



Australian Plants Society
Loddon-Murray Group
 Native Plant Newsletter
 OCTOBER— DECEMBER
 2017 Edition



Chamelaucium is a genus of plants confined to WA known as wax flowers. They are very good for cut flowers lasting for 2-3 weeks as a cut flower. Here are some species that are easily grown in well drained sandy loam, sand and heavy soils and are adaptable to limey soils. **By Barry Teague.**



Chamelaucium Axillare
“Esperance Waxflowers”

Esperance waxflower grows from 600mm– 2 metres
 It has scented foliage, red buds and a small white flower. It is found in the Esperance Goldfields region in sandy soils.

Chamelaucium Ciliatum

This waxflower is found in the Great Southern, Goldfields, Esperance region in many soil types growing to about 1-2 metres, flower colour varies from white to pink



Chamelaucium Ciliatum



Chamelaucium Megalopetalum
“Large Waxflowers”

The large waxflower grows between 1m-2m and has large waxy white flowers turning pink to red with age. It is found in the Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Goldfields and Esperance regions in sandy soils.

Chamelaucium Uncinatum
“Geraldton Wax”

This plant is the most popular of all the waxflowers. It grows from 1-4m to 3.5m. Many colour forms of this plant are readily available. It is found on the west coast of WA from Geraldton, south to about Perth, inland to about 100 klms inland from the westcoast.

All these plants can be easily grown from cuttings and are quite drought tolerate, making good plants to grow in our area.

Some of the species need to be replaced in 5–10yrs.



Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Loddon Murray APS Group

Ten years ago a native Australian Plant enthusiast, Meredith Farley, thought that there might be other like minded people in this area who would care to share their passion for our iconic flora. Upon contacting the Australian Plants Society Victoria Group for which she was a lone member she found there were several other lone members from their group in our region too. If they were all to know about each other then it made sense that they could get together and form a group to pool their knowledge and resources.

A public meeting was held in Kerang titled 'An Introduction to the Australian Plants Society and Waterwise Gardening with Natives' in March 2007 with over 70 people in attendance. Mr Paul Kennedy, who was the APS Vic president at the time, explained the role and aim of the group was to promote the growing and preservation of Australian native plants through cultivation. Mrs Jan Hall, an APS Wangaratta member then spoke on waterwise gardening in Northern Victoria using native plants, and as we were still experiencing the millennium drought, this was very well received. A follow-up meeting was then scheduled for a Sunday in the following month and from there the Loddon Murray APS Group was formed.

On Saturday September 2nd, 2017 Mr Paul Kennedy once again addressed a large group gathered at the Tudor Tavern, Barham, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Loddon Murray APS Group. Several of the founding members also attended but sadly Meredith had passed away last year due to cancer. Her husband Andrew carries on her legacy and is the current president of the group, which has over 40 members. The current president of APS Vic, Mr Chris Long and his wife Glenys, also attended as special guests.

The Tudor Tavern was adorned with many different native flowers, all from members' gardens. Other displays included all the groups newsletters over the ten years documenting the outings to gardens and events all over the state and various activities that have been held locally, such as propagating days and projects such as the flower boxes in Fitzroy street, Kerang, and Bringing World Tree Day into local schools. There were also copies of the original newspaper articles that appeared in the Northern Times regarding the Inaugural meeting.

There have been many meeting venues over the ten years, from the first one at the Assembly of God facility to the DPI offices, WD Thomas Day Care Centre and now the Lions Club 'Den' in Park Street, Kerang. Here the group is able to plant a bit of a native display for passersby to enjoy and showcase some of our cultivation successes.

As well as enjoying a fantastic meal put on by the Tudor Tavern, Robyn Farnsworth, a founding member, gave a brief overview of the development of the group over the ten years and then Mr Royce Raleigh, President of Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc, presented a Powerpoint presentation with spectacular photos of native plants from Northern NSW that could also be grown and adapted to our area. Guests were presented with beautiful native bouquets created by members Don and Lorraine Mathews with flowers grown in their working garden at Koraleigh.

No anniversary celebration would be complete without a cake to cut to mark the occasion, a lovely chocolate cake courtesy of member Brenda Matthews. The honours went to our president and our special guests.

