

Dianella admixta



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

A00131128P

PO Box 8835 Armadale 3143

Email: aps.se.melb@gmail.com

Or semelb@psvic.org.au

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2018

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
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Helen Appleby
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
COMMITTEE:	Amanda Loudon 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 NOVEMBER newsletter is October 22nd

OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday 2nd October 2018

8pm Hughesdale Community Hall

Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale

Speaker: Cathy Powers

Topic: Grasslands

Many of us would remember Cathy Powers from when she was president of APS Victoria and also from when she gave us a presentation on native orchids some years back.

Cathy has many interests, including Australian moths, orchids and grasslands. In this presentation, she will speak to us about grasslands in both Australia and America and the importance of retaining this special environment for future generations.

Often grasslands in Australia are just that, but many also have trees, shrubs, wildflowers and small animals. Country cemeteries are often the only place where certain types of grasslands have been retained.

Come along and hear Cathy's take on this important vegetation type.



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR FEES FOR THIS YEAR?

2.
CALENDARS

Our 2019 CALENDARS will be available at the October meeting. Price is \$15 per calendar. Exact money would be appreciated please (cash or cheque) – to Catherine.

RAINFALL RECORDS

The following are our rainfall records for 2018 (in mm) so far.

	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					324.1
Highbett	52.2	1.6	16.5	17.1	50.1	38.1	38.7	22.8					237.1
Hampton	51	0	18	18	39	34							160
Cranbourne South	47	4	31	26	78	70	79	66					401
Caulfield Sth	76	1	25	17	58	44	26	45					292
Elsternwick	63.3	1	22	13.6	42.55	36.8	23.7	38.5					241.45

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Speaker: Mike Beamish

Topic: The Kimberley

Write-up: Norm Seaton

This talk covered mainly the Kimberley area of WA. The following covers some of the places and plants seen.

Brief recap of the vastness of Lake Argyle and the island population of rare short-eared rock wallabies, vivid yellow flowers of kapok tree, various grevilleas, water lilies (gigantea) on Parry's Lagoon.

El Quaestro Station, Zebedee Springs, Chamberlain Gorge – *Grevillea refracta*? In various colours, archer fish, *Drosera*, red flowers of fresh water mangrove.

Bank of the Pentacost River and the Cockburn Ranges.

Durack River Station – Kimberley rose, *Calendrina* (right)



Bungle Bungles (left) Victoria River – Cabbage tree palms, Darwin Woollybutt (*Eucalyptus miniata*), *Grevillea*, *Stemodia*.



Cathedral Gorge - snake gourd

Halls Creek, China Wall (a resistant quartz dyke), Sawpit Gorge – morning glory, *Dodonea*, rainbow bee-eater,



Melaleuca, purple flowered *Goodenia* (prostrate), helicopter tree, *Gyrocarpus americanus* (left).

Geike Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Napier Range, Windjana Gorge – fresh water crocodile, great bower bird, right, *Hibiscus*.



Derby – big Boab trees (*Adansonia gregorii*) below, twin leaf



bloodwood (*Corymbia*), *Hakea macrocarpa*, caustic bush.

Boat trip from Broome to Darwin (or vice versa?) – King George falls, Prince Regent River (noted for an 80km straight section), Doubtful Bay, - snowflake water lilies, calytrix with yellow flowers, clothes peg hakea, northern kurrajong.

3.

SPECIMEN TABLE - SEPTEMBER MEETING



We had a gorgeous display of flowers on our specimen table at this meeting and several members were able to take home beautiful bouquets. With time running short, we were not able to go through in detail all of the plants submitted, but here are some that were:

Catherine and Mandy both provided sandpaper wattle pieces. This plant, *Acacia denticulosa* (right) doesn't like rain very much but the long cylindrical bright flowers make a brilliant show. Catherine also had the black and gold climber *K. nigricans* (left) which is a hardy and spectacular feature plant, as well as *Templetonia retusa*.



Marj brought in a bundle, but chose just four to discuss – the lemon *Boronia metastigma* "Lutea" (left) which she is



growing in a pot, *Acacia glaucoptera*, big leaf form; pink *Eriostemon australasius* (right) which she has growing prolifically in quite a lot of



shade in the ground but is not proving easy to propagate; *Asterolasia hexapetala* which has white flowers and rather hairy olive green foliage growing to about 1m x 1m. Marj also had a yellow version (left) which may be *A. asteriscophora* but could be just a lemon version of *A. hexapetala*.



As well as the sandpaper wattle, Mandy included two flowers of *Eucalyptus*

rhodanthe (right). These were big, pink and quite spectacular. The flowers last up to two weeks, and have short stalks which distinguishes the species from *E. macrocarpa* which has no stalks on its flowers. Another Eucalypt was *E. purpurea* which really does have purple flowers.



4.

