

Australian Plants Society

Grampians Group Newsletter

Gari-Word

April 2019

NEXT MEETING

Tue 16th April 7.30pm Pomonal Hall

Phillip Vaughan:

Travels in WA

SUPPER: A to L

Tue 21st May 7.30pm Pomonal Hall

Greg Kerr, Sleepy Lizards

Last meeting

Our March meeting will be remembered as an extraordinary one.

Linda and David Handscombe were given the inaugural Gold Entry Pass for all future Pomonal Flower Native Shows.

The criteria for this award is to leave town (unfortunately) for a sea view and to have spent many, many years being involved with the APS Grampians native plant group.

Our speaker for the evening was Neil Marriott, who shared his photos and thoughts on what native plants to grow in our gardens to benefit native animals.

Neil told us that wildlife such as native birds, insects and mammals depend on plants for food, shelter, (from predators) water and somewhere to build their nests. Plants benefit from native animals through pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, waste breakdown and soil maintenance.

Using many photos taken from his garden, he showed us a mix of trees, shrubs of varying heights, grasses and groundcovers to have in our gardens which will provide a habitat for many of our native wildlife.

Plants to attract honeyeaters such as Wattlebirds, New Holland and Eastern Spinebill are Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*), Hairpin Banksias (*Banksia spinulosa*), Running postman (*Kennedia prostrata*), Yellow Hakea (*Hakea nodosa*), Grevilleas with red, yellow and orange flowers and the Victorian floral emblem.

What is its name? Answer at the end.

Rainbow Lorikeets and Gang-gang Cockatoos feed on the flowers and seeds of Eucalyptus like Silver Princess (*Eucalypts caesia*) and Mottlech (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*). Yellow tailed Black cockatoos love to find grubs hiding under tree bark of Banksias and Heath-leaved honey suckle (*Lambertia ericifolia*).

Smaller birds like Superb Fairy wren, Pardalotes, Finches and Robins feed on insects and eat berries and seed. Plants to grow are Kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), Wallaby grass (*Austrodanthonia caespitosa*) and Prickly Tea tree (*Leptospermum continentale*)

Native wildlife need to find shelter from weather, predators and to build their nests and raise their



Not only birds like bird baths!

young. Plants with prickly foliage provide homes for many insects, bird and mammal species. These include Red pokers (*Hakea Bucculenta*), Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) and Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*)

Not forgetting the insects, butterflies love Daisies generally and *Bursara spinosa*.

A good water source is important. Neil suggested having a few different types and sizes of 'bird baths' around the garden, some on pedestals, some near logs and rocks and some next to the prickly shrubs for a safe place for birds to drink and bathe. Other native wildlife rely on water in our gardens, many of us may have seen kangaroos drinking out of bird baths this summer. Frogs need a semi or permanent water source and butterflies love damp sand or soil.

Our gardens also need to have rocks and logs for blue tongued lizards, geckos, bearded dragons and insects to bask in the sun, tree hollows are important for nesting and breeding for many birds, adding some nest boxes to your garden is also a good idea, Neil said.

Thank you to everyone who provided cake, biscuits, cheese, fruit, dips, nuts and sausage rolls and party pies for our special farewell supper for David and Linda.

The Victorian emblem: *Epacris impressa* or Common Heath of course, but I'm sure you all knew that already.

Andrea

Items for Discussion

At the April meeting, the committee would like to discuss a few items with you. Please have a think about them before the meeting.

- A review of the 2019 program,
- Visits to gardens and weekend away trips during the year
- Wanted: a volunteer newsletter editor for July and August
- Wanted: articles for the newsletter: can be anything at least vaguely related to Australian plants!
- Who is interested in taking photos of wildlife in their gardens? We now have the tools.
- Pomonal Flower Show planning update
- Members ideas

If you can't attend the meeting, please send any items you would like to be discussed to secretary.

May Meeting

The speaker for our May meeting is Dr. Greg Kerr, who will talk about Sleepy Lizards. Commonly known as 'Stumpy Tails' or 'Shinglebacks', these are familiar and welcome visitors to our gardens and so fit in well with our 'Gardens for Wildlife theme'. We are all familiar with these lizards but how much do we really know about their private lives?

