock is not done centrally but a little to one side, then at least on that side the cambium layers of scion and rootstock can be in contact, whereas on the opposite side the scion cambium layer will probably be too far to the centre for the required contact to occur.

Anyway, at this stage of Wayne's demonstration the grafting process was not yet quite complete. Left as it is the scion will in all probability dry out and so fail. Hence Wayne's practice is to then wrap the whole length of

the scion, and its top end as well, in more tape, so that the whole scion is completely sealed and prevented from drying out. Wayne uses a different type of horticultural tape for the scion. If the graft subsequently succeeds, then later when buds form on the scion these will burst through the tape. Still later, only when the scion develops a reasonable head of vegetation, will Wayne trim off any leaves or side shoots from the rootstock stem.



Grevillea bipinnatifida 'Jingle Bells'

We moved into the shelter of one of the propagating plastic enclosures, and were confronted by hundreds of grafted specimens growing on to the stage when they will be ready for sale. Wayne knew the names of most of his numerous grafted species, and only occasionally was it necessary for him to read a label. He discussed his fertilising regimen for the specimens, the fertiliser used in the early stages of a graft's development being different to that used later, i.e. when the scion had developed a good head of vegetation and it was time to encourage flower formation. For this second phase of fertilisation Wayne uses one of Neutrog's special formulations intended for orchids. Wayne described for us several of his many experiments. He has tried inserting two *Grevillea* 'Billy Bonkers' scions, left and right, into the split top of a robusta rootstock stem, so that the left side of the cambium of the left scion, and the right side of the cambium of the right scion, were both in contact with the cambium layer of the rootstock. He actually got both scions to 'take', but with time one of the scions began to predominate and the other scion eventually died. Wayne also described and indeed showed us a case where the rootstock which had already been grafted with a scion subsequently developed a vigorous side-shoot, so he then grafted a scion onto this as well.



Grevillea 'Loopy Lou'

Wayne manages to successfully graft a black-flowered form of *Grevillea hookeriana* onto a standard rootstock, but in this case he uses as the rootstock the well-known cultivar *Grevillea* 'Red Hooks' instead of *Grevillea robusta*. The flowers of the black-flowered form of *Grevillea hookeriana* and the flowers of *Grevillea* 'Red Hooks' both have the toothbrush physical structure. *Grevillea* 'Red Hooks' is a hybrid between two *Grevillea* species.



Grevillea hookeriana (black-flowered form)

Moving outside again we were treated to many more examples of Wayne's art. He doesn't restrict himself to getting his grafted *Grevilleas* to have a good cry. Often he will shape a grafted *Grevillea* on a standard into an umbrella shape, or into a tightly vegetated ball or ellipsoid – these were every bit as pretty and successful as the weeping kind. He also stressed the value of frequent pruning to maintain the shape and general symmetrical appearance of the scion vegetation on top of the standard. Indeed to rejuvenate a tired-looking specimen he doesn't hesitate to prune the scion right back to the graft. Wayne showed us good evidence that the exceptionally vigorous growth characteristic of the trunk, branches (and, by implication, the roots) of *Grevillea robusta* is substantially curbed when other species of *Grevillea* are grafted onto a *robusta*. One such *Grevillea* which he had grafted 30 years ago stood across a driveway from a *Grevillea robusta* tree planted at the same time. The tree was stately, with a very wide tall trunk many metres high, and long branches. In the case of the grafted *Grevillea* on the other hand, the *robusta* rootstock was very thick for the standard of a grafted *Grevillea*, but nevertheless its diameter was only somewhere round about 15 to 18 cm and its height was still only less than 2 metres; the *Grevillea* scion on top (I think it was *Grevillea albiflora*) was growing vigorously and trailed right down to the ground – it had been drastically pruned right back a few years ago.

Wayne had yet another trick up his sleeve. Around the property vigorously growing prostrate *Grevilleas* tended to be smothered at times of the year by fallen leaves.