Two other of Mandy's plants of special note were a delicate spray of the white flowers of



Eremophila santolina and the quite highly perfumed greenish-white flowers of *Gynatrix pulchella* (left). This last requires moist conditions and is a local plant found in several places around Melbourne. It is dioecious ie, male and female flowers are found on different plants. (Photo taken from the Web)



Mike Beamish brought in several specimens from his own garden, and these included: the soft foliated *Adenanthos cunninghamii* which is actually a hybrid of *A. sericea* and *A. cuneata*, a branch of *Hakea francisiana* (left) with its beautiful pink brush flowers and a long stem of a very prickly creamy-white flowered hakea from WA, *H. varia*.

John's collection included several wattles – showy *Acacia triptera* (really prickly, a good plant from semi-arid areas of QLD, NSW and Vic), the attractive soft foliage and golden balls of *Acacia guinetii*, and the very gold flowers of *Acacia gittinsii*. A white flowered *Hardenbergia comptoniana* escaped the possums in one area of his garden this year. Several forms of *Phebalium squamulosum* had very different leaves. John is very proud of his *Leucopogon verticillatus* (tassel flower) which is a plant normally growing in the big timber forests of southern WA. ('verticillatus' meaning whorled, referring to the leaves).

*******NOVEMBER GATHERING*******

What is the date of our outing? **Sunday 18th November**

Time? **10:30am**

Where do we meet? **At the Herbarium Gate (Gate F), outside Mueller Hall**

Where are we going? **The plan is to go to the Australian Rainforest Walk**

What do we do for lunch? **Bring your own if you wish and picnic on the Eucalyptus Lawn, or you can order at the kiosk and eat there or with others on the lawn.**

PICK OF THE BUNCH – SEPTEMBER MEETING

Eucalyptus rhodantha Blakely & H.Steedman

Rose Mallee

Specimen grown by Amanda Loudon

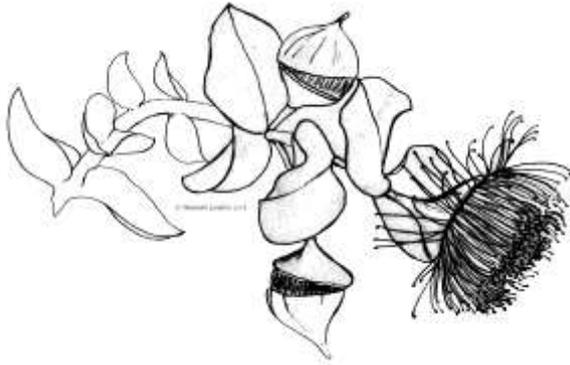
Eucalyptus rhodantha is medium sized spreading mallee, often with multiple trunks arising from its lignotuber, 2 – 4 metres in height x 3 – 6 metres wide.

It is gazetted as Threatened Flora. It is found on the sandplains north of Perth and south of Geraldton where clearing for agriculture has left fragmented populations often growing in cleared land or on road verges.

The leaves are a silvery green and are sessile (without a stalk or petiole). The large red flowers, up to 8cm across, are produced in the leaf axils on pedant peduncles. It is closely allied to *E. macrocarpa* but is readily distinguished from that species by its stalked flowers.

5.

E. rhodantha requires a sunny well drained aspect. It can suffer from blackening of the leaves that can be exacerbated by lack of sunshine and air movement. Propagation is from seed.



Eucalyptus 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 species as *Angophora*, *Baeckea*, *Callistemon*, *Darwinia*, *Kunzea*, *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, *Thryptomene* and *Verticordia*.

The genus *Eucalyptus* consists of about 800 species most of which are endemic but two species *E. deglupta* and *E. urophylla* are not present in Australia.

The name *Eucalyptus* is derived from the Greek, *eu*, well; *kalyptos*, covered alluding to the cap or operculum that covers the stamens in bud. The specific name, *rhodantha* is from the Greek, *rhodos*, rose coloured and *anthos*, flower.

The Chemical Nutrition of Plants

Some years ago, Ted Symes gave a talk to the now defunct APS Heathlands Group in which he discussed the various requirements of plants. Parts of his talk are reproduced here.

Some 15 elements, with three possible other ones, are needed by plants for them to grow well. Certain of these elements are required in only small or even very tiny amounts, such as may be found in irrigation water anyway.

Soil pH is of vital importance in the uptake of nutrients and may be measured using soil test kits obtainable from some nurseries or hardware stores. A pH of 6 to 6.5 suits most plants. If pH is too low, eg about 4, some elements either become unusable or alternatively toxic concentrations of certain elements can develop. If soils are too acid (low pH), lime (calcium carbonate) or dolomite (a double carbonate of calcium and magnesium) needs to be added. If too alkaline (high pH), as is the case of the limestone plains near Adelaide, the addition of Sulphur may help. The sulphur is converted to sulphuric acid by the bacteria in the soil. A high organic materials content helps buffer the soil against wide swings in pH.

