

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Wangaratta Inc.)

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019

Visit the APS Vic website at <https://apsvic.org.au/>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please arrive at 7.30 for meetings.

Meeting: - Thursday 22nd August Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker – Miriam Ford - Topic - FJC Rogers 2020 Seminar on Lamiaceae.

Plant 'lucky number' silent auction (Plants from PLN)

Outing:- Sunday 25th August. Walk with Ian Davidson in Kaluna Park & Kaluna Island.
Meet at Merriwa Park Picnic Tables 10.30am

Meeting:- Thursday 26th September Spring spectacular display table. Bring your specimens to share and discuss.

Outing:- Sunday 29th September. Everton reserve. Threatened plants & orchids. Michael O'Sullivan to lead a walk. Meet at Old Everton Station at 10.30 S. Bring sturdy boots & clothes for the weather forecast.

Meeting: Thursday 24th October

Guest Speakers: Bill Aitchison & Sue Guymer Topic : Acacias

Outing:- Sunday 27th October Barbara Buchanan's garden – 44 Riverview Rd, Benalla

Meeting:- Thursday 28th November

Guest Speakers: Robyn & Les MacLean Topic – Aussie travels in 2018

Saturday 30th November Propogating Day – Park Lane Nursery 8.30am -bring small shrub & ground cover cuttings for propogating.

Sunday December 8th CHRISTMAS PARTY

O'Sullivan's Great Alpine Road, Tarawingie from 12.30

Membership Renewal is now due. We have attached another copy in case you missed it. Payment can be made to Treasurer Arthur Meyers, or by bank transfer. Please send a copy of your form to both Arthur and Linda – Membership officer so that we can make sure you are listed for receiving correspondence.

Chris Tzaros came along to our June meeting to tell us about the Turquoise Parrot Project. I always enjoy listening to Chris speak as he is so passionate about his subject & loves these birds. He has fallen under the spell of the Warby Ranges and surroundings – he moved here to live permanently last year so it now ‘one of ours’. It was interesting to learn a bit more about these little birds, their habits and food. The nest low to the ground in fenceposts and eat grass seeds - apparently they have decided that the seed of Capeweed is edible when nothing else is available.

- Gillian Anderson



His photos are stunning!

Euroa Visit – Saturday 22nd June - John van Riet

Helen and John van Riet attended the Strathbogie group meeting at which Cathy Powers was the guest-speaker.

Her subject: Moths and butterflies in our gardens. Her close-up photographs were the best part of her presentation. We recognised how we tend to underestimate the role of these creatures in our garden ecologies. Camouflage was another fascinating part about moths, as some varieties had the same colour as their background, e.g. grey on a grey colour rock, brown on a tan coloured bark. The visit to the Euroa Arboretum was cancelled due to the cold weather. As usual the hospitality was great.

Garden visit – Sunday 4th August - John van Riet

Eleven members visited Helen Wrigley’s garden, 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta, on what turned out to be a cold but reasonable day. Helen’s garden is on a 2 ha square block with a slight slope away from the Warby Range. Several magnificent Eucalypts form the background to her garden, e.g. *Euc. scoparia*, *Euc. sideroxylon*, *Euc. maculata*. But they also take much moisture away from the smaller plants. A recently installed large rainwater tank is providing an extra water resource. As the garden ages there is much pruning and replacing to be done. We welcomed Jim and Joy Park, recently moved from Leongatha to Mansfield, keen to join our group. Morning tea and lunch, the latter including Helen’s delicious soup, around the kitchen table, provided the perfect setting for much sharing.

Thank you Helen for your hospitality.

FLOWERS IN THE WINTER GARDEN. - Jan Hall

What was it that brightened up your garden in June and July?