But hoisting such prostrates up onto a high standard was not the only way of revealing their beauty. Wayne had access to hollow logs. He would place the lower portion of a hollow log into the ground, while leaving about half a metre above; he would then fill the hollow with soil and plant a prostrate *Grevillea* into this. It was expected that in time the roots would emerge from the hollow into the ground below. Quite a few examples of healthy prostrate *Grevilleas* around the garden demonstrated the success of this method.

The names of all the *Grevilleas* we saw on the day, both grafted and otherwise, were much too numerous for this recorder to catch, but here following is a short and incomplete listing. Species: *alba* (I think that should be *albiflora*), *curviloba*, *hookeriana* (black-flowered form), *micqueliana*, *nudiflora*, *petrophiloides*, *robusta*, *thelemanniana*; Cultivars: 'Bedspread', 'Big Foot', 'Billy Bonkers', 'Bonny Prince Charlie', 'Bronze Rambler', 'Bush Lemon', 'Fireworks', 'Gold Touch', 'Lemon Daze', 'Lime and Soda', 'Plum Crazy', 'Red Hooks', 'Royal Mantle', 'Scarlet Bloom', 'Scarlet Pink', 'Spirit of Anzac'. Note that the cultivar names given here in quotes are not listed here together with the Latin/Greek specific epithets which represent the species from which the cultivars derive. Moreover, it may not be certain that all these cultivar names represent truly recognised cultivars which have been formally registered as such; some of these names could simply have been invented by horticulturalists for commercial purposes.

At the end of our visit we all moved to a paved area consisting of a courtyard and a nicely constructed trellis awning attached to an outbuilding. Scrumptious offerings, both sweet and savoury, which we had brought along, went down the red lane with coffee or tea while we sat about enjoying Wayne and Vikki's company and our own. A memorable afternoon!

Weeping *Grevillea* Nursery is at
10 Bartletts Lane, Panton Hill Vic 3759

www.weepers.com.au



A majestic King Parrot feeding on *Grevillea* 'Gold Fever'

Flower Table - July

By **Deborah Metcalfe**

Photos **Andrew McCann (AM)** and **Ben Eaton (BE)**

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our meeting.



Correa reflexa x backhousiana – ‘Marian’s Marvel’. Hardy spreading plant 1.5 - 2m H x 2-3m W. Birds love the peach-pink cream- yellowed rim little bells. (AM)



Eremophila maculata – A widely cultivated shrub growing to 1m high sometimes taller. Characterised by spotted markings inside the flower. Enjoys a sunny spot and once established the plant tolerates extended dry periods. (BE)



Guichenotia macrantha – A small to medium shrub growing to 1-2 metres high. The leaves grey green in colour are linear between 10-25mm in length. The showy pink/purple flowers are characterized by small petals, the sepals provide the colour. It prefers well drained soil in filtered sunlight. (BE)



***Spyridium coactilifolium* (Fleurieu Peninsula)** – A compact perennial shrub growing to 1.5 metres high. It is characterised by rusty fur branches, small dark leaves which have a notched tip. The small domed cluster of flowers are highlighted by five velvety white false petals. Prefers an open position with light free draining soil. (BE)

Flower Table - August

By **Deborah Metcalfe**

Photos by **Ben Eaton**

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our meeting.



Grevillea petrophiloides – An ornamental shrub growing between 1- 4 metres high. Leaves are between 60-250mm long. The striking pinkish to reddish and bluish grey flowers are arranged in clusters on the ends of branched canes held above the foliage. Grows best in an open sunny position in very well drained soil.



Grevillea alpina – A variable shrub from prostrate to 2m high or more. Slightly hairy dark green to grey green leaves with a variety of flower colour.



Philotheca sp [Philotheca myoporoides?] – A hardy frost tolerant medium growing shrub to 1.5 metres high with a spectacular display of profuse white flowers tinged with pink in late winter and spring. A shrub that grows in most soil types and conditions although appreciates some shade.



