



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter December 2019 - January 2020



General Meeting: 5th December, 8.00pm
Slide Show & Christmas Party

season's greetings

After some brief announcements, the slide show will follow and then we will have the party.

APS YY Committee will provide hot food & drinks and members are requested to bring a share plate:

There will not be any formal flower table or plant sales.

Members A-K please bring a savoury plate.

Members L-Z please bring a dessert/sweet plate.

There will also be a raffle, with a choice of 6 prizes. Santa will draw the tickets so bring lots of loose change - tickets will be 50c each.

A Native Christmas Tree

Adenanthos sericeus (right) does a great impression of the traditional Christmas tree and we will also have one as a raffle prize at the meeting.

Standing out for its silvery foliage with a soft, velvet-like texture it is native to the south coast of Western Australia.

It grows into a 1-5m tall shrub, ideal for growing in a pot and using as an indoor feature plant, even after the Christmas period has been and gone. Or plant it outside, where its red-orange flowers will attract native birds to your backyard.



From Australian Geographic Article: "6 Aussie Christmas trees that are better than the traditional pine"



Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to Angela Southwood and Russell Wait who joined our group recently. We hope to see you at one of our meetings or events soon.



Garden Visits, Meetings & Diary Dates

General Meetings Coming Up:

January - No Meeting

February 6, 2020 - Brachychitons by Ian Evans

March 5, 2020 - Biodiversity Project, Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary and Indigenous Nursery by Michael Cincotta

April 2, 2020 - Biography of Edith Coleman, "*The Wasp and the Orchid*" by Danielle Clode (Adelaide based author)

Garden Visits & Outings Coming Up:

January - None

February - TBA

Committee are planning the group's itinerary for next year, so any suggestions for garden visits or outings are most welcome.

APS Victoria Dates:

February 17 - April 17 2020 - Australian Plants Revealed. An exhibition highlighting unique Australian flora collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770. Held at the Gallery of Maroondah Federation Estate 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. 9am-4pm Mon-Fri & 12 noon-4pm Saturdays, with 2 Keynote lectures:

March 28, 2020 from 2pm - Bruce Pascoe: Aboriginal plant uses for sustenance & medicine . Prof. Tim Entwisle: Sir Joseph Banks' cabinet: botanical bounty of the Endeavour's Voyage to New Zealand & Australia. For further details see the September & December editions of *Growing Australian* or email: exhibitions@apsvic.org.au

March 28, 2020 - APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting hosted by APS Maroondah.

October 24-25, 2020 - 13th FJC Rogers Seminar on "Mint Bushes & Allied Genera" Hosted by APS Yarra Yarra in Eltham.

Plant Sales:

March 14-15, 2020 - Growing Friends

Autumn Plant Sale. Australian Gardens Cranbourne near the Kiosk. 10 am to 4 pm

April 4, 2020 - APS Geelong

Australian Native Plant Sale. 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks.

April 18, 2020 - APS Yarra Yarra

Native Plant & Book Sale. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham, 10am - 4pm.

Other Dates:

March 25-29, 2020 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show

Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

June 27-28, 2020 - APS Ballarat

Winter Flower Show at Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens. 10am-4pm.

September 12-13, 2020 - APS Yarra Yarra

Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10am to 4pm.





Meeting Report November – Grand Flower Table

by Jill Lulham, pictures by Ben Eaton and Chris Krolikowski (Document Camera)

Thanks to Chris K and Ben for photography, and to Miriam and Mike W for leading the discussion. Thanks to all members who brought in specimens, especially named ones. This is just a selection of plants flowering in members' gardens this month.

MYRTACEAE FAMILY

Melaleuca nematophylla (Miriam's, Wiry Honey Myrtle, sw WA, 1.5m, needle-like foliage, pink-purple globular flower heads), *M. fulgens* (Miriam's, Scarlet Honey Myrtle, WA, 1.5m, soft grey-green foliage, different colours - scarlet, apricot has more compact form, needs pruning), *M. decussata* (Cross-leaf Honey Myrtle, SA, Vic, <3m, purple fls fade to white)

Kunzea 'Badja Carpet' (NSW, prostrate rounded shrub to 4m wide), *K. ambigua* (Tick Bush, NSW, Vic, Tas, <3m, honey perfume, creamy-white fls, long stamens cf *Leptospermum*)

