



KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



September 2019

Friday Meeting

20th September at 8.00 pm
Eucalypts as Street Trees

Bruce Schroder

Unfortunately, our proposed speaker for this month on Droseras has had to cancel at the last moment. We are hoping to be able to reschedule the presentation for some time next year.

In the meantime, Bruce has offered to present to us a talk he gave a few years ago at a symposium on Eucalypts and Close Allies at the RBG Cranbourne. This presentation was given not long after Bruce retired from his position as Manager of Parks and Open Space at the City of Whittlesea, after a 30-year career in the Parks sector with a number of Melbourne suburban municipalities, the last 20 years being at Whittlesea on Melbourne's northern growth fringe.

The management and maintenance of street trees is typically one of the most emotive issues facing local government and often one that experiences high and costly levels of risk management. Bruce will provide an insight as to where the use of Eucalypts as street trees fits into this risky and emotive roller coaster.

**Friday meetings are held at the
Australian Unity Hall
8 Main St, Blackburn**

near the Blackburn train station

Annual General Meeting

The Maroondah Group AGM will be held during the regular Friday meeting on **18th October**. Details and Committee nomination form are included on the insert with this newsletter.

2019 Victorian Tree of the Year

The **good** news – a 300-year old River Red Gum in Bulleen was declared the 2019 Victorian Tree of the Year.

The **bad** news – current plans for North East Link involve removing this tree!

To object to the felling of this historic tree, go to change.org to sign the online petition "Save the 300-year-old Bulleen River Red Gum".

Garden Visit

Sunday 22nd September at 2 pm
Wominjeka Reconciliation Garden, Glen Iris

Meet at St Oswald's Church, 100 High Street,
Glen Iris (Melway map 60 B9)

In 2018 Reverend Glenn Loughery (resident priest, indigenous artist and poet) was responsible for the creation of the Wominjeka Reconciliation Garden at St Oswald's. "Wominjeka" means *welcome* in the language of the Wurundjeri people of the Melbourne area.

This garden replaced a disused tennis court adjacent to the church, and landscape students from Swinburne University helped with its design and construction. A traditional smoking ceremony was held and the garden was officially opened by the Archbishop of Melbourne.

We will gather in front of St Oswald's on High Street and then proceed into the garden with Rev. Glenn and Doug Lee, a member of the congregation who has helped create and maintain this garden. Doug is a life member and former President of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, Victorian Group.

Following this visit you are welcome to come to the home of Debbie Jerkovic (24 Flowerdale Road, Glen Iris) for afternoon tea and then a ramble through Eleanor Hodges' garden (27 Flowerdale Road, Glen Iris). We hope to see you then.

Maroondah Garden Visits

Each month your committee organises a visit to a native (or mainly native) garden for our members. We hope that you are aware that everyone is very welcome to come along to these visits, which are usually held on the Sunday afternoon following our Friday night member meetings.

The format is that we have a walk around the garden, usually with the garden owner pointing out things like their favourite plants or newly developed areas. Then we have a cuppa (provided) and a chat.

These visits are a great opportunity to see how particular plants grow in different conditions and different approaches to garden design, as well as getting to know other members better. We hope to see more of you at future garden visits, particularly our newer members.

Gardens for Wildlife

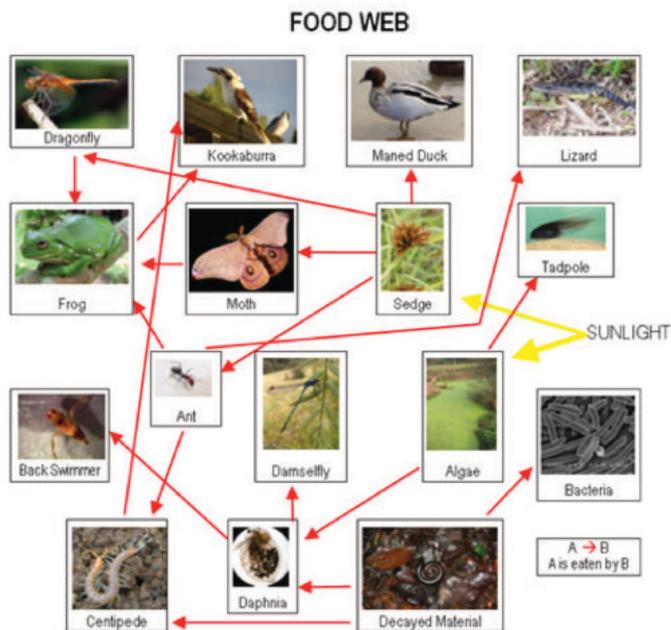
Notes from the talk by A B Bishop in August

Written by Sue Guymer

AB said that she was very happy to present to us as she felt at home amongst a group of native plant enthusiasts. She has realised more and more that native plants (particularly local indigenous plants) are the way to go to attract and support our native “critters”.

