



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Wangaratta Inc.)

NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please arrive at 7.30 for meetings.

Meeting: Thursday 23rd May

Guest Speaker - David Lightfoot – Goodeniaceae, Isopogons, Petrophiles

Outing - Sunday 26th May. Visit to Alison Earp's garden @ 21 Frascas Lane, Myrrehe.

Meeting: -Thursday 27th June 27

Guest Speaker – Chris Tzaros – The Turquoise Parrot Project

Outing - Saturday 22nd June: Combined with Strathbogie group. Cathy Powers - guest speaker 10.30 morning tea, 11am meeting, lunch. PM to Euroa Arboretum

July – NO Meeting

Outing - Sunday 28th July To Helen Wrigley's garden @ 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta and possible bush walk

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 & Little Kaluna Park.

Meeting: Thursday 26th September Spring spectacular display table.

Outing Sunday 29th September. Everton reserve. Threatened plants & orchids. Leader TBC

Meeting: Thursday 28th November

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

Outing November: CHRISTMAS PARTY Date & Venue TBC

Off Grid Living Festival stall 4th May - John van Riet

On a beautiful sunny autumn day we set up our plant stall next to Therese Graham's private stall. Therese had encouraged us to set up a stall, and how right she was!

Not only did we raise \$316 but we also had many enquiries about our APS branch. Hopefully we may see some new members soon. John van Riet, Alan Gibb, Michael O'Sullivan and Sally Jacka helped at our stall and responded enthusiastically to customers' questions.

The Festival was an eye opener as it displayed the many and varied ways in which people are using existing technologies as well as inventing new ways of sustainable living and coming to terms with climate change. There were many young families there, a good sign for the future. The whole atmosphere was very positive.

At our Committee meeting on Wed. 8 May it was agreed that the Eldorado Festival should be one of two times this year at which we sell plants and raise awareness about our branch, the other occasion would be Nature Day in November. The Committee encourages all members to propagate plants for those two occasions.



I managed to spare a few minutes from the "Repair Café" Stall to purchase some of the great plants that our APS Stall were selling. They have filled some empty spaces left by my summer casualties. It was hard to limit myself to 3 plants! - (Gillian)

At our April meeting, Chris Long spoke to us about "Boronia megastigma and an "Oil Scent" project which he had previously been involved with. It was fascinating to learn that the Boronia "Absolute" (pure oil) was used for Fruit and Berry flavours and novel floral perfumes. The leaves are included with the flowers when extracting the scent.

Trial sites were set up in Victoria (Port Fairy) and Tasmania, unfortunately Port Fairy was not conducive to growing Boronia. Tasmania was more successful and plants were also grown commercially at Boronia in Victoria.

David Lightfoot will speak to us on Thursday 25th May about "Fabulous Goodeniaceae", and will cover all things Goodeniaceae. It will include a tour from A-Z of the family, and its genera, cultivation hints, as well as some amazing historical tales.

David says "I was introduced to Australian plants as a child on SGAP (as APS was called back then) outings near my home town of Newcastle, NSW. I became very interested in growing them, as soon as I rented my first house and had a patch of dirt to plant in. Seeing the light in the late nineties, my wife and I moved to Victoria and have been happily putting down roots here ever since. I was once the leader of the Isopogon and Petrophile study group, but have been interested in members of the Goodeniaceae for quite a few years. I currently have no garden as we knocked down and are rebuilding our house. Goodeniaceaeous plants are sure to feature in the new garden!"

Recently I received an email with our Wangaratta APS membership numbers and distribution, it was amazing to me to see that only a small number of our members actually live in Wangaratta, the rest in surrounding towns and far flung places (an hour or more away!)

If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time to contemplate rejoining with membership for the new year coming up fast. 2019-/2020 Membership Form is attached and payment due by 1st July

The committee have arranged for Ian Davidson to take us for a walk in one of Wangaratta's hidden treasures – Kaluna and Little Kaluna Parks. So Helen Wrigley's article below is timely!

At our March meeting we welcomed Adrian and Helen Twitt, both members of the Wangaratta Urban Landcare Group, who are local identities who have many interests and are known by several of our members. Adrian talked about the voluntary work carried out by the group in protecting and restoring areas of native vegetation in Wangaratta. It seems to me that Kaluna Park and Kaluna Island are treasures that go a bit under the radar in Wangaratta. Kaluna Park is a real treasure, thanks largely to Helen and Peter Curtis who devoted a lot of their energy to its renewal over the last decade or so.