Callistemon linearis (Noel's, Narrow-leafed Bottlebrush, NSW, 1-3m, rigid point to leaves, fls bright red cf *C. pinifolius*), *C. viminalis* 'Captain Cook' (<2m, dense weeping shrub, smaller red brush flowers), *C. 'Harkness'* or 'Dawson River Weeper'?, *C. 'Taree Pink'* (cultivar of *C. citrinus*, 2-3m, prune to promote flowering)

Calothamnus quadrifidus (One-sided Bottlebrush, sw WA, <2.5m, hardy, can be pruned to hedge, long flowering)

Darwinia leiostyla (Carmen's, sw WA, <1.5m, good grown in containers, pink, red or white fls)

Verticordia grandis (Carmen's, Scarlet Feather Flower, WA, 1-2m, good container plant, needs good drainage, usually grafted), *V. chrysanthella* (Little Chrysantha, sw WA, <1.5m, scented, bright yellow fls, Max says often mistaken for *V. chrysantha*), *V. plumosa* (Miriam's, sw WA, <1.4m, floriferous, scented, hardy, doesn't need to be grafted)

Leptospermum 'Mesmer Eyes' (PBR, 1.5m x 1m, hybrid developed by Bywong Nursery NSW – *L. scoparium nanum rubrum*, *L. macrocarpum* and *L. deuense*, probably using the more colourful NZ form of *L. scoparium* as one of the parents)



Kunzea 'Badja Carpet'



Leptospermum 'Mesmer Eyes'



Verticordia plumosa



Meeting Report November – Grand Flower Table

by Jill Lulham, pictures by Ben Eaton and Chris Krolikowski (Document Camera)

Calytrix tetragona (Common Fringe Myrtle, WA, SA, Vic, Tas, NSW, sth Qld, 1m, hardy, light pruning, fls white to pink)

Corymbia eximia (Yellow Bloodwood, NSW, 8-15m, corymbs of creamy white flowers, perfumed)

Chamelaucium axillare (Esperance Waxflower, WA, <2m, used as cut flower, white-pink-red fls), *C. uncinatum* (Geraldton Wax, leaves have a hook at end), *C. ciliatum* (Albany Wax, WA, 1m, well-drained soil, fls white aging to pink)



Eremophila hygrophana

SCROPHULARIACEAE FAMILY

Eremophila hygrophana (SA, WA, <1.2m, grey leaves, needs good air movement, good drainage, purple fls), *E. mackinlayi* (WA, <1m, yellow to grey hairs on leaves, needs good drainage, purple fls), *E. glabra*? (all mainland States, <3m, yellow fls, no spots as with *E. maculata*), *E. subangustifolia* (sw WA, 1-2.5m, lilac to purple fls, orig. thought to be *E. microtheca*), *E. maculata* 'Thundercloud' (1.5m, hardy)

ACANTHACEAE FAMILY

Graptophyllum ilicifolium (Holly-leaved Fuchsia, Qld rainforest tree, 3-5m, needs some shade, slow growing, scarlet fls)



Graptophyllum ilicifolium

PROTEACEAE FAMILY

Grevillea excelsior (Rob's, Flame Grevillea, WA, grafted, 3-7m, long orange-yellow fl), *G. treuriana* (Ray's, SA, <1.5m, good drainage, very prickly foliage, bright orange-red fls), *G. wilsonii* (Ray's, sw WA, 1.5m, prickly also, spreading, well-drained, bright red fls), *G. laurifolia* (Chris', NSW, prostrate 3-4m wide, full sun, deep red, toothbrush fls), *G. 'Peaches & Cream'* (*banksia x bipinnatifida*, <2m, likes pruning), *G. sarissa*? (Wheel Grevillea, SA, WA, <3m, yellow, pink & red forms)



Grevillea excelsior



Meeting Report November – Grand Flower Table

by Jill Lulham, pictures by Ben Eaton and Chris Krolikowski (Document Camera)

MALVACEAE FAMILY

Brachychiton populneus (Noel's, Kurrajong, Qld, NSW, Vic, 8-10m, large trunk, white fls with tube pink purple)

Commersonia corylifolia (Noel's, Hazel leaved Rulingia, WA, white fls)

Alyogyne huegelii (Jill's, WA, SA, <2.5m, fast growing, can get leggy, keep pruned, several colours pink-purple, and white flowers)

Thomasia macrocarpa (Large-fruited Thomasia, sw WA, <1.5m, well-drained, full/part sun, pink-purple fls)



PARACRYPHIACEAE FAMILY

Quintinia verdonii? (Bruce's, Grey Possumwood, NSW, Qld rainforest tree, <17m, racemes of white fls)

