



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

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
 DEPUTY LEADER: Helen Appleby
 SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
 TREASURER: Catherine Irwin irwincs@hotmail.com
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 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
 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 22nd

Tuesday 5TH FEBRUARY 2019

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall

Speaker: Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher Topic: 'Fabulous Fungi & what they are doing in our Bushlands'

Sapphire is an ecologist who has special interest in the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the macrofungi and mosses. She did her doctorate at the University of Tasmania on 'Surrogates for cryptogam conservation – associations between mosses, macrofungi, vascular plants and environmental variables.' Sapphire has been actively involved with Fungimap* since 1999. She is the regional representative for Australasia for the [International Society for Fungal Conservation](#) [ISFC]. She is also active with Australian scientific groups like the Education Subcommittee of the Australasian Mycological Society, the Ecological Society of Australia, Australian Bryophyte Workshops and community groups including many field naturalist clubs and Landcare groups. Read more about her research profile in [Research Gate](#) and [Linkedin](#). Having lived in four states and travelled across Australia's landscapes she has been involved in many of the fungal community groups over the years. She has worked with many of these groups to raise the profile of local fungi and the important roles fungi play in our environment. She is involved in Greening Australia's [Habitat Conservation and Management Course](#) and the new Victorian Nature Stewards program. She particularly enjoys getting out into the bush to discover fungal treasures as often as she can.

RAINFALL RECORDS for 2018

The following are our rainfall records for 2018 (in mm). **Totals we had for 2017 are shown in red for comparison.** Overall, it was quite a bit drier in 2018.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	67.6	1	26.2	20.5	71	54.3	29.5	54	25.2	25.7	119.8		494.8 626
Highbett	52.2	1.6	16.5	17.1	50.1	38.1	38.7	22.8	15.3	34.2	77.7	72.6	437.9 617
Hampton	51	0	18	18	39	34		Gauge broken					558
Cranbourne South	47	4	32	26	78	70	79	66	38	38	119	99	696 787
Caulfield Sth	76	1	25	17	58	44	26	45	17	22	90	72	493 621
Elsternwick	63.3	1	22	13.6	42.55	36.8	23.7	38.5	9	26.5	112	89	477.95

2.

DECEMBER MEETING

Catherine gave a short report on results of the APS Vic Committee of Management meeting at the beginning of December after which five of our members showed slides from either their gardens or places they had visited.

Robert and Gail showed us a wide variety of plants from their new garden, some of which were: Flannel flowers, *Xerochrysum brachteantha* (yellow, pink), the brilliant blue flower of Thelionema, bright pink *Pimelea ferruginea*, several Anigozanthus, *Verticordia 2lumose* growing in a drain pipe, *Chamaelaucium ciliatum* - doing better in a pot than when they'd had it in the ground, the lovely light blue *Lechenaultia biloba* and some eremophilas.

Marj and Norm visited Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens in Brisbane in late October and showed us some of the natives on display there, including a water dragon, several scrub fowls and a friendly yellow crested cockatoo. The gardens have recently established a new section of natives (as well as the 'old' region at the far extremities of the garden).

A vivid flower head of red *Brachychiton bidwillii* (left), the bunya



pine forest (right) and a group of *Banksia robur* featured. She noted that in the new section, many of the banksias seemed not to be thriving, having yellow leaves and no new growth – maybe soil problems?



Catherine took several photographs of a garden bed that had been established not far from her McLeod offices. Grevilleas featured heavily, bushes and ground covers, as well as a big flowering *Banksia ericifolia*. Catherine included several close-ups of the red and yellow flowers on the bushes.

Amongst Mandy's photos were several shots of orchids such as a pink *Dendrobium speciosum*



and a white *Sarcochilus* hung on brickwork rather than in pots. Shots of the highly perfumed native gardenia (Randia? – left) and orange *Isopogon dawsonii* were attractive. Bright red *Verticordia mitchelliana* is always a hit.

Mandy 'caught' three of the big carp swimming in the volcano crater at the Melbourne Botanic

Gardens on our November outing and followed it with a photo of a spike of a non-native plant seen there (Puya?) with turquoise flowers (right). We all appreciated her last two shots of a drawing of a WA train as well as its original photo that she had done whilst her wrist was in plaster.

Our final presenter was John who showed us several pictures of various stylidiums and introduced us to the throat appendages which can be used as a diagnostic tool when identifying these plants. Some stylidiums shown were: *S.*

rhynchocarpum, *S. lineatum* (NSW, pink), *S. trudgenii* (pink, WA, 30 – 40cm spike on a rosette), *S. corymbosum* (from Esperance), *S. ireneae* (pale pink normally, but John showed a darkish red sport in his photo), *S. rosulatum* (Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Ranges) has 8 – 9 blunt throat



appendages) and *S. junceum* (reed trigger plant, early flowering, interesting pollination mechanism). In addition to the stylidiums, John showed a native raspberry, a Davidson plum flowerhead on its trunk (*Davidsonia jersiana*), a pobblebonk taken outside his Grampians motel room and a ground orchid (*Phaius tankervilleae*, right) from northern NSW which John grows in a pot (his pride and joy!). Although it took about 15 years to flower, it now flowers every year.