I had never been to Kaluna Park until a week before Adrian's talk when I visited it with the Broken Creek Field Naturalists. I have no idea why I had not been before. It is a great place to visit when the rest of the bush is dead dry. The red gums are HUGE, both wide and high. The understory has *Callistemon seiberi*, the river bottlebrush, *Melaleuca parvistaminea*, lots of very healthy looking silver wattles and a somewhat overabundance of the thorny tree violet, *hymenantha dentata*. The paths wind around a billabong and the King river which enters the Ovens just a little further. *Persicaria* and other wetland plants predominate in the wetter areas. I was very impressed by how few weeds there were. Members of the group have worked very hard to achieve this. I did pull up a plant of *Verbena bonariensis*. Access to Kaluna Park is from Merriwa Park in the centre of town.

When you enter this lower area on the other side of the levee bank, you seem to enter another world where you are miles from civilisation, the towering gums and dense understorey give a feeling of enclosure that you do not get in the Warbies or Killawarra or Lower Ovens Park. On the day I visited a feather horned beetle was spotted on a silver wattle just as we entered the park. A night heron was heard and a king fisher was seen on a branch over the river. Lots of little birds were flitting about. A really beautiful place, quite different to the jungle of woody weeds which the landcare group encountered when they began the restoration project.

I visited Kaluna Island on the other side of the river on an outing organised by the group over a year ago. It can only be accessed from Faithful St. It is much more open and good for a longer walk. The landcare group is still removing weeds from here. A lovely strolling park like atmosphere.

My daughter and I also visited Wenhams Reserve after learning about it from Adrian's talk. It is on the edge of town adjoining new housing. A fairly open area with mixed species of trees which is seasonally wet, it is a great asset for the local residents. It is good to see some land being reserved as the town grows. Adrian mentioned, however, that there is limited interest from the nearby residents at the moment. The landcare group also look after the area along the Ovens River in the town and it is a very pleasant and popular walk. Thank you Adrian and Helen for your talk and the valuable work you do. How lucky are we to have these places on our doorstep.

Helen Wrigley

The naming of *Scaveola brookeana* - Linda Huzzey

Scaveola brookeana is a poorly known species of *Scaveola* which can be found in the mallee heathlands of SW Western Australia. The picture below is from the Western Australian herbarium FloraBase.



Scaveola brookeana

Photos: G.F. Craig & M. Hislop

This species was first described by, and named after, a botanical collector called Sarah Brooks. I ran across her story when visiting the Esperance area last year. Sarah Theresa Brooks was a local early settler who had been a plant collector for Baron Von Mueller and had 2 species named after her: *Scaveola brookeana* and *Hakea brookeana*. This is a brief summary of her story.

Sarah Brooks was the second child of Emily and Henry Brooks who migrated from Scotland in 1851. Sarah was actually born on board ship in Plymouth at the start of the journey. They arrived and settled in Geelong. Henry Brooks died of typhoid a few months later leaving Emily with son John and daughter Sarah. They lived in Geelong until 1874 when they decided to move west, attracted by the lure of land and opportunity being advertised in Western Australia. When living in Geelong, Emily Brooks ran a small school in the vicinity of Geelong Grammar school and Sarah received some additional schooling because several teachers from Geelong Grammar boarded at their house. Sarah became fluent in several languages and also studied art and music. There is some possibility that she had met Von Mueller as he had been connected to establishing the gardens at Geelong Grammar.

The Brooks moved to WA, travelling by ship from Geelong to Albany and then walked (almost 300 miles!) eastwards and took up land near Esperance. In 1877 they built a house near Israelite Bay, on the hill opposite the telegraph station. This area is now part of the Cape Arid National Park. Shortly after this time Von Mueller was starting plant collections in WA and put out a call for collectors in the *West Australian* newspaper. Sarah responded to that call and started describing, drawing and collecting specimens (including fungi) in the Israelite Bay, Mt Ragged, and Hampton Range. It was an area that had been rarely visited by colonial settlers. She contributed to the Von Mueller collection between 1883 and 1890, maybe beyond.