PITTOSPORACEAE FAMILY

Hymenosporum flavum (Native Frangipani, Qld, NSW, rainforest tree, 10-25m, narrow habit, best in open sunny position, fragrant yellow fls)

FABACEAE FAMILY

Senna odorata (Bruce's, Qld, NSW, <2.4m, light scent to yellow fls)



APIACEAE FAMILY

Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower, Qld, NSW, <1m, well-drained, white fls)

ASTERACEAE FAMILY

Chrysocephalum semipapposum (Jill's, Clustered Everlasting, all States, <1m)

Ozothamnus diosmifolius (Jill's, Rice flower, Qld, NSW, 1.5m, keep pruned, cut flower, white fls, also pink)

LAMIACEAE FAMILY

Dasymalla terminalis (Mike's, Native Foxglove, sw WA, <1m, good drainage, container plant, woolly foliage, bright pink fls, was Pityrodia)

Brachysola coerulea (sw WA, <1m, well-drained, blue-mauve-purple fls, was Pityrodia)

Prostanthera striatiflora (Striped Mint Bush, <2m, dryer areas, prune to bushy shape)



Meeting Report November – Grand Flower Table

by Jill Lulham, pictures by Ben Eaton and Chris Krolikowski (Document Camera)

P. serpyllifolia ssp. *microphylla* (Small-leaved Mint Bush, NSW, Vic, SA, WA, 0.5m, bright pink-red fls), *P. serpyllifolium* ssp. *serpyllifolia* (SA, WA, full sun, well-drained, tip prune, cream-yellow-green), *P. aspalathoides* (Scarlet Mint Bush, NSW, Vic, SA, WA, <1m, well-drained, yellow, orange, also a red), *P. grylloana* (sw WA <1.5m, full sun, well drained, prune, red-purple-pink fls maroon blotches on lower lip), *P. florifera* (SA, <1m, full/part sun, well-drained, pinkish red fls), *P. arapilensis* (Vic, <1.5m, pale pink-white), *P. hirtula* (Hairy Mint Bush, NSW, Vic, <2m, also prostrate forms, part shade, well-drained, prune, deep mauve-violet-pink fls), *P. magnifica* (WA, <2m, well-drained, full/part sun, mauve-purple-pink fls, deep purple-scarlet calyces persist after flower), *P. 'Poorinda Ballerina'* (garden cultivar, <2m, prolific flowering white with yellow throat), *P. cuneata* (Alpine Mint Bush, NSW, Vic, 1.5m, also variegated & prostrate forms, well-drained, moist, tip pruning, white flowers with coloured spots in throat)

ORCHIDACEAE FAMILY

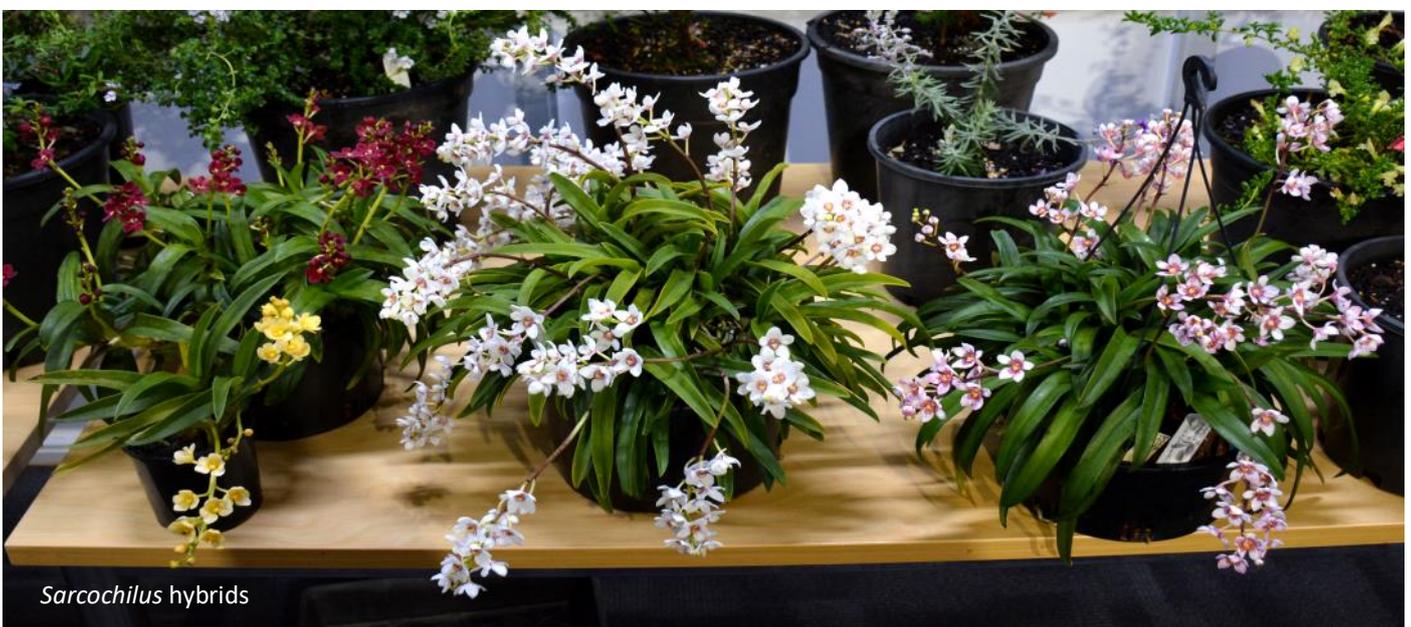
Sarcochilus hybrids (Chris', 4 diff colours brought in, only kept in baskets, before hybridising/ breeding began original *Sarcochilus* were mostly white with a bit of pink in centre)