Greg is Senior Ecologist with Nature Glenelg Trust. He is skilled in Natural Resource

Management, raising environmental awareness, wetlands, development of citizen science programs, fauna monitoring and habitat requirements, and environmental policy. Greg is also an award winning secondary teacher who loves to involve and empower community members in ecological monitoring and natural history. He has written many research papers on Sleepy Lizards.



Kevin and Sandy's New Garden



In December 2017 we took possession of a property in Stawell that was over run with exotic plants on which there was a house that was in much need of replacing. By the end of February, we had a clean block of land. Gone was the huge Date Palm, the old house, outbuildings and a lot of fencing.

Cuttings were taken of plants we wanted to keep. We rescued the plastic moulded fish pond and put it aside for future use, along with a rusty basket of water lilies. These were left out of harm's way under an olive tree, until we were ready to landscape the block.



We moved into our new home in August 2018 and so began the task of setting out the paths, sculpting the plant beds, and placing the plants we had collected in pots over the past 18 months, but most importantly was to get the positioning of the fish pond correct, and level, the old waterlilies that had been lying around on the ground and kept getting shifted out of the way was showing signs of green shoots so a couple of bits were cut off and the corm was stuck into a dish with some cow manure and put in the pond, to our amazement this did a lot better than the new one from the nursery. Along with the waterlilies we also planted Nardoo, and a *Philydrum lanuginosum*, (Woolly Waterlily or Frogs Mouth Lily) Which, according to the Atlas of Australian Plants grows naturally around Lake Fyans. This was purchased as tube stock with one flower spike. It now lives in a 200mm terracotta pot and has grown to produce five flower spikes, so it must be in the right spot. The Nardoo has also grown, providing cover for anything that lives in the water. Not long after the pond was filled with water at least one Pobblebonk frog arrived, now the pond is home to a large number of tadpoles.



The garden has mainly survived its first summer intact, losing some plants but most have survived and those that are left are doing very well. Those that did not make will be replaced in autumn. The old palm left thousands of seeds behind, many of these have sprung into life creating the need to pull them out one small section at a time, which means many hours spent on hands and knees.

Kevin

Program for 2019

- Feb 19th Walk and Talk at the Grampians Botanical Gardens Halls Gap
From 6:00pm BYO Dinner and chair
- March 19th Pomonal Hall 7:30 pm **Landscaping for Wildlife** Talk by Neil Marriott
- April 16th 7:30pm Philip Vaughan on **WA trips**.
- May 21st Pomonal Hall 7:30pm **Sleepy Lizards** Presentation by Greg Kerr
- June 18th Pomonal Hall **Wetland Birds** Talk by Neil Macumber
Time to be advised. Afternoon meeting? Thoughts?
- Thursday** July 18th **AGM. Schnitzel night at Barneys** Time to be advised
- August 20th Pomonal Hall 7:30 **Carnivorous Plants** Talk by Roger Wileman.
- September 17th Pomonal Hall **Photo competition and Flower Show preparation**
Time to be advised
- October 5th& 6th **Pomonal Flower Show**
- October 15th **Melton Botanical Gardens Talk and Walk** Day trip Time to be advised
- November 19th Pomonal Hall 7:30pm **Eremophilas** Presentation by Russell Waite
- December 17th **End of year meeting.** Details to be advised

Other Proposed Activities:

- April 27th __ APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale 'Wirrawilla'
- June 15th — APS Geelong is host to the APS Vic COMM, may be open gardens to visit.
- June 16th or 17th following other Geelong activities. Trip to Paul Kennedy's Hakea Garden, Colac.
- Nov Trip to Warrnambool: Visit APS Warrnambool group, Visit Swan reserve,

Remember this is your newsletter and it will only be as good as the articles that you put in it. Thanks to Andrea and Kevin for their contributions. If there are articles you wish to contribute or if there are things you would like to see in our newsletter then please contact us:

*Email: <mailto:grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au> or by phone: 0438 566 250 or by post to:
P.O. Pomonal 3381*

APSVic Grampians Committee 2018-19 (from March onwards)

Office Bearers

President: Vacant
Vice President: John King
Secretary: Andrea Shelley (0405 993 763)
Treasurer: Anita Evans (0409 524 017)

Ordinary Members

Lloyd Thomas
Ross Simpson
Phil Williams

Roles

Newsletter Editor: Phil Williams
Memberships and Hall
Committee Rep: Anita Evans