Why should we want to attract and support local fauna in our gardens? A major reason is to support the local environment. Most of us are worried about the environment and providing habitat for wildlife can make a positive difference. There are also direct benefits to the garden owner such as the enjoyment of discovery and interaction with the critters, and the health benefits of drawing us out into the great outdoors and feeling happy. Habitat gardens are also a great way to encourage children to appreciate nature; AB finds children to be natural ecologists.

What is habitat? It is an area where plants and animals live - providing suitable food, water and shelter. Everything is interrelated. These relationships form food webs and chains. The food web starts in the soil with bacteria and fungi (nematodes and protozoa keep these in check). They provide about 90% of the nitrogen which the plants need. As gardeners, we know that we need healthy soil for our plants to grow.



Chains can be broken by the removal of a key species, or the introduction of feral species, of fauna or flora. The good news is that these chains can be restored by re-introducing the indigenous species, or reducing the impact of the weed species. This has been demonstrated in large scale projects such as restoring habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater and Lowland Leadbeaters Possum.

It is important to have a variety of species to support the critters – this biodiversity, including variety of flower colour and shape, is also more pleasing to gardeners as well. Hollows are very important – boxes are very good if you don’t have natural hollows. Different boxes (size, access to hole, etc) are suitable for different animals

such as possums, birds and bats. Insect hotels are great; there are many for sale now, or make your own. It is also a good idea to put out a saucer or tray of bits and pieces for nest-making in a protected place – feathers, moss, lichen and small sticks.

Let’s talk about HOLLOWs!



There are many species of birds in our area – we could see over 50 different species with the right diversity of plants in our gardens. Birds need to have an area of dry soil so that they can have a dust bath, as well as needing water for drinking and bathing. Different size and depth of birdbaths suit different bird species. Small birds seem to prefer unglazed birdbaths. It is important to put sticks into small water vessels so that creatures which fall in, have a way to get out.

Nectar-producing plants are used by insects as well as nectar-eating birds. These insects, in turn, bring in insectivorous birds. There are many nectar-rich native plant species such as banksias, callistemons and grevilleas. *Pandorea pandorana* is high in nectar and provides dense cover for small birds. *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* flowers along the stems which means that birds can hide and feed within the shrub. Seed-eating birds need to be catered for.

Tussock forming grasses are great habitat. *Themeda triandra* is a food source for at least 15 species of butterfly larvae! Butterflies and moths will appreciate daisies too. There are about 400 species of Australian butterflies, but about 22,000 species of Australian moths. Why so many moths? AB realised that this is because moths are mostly nocturnal, and so are most of our insect-eating mammals – moths are a large part of their diet. Mammals are nocturnal so we will not see them so often. But it is important to support them.



There are 2,000 species of native bees and 12,000 native wasps – about 90,000 species of Australian insects overall!

There are over 200 species of Australian frogs – they all need water. It is best if ponds can be at least 30 cm wide to reduce mosquitoes. Aim for 70% shade/30% sun to balance algal growth. Strappy-leafed plants around the edges enable frogs to get in and out safely, and grasses provide safety for small critters to travel through the garden.

Lizards love sunbaking so it is good to include rocks, and hollow logs and strappy plants.

Do less cleaning up! Leave some “mess” on the ground. By raking up leaves and bark you are reducing habitat. If your instincts are to tidy up, at least try having an area which you leave more natural as a habitat area, fenced off if necessary. And avoid using chemicals!

Habitat garden can be created anywhere – even confined to balconies. Diversity is important – use different

Marvelous mammals



levels including climbers and low plants, and shrubs which enable critters to travel between levels.

Many thanks to AB for an inspiring talk on how we can each do something positive for our local environment. If you want to find out more, read AB Bishop’s “Habitat” book.

Joe’s Plant of the Month

Leonema coxii

Joe Wilson

This plant is a member of the Rutaceae family. It grows naturally, and widespread, along the Southern Tableland escarpment of NSW. It generally grows on rocky terrain, often on steep slopes.