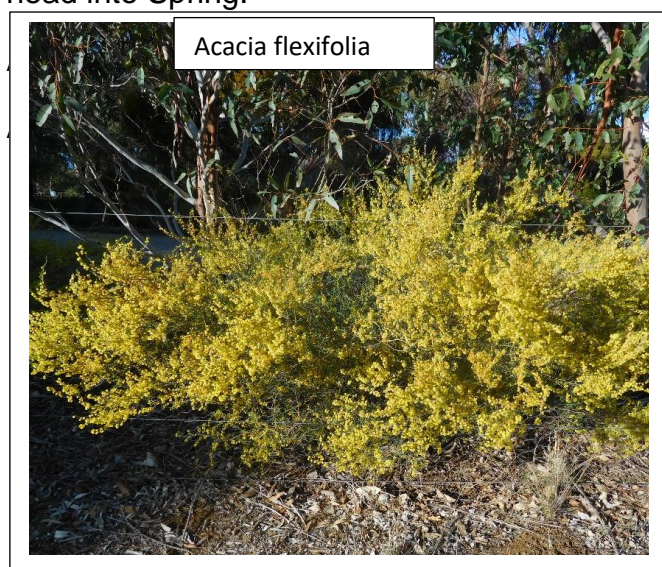
Here in Yarrawonga, there were the reliable Grevilleas, G. Superb, G. Bush Lemons, G. Molly, G. bronwynae, the standard G. treueriana, G. tenuiloba, and probably others. Some Eucalypts, especially E. caesia Silver Princess. 2 Hakeas, Hakea Burrendong Beauty and I thought H. bucculenta x. was not going to happen after the very dry autumn, but in July I could pick some flowers. Other plants were also reluctant to bud up, but with each shower plants began to respond. There was always a lot of bird activity around, as many plants have at least a few flowers to feed on. I do have Eucalypts and Acacias flowering all year. I keep looking for out of Spring, species to add.

It was the Wattles that lit up the garden. Most surprising on a dull day, are the cream flowered species, especially the indigenous Acacia genistifolia, Spreading Wattle. Yes it is prickly, but such a good retreat for the little birds, and it does flower from April to August. I have an interesting new one with showy cream flowers. Label lost, but I will find the name and recommend this small shrub.

Acacia deanei ssp deanei, from Chiltern Forest, is uncommon and has lemon coloured flowers over a long period including Summer. A. flexifolia, Bent leaf Wattle is another useful local. It is small enough to fit in odd spots and I find it is suitable for planting under the trees.

The brightest gold for that showy Aussie look, for me in Winter, is Acacia beckleri. Barrier Range W. It has larger flower heads, and comes in 2 forms. I have just planted the broad leaf form which has even larger ball flowers. Last year I replanted Acacia microbotrya after losing a much admired 3m. shrub in a wet year. On my heavy clay, that means a well drained [usually dry] spot where other trees compete for moisture. Its flowering period is Autumn.

The Acacia list could go on with A. Iteaphylla, A. Jibberdingensis, A. Conferta and more, as we head into Spring.



Banksia integrifolia Roller Coaster Banksia - Helen van Riet



Banksia integrifolia "Roller Coaster"

Watercolour from Sir Joseph Banks Florilegium, 1770

Sir Joseph Banks [from whom this species' name is derived] collected the first specimen of *Banksia integrifolia*. It was one of four banksias he collected at Botany Bay in 1770. Banks collected his type specimen from the hinterland. It is thus described as upright in form. His description did not include a natural variation of this species – the prostrate coastal form.

Adaptation to environmental conditions over time can lead to the evolution of different forms of the same species. Those which are best suited to survive particular conditions will outperform inferior plants, and their progeny will, over generations, become dominant.

B. integrifolia is widely distributed on the east coastal region of Australia. It is typically a tall shrub within the forest environment. A low, ground-hugging form grows on coastal cliffs, where it is exposed to wind and storms. In 1973 Austraflorea Nurseries in Melbourne grew *B. integrifolia* plants from seed sourced from this coastal population. Their selection, "*Roller Coaster*", was subsequently named and has since been propagated commercially.

B. integrifolia "*Roller Coaster*" has arching, prostrate branches. The cultivar name is apt. The central stem is low, and arising from this, the arching branches radiate. The typical banksia-form flower spikes are lemon-yellow and are borne from autumn to spring. They attract nectar-feeding birds including honeyeaters and spinebills. Leaves are dark green and entire, with silver undersides. New growth is bronze, and contrasts well with the mature foliage. Unlike most *Banksia* species, the woody seed cones release seed when mature.

Plants thrive in a wide range of soils, surviving dryness, cold, heat, and exposed conditions. Full sun is preferred.

If left unpruned, mature plants may reach 5m diameter, and mound upon themselves to about 1m in height. Plants can be hard-pruned to maintain shape, size and bushiness. The cascading form makes this ideal for growing over walls, embankments, or as a ground cover. "*Roller Coaster*" makes a great feature plant for the garden or gracefully arching and spilling over a tall pot.

