



# Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group Inc

(Incorporation No. A0039676Y)

## Newsletter July August 2021

### Latest News

**W**hat a buffeting we have been having – literally and figuratively. COVID lockdown, grey, cold rainy weather then a devastating storm that affected so many in Victoria– the scenes from the Dandenongs are horrific. How terrifying it must have been, still is for so many who have lost their homes. Those trees are ENORMOUS. It is good to see that the support is ramping up for many so seriously affected.

We were not able to have the General Meeting at Araluen in June but are back for July with an interesting speaker, great plant choices and flower table. Once again there is lots of interest in this issue. It is time to renew your membership and then perhaps to even consider nominating for the Committee. Our AGM is coming up in August. Sue has provided updates and reminders of Neutrog Orders & Rotary Tree planting day. We also have some great contributions from our members. David and Judy Redfern have been inspired by Lyhn & Gordon Barfield to write about their Tree Change to Glenlyon in the Central Highlands.

Free  
Plant Gift  
for all our  
Autumn Plant  
Sale Helpers

Don't Miss Out! - A thank you Gift from the APS YY Committee to all the members who volunteered at the April Autumn Plant Sale – a free plant for you from the APS YY Growers Stock.

We will have a selection of plants at the next General Meeting for you to choose from. They will be small hardy shrubs that are suitable for local gardens. Please see Carmen, Peter or Mike at the meeting.



*Hakea nodosa*, an indigenous species. Miriam Ford

### July 1

### Thursday Speaker - Helen Lovel *Neutrog Biological Fertilizers*

**7.30 pm for 8 pm start** at Araluen, 226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty VIC 3093

Helen was Neutrog's first sales rep & her brief was to build the retail market in Victoria. That was 2005. Since then she has worked at various roles within Neutrog, including commercial and marketing. Today she spends time as Neutrog's Brand Ambassador, working around the country and is one of the contacts for all endorsing groups. A key aspect of this role is speaking with various groups & garden clubs about Neutrog's biological repertoire which includes information on their background, composting & manufacturing processes, research and development and the benefits of biological products.



Neutrog is a very generous company. Without doubt their products for Native Plants - Bush Tucker & SeaMungus, Go Go Juice - bring great results in our gardens. APS Vic endorses Bush Tucker and all APS District Groups can purchase products at wholesale prices. They also offer free gifts at our plant sales and we will have some as part of a special raffle prize on the night. See you there.

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## APS VIC & APS YY Diary Dates

**26 & 27 June 2021** – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm. CANCELLED DUE TO COVID.

**4 Sept 2021** – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.

**11 & 12 September 2021** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

**18 & 19 September 2021** – APS Bendigo Plant Show at Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm both days. \$3 entry.

**25 & 26 September 2021** – APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting & Quarterly Gathering.  
**2 & 3 October 2021** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**9 October 2021** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations. 9 am - 4 pm.

**16 October 2021** - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

**23 & 24 October 2021** – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

## APS YY Committee

**Peter Smith** - President, Garden Visits 0425 798 275.

**Mike Williams** - Vice-President 0418 372 262

**Cathy Mann**- Secretary, 0409 706 610

**Sue Gwilym** - Treasurer 0401 250 331

**Carmen Cooper** - Membership Officer, APS YY Growers 0413 012 045

**Suzie Gordon** - General Committee, APS YY Growers 0457 084 467

**Anita Bourke** - General Committee, APS YY Growers 0403 203 399

## APS YY Coming Speakers

### Speakers

**Thursday 5th August:** *AGM; Vertical Gardens* – Ben Hutchinson from Ben Hutchinson Landscapes

**Thursday 2nd September:** *New Parks for Victoria's Central West* – Jordan Crook, Nature Campaigner, VNPA

**Thursday 7th October:** Grand Flower Table (Members)

**Thursday 4th November:** *Adventures of Bernie & Willie* - Ray Barnes & Mike Williams on their most recent WA adventure.

**Thursday 2nd December:** Christmas Party

### About Our August 5 Speaker - Ben Hutchinson from Ben Hutchinson Landscapes on *Vertical Gardens*

Ben has been in the landscape and horticulture industry for over a decade, starting out as a nursery hand while completing qualifications in Horticulture and Landscape Design. His company specialises in Australian native gardens, natural ponds and water features and was the recipient of the 2020 Sustainability Award, nominated by Nillumbik Shire Council for the Northern Business Achievement Awards.