General fertilizing can be done with urea (high in nitrogen) and sulphate of potash, or Osmocote for *Natives* or *Bush Tucker*. Blood and Bone is mostly all right but is not a balanced fertilizer, having no potassium (potash) and some brands have added superphosphate to boost the phosphorus. High levels of soluble phosphorus are detrimental to most natives, so careful reading of labels is necessary. Small amounts of fertiliser, frequently added, is the preferred way to go.

Some deficiencies:

Nitrogen: Older leaves yellow. Urea is good for an instant fix, blood and bone has longer term slow release applicability.

Plant stress, phosphorus toxicity: Burnt tips and foliage, plants not thriving. Watering may reduce such effects, especially if the presence of excessive amounts of salts is problematic. Organic materials additions however are good. Phosphorus (P) toxicity is a particular problem with Australian Proteacea plants such as grevilleas, banksias, hakeas, dryandras. Australian

6.

soils are extremely old, heavily leached, and hence possess only very low levels of phosphorus. Your native plants may well undergo a bilious attack if levels of soluble phosphorus are suddenly added. Some *Eucalyptus species* are exceptions to this general rule however and these may show extraordinary response to superphosphate additions or even being irrigated with 'black water'.

Iron deficiency: Newer or newest leaves yellow, burnt tips, plant not thriving. Plants are unable to translocate the required iron from old growth to new. In the severest cases, the new growth may even appear white and death of the tip or of the whole plant will then follow. Iron chelate helps here.

Magnesium deficiency: Pale/yellowish leaves but veins remain green. Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate heptahydrate) additions are indicated. Lemon trees frequently suffer from nitrogen and/or magnesium deficiencies.

DIARY

October 2	"Grasslands", Cathy Powers
October 20 – 21	FJC Rogers seminar, Horsham, "Goodeniaceae". ficrogersseminar2018@gmail.com
November 18	Annual Outing – Melbourne Botanic Gardens, details in this newsletter
November 26	Committee meeting, Catherine's 7:45pm
December 4	Members slides, "Clear the Decks" sale
2019:	
February	Sapphire McMillan-Fisher of Fun Ecology on fungi
April	Trevor Blake: "Malvaceae"
May	Christine Huf? Forensics and the Plant World
August	AGM, Members' slides and photo competition?
September	Mike Beamish: The Pilbara?

Plant Sales and Shows 2018

October 6,7	APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower show, Pomonal Hall, 9:30 – 5 Saturday, 10 – 4 Sunday
October 13,14	South Gippsland Native Plant Sale, Leongatha Recreation Res, 10 – 4
October 20, 21	FJC Rogers Seminar, Horsham.
October 27, 28	Growing Friends of Cranbourne Gardens plant sale. 10am – 4pm

PROMOTIONS



Saturday October 20, Sunday October 21
Have you booked your accommodation yet?
Registrations close October 1st
To receive newsletters email:
ficrogersseminar2018@gmail.com



OFFICE OF OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA

Bev Fox's Open Garden

The Basin

Sat 29 & Sun 30 September
Open 10.00am - 4.30pm

5 Camellia Crescent, The Basin

Adults \$5, Students \$3, LTR Free

opengardensvictoria.org.au

POMONAL NATIVE PLANT SALE
Ararat Halls Gap Road
Pomonal, Victoria, 3381
6-7 OCTOBER



.....

THE AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY'S

2018

Spring Expo
Native Flower Display
& Plant Sale

SATURDAY 6th October 10 am to 5 pm
SUNDAY 7th October 10 am to 4 pm

ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS

WAYVILLE

follow the signs from the Rose Terrace entrance

Entry S3

Save Water with Australian Native Plants
 Largest Range - All Grown in SA
 Books - Free Soil pH Testing - Advice
 Demonstrations - Children's Activities
 Check the website for further information
www.australianplantsociety.com.au

APS Mitchell

Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 20th, 2018
9 am - 3 pm
 Kilmore Memorial Hall
 14 Sydney St, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays

Bottle Gumby Display

Garden for Wildlife

Native Plants & Book Sale

MPF Vendors - Books

Joan & Peter Douglas - Inverness Park - (Quail) Native Plants

Kilmore Blue 11 - Garden accessories & Information

Leanne - Indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous table stock

Virginia's Australian Plants - Rare & Unusual Native Plants

Dorothy - Penzance - Indigenous and rare - Indigenous table stock

Valley of a Thousand 40 - David - Rare - Indigenous and rare - Indigenous table stock

Buy \$2.00 (Children free) - Door Prize - Gifts

Website www.apsmitchell.com.au

Contact apsmitchell@gmail.com

Wedding Bush Festival
Saturday October 13
9.30am-noon

● Guided tours ● Free native plant
 ● Free sausage sizzle

Oxborne Ave, Clayton South
 Presented by Friends of the Grange and the
 City of Kingston. Enquiries 0401 387 611

The Grange Heathland Reserve
 Native bushland in Clayton South

8.

MONTHLY PHOTO GALLERY – more of the flowers on display at last month's specimen table.