It is not common in cultivation. Generally, in our gardens, it grows to 2-3 m tall and wide. It should be planted where there is good drainage, preferably of an organic nature with extra moisture and with some shade. It should also be mulched or protected around the root zone. It loves extra nutrients and responds well to hard pruning. It can be slow at first but is a good reliable plant for screening or hedging.

The flowers form large white or cream upright showy clusters over winter to flower September to November. The bees and the butterflies love it. The leaves are dark green, narrow elliptical, up to 7cm long. They are distinctively aromatic – some say fruity, but I don’t.

Leonema coxii is a great fill-in for those shaded areas which makes a good show in flower. Add it to you background plants – it’s worthwhile.



Leonema coxii at Maranoa Garden

Photo by “Melburnian”

GROWING FRIENDS
SPRING 2019
PLANTSALE
in the gardens
Saturday 26
Sunday 27 October

10.00am – 4.00pm

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Cranbourne
 Plant list available one week prior to sale
 www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



POMONAL

Native Flower Show

Pomonal Hall
 Sat 5th Oct 9:00 - 5:00
 Sun 6th Oct 9:00 - 4:00
 Entry \$5, Children free

Flowers Galore!
 Plant Sales
 Book Sales
 Information
 Advice
 Refreshments

Special feature this year:
Native Gardens for Wildlife



A rich and diverse garden attracts many forms of native wildlife

Presented by Australian Plants Society Grampians Group Inc

Specimen Table

Our thanks to Joe Wilson for leading the Specimen Table at our August meeting.

Bill Aitchison

Swainsona formosa – quite a few members who bought the grafted Sturt Desert Peas that our Group procured last year still have the plants surviving well, and many have had the plants flower.

Dockrillia teretifolia (previously *Dendrobium teretifolium*) – Velda and Graham Ellis brought this orchid along. It was strapped on to a piece of natural cork 40 years ago, it gets a spray about once a week and always flowers well in winter.

Pterostylis nutans – these local Greenhood orchids grow very easily in the garden, Joe advises to just leave them alone – don't dig them up every year, don't disturb the soil and you don't need to give them extra water. Another local one on the Table was *Pterostylis concinna*.

Hakea decurrens – Joe notes that if you set fire underneath this plant, you will have seedlings coming up for years.

Pomaderris lanigera – this has nice foliage, is quick growing and likes a bit of extra water. Also on the Table was *P. obcordata*, a very rewarding plant.

Acacia pycnantha – Joe noted that you can cut this back hard and it will love it. Another acacia on the Table, from Nicky Zanen, was *A. acinacea*, with a gall on it. Joe commented that the gall would not kill the plant.

Hakea corymbosa – a great prickly plant, about 2m in height, a bushy plant that you don't need to prune.

Philotheca 'Flower Girl' – this gets to about 1m x 1m and is absolutely covered in flowers at the moment. Philothecas respond well to pruning, straight after flowering. Also on the Table was *P. verrucosa*; Trevor Blake had this growing for about 4 years and it suckered madly.

Guichenotia macrantha – a hardy plant, flowering well at the moment. Joe expects that next month we will have *G. ledifolia* in flower and on the Specimen Table.

Templetonia retusa – Joe commented that some people have found that their plants have already finished flowering, whereas others still have plants in full flower. He suggests that plants in shadier conditions that get wet from dew or rain are subject to fungal infection and lose their flowers more quickly, whereas plants that get a bit more sunshine tend to flower longer.

Grevillea tenuiloba – a WA species, generally a ground covering species and often sold as a grafted plant, and also as a grafted standard. One of the first forms introduced into cultivation was given the name 'Golden Glory'. Long-flowering through winter and spring.

Darwinia meeboldii, **D. lejustyla 'Coolamon Pink'** – these specimens were both from grafted plants. 'Coolamon Pink' is a variety of *D. lejustyla* that came up in the garden of Doug McKenzie (who supplied the grafted Sturt Desert Pea plants that we procured last year).

September Specimen Table

We look forward to a great variety of plant material for our September Specimen Table, but would like to highlight grevilleas this month. Do you have any unusual grevilleas flowering at the moment?



Hakea decurrens



Pomaderris lanigera (top) and *P. obcordata*



Hakea corymbosa



A drift of darwinias

Vale Silver Princess

Michael Cook

After the beautiful rains, following the very lengthy drought, we discovered our magnificent *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess' was dying. I reckon Trevor Blake put the kybosh on it when he inferred it was 'common'!