Acacia lanigera – A small spreading shrub growing to 1-2 metres high with green phyllodes leaves 20-70mm long with a sharp point. The yellow flower balls are on stalks from the leaf base. Adaptable in a sunny, reasonably well drained position.



News on the Wongavine

Friends of Apollo Parkways



Prepped and ready to go!

Report and photos by **Rosemary Burdett**

On Wednesday the 12th of June, members (and friends) of the Friends of Apollo Parkways group finished planting 400 native plants around the existing Rain Garden at the open space near the Diamond Valley Sports Stadium, Civic Drive, Greensborough.



Work underway

This was part of a project to 'activate' the space, which is Nillumbik Shire Council Land, through a FOAP application for funds through the North East Link Fund. As part of FOAP's submission, we were able to include details of the support from the Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra group who offered a \$200 Edendale Nursery voucher to go towards the cost of the plants. The larger project included outdoor gym equipment, park benches, a bike repair station and water fountain.



A mighty effort and a brilliant job!



We would like to extend our thanks to the APS Yarra Yarra for your support, which was an important part of our submission. Special thanks to Cathy and Sue for your assistance.

Please come and visit our new space soon!



Exhausted but happy! FOAP members Rosemary, Carol, Dianne, Grant and Tim (L to R) were grateful for their enthusiastic young helpers Campbell and Georgia.

Report from APS Victoria Quarterly Committee of Management Meeting (CoMM) and APS Bendigo's 50th Birthday, 27-28 July 2024

Report and photos by **Sue Gwilym**

A group of around 65 members relished the bracing weather to meet at the weekend meeting hosted by APS Bendigo. Saturday started off with the CoMM meeting for the APS Vic committee and delegates from district groups, finishing off at 12.30pm for a combined lunch at the venue.

Items of note from the CoMM include the following:

- Clubs with ABN's (including APS Vic) have new annual self-reporting obligations to ATO, to notify of their income tax exemption eligibility. Must be self-reported by 31st October.
- Web Administrator, John King, has been in this position for 7 years and is happy to continue. For membership renewals, please make sure you log in otherwise a duplicate membership is created. There will be further discussion of merging household and single memberships and district groups have their own pricing structures to consider also.
- Speakers List Coordinator (Sandy Birch) confirmed it is a work in progress. Sandy asks for recommendations from district groups for speakers that she is happy to approach to add onto the Speakers List, which will eventually be shared with all district groups.
- ANPSA 2024 Conference is sold out - have reached 300 which is capacity for the venue. Pre-Conference and Post-Conference tours to the Prom and Grampians are all full. Dinner is being hosted by APS Maroondah and 85 have registered so far. Fiona Lucas (APS Grampians President) is volunteering to assist with flowers. There will be a call for volunteers, but you must be a registered attendee to help. I will be coordinating a volunteer roster. The deposit from the cancelled Great Ocean Road trip (\$7,500) has been given back. There will be a raffle and district groups will be asked to assist with prizes.
- **Our submission to APS Vic Awards Sub-committee to nominate Jill Lulham for an Impressa Award for Outstanding Service to a District Group has been successful. The award will be presented at the CoMM and AGM in Wangaratta 23-24 November. Congratulations Jill!**

On Saturday afternoon all attendees headed out to various activities. There was a choice of four outings to be spread across the Saturday afternoon and the Sunday morning: Honeyeater Reserve (a former gravel quarry being rehabilitated and revegetated, some of it still original), Garden for the Future (at the Bendigo Botanic Garden), a new garden from a paddock at Jo & Doug's home (APS Bendigo members), and Marilyn's Wildflowers (a cut flower farm run by Marilyn Sprague with 40 years experience in growing Australian flora) . A great mix of experiences for us to enjoy.

We finished Saturday night with a celebratory dinner for the 50th birthday of APS Bendigo which included a talk on the local flora by Rod Orr, a member of APS Bendigo.