Phaius - photo taken from the web

SPECIMEN TABLE

Again, only a few people offered specimens but there were some interesting ones offered. Both Mandy and Marj brought in *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, a plant that could successfully be used as a Christmas decoration. Mandy also had *Veronica derwentiana* with



its dainty white flowers, *Acacia glaucoptera* which wasn't in flower but had a lot of red new growth and a striking creamy pink flowering stem of the lily *Helmholtzia glaberrima* or stream lily (left). A stem of *Hibbertia scandens* (right) was discussed as both a climber and a bush.



Mandy and Marj both brought in *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (right) or Blue berry ash; Mandy's was white and Marj's pink. This is a small tree or large bush and is covered in flowers which are then followed by a mass of blue (inedible) berries.



Marj followed with a stem of *Leptospermum "Rudolph"* (left) which has large red/pink flowers and bronze new growth. In addition she had a couple of flowering stems of *Velleia foliosa* and the magenta pea *Swainsona greyana*. The velleia flowers were a bright golden yellow - Marj is trying to grow leaf cuttings of this plant.

John's collection included some grevilleas - *G. armigera* (WA, black styles, prickly foliage), *G. treueiana* (left, red flowers, prickly) and *G. insignis* ssp *insignis*, right, (grey holly like leaves, pink flowers). John's is grafted and over 20 years old, likes semi shade. *Thryptomene denticulata* flowers 3 or 4 times a year, and John's is about 50cm high by 1m wide. *Homoranthus prolixus*, like the



more common *H. pappilatus*, grows in layers but has yellowy olive green flowers. His *Scaevola aemula* is low growing with dark purple flowers - Angus Stewart's *S. "Aussie Salute"* is similar but grows more upright.

4.

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Specimen grown by Amanda Loudon

Babingtonia camphorosmae (Endl.) Lindl.

Camphor Myrtle

Babingtonia camphorosmae is a low spreading shrub to about 50cm high by 1 metre across. It is found in the wheatbelt, Peel and South West regions of WA between Northam and Bridgetown and as far east as Katanning. It was formerly known as *Baeckea camphorosmae*.



The genus *Baeckea* has been split into several different genera. *Babingtonia* *sense stricto* is endemic to Western Australia. The Victorian species of *Baeckea* have been moved into *Sannantha*, *Euromyrtus* and *Hysterobaeckea*.

B. camphorosmae has neat, heath like, fragrant foliage with masses of pink to white flowers in late spring and summer. The local Noongar people, after preparing the foliage in the appropriate manner, used the leaves to treat skin conditions, headaches and upset stomachs. The flowers, leaves and stems were used to treat skin conditions.

A full sun aspect with excellent drainage is required. Propagation is easiest from cuttings.

Babingtonia is a member of the Myrtaceae family. A large family of c.3500 species in c.150 genera with c.1400 species in c.75 genera occurring in Australia. It includes such genera as *Astartea*, *Beaufortia*, *Calothamnus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hypocalymma*, *Micromyrtus*, *Regelia* and *Scholzitia*. The genus name, *Babingtonia*, is the original name applied to this plant by the botanist John Lindley in 1842. It is in honour of Charles Babington (1808 - 1895), a British botanist and archaeologist.

The specific name, *camphorosmae*, is from the Latin *camphora*, referring to camphor, and the Greek *osme*, meaning smell, scent i.e. camphor scented.

February Meeting

Supper: Petra Cox (Please bring milk)

Write-up: Marj Seaton

Are you interested in going to the **ANPSA Conference in Albany** later this year?
Here is their current promotional information:



*We are offering a range of wonderful tours before and after the ANPSA 2019 'Blooming Biodiversity' Conference, giving you the chance to experience some of WA's spectacular flora with ease. Details of tour itineraries can be found on the Conference website [here](#). Tour prices and bookings will be available on the website from 1 February.

5.

*Tours 1, 2 and 4 are one-way tours, running from Perth to Albany before the Conference, or after the Conference from Albany to Perth. These tours are ideal if you want to fly to Perth but don't want the hassle of renting a car. Tour 3 starts in Albany and explores the rugged south coast before returning to Albany, with tours before and after the Conference.

*We're also offering local half-day tours in Albany so you can see some of city's main attractions on the Sunday before the Conference begins. More details about these tours (and our great conference excursions) will be sent in our upcoming newsletter.

