



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2020

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, February to December except November.

The venue is the Hughesdale Community Hall, Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale (MEL 69 C7)

Visitors are always very welcome.

COMMITTEE:

- PRESIDENT: John Thompson thomme@netspace.net.au
- SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
- TREASURER: Norm Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
- PUBLIC OFFICER: Helen Appleby
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
- APS VIC DELEGATE: Marj Seaton
- COMMITTEE: Amanda Louden amandalouden@icloud.com

Please forward any newsletter contributions, comments or photos to Marj at 36 Voumard Street, Oakleigh South 3167 or to the email address above.

*******Note: Deadline for the MARCH newsletter is FEBRUARY 23RD*******

FEBRUARY MEETING

Tuesday 3rd February 8pm

Hughesdale Community Hall

Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale

Our speaker for February will be Bill Aitcheson. Bill will talk about small acacias, a topic he is well placed to deliver as he is the leader of the Acacia Study Group. With Sue Guymer his partner, Bill runs the APS Victoria book sales, so will be able to suggest books relevant to his topic.

Bushfires

We wish to commiserate with those who have lost homes and or property in the terrible bushfires this season. APS Vic is currently discussing whether we will be able to assist in any way. A note will go up on the website and any possible assistance we can give, and to whom, will be discussed at the March Quarterly Meeting.

RAINFALL RECORDS for 2019

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	11.4	17	35.2	18.4	81	73.1	64.2	70.2*	57**	25.8	52.3	9.9	515.5
Highett	7.5	9.9	26.7	9.3	56.7	50.1	47.4	50*	50*	29.5	56.7	12	404.8
Hampton	6	5	27	7	57	47	34						
Cranbourne South	30	24	25	24	105	94	72	133	81	35	73		696
Caulfield Sth	5.6	10	12	12	64.75	56	20	60	50	23	51.8	12.4	377.55
Elsternwick	7	7	14	12	55.5	63.5	36.5	53	46.3	19.5		9.5	323.8

*To August 22 **From August 22 * estimate

2.

The following are our rainfall figures for the last three years (in mm). As you can see we've all had an overall decrease over the last three years with suburbs closer to the bay most affected. Fingers crossed for 2020! We've started well with January's falls easily topping December 2019.

	Totals for 2017	Totals for 2018	Totals for 2019
Oakleigh South	626	494.8	515.5
Highbett	617	437.9	404.8
Hampton	558		
Cranbourne South	787	696	714
Caulfield South	621	493	377.55
Elsternwick		477.95	365.8

DECEMBER MEETING

Our meeting commenced with our annual 'Clear the Decks' sale. Those of us who propagate take the opportunity to sell off some of our excess plants to make room



for the next batch of cuttings and seedlings. We had orchids, daisies of various kinds, wax plants, kangaroo paws, ground covers as well as some of Mandy's jams and Ivan's cards.

Our soil testing kit was available though not used on this occasion. If any of the members wish to check the pH of their soils at future meetings, the kit will be kept in the back room of the Hall and it will just be a matter of asking to have it brought out.



We then saw several members' slides taken during the year, Helen and Scott visited Cape Tribulation and surrounds. Colourful leaves and bark from the rainforest, blue fruits, yellow fruits (with colourful sneakers to act as pointers!), plants climbing on trees, scrub birds (not fully identified), some wonderful fan palms and some excellent views of the forest taken from above made up Helen's collection (four shown above). A lilly pilly with a creamy yellow flower erupting from the trunk was of particular interest.



3.

Mandy and John had visited north western Victoria with the Friends of



Cranbourne Gardens in July. Mandy started with the flowers, fruits and buds of *Hakea grammatophylla* (left) then showed several bird shots from the Mildura region – yellow spoonbills, pelicans, a satin azure butterfly, plus an apparently abandoned nest with a lot of eggs. Their bus bogged in deep sand at Ned’s corner and we saw both the bus and the tractor that was used to free it. Some orchids seen included some with vibrantly blue flowers, *Pheladenia deformis*, right, plus



Glossodia major and several yellow *Diuris* (*D. sulphurea* and *D. chryseopsis*).



Mandy then showed a variety of flower photos including mistletoes (harlequin and grey), yellow *Diplolaena*, beautiful blue *Brunonia*, *Verticordia ovalifolia* and a delicate spray of the orange blossom orchid (*Sarcochilus falcatus*).