I would encourage everyone to come along to an APS Vic quarterly meeting where you can network and catch up, meet new like-minded people from across the state, learn about the local area and enjoy some quality time with our beautiful Australian flora! The next one will be hosted by APS Wangaratta, who are celebrating their 40th birthday and will host the CoMM and AGM on 23rd & 24th November 2024. All members are welcome to attend, and you don't have to sit in on the Committee meeting part (unless you want to observe). Further details will be sent out with the September Growing Australian Newsletter.

Photos from the weekend are on the next page.

Following are some photos from the weekend, from top, L to R: Marilyn Sprague's *Lechenaultia formosa*, Marilyn Sprague's *Eremophila* bed with plants only 12 months old from tubestock, Marilyn Sprague's *Pigea floribunda*, Honeyeater Bushland Reserve, Water feature and dry creek bed at Jo & Doug's garden at Longlea, *Eucalyptus caesia* ssp *magna* at Garden for the Future.



Nillumbik Shire Council's Spring Outdoors Programme 2024

Nillumbik Shire Council has announced its Spring Outdoors Programme, and three events in particular might interest Yarra Yarra members.

To find out more, go to Explore | Events and festivals | Event bookings at <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au> Bookings are essential.

Gardening with Indigenous Plants **Saturday 14 September 2024 10am-12.30pm**

Join local plant expert Fiona Cross and find out how to use indigenous plants in your garden.

Identifying Grasses of Nillumbik **Sunday 22 September 2024 10am-12pm**

Join a guided walk through Eyrie Reserve looking at the diversity of native grasses through Nillumbik and how to identify native and exotic grass species.

Wildflower Walk at Meruka Park Eltham **Monday 23 September 2024 10am-11.30am**

Join a guided walk exploring the beauty of local wildflowers at our Community Wildflower Walk, part of the Great Southern BioBlitz!

Pollination of sexually deceptive orchids Dr Ryan Phillips, 25 August 2024

Urimbirra Co-operative are hosting a talk by Dr Ryan Phillips from La Trobe University who will explore the "Beguiling and the warty: the pollination of sexually deceptive orchids".

While Orchids represent some of the most famous Australian wildflowers, what is less well known is that Australia is the epicentre of diversity for Orchids pollinated by sexual deception of male insects.

In this talk, Dr Phillips will reveal which Australian orchid genera use sexual deception and present recent research demonstrating some of the adaptations involved. He will explore how these adaptations help us understand the origins of the vast array of floral forms in *Caladenia* (the Spider Orchids).

On Sunday 25 August 2024 at 3pm
At Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre
95 Central Road, Blackburn 3130

Contact Alex English by email urimbirra.cooperative@gmail.com or call Nicky on 0401 975 191.

A magnificent Powerful Owl visits Park Orchards

Report by **Ray Weeks**, photos by **Jake from Wallaby Bushland Management**

Our place is located in Park Orchards on top of a hill where our house and garden sit on the flat section at the top with a mostly native garden surrounding the house. About half the block is steeply sloping and is sparsely covered in local Eucalypts and remnant understory plants.

About 2 years ago we joined the Manningham Council LEAF Program that offers some shared funding for regeneration of approved remnant bushland. This involves removal of weed species and replanting with indigenous plants. We have had a small team of specialists working onsite from time to time removing weed species, e.g. Bridal Creeper, Thistle, Sweet Vernal Grass, Quaking Grass, Panic Veldt-Grass, Blackberry and Sweet Pittosporum.

Approximately 100 tubes of local species of Correa, Pomaderris, Olearia, Acacia, Poa, Lomandra, Goodenia and Prostanthera have been planted and guarded, as we have a small group of Eastern Greys who use the area occasionally.

Recently Jake from Wallaby Bushland Management was checking on the recent plantings and was drawn by agitated local birds to a visitor which we haven't noticed



before - a Powerful Owl resting in a Cherry Ballart. He was able to take some photos for us to see. Very exciting to have such an iconic possum predator paying us a visit. I am now providing my Toy Poodle Pepper with a chaperone when she goes out at night as she is about snack size for one of these very large birds.