Ben is also a Yarra Yarra member and past exhibitor in the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) and we are looking forward to his presentation on Vertical Gardens, which should provide plenty of inspiration on using areas of our gardens that are often overlooked. Images show Ben on the MIFGS build of his 2019 Urban Retreat Garden which was awarded Bronze.



Images: Courtesy of Ben, Ben Hutchinson Landscapes Website

APS YY matters  
Renewal of Membership & AGM



PLEASE ALSO NOTE - OUR AGM 5 August

**5 August - APS Yarra Yarra AGM:** Election of new Committee and Office bearers. Agenda and reports to be sent via email. Forms for nominating are on the last page of newsletter. **Only financial members** can vote so please ensure your membership is paid up before the AGM so you can vote.

Our AGMs, believe it or not, while having an official and serious side are also usually a hoot. Our chairperson, Kevin Ley, always entertains whilst running a tight ship. There is also a great speaker, Ben Hutchinson & a truly impressive flower table to cap off the evening.



All membership renewals will fall due on **1st July** (except if you have joined us since January), so we would appreciate your prompt payment by either cash, cheque or EFT direct to our bank account, details of which are noted on the renewal form. We can accept payments by credit card via PayPal on our website, but please remember that the group pays fees on these transactions, **so EFT is our preferred option.**

The attached renewal form is a combined membership for Yarra Yarra group and APS Victoria. All monies are to be paid to Yarra Yarra group so **please disregard the APS membership form** that was sent out in your APS Victoria newsletter 'Growing Australian' and refer to the attached instead.

You will also find the APS YY Nomination form attached. We welcome nominations to our Committee.

*Eucalyptus preissiana, John Walkley, first flowering from seed raised plant*

APS YY  
Garden Visit - 2 pm, July 4

**Peter Smith's Garden.** 3/4 of an acre on a north east facing hillside in Warrandyte, 1/3 of which is mostly Oz plants with some fruit and vegetables, 1/3 for driveway, sheds and house, and 1/3 of revegetation.

A diverse range of Australian plants, nurtured over a 30+ year period. Mostly gravel pathways with rock steps and handrails, level and terraced areas, a pond and a pipe bunker. There is parking on the nature strip and main road, and a few spaces on the property (for people who can't walk far).

**Address** - 54 Kangaroo Ground Road, North Warrandyte, 3113 Melway map 23, H8

See page 8 for the Big Day Out August Garden Visit.

More  
distant Diary Dates

**11 – 16 September 2022,** ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.

**26 to 30 September 2022** - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

**15 & 16 October 2022** – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: *Fabulous peas* (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family *Faboideae*). York on Lilydale, 138 York Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796. Expressions of interest and queries to [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

June 3 Zoom  
Meeting Report - Hakeas

On observing the habit of such a variety of Hakeas in Paul's garden, particularly while not in flower, it occurred to me one could easily consider some species from this genus if desiring a particular look to fit into a spot in the garden. They range from low, arching and pendulous, to vase-like, rangy and straggly to tall trees. Leaves can be needle like soft to incredibly spiky, unusual holly shaped in different configurations, to more elongated and veined, very tough and leathery. There is great variation in leaf colour as well from beautiful soft grey blues to dark green. I particularly loved those with reddish stems contrasting a lovely lime green foliage. Understanding they are so tough and many tolerating a variety of soil conditions makes them all the more reason to pop on the shopping list.

I can understand why Paul is a hakeaholic. I am going to try and source *H. petiolaris* ssp *petiolaris*, love it! (Lyhn Barfield). Yes please say I.

The Barfields just happened to be visiting Paul's garden on the Thursday morning before the APS YY Zoom meeting and I have Lyhn to thank for reminding me to invite Paul. Paul joined the meeting and answered many questions. It was well attended by members. The images from Paul's garden are from Gordon Barfield.

Regarding the videos - I filmed Paul talking about his Hakeas during 2017 over a few visits, a few years back now. The films are all up on the APS Vic website and can be viewed there.

<https://apsvic.org.au/members/aps-videos/>

I am intending to go back this year to update them with better audio - I now have a wireless RODE lapel mic setup. Paul is head of the National Hakea study group and has given the APS YY growers many seeds to propagate and there will be more! He always welcomes visitors to his Colac garden and is a most convivial host.