Mandy’s final three slides were of some of her glassware, by way of promoting an Open House of her work the following Saturday. The final piece, of a vase with magpies, was a new style and most attractive.

John also included some photos taken on this trip. A *Goodenia* from Peter Lang’s garden, the white *Olearia pimelioides* from Ned’s Corner, a very WA like field of yellow *Rhodanthe polygalifolia* (below) and one of the painted silos were some of his northern photos.



From his home, John’s collection included some lady beetles (left) flannel flowers, the lacy *Trachymene compositae*, a vibrant yellow *Verticordia*, pale blue flowers of *Lechenaultia expansa* which we thought looked



very like an orchid up close and a tropical *Cuttsia*

viburnea (left). John has this plant in a tub in semi shaded conditions - it prunes easily.



Marj and Norm had visited the Gulf Country in August/September. They saw evidence of the Burke and Wills expedition’s camp 119 and one of the trees blazed by them as evidence of passing. Aerial views of the winding Calvert River, Lawn Hill Gorge

and Adel’s Grove, a morning glory cloud (right), a lost city with its eroded pinnacles and a ruined city like a late stage Bungle Bungles (below left) showed some of the vastness of this area. A couple of photos from Phillip Johnson’s Open Garden in Olinda and more from Marilyn Sprague’s colourful garden in Bendigo (below right) completed this showing.



4.

The specimen table was followed by our Christmas supper to end a most enjoyable night.



DECEMBER SPECIMEN TABLE



Robert started us off with a flowering stem of *Helmholtzia glaberrima*, the stream lily from NSW. It will grow to 1.5m, makes a good cut flower and is easily divided. It needs shady conditions as it will die if in too sunny a spot. A pink *Prostanthera lasianthos* and a deep purple *Eremophila* bought at Kurunga (right) were his other offerings.

Mandy bemoaned the fact that her *Calothamnus quadrifidus* always finished its flowering just before Christmas – it would make a splendid decoration otherwise. Her blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) is growing in a tub and still has a few berries from last season. A bunch of onion orchids intrigued some of our members. An *Angophora hispida* is also in a large tub. It is growing back strongly after being pruned right down and its hairy coppery foliage is a feature.



Probably the most fascinating plant on the table was *Homoranthus prolexus* (left) from NSW. Its flowers are nectar filled, is currently 0.5m x 1.5m and has a layered, sculptural form. *Archirhodomyrtus beckleri*, "rose myrtle," is a shrub or small tree native to rainforest areas of eastern Australia and this was one of John's specimens, grown in a moderate sized pot and reaching 2.5m x 0.5m. It has tiny white flowers with rose stamens (right). Sadly, possums love the foliage. John mentioned that there is one growing in the rainforest walk in the South Yarra gardens.



5.

A strong purple scaevola, *S. aemula* "Aussie salute" has grown well for two years, has an upright form and a width of about 75cm. *Ptilotus manglesii* is low growing, in a pot and has pink flowers. Marj had a daisy night, amongst others. Several *Xerochrysums* and *Chrysocephalums* added colour to the table. Her others included wedding bush (WA, *Ricinocarpos tuberculatus*), the native frangipani *Hymenosporus flavum*), *Swainsona galegifolia*, *Malva australis* and *Myoporum floribundum*.



Ammobium alatum (l)
Swainsona galegifolia (r)



Chrysocephalum apiculatum with grass
Rytidosperma geniculatum



PICK OF THE BUNCH DECEMBER 2019



©Amanda Coulter

Myoporum floribundum A. Cunn ex Benth. Slender Myoporum
Specimen grown by Marj Seaton

Myoporum floribundum is a small to medium sized shrub 1.5m - 3m high x 2m - 4m wide. It is largely restricted to the high country in the extreme east of Victoria and the south east of NSW where it often occurs among rocky outcrops. It is regarded as rare in nature.

It has a graceful spreading habit often with the branches growing almost horizontally. The drooping leaves and the flowers which appear to sit on top of the branches add to its ornamental appeal. Flowering generally occurs between September and November.

It grows well in cultivation, requiring good drainage and either a sunny or semi shaded site. Pruning to maintain an elegant habit may be carried out but is generally not required. Propagation is from seed or more usually, cuttings.

Myoporum is a member of the Scrophulariaceae family. The family Scrophulariaceae consists of about 65 genera with c.1800 species with a cosmopolitan distribution. C.17 genera and c.270 species occur in Australia in all states. *Eremophila* is the other well known genus. There are about 28 species of *Myoporum* from SE Asia to Australia, the Pacific and Mauritius, with c.17 species in Australia.