Brachysola coerulea



Prostanthera magnifica



Sarcochilus hybrids



Garden Visit – 10th November to Melton Botanic Gardens

by Peter Smith, pictures by Peter Smith

How lucky, lucky, lucky, our Yarra Yarra members sometimes are. At only short notice we were treated to a wonderful day at the Melton Botanic Garden. Getting away from the very mixed weather hanging around Melbourne, we set off for the drier climes of Melton. Upon arrival we were greeted by Barbara and David Pye and some of their wonderful Friends group members (FMBG).

David gave us a brief background to the setting up of the garden and its development to date. With limited rainfall but rich ground, the industrious Friends with some council assistance have turned these paddocks alongside Ryan's Creek into a showcase of plants that tolerate a dry climate and low rainfall from Australia and other parts of the world. A design was drawn up in the early days and in the brief period since the first planting in 2011 amazing results have been achieved.

Barbara and David led us through the Eucalyptus Arboretum, some notables were *Eucalyptus caesia*, *E. dolichorhyncha*, *E. torwood*, *E. petiolaris*, *E. synandra* and *E. websteriana* amongst 100 species. We then encountered plants from various regions of S.A and W.A. Here local topsoil was brought in to raise the beds ensuring better drainage and coarse river sand used as a mulch. Masses of Daisies, *Eremophilas*, several stunning *Banksias* and *Dryandras* and numerous other showy genera including *Eremaea*, *Pileanthus*, *Verticordia*, *Diplolaena*, *Kunzea*, *Lechenaultia*, *Grevillea* and *Conospermum*.

We traversed Southern Africa with several interesting and amazing specimens. We crossed the new bridge and admired the creek side with remnant Red gum vegetation. We then came upon the lake surrounded by indigenous grassland and the Koori student garden designed and planted by Koori students from Melton primary and secondary schools. We then headed back to the nursery encouraged by the FMBGees and enjoyed their company for lunch.

Thank you to Peter for organising the trip and driving the bus, *Ed*.





APS Victoria Committee of Management (COM) Report

by Miriam Ford, Pictures by Miriam Ford

The last COM & quarterly meeting of the year was hosted by APS Bendigo at Mandurang. The meeting was then followed by two garden visits to Marilyn Sprague and Ian Evans (see photos).

One of the main items of the meeting was the finalisation of the **APS Vic Commemoration of the Banks Solander 250th Anniversary**. This will be held at two different venues over a range of dates and it is important that members take note so they don't miss out on some great lectures and exhibitions. Members will also be asked to help out manning the exhibitions. More information will be provided & there will be a booking form for the lectures by Bruce Pascoe & Tim Entwistle on Saturday 28th March in the coming edition of Growing Australian due in the mail soon. APS members will have priority and the entry is free. You will need to fill out the form and return to reserve a place. The relevant dates are:

- 17th February 2020 at 9am doors open for exhibition at Maroondah Federation Estate, Ringwood. This exhibition will feature special items from the RBG Melbourne Herbarium illustrating the discoveries of these famous botanists.
- Sunday 23rd February 2020 at 2pm opening of exhibition at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery, Kalorama. This exhibition will feature live plants and flowers which are not permitted at the Federation Estate.
- Saturday 28th March at Federation Estate Ringwood - 10am - COM meeting; 1.45pm for 2.00pm start - lectures by Bruce Pascoe and Tim Entwistle
- Sunday 29th March 10am Garden visit Montrose; midday BYO lunch at Karwarra then inspect the exhibition

Images from top: *Lechenaultia biloba* in front with *Eremophila calorhabdos* behind, *Verticordia ovalifolia*, *Ptilotus sp* in foreground with *Pimelea ferruginea* back.