In 1883 Emily Brooks and son John took up a permanent sheep station at Balbinia, about 60 miles inland where there was better land and water supply. Sarah however remained in the house in Israelite Bay, living there alone. She stayed there until 1898 when the house burned down and she moved to Balbinia to live with her mother and brother. Sarah was a meticulous collector and also illustrator. She painted many pictures of the Israelite Bay area and also wrote articles describing the landscape and beauty of the area. She never married because her mother thought none of the local men were good enough for her and so would not allow her to marry! Although there were many women plant collectors in the late 1800s many were overlooked when species were named and their efforts trivialised. However in this case Baron Von Mueller named two species after her and acknowledged her as the type collector for at least 3 others.



Sarah died in 1928, her brother John in 1930. The station Balbinia was abandoned and the land reverted to the crown. The ruins and family graves can still be found via a track which runs from the Balladonia Road through eucalypt woodlands.

Article written by Linda Huzzey

Sources:

Australian National Herbarium

Esperance Historical Society

Maroske, Sara and Alison Vaughan; *Muellaria*, Vol 32, 2014

Skene, Judy; *Studies in Western Australian History*, Vol17, 1997

APS Vic Website now has "Waterwise Gardening in NE Victoria: [apsvic.org.au / plant info / waterwise gardening](http://apsvic.org.au/plant_info/waterwise_gardening)

APS Wangaratta – A rolling 12 month calendar – updated 16th May

May 2019	Meeting Thursday 23 rd May Guest Speaker: David Lightfoot Topic – Goodeniaceae	Outing Sunday 26 th May. Visit Alison Earp's garden @ 21 Frascas Lane, Myrree.	Other Events/Meetings
June 2019	Meeting Thursday 27 th June Guest Speaker: Chris Tzaros - Topic - The Turquoise Parrot project	Outing Saturday 22 nd June: Cathy Powers - guest speaker Combined with Strathbogie group. 10.30 morning tea, 11am meeting, lunch. PM to Euroa Arboretum	Additional information Meet at Euroa 3 rd Age Club, Kirkland Street, opposite Catholic Church. BYO Lunch. After lunch to Euroa Arboretum.
July 2019	Meeting NO MEETING	Outing Sunday 28 th July To Helen Wrigley's garden @ 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta, and possible bush walk.	Other Events/Meetings
August 2019	Meeting Thursday 22 nd August AGM Guest Speaker – Miriam Ford Topic - FJC Rogers 2020 Seminar on Lamiaceae. Plant 'lucky number' silent auction (Plants from PLN)	Outing Sunday 25 th August. Walk with Ian Davidson in Kaluna Park & Little Kaluna Park.	Other Events/Meetings
September 2019	Meeting Thursday 26 th September Spring spectacular display table.	Outing Sunday 29 th September. To Everton reserve. Threatened plants & orchids. Leader TBC	Other Events/Meetings
October 2019	Meeting Thursday 24 th October Guest Speakers: Bill Aitchison & Sue Guymer Guest speakers – Topic - Acacias	Outing Sunday 27 th October Barbara Buchanan's garden @ 44 Riverview Road, Benalla.	Other Events/Meetings
November 2019	Meeting Thursday 28 th November Robyn & Les MacLean Topic – Aussie travels in 2018	Outing CHRISTMAS PARTY Date & Venue TBC – O'Sullivan garden @ 1181 Great Alpine Road, Tarrawingee.	Other Events/Meetings
December 2019		No Outing	Other Events/Meetings PROPAGATING DAY Saturday Date TBC

Thank you to everyone who contributes articles for the newsletter. Sorry that I cannot use all of them in every issue – be assured, I have them filed for future use!

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

Secretary: Alison Earp Ph: 5729 7518 email: apswangaratta1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Arthur Meyers Ph: 5728 1654

Membership: Linda Huzzey Ph 5726 1875

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

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Jenny Davidson Ph: 02 6032 8442

Joanne Diver Ph: 0412 985501

Alan Gibb Ph: 5727 3362

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Helen Wrigley Ph: 5722 2824

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If undeliverable, please return to:

The Secretary

Australian Plants Society Wangaratta

21 Frascas Lane, Myrree. 3732.