The name, *Myoporum*, is derived from the Greek, myo, to shut, and poros, a pore; referring to the closed appearance of the leaf glands. The specific name, *floribundum*, is derived from the Latin, floris, flower and abundus, abounding in, referring to the abundance of flowers.

DIARY FOR 2020

February 4	Bill Aitchison: Small Wattles
March 3	Miriam Ford: FJC Seminar "Mint Bushes and Allied Genera"
April 7	Trevor Blake: "Malvaceae"
May 5	John Thompson: "Historical Collectors other than Banks and Solander"
June 2	Chris Long: "Boronia Oil"
July	TBA
August	AGM and members' slides
September	Dr Sandy Webb and Dr Marilyn Olliff: "The Jawbone Sanctuary"
October	Marg and Ivan: "South Western Australia"
November	TBA
December	Christmas wind-up, "Clear the Decks" plant sale and members' slides.

Plant Sales and Shows 2020

February 17 – April 17	"Australian Plants Revealed" Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood (See below and Sept 'Growing Australian' pp 26, 27)
March 14, 15	Cranbourne Gardens Friends Autumn Plant Sale, 10am – 4pm
March 25 – 29	Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, Carlton Gardens
March 28	APS Vic COMM and quarterly, hosted by APS Maroondah
March 28	Keynote address by Bruce Pascoe and Prof. Tim Entwistle as part of "Australian Plants Revealed" exhibition.
April 4	APS Geelong native plant sale, "Wirrawilla", 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. BBQ, refreshments, book sales, children's activities, great native plants.
April 18	APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants and Book Sale. Eltham Community and Reception Centre. 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10am – 4pm
May 2	APS Mornington Plant Sale, Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10am – 3:30pm

APS-Vic Exhibitions and Lectures 2020**Marking the Collection of Australian Plants by Banks and Solander**

April 2020 will mark the 250th Anniversary of Lieutenant James Cook and crew reaching the east coast of Australia in HMS Endeavour. During the voyage up the east coast, naturalist Joseph Banks and botanist Daniel Solander made collections of Australian plants which were taken to London for classification and scientific study.

Accordingly, the Australian Plants Society-Vic has organised three significant events:

[Ringwood Exhibition 17th February to 17th April 2020](#) at the Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Open 9 – 5 Mon – Fri, Sat 12 noon – 4pm

[Karwarra Exhibition 18th February to 18th April 2020](#) Free admission, Tues – Fri 10 – 4, Sat, Sun 1 – 4. Note the gardens are closed on days of Total Fire Ban and extreme weather. 1190 – 1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama.

[Ringwood Keynote Lectures Saturday 28th March 2020](#) 2pm by Prof Tim Entwistle and Bruce Pascoe.

The Ringwood exhibition will feature six of the **actual** plant specimens and 30 images of other plants collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770.

The exhibition will also recognise the vast Indigenous uses of these plants and celebrate 65000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science.

The display at Karwarra is being held in conjunction with the Ringwood exhibition, highlighting Banksias and our unique Australian flora. Karwarra is set on two hectares at picturesque Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges and is devoted to displaying a diverse range of Australian plants in a landscaped setting. There is a well-stocked nursery and helpful staff to assist you in choosing plants suitable to your needs.

7.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Write-up: Marj Seaton

Supper: Helen Appleby

It's not only plants that have been split up.

An article in the ABC Science news describes how birds too are being re-classified. Rainbow lorikeets, which range over Australia, New Guinea and other northern islands, are apparently now classified into six different species.

The splitting of the species has meant that the rainbow lorikeet is now no longer recognised in northern WA or NT. The bird found there is the red-collared lorikeet; it has a red collar instead of the green found elsewhere. Similarly, the Torres Strait version is now called the coconut lorikeet, being a bit darker on the belly and a bit paler on the head. New Guinea and eastern Indonesia now have the scarlet-breasted lorikeet, the marigold lorikeet and the Flores lorikeet.



In a similar way, the Australian blue-faced honeyeater is also being split into two different species and even the magpie is not safe; the female western magpie particularly is very different from those found in the rest of Australia so some splitting here may be in the offing too.

PHOTO GALLERY

Another of Helen's rainforest plants, this time a lacy leaf.