The video presentation was followed by a short flower table where I showed some of the Hakeas in flower in my garden - *H. petiolaris* ssp *trichophylla* (tall, sculptural leaves, bird attracting pin cushion flowers, Wongan Hills, WA); *H. lissocarpa* (prickly, honeyed aroma, hardy and from Kalbarri NP, WA) & *H. Burrendong Beauty* (a stunning long flowering hybrid of *H. myrtooides* &

*petiolaris*). I have many Hakea growing on my property, some purchased from nurseries but most propagated from Paul's seeds and raised by the APS YY Growers, many also from APS Melton group. As Lyhn suggests there is a Hakea for every occasion/location. You know what they say - If in doubt grow a Hakea!

Jill Lulham presented some flowers including a Hakea that was identified by Paul as *H. pyconeura* (strappy leaves, attractive racemes of flowers, WA). There was a *Eucalyptus preissiana* from John Walkley, *H. Burrendong Beauty* from Barry Ellis, then Lee Johnson stole the show by waving about/filling the frame with his Possum - *Banksia baueri* - show-off! I cannot grow these beauties and just love them. Thanks Lee of the many green thumbs!

Thank you to all the members who remembered how to do Zoom. I must admit I was a bit rusty but was helped out by the various members present issuing instructions.

While Zoom meetings have been a god send it is so much nicer to attend a real meeting and catch up with our fellow lovers of Australian Plants and show off our flowers, as well as purchase more plants. As they say YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY PLANTS!

**See the real you at the JULY meeting.**



Images from  
Gordon Barfield



*Banksia baueri, Possum Banksia (Image Kevin Stokes)*

*Images by Gordon Barfield. Clockwise from the top - H. petiolaris ssp petiolaris, H.chromotropa, Paul with H. chromotropa, H. scoparia & H. drupacea*

## Hello from Glenlyon - David & Judy Redfern

Hello APS YY members, I just thought I'd give you a bit of an update on our relocation from Wattle Glen to Glenlyon, now that we've been here for 22 months. Yes, prompted by Lyhn's note in the last newsletter. Part of the intention in moving here was to create a "retirement hobby" of growing Australian native plants for cut flowers and cut foliage to sell at our local market and nearby florists.

Glenlyon is a small hamlet located in the central highlands 10 kms east of Daylesford. It has quite good volcanic loam soil, however our 1/2 acre block is 150 metres from an ephemeral wetland which means that we have a very shallow water table, providing us with an excess of water during the winter months. Gardening would be no fun if there were no challenges I'm sure!

Our block has been used mainly as a sheep paddock for the last 40 yrs and had 2 trees ( an ash tree and an as yet unidentified small eucalypt), and a new house on it when we started. The rest was weeds and a mixture of grasses. The planting programme started a few weeks after we moved in and this was mainly small eucalypts and large shrubs to create a bit of a framework. The soil is quite friable and easy to dig in, so it was then just a matter of creating a few garden beds and putting plants in - about 1000 so far, less a few failures. With the moisture issues we've had to bring in some extra soil to raise the beds by 300 to 400 mms. We're still digging and planting, but at a less frantic pace as we get out and explore the nearby Wombat State Forest and Castlemaine Diggings Heritage Reserve.

The weather has been pretty good for the plants so far with minimal amounts of snow and frost during winter (this is the Central Highlands), not many extreme heat days in summer and rainfall has been reasonably consistent . Average rainfall is around 900 mls, which is good as we don't have town water, and rely on water from two 22,500 litre tanks.

About 99 percent of the plantings so far have been the cutflower and cut foliage staples ; Anigozanthos, Banksia, Chamelaucium, Eucalyptus, Hymenosporum, Isopogon, Pycnosorus, Rhodanthe, Telopea, Thryptomene, Verticordia and Xerochrysum.

The attached images might give you some idea of how it's been going.

- 1 Anigozanthos 'Bush Pioneer' watching the sunset 20/01/21
2. Some deliveries for a florist in Kyneton 6/11/20
- 3 Jude preparing some posies for Glenlyon Village Market 17/04/21
4. Some samples for a florist 7/02/21
- 5 A special posie assembled by my daughter 11/04/21
6. Part of the market display 17/04/21

The future involves lots more digging and planting, as we keep on learning what works in our new environment. I hope this is of some interest, and that we can see you soon at a plant sale or Expo, COVID permitting.