PROGRAM FOR THE APS WANGARATTA MEETING ON 22RD AUGUST 2019

Our next APS Wangaratta meeting will include :

THE AGM

Our AGM does not take any more time than is necessary. In the unlikely event that any positions on our committee do not have a nomination, we DO NOT put anyone 'on the spot' or accept nominations 'from the floor', unless the nominee has already agreed to that nomination.

GUEST SPEAKER Miriam Ford, from the Yarra Yarra APS Group, will present a brief overview of the 2020 FJC Rogers Seminar, which will be held on 24th & 25th October. This 13th Seminar will focus on Mint Bushes and Allied Genera (Lamiaceae Family).

LUCKY NUMBER SILENT AUCTION. To round out the evening_ and by popular demand, our second HYBRID 'SILENT LUCKY NUMBER AUCTION' will keep us all on our toes.

How it will work.....

We have purchased 30 lovely Australian plants in 6 inch pots from Park Lane Nursery on which to try your luck. Each plant will have a receptacle into which numbered voting slips for the corresponding plant are placed.

Each person will receive 20 voting slips with a unique 'lucky' identification number. On each slip, for each plant that you choose, you will write how much you would be willing to pay for that particular plant and place it in the receptacle beside that plant. We suggest that your nominated amount could be anything from \$1 upwards.

There may be just a few plants that you really want to win. You could put quite a few of your voting slips in one bucket, or not be fussed, and distribute your voting slips amongst the 30 buckets in any way you wish.

Lots will be drawn from the accumulated voting slips for each plant. The lucky winner gets to purchase the plant for the amount they have nominated on their slip.

To ensure that everyone gets an equal chance, Once a member has drawn a winner, they will not be included in subsequent draws until everyone who has made a bid has drawn a winner. There will also be consolation prizes for those who don't draw a winner. And swapping of plants among ourselves is always an option.

Please remember to bring some cash with you for the lucky number auction!

NEUTROG – Bush Tucker

We are planning to place another order for "Bush Tucker" very soon. This will be discussed at the meeting. If we are able to get an order for a full pallet of Bush Tucker, there may be an opportunity to purchase some of their other products. Please take a look at www.neutrog.com.au to see the catalogue of products available.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY WANGARATTA INC.
NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2019 – 2020

<u>POSITION</u> - (Please circle)	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Officer
	Newsletter Editor	APS Victoria Representative			Committee Member

I (Name of proposer)

nominate (Name of person being nominated)

Signature of person being nominated

Signature of proposer.....

Seconded by (Name of seconder)

Signature of seconder

Date

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY WANGARATTA INC

Annual Membership Application 1/7/2019 - 30/6/2020

Name/s _____

Address (Postal) _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Please tick as applicable:

- ❖ I/We wish to receive our newsletter by email
- ❖ I/We are applying as **new** members

APS Wangaratta Only Single \$12 Family \$14 Student \$10

APS Wangaratta and APS Victoria Single \$47 Family \$54 Student \$36

Optional payment for receipt of the ANPSA National Magazine “ Australian Plants”

(4 editions per annum) \$15

Total Payment: \$.....

Payment by:

- ❖ Cash
- ❖ Cheque (Payable to APS Wangaratta)
- ❖ Direct Deposit

To: Bendigo Bank
Account Name: Australian Plants Society Wangaratta
BSB: 633000 Account Number 122784283
Surname

Please return a copy of this membership form to both:

Membership Officer – Linda Huzzey lhaps@westnet.com.au

AND

Treasurer - Arthur Meyers pianoman@netc.net.au

Meetings

Meetings are held at Park Lane Nursery, Park Lane, Wangaratta usually on the 4th Thursday of the month from February to November.

Please arrive at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start.

It is a good idea to bring a torch with you. **Visitors are always welcome.**

Members are encouraged to bring along exhibits for the specimen table which is a regular feature of each meeting.

Pre-meeting dinner get-together Those that are able share dinner together at Café Martini, 87 Murphy Street, Wangaratta, 6.00 – 7.15pm . All members and friends are most welcome. It's a chance to relax with a nice meal and a glass of wine

Australian Plants Society Committee 2017-2018

President: John van Riet Ph:5725 7207 email: helenvanriet@bigpond.com

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Newsletter: Gillian Anderson Ph: 5766 2397 email: pdga280@bigpond.com

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Joanne Diver Ph: 0412 985501

Alan Gibb Ph: 5727 3362

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