***Tour 1 – Kwongan and Woodland Tour**



Ex Perth 21-27 September 2019

Ex Albany 5-11 October 2019

Experience the natural wonders and history of Western Australia's Wheatbelt and Inland Southern Heaths.

*The areas we visit are part of a global biodiversity hotspot. You'll see inland sandplains dominated by heath and scrub-heath vegetation; the Wheatbelt region with its wetlands; granite outcrops; remnant woodlands of Wandoo, York Gum, Salmon Gum, Casuarina; and spectacular wildflower displays. You will also visit the southern woodlands with remnant vegetation of Wandoo, Brown Mallet, Jarrah and Marri, and southern Kwongan heathlands.

The habitats you'll travel through provide spectacular, sweeping sceneries and are home to many unique and endemic plant species such as Grevilleas, Hakeas, Eucalypts, Acacias, Philothecas, and the Asteraceae family. Many reptiles and invertebrates are also endemic to Wheatbelt and heath areas, particularly lizards and ground-dwelling spiders.

Tour 2 – Granites and Lowlands Tour



Ex Perth 26-27 September 2019

Ex Albany 5-6 October 2019

Discover hidden gems of Western Australia's Darling Scarp forest, Kwongan heathlands and woodlands of the Western Wheatbelt

This tour is ideal if you have limited time but want to see a range of vegetation and flora. It will get you to Albany in two days (or back to Perth in two days).

*The tour includes an overnight stop at Narrogin, a Wheatbelt town that was once one of the largest railway hubs in the southern part of Western Australia.

On this tour you will spend time exploring the majestic granite and dolerite hills of the Darling Scarp. You will then head into the Wheatbelt area to visit remnant woodland and Kwongan vegetation. These destinations will provide stunning sceneries of the Swan Coastal Plain and are awash with wildflowers (depending on the rain received earlier in the year).

Tour 3 - Heathlands and Barrens Tour



Ex Albany 22-27 September 2019

Ex Albany 5-10 October 2019

Take in the natural wonders and flora of the Southern Mallee shrublands and heaths.

The areas you will visit on this tour are part of global and national biodiversity hotspots. You will see coastal plains, colourful breakaways, rugged peaks and headlands, as well as stunning bays and inlets along WA's wild southern coast.

The habitats you'll travel through are home to many unique and endemic plant species. They are also home to endemic mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Spectacular sceneries are one of the highlights of this tour, as you travel from Albany along the wild southern coast to Esperance and return.

Tour 4 - Coast and Forests



Ex Perth 23-27 September 2019

Ex Albany 5-9 October 2019

Walk among giants and learn the history of the Southwest of Western Australia.

This global biodiversity hotspot in the southwest includes forests of Jarrah, Karri, Tingle, Wandoo and Tuart, as well as an array of estuarine, coastal and riverine landscapes.

7.

On this tour you will walk among some of WA’s tallest trees and may see many unique plant species, some of which have adapted to their specific location. Salt lakes can also be found in the area, which are home to one of the oldest forms of life on earth.

The forests of the southwest are home to many different species of birds and animals, however many of them are secretive so you will need a keen eye and a bit of luck to spot them!

**You can read more about the tours, including itineraries, on the [Blooming Biodiversity website](#). Bookings for all pre and post Conference tours open from the 1 February and can be made through the website, so mark the date in your diary to ensure you don’t miss out on a spot, as places are limited.

We look forward to meeting you on one of the tours!

**ANPSA ‘Blooming Biodiversity’ 2019 Conference Committee

**Wildflower Society of Western Australia Inc

DIARY

2019:

- February 5** Sapphire McMullan-Fisher of FunEcology on Fungi
(note: this is a change from the December diary)
- March 2** APS Maroondah, one day event and APS Vic Committee of Management
- March 5** TBC
- April** Trevor Blake? TBC
- May** Christine Huf. “Forensics and the Plant World”
- June 15** APS Geelong host APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting
- July 2** TBC
- August 6** AGM, Members’ slides and photo competition
- September** Mike Beamish: The Pilbara?

Plant Sales and Shows 2019

- March 16, 17** Friends of Cranbourne Gardens Plant Sale 10 - 4
- April 13** APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant and Book Sale, 10 – 4, Eltham Senior Cit’s Centre
- April 27** APS Geelong plant sale at ‘Wirrawilla’, 40 Lovely Banks Road
- May 4** APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds, 10 – 3:30

PROMOTIONS



27 – 31 MARCH 2019
 ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDINGS
 & CARLTON GARDENS



8.

PHOTO GALLERY

From Marj and Norm's garden:



Ray and Eva had a visitor to their garden too. Ray said that he was only able to capture one shot before it flew off.