Cheers,  
David & Judy Redfern

Ed: AMEN to that I say. It will be lovely to see you both again. Your garden is clearly a testament to your expertise, creativity and sheer hard work. Thank you!

*This page - as described by David - Images 1 & 2.  
Opposite, page 7 - Images 3 to 6.*





## Seeking Someone Suitable - Audio Visual Equipment Set Up

**R**ob Dunlop and I would like some assistance with the set up of the Audio-Visual gear at our general meetings. If both of us are away at the same time this creates difficulties- far from ideal in fact, so we'd like another member (or two) of the group to be familiar with the set up.

The set up is not complicated but requires about 15-20 minutes to put the gear together and ensure the system works correctly.

The equipment to set up is as follows:

### PA System

The equipment is relatively new, modern, wireless operated with two microphones.

### Laptop

A Dell laptop – purchased about two years ago – updated software

### Video Projector

Modern projector that connects directly to the laptop or into the 'overhead' camera for flower displays.

### Overhead Document Camera

Modern camera, for members' flowers, that projects on to the screen and records the images at the same time.

The set-up is straightforward. It requires operating the gear and ensuring the 'guest speaker's talk' is working before the meeting starts. Rob or I would show the ropes to anyone who is willing to give us a hand.

For more info please contact

Mike Ridley 0418 322 969 or Rob Dunlop 0419 521 813

*Ed: Our AV system and the people who operate it make our General Meetings. The addition of the Document Camera to the set up, several years back now, enables us to see & hear about the flowers in detail whilst sitting some distance away. Several other groups have followed our lead in this regard. Mike and Rob have been doing this without fail for a long time now. It would be great to have someone else to help out on occasion. Please consider and get in touch with them for a chat about the operation.*

Peter Smith &  
Jeanine Petts

## Big Day Out Garden Visit - Sunday August 15. Further Details TBA

### Wattle Gum Forest Farm in Pyalong.

**Where:** 2320 Seymour Pyalong Rd, Pyalong, Vic.

Wattle Gum Forest Farm is a 33 acre rural property situated a little outside the town boundary of Pyalong, and is nestled in a quiet valley that feeds into Mollison Creek.

The farm has a focus on conservation, is a constant work in progress, and was accepted into the DELWP Land For Wildlife program in 2019. It is also one of the inaugural members of the Gardens for Wildlife program facilitated by APS Mitchell.

The large, rural, and mostly native garden extends out from the homestead, with much of the garden under

10 years old. Works are currently underway planting out newer garden beds and also renovating some older garden areas. Aside from the garden, the home paddock is in turn surrounded by approximately 20 acres of revegetation forest that has been under development since 1997. Visitors will be welcome to explore both the garden and walk in the revegetation forest. As it is a rural property, it is highly advisable to wear sturdy, enclosed footwear and appropriate clothing for weather conditions on the day.

*Ed. The Farm has it's own Facebook page and many recent posts of storm damage clean-up there and in the Mitchell shire. You can readily find the location on Google Maps. I spent the best part of a day there in August 2019 & it was remarkable.*





## More APS YY Matters - Neutrog Orders & National Tree Day

### Neutrog Online Orders

The Neutrog online shop ([www.neutrogshop.com.au](http://www.neutrogshop.com.au)) will be opening up for members to order from mid-July to mid-August with delivery expected first week of September (date to be confirmed). Delivery and pick up will be from 80 John Street, Eltham.

Helen Lovel from Neutrog will be our July speaker and will provide further information on their products and uses for all your garden needs. As usual, ordering direct with Neutrog provides huge savings over retail costs with member only discounts available and the opportunity to buy in bulk.

If you need to register and receive the activation email, or need help with your order, please contact the Neutrog team on free call 1800 656 644. If you don't have access to online ordering, Yarra Yarra also have an account and you are welcome to put through your order with Sue over the phone on 0401 250 331.