Special thanks must go to the Kerang Community Fundraisers Inc for allowing us the use of the Bus Stop community bus that made it much easier for some of our older members to attend a night function.

Linda Coote.

These photos were taken at our 10th Anniversary Celebrations at the Tudor Tavern Barham.



MY BUSH GARDEN

Here I am on my handsome knees
Wondering about the birds and bees,
And what to plant and what to sow
And whether or not it all will grow.

Here I am on my handsome knees
Wearing the rubber “dungarees”
That I bought this morning.

In the clay and mud of my new found patch
Amongst the rabbits and grassy thatch
I looked at the layout and what was there
For me to plant....

Some old raised beds and a paddock bare
And winter grass was everywhere
Some thistles too and a lot of weed
What if I don't have enough seed?

Here I am on my handsome knees
Wearing the muddy “dungarees”
Laying turf all green and new
To enhance the front door view.

In went the Cyprus, to grow straight and tall
And a surround of bushes, mighty small
By comparison....

Then out the back I made a fence
To keep out rabbits,
Which didn't work.

Here I made a garden fair
Full of natives everywhere,
Over one hundred, I lost count
But who will notice? I won't.

In come the birdies, for a feed
And nectar plants for the bees to feed.
Some skinks and lizards live here too
But watch those hawks—flying through.

Here I am on my handsome knees
Working in my “dungarees”
Thinking about the choice I made
To buy this patch.

Two and half acres—what was I thinking?
The weather that day,
Must have been stinking,
For me to invest that much.

I made the choice and the answer is YES!
Time to join APS.



Initial stage of my garden.



End of spring in these two photos



Guest Speaker for the next General Meeting will be Royce Raleigh from Wartook.

To be held Wednesday 25th October 2017 at the Lions Club Rooms Kerang.
His subject will be :-

Smaller Plants for Gardens

There are many wonderful smaller plants slowly finding their way into plant enthusiast's gardens. We just have to try and get some of these into many more gardens.

We have all seen inappropriate planting on smaller urban home sites so we will look at some alternatives for screening, and then progress through to some of the wonderful smaller plants that are being grown. Many of you will recognize some , some will be new.

Then we will have a look at what is happening to the range of plants that we can now grow because of climate is change. We also take a quick look at a few plants that I would like to grow.

For those of us that regularly travel Australia, we realize that there are many hundreds, possibly thousands of beautiful, showy plants that we could grow if we could get them into nurseries or into our propagator's hands.

I hope that I can show you a few plants that you will want to have a try at growing.

Calytrix sapphirina



Beaufortia purpurea



Beaufortia orbifolia



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Thank you to all the contributions to the newsletter for this edition and the others in this past year. Without these contributions the newsletter would not be possible.

APS Diary Dates

7th & 8th October 2017 APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show @ Pomonal Hall 9.30am – 5 pm.

28th October 2017 APS Echuca presents Native Flower Showcase. Uniting Church Hall Echuca 9am-4 pm. Awesome display of Australian native plants of members of the local area. Plant sales and morning teas.

12 to 20 January 2018 – ANPSA 2018 Conference, Hobart. Pre and Post Conference tours to King Island and Tasmanian Alpine areas. To receive updates email asgapjan18@gmail.com.

2017 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Sunday 22nd October 10am-4pm GIRGARRE OPEN GARDEN FESTIVAL

5 Spectacular gardens to view, garden passes to be purchased on day at Girgarre Community Cottage. Entry \$15, children free, NO DOGS PLEASE.

INFORMATION ph 5854 6482 or email girgarrenh@bigpond.com

Wednesday October 25th General Meeting 7.30pm Lions Club rooms

Guest speaker Royce Raleigh

Supper Duty Parkers and Halls.

November Date to be decided; Outing to Hoopers wetland at Benjeroop
Combined with Echuca/ Moama APS Group.

December 9th Noon Christmas Break Up.

At Barry and Elva Teague's 30 Mortoo Street Swan Hill

Meat supplied.

All bring a small salad and sweet to share.

RSVP to Teague's for catering numbers by **Friday 1st December please.**

Find us at www.facebook.com/APS LoddonMurray/

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