



Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group Inc

(Incorporation No. A0039676Y)

Newsletter February - 2022

Peter Smith

Latest
News

Welcome back to Everyone. We all seem to be adapting to these changing times, a bit like our weather and the seasons really. Unfortunately Araluen cannot accommodate us at the present, but **Sapphire on Fungi** is definitely worth Zooming in on. And then a trip to **Jeanine Petts' Garden at Pyalong**- Sunday 6th Feb 2pm at Jeanine's, 2320 Seymour /Pyalong Road, Pyalong. This is Granite rock country, and Pyalong is known for its old wooden trestle bridge. A bit further on up the highway is a place well known for a lovely form of *Grevillea alpina* as well as a small craft brewery- Tooborac. While these items of interest are not on the itinerary perhaps consider them worthy of making a day of it.

Following on from last year's article on the Koel (Coo-ee or Storm Bird), we had a few Koel calls during November, but not the prolonged visit of the previous year. We were however most fortunate in December to have a White-Faced Heron appear by our pond, just for the day - and luckily not finding all the fish.



White-faced Heron & Lythrum salicaria

A recommendation to members from Jill for interesting reading - Focus on Fauna is very informative and entertaining <https://focusonfauna.com/2022/01/23/go-turtles/>
You need to enter your email to subscribe and have each post arrive in your Inbox.

Zoom
Thursday - Feb 3rd. Dr Sapphire
McMullan-Fisher

What are fungi doing for our bushlands? Sapphire is an ecologist who has special interest in the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the macrofungi and mosses. She did her doctorate at the University of Tasmania on 'Surrogates for cryptogam conservation – associations between mosses, macrofungi, vascular plants and environmental variables.' In 2018 with Roz Hard and many Australasian Mycologists and amateurs in 'love' with fungi, she started the project to develop a land management book for Australian Fungi with the working title Fungi4Land and has been involved with Fungimap since 1999 and many other Australian fungi groups including MYCommunity and QMS. She is a representative on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). She is also active with Australian scientific groups like the Education Subcommittee of the Australasian Mycological Society, Australian Bryophyte Workshops and community groups including many Field Naturalists Clubs, Landcare groups and Australian Plants Societies. Having lived in four states and travelled across Australia's landscapes she has been involved in many of the fungal community groups over the years. She has worked with many of these groups to raise the profile of local fungi and the important roles fungi play in our environment. She is involved in the Habitat Conservation and Management Course and the Victorian Nature Stewards program. She particularly enjoys getting out into the bush to discover fungal treasures as often as she can.



For her talk, Sapphire will be covering the basic roles of fungi in our bushlands. This includes how they help recycle nutrients and interact with other species like arthropods, birds and most plants.

Neutrog, APS YY & VIC Diary Dates

Neutrog Orders

We are pleased to advise that the Neutrog online store is open for Autumn 2022 orders. We encourage you to head to the store www.neutrogshop.com.au/account/login (login with your email and password) and complete your order today.

Here are the important dates and times to note for ordering online:

Orders Close: 7 March 2022

Product Delivery: 25 March 2022

Collection Address: 80 John Street, Eltham

2022 Dates

19 March 2022 – *APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale*, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm. Updated 25/10/21

19 & 20 March 2022 - Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

30/3/2022 – 3/4/2022 MIFGS - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.

9 April 2022 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

7 May 2022 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. Details to follow.

14 May 2022 - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, to be confirmed.

June APS Vic COM – to be advised.

25 & 26 June 2022 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

16 & 17 July 2022 - Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

27 & 28 August - *APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo*, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

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

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

Speakers for 2022

3rd March – Bill Aitchison from APS Maroondah.

Bill's title and image alert us to his sense of humour. His



title "**Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rev Hugh Davies and Danny DeVito – A Look at the Genus Daviesia**"

Bill will be known to many APS Yarra Yarra members – he has spoken to our Group previously on the subject of Acacias (he is leader of the Acacia Study Group). He and his wife Sue also look after book sales for APS Victoria. He is an Honorary Life Member of APS Maroondah and of APS Victoria.

Whilst in lockdown over the last couple of years, he thought he should fill in his time doing something, and this talk on Daviesias is a result of that. It is also appropriate to have a talk now on Daviesias, as the next FJC Rogers Seminar this coming October is on the subject "Fabulous Peas" (the Seminar is being hosted by APS Maroondah, and Bill is a member of the Organising Committee).

Daviesia is the most diverse genus of pea-flowered legumes in Australia. Species are found throughout Australia, but nowhere else in the world. In this presentation, Bill will discuss how Daviesias differ from other pea-flowered plants, why there are only a few that are commonly cultivated, and he will show us some of the more interesting species.