Diary dates 2024

IMPORTANT: Please check the **APS Victoria** website for cancellations at <https://apsvic.org.au>

25 August 2024 - **Urimbirra Co-operative** - see full details on page 26

5 September 2024 – **Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar** on *Pests, Partnerships and People Power*.
8.30am-8.30pm at Goroke Memorial Hall

7 September 2024 – **APS Cardinia Regional Annual Plant Sale**, Akoonah Park, Berwick, 8am to 4pm.

7 September 2024 – **APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale**, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck St, Wallan.

21 & 22 September 2024 – **APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show**, Pomonal Hall.

21 & 22 September 2024 – **Angair Wildflower and Art Show**, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan St, Anglesea, 10am to 4pm. 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 Kurunga Native Nursery. Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Gardens, 1190-1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama. 10am-4pm week days, 1-4pm weekends.

28 & 29 September 2024 – **APS Bendigo Flower Show**, Victory Christian College, Kairn Rd, Strathdale, Bendigo, 9.30am to 4pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

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



APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo - 14-15 September 2024 10am-3pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham



GARDENS FOR LIFE

ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference - Melbourne

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th September to 4th October 2024

The **2024 AJ Swaby Address** will be **Connected through nature** by **Phillip Johnson**
3.30pm on 2 October 2024 at The Round, 379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Please register your attendance to this free lecture by emailing anpsa2024@gmail.com

RBG Cranbourne Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale



Saturday 12 October & Sunday 13 October 2024

10am to 4pm

Australian Garden, Cranbourne

Come along and select from a wide range of plants many of which you will find in the Australian Garden.

The Botanical Fabricators and Illustrators will be selling goods too.

Plant-list available 1 week before sale.

w rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

f [rbgfriendscanbourne](https://www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscanbourne)

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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 COM meeting and AGM. Details to follow.

2025 22-23 March **RBC Cranbourne Autumn Plant Sale**, 10am-4pm

2025 15th **FJC Rogers Seminar 2025** on *Epacridaceae* hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula.

2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, 24-28 August in Alice Springs.

Administrative matters

APS Yarra Yarra Committee and roles 2023-24

Andrew McCann, <i>President</i>	M: 0419 553 303
Sue Gwilym, <i>Treasurer</i>	M: 0401 250 331
Suzanne Craine, <i>General Committee, Speaker Co-ordinator</i>	M: 0407 290 903
Sonia Gatti, <i>General Committee, Growers' Group</i>	M: 0423 414 068
Suzie Gordon, <i>General Committee</i>	M: 0457 084 467
Cathy Mann, <i>General Committee</i>	M: 0409 706 610
Peter Smith, <i>Garden Visits Co-ordinator</i>	M: 0425 798 275



The larger pond in Sam Cox's garden, a study in mass and void - see the report on page 15 (photo by Sally Collyer)

Our floral emblem

The **Wax-lip Orchid**, *Glossodia major*, is indigenous to Nillumbik. Thanks to Sue Gwilym for our banner photo.

Monthly meetings

Visitors are always welcome.

When: 7.30pm, 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.00pm. Come early for plant sales. Supper following the meeting is provided.

Venue: Mummery Room, Edendale Community Environment Farm, 30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095

Guest Speaker: Learn more through talks by expert speakers, and discussions following.

Flower Table Specimens: Bring along your flowers, labelled, if possible, for the flower table. Share and swap cutting material for propagating.

Plant Sales: Members may buy plants or sell their own. Unusual varieties are often available,

Library: Members can borrow books from our specialist library.

Chairs: Members, please help set up chairs from 7pm onwards and put them away again after the meeting.

Newsletter contributions

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Please send all contributions to the next newsletter by the deadline. Early receipt is greatly appreciated.

All emails will be acknowledged, but sometimes emails go astray. If you have not received an acknowledgment within a few days, please try again.

Deadline **Friday 11 October 2024**

by email to sallycollyer@yahoo.com.au

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We acknowledge the
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional
Owners of the country on which we meet.
We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future
and extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.