I couldn't understand why it should 'cark it' as it was on a slope which technically should drain away excess water. I then thought we could plant a climber which could climb the dead, but still weeping, white bark tree. Joe Wilson recommended *Kennedia coccinea* (orange flower), which is also a ground cover from WA.

So, I asked Kurunga to put it aside and within the week we were there having lunch and picking up the climber. Liv Devlin also advised on a replacement eucalypt – *Eucalyptus pumila*, a NSW mallee to 5m tall.

Now when I planted them, I discovered why our 4-year old 'Princess' had succumbed. The stoney 'clay' soil was saturated; so this poor tree was planted by a landscaper who had no idea what its requirements were.

I have since bought an auger to drill deep plug holes and mix compost into the holes, ensuring better drainage in such soils. It does work well. Also, should you want to plant tube stock, it drills quickly and easily to 450mm depth, to ensure good, well-drained soil under the plant. You need a good cordless drill which has tension and reverse controls so as not to injure wrists if it hits a snag.



History Revealed ...



Nicky Zanen has found a couple of old photos from the dinner which celebrated the 40th anniversary of APS Victoria (Society for Growing Australian Plants Victoria at that time).

The dinner was held at the King Village Resort in 1997 at Wantirna and was very well attended.

Can you recognise some of the people featured?



Study Groups

Study Groups are a wonderful part of the Australian Plants Society. They operate at the national level, are cheap to join and cover particular areas of interest such as particular genera (such as Grevilleas, Correas, Eremophilas) or uses such as Garden Design and Food Plants. A full list and further details of the various study groups can be found at anpsa.org.au/study.html

These groups are open to all APS members and are great forums for discussing particular interests with like-minded members across the country (and overseas!). Some study groups also do field trips and projects such as writing books.

Give them a go!

Maranoa Gardens Florilegium

24th September to 20th October 2019

Town Hall Gallery, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn
(Melway map 45 D10)

Twelve local artists from the Balwyn Community Botanical Art Group have painted an exquisite series of plant specimens picked by the curators of Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn.

These intricate botanical paintings have been created to document the fascinating flora of Maranoa Gardens, one of the oldest surviving gardens to exclusively feature Australian native plants. Filled with watercolour paintings and drawings in pencil, pen and ink, this exhibition celebrates the collective artistic achievement of these dedicated botanical artists.

Entry is free.

Garden Visit

Diane Hedin

Pam welcomed a big group of visitors, including a couple of neighbours, to her beautiful established garden in Heathmont. The garden was begun 40 years ago on this sloping ¼-acre block that had pine trees, other exotics and, most importantly, remnant bush. The garden had changed over the years with the demands of a growing family; its most recent “ch..ch..ch..change” occurred 12 months ago when a giant eucalypt fell over crushing numerous plants and exposing many others to the elements.

It is an enchanting garden of tall trees including several local gums, a silky oak, rose she-oaks, and multiple layers of shrubs including acacias, thomasias, phebaliums, correas, lasiopetalums, banksias, philothecas, dodonaeas, chorizemas, chamelauciums, lomandras, orthrosanthus and plecthanthrus, showing a wide range of forms and colours. It was good to see a well-established *Grevillea arenaria* and a large *Chorilaena quercifolia* which are now less commonly grown. Pam explained that she has chosen plants that can withstand the dry and shady conditions on clay soil. She improves the soil with gypsum, compost and home-made mulch. The garden has a 12,500 litre water supply with tanks and a bladder under the deck.



Nematolepis phebalioides

Bill Aitchison

The paths pleasantly take one through various productive, ornamental and perfumed parts of the garden with happy discoveries along the way including a pair of Tawny Frogmouths, a moss-covered pond for frogs, secluded fern areas, a patch of Greenhoods and unusual plants in flower such as the cream flower form of *Hibbertia dentata* and *Nematolepis phebalioides*.

The focus of the garden has been to create habitat and Pam is pleased that she shares it with ringtail and brushtail possums, various birds, insects, butterflies and brown tree frogs as well as striped marsh frogs. The immediate neighbours’ native gardens extend this habitat and create a beautiful bush atmosphere.

We ended the visit with a cup of tea and munchies on the roomy deck overlooked by well-fed resident magpies. Thank you Pam for showing us your inspiring garden.



Cream *Hibbertia dentata*

Nicky Zanen



Tawny Frogmouths

Bill Aitchison



Enjoying afternoon tea

Bill Aitchison

History Revealed ...