*Acacia beckleri, Correa pulchella & Eremophila 'Fairy Floss' maculata X racemosa - all growing and flowering well with twice yearly doses of Neutrog's Bush Tucker. Images of Winter Flowers in Miriam's Hurstbridge Garden*

### Update on Rotary Tree Plant Out – Plant a Thousand Trees Project

Alan Field, Director Environment and Sustainability at Rotary is hoping to attend our next meeting to give us an update on how things are progressing with their project, which will involve not only Yarra Yarra members but also many other community groups who are all thrilled to be contributing to a great initiative to plant a thousand trees in our local area.

Alan reports that they have decided to get as many trees in the ground as soon as they can in the two weeks prior to National Tree Day on Sunday 1st August. Great news for those that may have wanted to participate, but were unavailable on that date. It will also help with equipment availability and if anyone has access to Hamilton Tree Planters, would they be able to bring them along or loan them to the group?

Alan is excited to have our group involved with our expertise in this area and we're looking forward to being part of the team on this project. Rotary has several environment and sustainability projects on the go at

### Unidentified Bank Payment

We received a deposit in our bank account 23rd May for \$53.00 and the only reference is AG Kent 3056. We have been unable to identify the depositor, so if this was you or you know who it is from, please let Sue, our Treasurer, know so it can be correctly allocated for end of financial year.

the moment, including primary and secondary school propagation and planting programs and are on track to have in excess of 6,000 native plant species planted by the end of the year. Amazing!

Look out for an email closer to the time with further details of time and place for the tree planting project.



## And Finally, In Conclusion.....

### Help Please at the General Meetings

- With arranging chairs for the meeting, replacing in original design after & with setting up plant sale & flower tables.
- With the meet and greet at the entrance, remind people to sign in & to buy their \$2 – entrance & raffle tickets
- With Plant Sales, counting plants in & out, taking cash. Plant sellers must help with their plants.
- With the setting up & working the visual and audio devices for the meeting – Rob & Mike R can advise
- With writing the meeting report. You can take your own notes or have a recording sent to you to transcribe.
- With assisting with Supper ( Suzie) & the Library ( Jenny)

All things must be done with the current COVID safe practice in mind. Again someone will be on hand to monitor and assist. We can have cups of tea/coffee but they will be served to you by the kitchen people. Individually wrapped snacks also available.

### The APS YY Newsletter

**Contributions from the members to the newsletter.**  
This particular issue of APS YY newsletter benefits from a variety of different voices. Thank you to all the contributors, keep them coming.

#### **September Issue due date - Friday, August 20**

You can email me on miriamdfc30@gmail.com or apsyarrayarra@gmail.com. Or send to our PO box - APS Yarra Yarra, PO Box 298, Eltham. 3095.

#### ***This issue:***

Thank you to all those people who submitted articles & images - David & Judy Redfern, Peter Smith, Sue Gwilym, Mike Ridley, Manny Giufre, Kevin Stokes, John Walkley, Lyhn & Gordon Barfield & Miriam Ford ( the editor). Thanks also to Sue Gwilym & Jill Lulham for proof reading.

Thank-you Hume Bricks & Paving for your support of our EXPO & to Vicki Ward's office for printing.

### In conclusion - Is your Garden a Sanctuary & The First Time Ever ....

I receive a few newsletters and read them always becoming inspired by the stories. *Save our Flora* from Maria Hitchcock, among many . Maria asks IS YOUR GARDEN A SANCTUARY to which I can respond a resounding YES! I wonder how many of you have rare and endangered plants growing in your garden. Check out this list and perhaps tell us about one or two of your favourites. I have many, the mints feature a great deal.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora>

Another idea - THE FIRST TIME EVER .... Tell us about the first time you were bowled over, struck dumb with awe at the overwhelming beauty of one of our lovely plants/flowers. It could be a scene from WA, it could be something from your backyard.

I clearly remember seeing a *Guichenotia macrantha* for the first time in full glorious flower, soft grey leaves, papery lilac lanterns hanging down all over. I was on my lunch break in the small native garden opposite Botany at the University of Melbourne. In my quest to find out what it was I got in touch with a mate who put me in touch with my local APS group and Mike Williams came to my door with an APS YY newsletter....the rest as they say is history.



*Image: Karen and myself with her lovely Guichenotia which she grows in a large terracotta pot. It flowers for months on end over Autumn into Winter. The APS YY Growers have propagated a few from this specimen. Chris Clarke, APS Vic President, took this image on a visit to Karen's Garden for the FJC2020 seminar.*