APS Victoria Committee of Management (COM) Report

by Miriam Ford, Pictures by Miriam Ford

Other APS Vic matters:

Membership. APS Victoria has around 850 members. This has been declining. Some groups have done particularly well in their membership drives at their Spring Flower Shows this year including APS Bendigo, APS Echuca Moama, as well as APS YY. The aim, of course, is to keep them interested and actively involved. That can be a challenge.

Conservation issues. Neil Marriott reported on the continuing destruction of roadside verges in WA and letter of protests have been sent by him on behalf of APS Vic to support efforts being made by the Wildflower Society of WA.

Seedbank. Marj Seaton, the Seedbank Curator has purchased new seed and donations from members are gratefully received.

ANPSA 2023. APS Vic will host this national conference in 2023 and an organising group within the Growth and Development subcommittee has started planning this event.

FJC Rogers 2020. I reported on progress towards the seminar on 24 & 25 October 2020 at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre where the venue and caterers are booked, the official letters of invitation have gone out to the speakers and also summarized our species list which includes around 70 *Prostanthera* species and 30 Allied Genera, including *Westringia* & *Hemiandra*.

APS Vic at Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS) (25 -29 March, 2020):

The MIFGS Hanging Basket competition. This year the APS YY Growers have taken the basket on and it will be created on an FJC Rogers 2020 theme, Mint Bushes and Allied Genera. Many of the plants within this group have interesting aromas, foliage and textures and also, an added bonus, are in flower at that time of year. We intend the basket to appeal to all five senses. More about the species composition and design will be in the next issue. All the plants will have been propagated by the Growers.

The APS Vic Exhibit - Dallas and Bernard Boulton will be setting up the APS Vic exhibition and there will be a request for helpers over the dates for the morning and afternoon sessions. Volunteers, your entry fee will be taken care of and I do recommend spending some time there and then you have the option to explore the extensive garden exhibits including many Aussie plants.



Callistemon 'Father Christmas'



Committee, Newsletter and General Meeting Matters

The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:

- Miriam Ford - President, COM Delegate, Growers Group, Leader FJC 2020 Committee, M 0409 600 644
- Peter Smith - Vice President, Garden Visits, M 0425 798 275
- Andrea Himmelspach - Treasurer, Growers Group, M 0424 314 648
- Sue Gwilym - Secretary, Newsletter Editor, M 0401 250 331
- Carmen Cooper - Membership Officer, Growers Group, M 0413 012 045
- Adrian Seckold - General Meeting Plant Sales, M 0431 071 503

APS YY Committee Meeting Dates:

General Committee Meeting:

January 14, 2020, Venue TBC

FJC 2020 Committee Meeting:

TBC

Contributions to the February 2020 Newsletter to Sue by Friday 24th January please.



Email:

apsyarrayarra@gmail.com

OR post to:

Newsletter Editor, APS
Yarra Yarra, PO Box 298,
Eltham 3095

Thank you to Miriam Ford, Peter Smith, Jill Lulham for articles, Jill and Miriam for proof reading, Ben Eaton, Chris Krolikowski and Miriam Ford for images. Editor (SG) for all other images & articles.

We wish to acknowledge the major sponsorship of our Expo by **Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd** (<https://www.humebriickspavers.com.au/>) Thank You!

Website: www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/APSarrayarra](https://www.facebook.com/APSarrayarra)

Meeting Particulars: Visitors always welcome

When: 8.00pm, 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.30pm. Come early for plant sales. Supper following the meeting is provided.

Venue: Orana building, Araluen Centre, 226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty.

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

Audience etiquette: No interruptions to the speaker during the talk, questions (one per person) at the end of the talk, when requested.

Flower Table Specimens: Bring along your flowers, labelled if possible, for the flower table.

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

Library: Members can borrow books from our specialist library.

Chairs: Members please help set up chairs for the meeting from 7.30pm onwards and put away again after the meeting.