The first photo shows, from left to right, Beryl Blake, Trevor Blake, Rodger Elliot, Gwen Elliot and Peter Rogers. The second one shows Marion King being presented with a bouquet ... but who is presenting it to her?

Facebook for Maroondah Group

Recently your Committee decided to put up a Facebook page for our group. Although many still haven't ventured into Facebook, it is actually a really good way to promote Australian Native Plants and also a way to promote our Group.

The way for our Facebook to progress is for members and their friends to go into our site and 'like' our page or any of the 'posts' we put up. To find our page please head in to Facebook and type in "Australian Plants Society Maroondah inc". You may be surprised what comes up on this page.

If you would like to contribute to this page with items or photographs, please send the information to Alison Rogers on Maroondah Group's email address at apsmaroondah@gmail.com

Earth Overshoot Day

WWF's Living Planet magazine recently reported that Earth Overshoot Day marks the day each year when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services exceeds what Earth can generate in the year.

In 2018 this day was 1st August; this year it was even earlier at 29th July.

Members on the Sick List

Enid Haskins, Rob Dunlop and Bev Fox have all been ill or injured recently. We hope that they are all recovering well.

Joan Barrett Obituary

There was a very good obituary for Joan Barrett in *The Age* on 14th August. This can be viewed at:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/dunc-social-work-pioneer-australian-native-plant-enthusiast-20190715-h1g87t.html>

Indigofera

Graeme Nicholls

Indigofera is a large genus of over 750 species in the pea family Fabaceae, found widely throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The name Indigofera relates to the fact that the leaves of some species, especially *I. tinctoria* and *I. suffruticosa*, are used to produce an indigo-coloured dye, known to have been used thousands of years ago.

Elliot & Jones' *Encyclopaedia* (1990) says that about 30 species are found naturally in Australia. I have only ever heard of people growing *I. australis*, which is a variable species usually to about 2 m high, found in all Australian States. It flowers through spring, is frost hardy and can withstand some drought, although some watering is a help.

But I am intrigued by a species of Indigofera growing in the carpark on the north side of the Blackburn train station. A hedge of these was planted by VicRoads after the removal of the Blackburn Rd level crossing several years ago. The plants only grow to 1 m x 1 m, and receive no attention whatever out in the full sun. I think they would be great in a small garden, and I have been growing some from seed to see if they come true to form. I have also grafted it on *I. australis* which ensures that it will match the original.

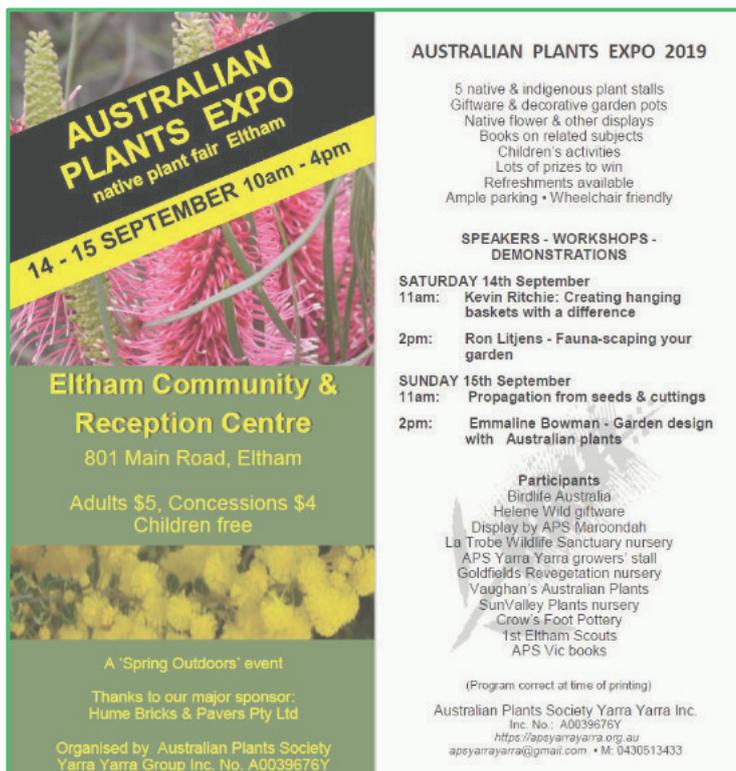
If anyone has seen these plants and knows what species they are, I would love to know.

Care for the Rare

APS South East Melbourne have John Arnott, from Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, talking to their group on "Care for the Rare". We are all welcome to go along.