7th April – Bev Hanson - *Designing Gardens in the Natural Style*

5th May – Royce Raleigh - *Lesser known plants for the garden.*

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

Sunday Dec 5 2021 -

APS YY Christmas Party at Wycliffe, 70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground

We had a good turnout for our last garden visit for the year and with it also being the first time we were able to meet face to face for about six months due to covid restrictions, many took the opportunity to come along. We were hosted in the grounds of Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia by Roy and Janet Gwyther-Jones who continue to put in many days of volunteer work each week supporting the organisation and the development and maintenance of their gardens. With 28 acres to cover, they and other willing helpers have done an amazing job of keeping up with the propagating, planting and countless other jobs associated with a property of this size.

We set ourselves up in the Rotunda and enjoyed catching up over a BYO lunch, with extra food and drinks provided by APS YY. We were joined by Max Sahl, the CEO, who spoke to us about the work being done at Wycliffe Australia, which as part of the Wycliffe Global Alliance, concentrates on translating the Bible for minority language communities throughout the world. After lunch we drew the raffle prizes – congratulations to our winners: Janet Gwyther-Jones (bottles of wine), Ray Barnes (Christmas cake, chocolates and tea) and Anita Bourke (basket of plants).

We then broke into two groups, led by Roy and Janet, and headed in different directions to explore the gardens. The last garden visit our group made here was about four years ago, so many were keen to see the progress and changes that had taken place. The walk meandered around between the paddocks and through to garden beds around the buildings. Some of the buildings were mudbrick, designed by Alistair Knox in the 1960s and built by volunteers.

I was in Janet's group, with 14 others including Mike Williams who proved invaluable in assisting with identification as we explored. The garden beds were mulched and well tended with hardly a weed in sight. Many established Eucalypts were scattered throughout the landscape, which gave the grounds a very spacious feel along the lines of a large park rather than a garden setting. The following are some of the plants we saw flowering at the time of our visit: *Astartea* 'Winter Pink', *Eremophila lehmanniana* (flowers start purple and turn white later in the season), *Eremophila weldii*, *Alyogyne huegelii*, *Eremophila* 'Summertime Blue', *Melaleuca fulgens*, *Plectranthus* sp. *Melaleuca filifolia*, *Eremophila subangustifolia* -the leaves have a musty smell when crushed, if there is no smell it is *E. microphylla*, & *Chamelaucium* x *Verticordia* 'Paddy's Pink'.

A wonderful day out and a big thank you to Peter Smith and the Committee for organising and to Roy and Janet for hosting us, showing us around and sharing your passion with us. We look forward to visiting again.



Alyogyne huegelii, Eremophila subangustifolia & Group admiring garden bed (Images SG)

**ABC
Gardening Australia Filming**

On Dec 9 in 2021, a film crew from ABC Gardening Australia came to my garden in Hurstbridge to film a story on Australian Mint Bushes. It will go to air sometime later this year as they tend to keep things seasonal. The crew consisted of the Presenter - Jane Edmandson, Producer - Rachael, Cameraman - Ollie and Sound recordist. They were here from 8 am to 5.30 pm. It so happened that the day was overcast and cool with light rain on occasion. Michael was granted permission to take a few stills which I include here. It was a great day and it will be interesting to see what ends up in the usual 6 minute segment. I would like to thank the friends who came to help me get particular garden areas into shape. It was a big job and the eventual outcome was terrific. Thank you to Suzie Gordon, Jenny & Graeme Hedley, Roula Pappos, Nada Cunningham, John Walkley and Karen Giufre. I think the group photo (of some) expresses perfectly the great time we had together.



**First time
ever**

I have a few plants that are flowering for the first time in my Summer Garden. It is interesting how long it takes some to gather the wherewithall while others are very prompt to deliver. I am grateful to them all. They are Angophora hispida (~ 1 year), Eucalyptus albopurpurea (> 5 yr), Prostanthera lasianthos, New England form (> 4yr) and Prostanthera densa (~ 3 yr).

I was completely bowled over by the profusion of flowers on the Angophora and was thrilled to find the blossoms full of insect wildlife feasting on the nectar provided. There was a strong smell of honey in the air. I made a short video of the insect wildlife present and am grateful to Max Campbell from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for some insect ID. You can find the video up on the APS Vic Youtube channel.



Punctate flower chafer beetle & hoey bee on Angophora hispida (Image MF)

The APS YY Newsletter

New Editor for 2022 - The job requires a good level of competency with computer-related tasks such as Word & email programs. Some facility with images is helpful. You are welcome to discuss with members of committee, Sue Gwilym or myself.

Contributions from the members to the newsletter are always appreciated. Thank you to Peter Smith & Sue Gwilym for their contributions to this issue. Thanks also to Sue Gwilym, Nada Cunningham & Jill Lulham for proof reading.

Images opposite - Clockwise from the top - Jane Edmandson & Miriam in shadehouse, Sound, Camera, Producer near shadehouse, Sound, Camera near Heat Bed with Miriam & Jane, Roula, Miriam, Karen & Nada