8pm Tuesday 1st October

Hughesdale Community Hall, cnr Poath Rd and Kangaroo Rd, Hughesdale (Melway map 69 C7).



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO 2019
5 native & indigenous plant stalls
Giftware & decorative garden pots
Native flower & other displays
Books on related subjects
Children's activities
Lots of prizes to win
Refreshments available
Ample parking • Wheelchair friendly

SPEAKERS - WORKSHOPS - DEMONSTRATIONS

SATURDAY 14th September
11am: Kevin Ritchie: Creating hanging baskets with a difference
2pm: Ron Litjens - Fauna-scaping your garden

SUNDAY 15th September
11am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings
2pm: Emmaline Bowman - Garden design with Australian plants

Participants
Birdlife Australia
Helene Wild giftware
Display by APS Maroondah
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary nursery
APS Yarra Yarra growers' stall
Goldfields Revegetation nursery
Vaughan's Australian Plants
SunValley Plants nursery
Crow's Foot Pottery
1st Eltham Scouts
APS Vic books

(Program correct at time of printing)
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AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO
native plant fair Eltham
14 - 15 SEPTEMBER 10am - 4pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre
801 Main Road, Eltham

Adults \$5, Concessions \$4
Children free

A "Spring Outdoors" event

Thanks to our major sponsor:
Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd

Organised by Australian Plants Society
Yarra Yarra Group Inc. No. A0039676Y



Australian Flower Show
Bendigo 2019

Flower Display
*Specialist Native Nurseries,
Books, Garden Accessories
and more.*

Saturday 21 September
Sunday 22 September
9.30am - 4pm
Entry \$3 (children free entry)

Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym
★ Freeman Drive (off Olympic Pde)
Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo

☎ 0400 149 319
bendigo@apsvic.org.au



Upcoming Events

Friday Meetings

- 20th September**
Bruce Schroder – *Eucalypts as Street Trees*
- 18th October**
Auction Night and AGM
- 15th November**
Maree and Graham Goods –
Chasing Goodeniaceae

Plant sales

- 14th–15th September** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plant Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main St, Eltham. 10am-4pm (Melway 21 J6). Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.
- 21st–22nd September** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat. 9:30am-4pm (Melway X909 D3).
- 21st–22nd September** – 50th Anniversary of Anglesea Wildflower Weekend & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, 3 McMillan St, Anglesea. 10am-4pm (Melway map 514 E7).
- 5th–6th October** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30am to 5:00pm on Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm on Sunday.
- 12th October** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9:00am to 4:00pm. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations.
- 12th–13th October** – APS South Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Flower Show. 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday. South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreation Reserve.
- 12th–13th October** – Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants at Horsham Spring Garden Festival, Horsham Botanical Gardens, Firebrace Street, Horsham, from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Garden visits and activities

- 22nd September** – Wominjeka Reconciliation Garden, Glen Iris
- 20th October** – Marilyn and Geoff Bull Garden, Montrose
- 17th November** – Aitchison/Guymer Garden, Donvale

Open Gardens Victoria (entry \$8 for adults)

- 14th–15th September** – “Yallaroo”, 7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South (Bob and Dot O’Neill’s garden). 10am-4:30pm (Melway map 130 D3).

ANPSA Events

- 30th September – 4th October 2019:**
ANPSA National Conference, Albany WA. Bookings are open until 20th September unless booked out prior. Some tours also have vacancies, and will take people not attending the conference. Refer to the website bloomingbiodiversity.com.au to book and for more details.

Manningham Council Environment Seminars

- First Wednesday of the month – 7:20 pm at River View Room, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte (Melway M23 E12).
- 4th September** – Dr Rob Hale on “*Ecological Costs and Benefits of Stormwater Wetlands*”

FNCV Botany group talks

- Third Thursday of the month – starts at 8 pm at FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn (Melway 47 K10)
- 19th September** – Geoff Carr on ‘*Native Plants as Weeds*’
- 18th October** – John Patykowski on ‘*The Effect of Disturbance on Plant Rarity and Ecosystem Function*’

New members

A warm welcome to Tanya Marlin and Catherine Grey. We look forward to seeing you at our group activities.

Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

Postal address: P.O. Box 33, Ringwood 3134
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Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the October 2019 Newsletter should be sent to Graeme Nicholls at maroondah@apsvic.org.au no later than **Sunday 29th September 2019**

Check out the Maroondah Group website at australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah

Member page login: mrndh2016

How about making a contribution to the website?



And have a look at the APS Vic website at www.apsvic.org.au

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