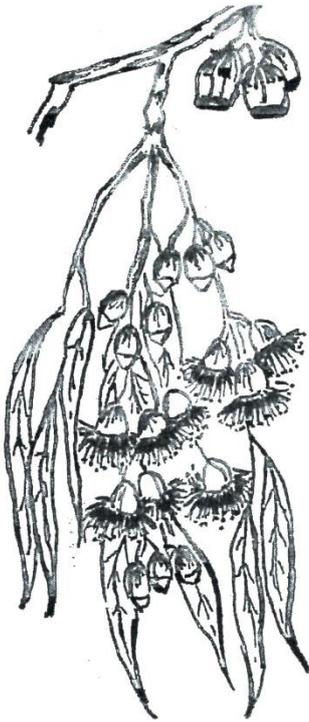


SGAP Shepparton & District Inc.  
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## July-August-September 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming events for:

July 27<sup>th</sup>

APS Strathbogie Ranges visit at Euroa

August 13<sup>th</sup>

AGM at Vision Centre, Channel Rd,  
Shepparton

September

Mangalore Flora and Fauna Reserve

President

David Doyle

ph 58298416

Vice President

Rob Slee

ph 58298284

Secretary

Jenny Polinelli

ph 58254210

Treasurer

Carolyn Edwards

ph 58214826

Newsletter

Jenny Polinelli

ph 58254210

Vic Delegate

Carolyn Edwards

ph 58214826

Hello Members,

Winter is upon us, we have had more rain this year, so we have a bit of moisture in the ground. The weeds certainly are appreciating the damp conditions, and keeping us on our toes to try and keep them at bay.

Remember subscriptions are due and payable to Carolyn, APSVic subs, single membership \$35.00, household membership \$40.00.

SGAP Shepparton & District subs are \$15.00.

I have planted out over 60 daisies from the seeds enclosed in March edition of Growing Australian as part of the Great Plant Out 2019. My seeds were mixed, so it will be interesting to see what they are at flowering time. It does appear that I have two varieties.

We have had some great excursions recently, with details below.

### **APS BENDIGO VISIT TO AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDENS SHEPPARTON**

We met up with APS Bendigo on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2019. This coincided with Botanic Gardens Open Day and started with a guided tour of the gardens, then the opening of the Children's play area. Members then went their own way discovering different parts of the gardens. Many bought plants from the plant stall held by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. There was also a display and demonstration of Australian Bonsai on offer as well as a display and talk on possums.



### **GARGARRO VISIT**

Four members braved the chilly conditions and made the trip to Girgarre on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019. We were met at Gargarro Botanic Gardens project by Doc, who explained Gargarro is the traditional owners name of the surrounding area.

In January 2012 Heinz gifted the 12 hectares of land with water entitlement to the Girgarre community. The Girgarre Development Group commissioned TCL to undertake the design of this important new garden. TCL designed the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne. Stage one of the project was the sound shell, to be used for community events and was built with a Regional Arts

grant of \$750,000.00. An avenue of Eucalyptus Polyanthemos has been planted along the centre road of the site. Planting around the outer perimeter of the area includes callistemon, Banksia, Hakea Acacia, Geijera (scrub Wilga) and Melaluca. Funding from ANZ Bank has been secured for the next project, a nursery to be built in partnership with Girgarre Community Cottage. Plans are underway for a building using thirteen containers to be used as a Community Building with meeting rooms and café. A monthly working bee is held with sixteen volunteers helping with planting and upkeep. The grassed area at the Sound Shell was seeded using the spray seed method. Grand plans with lots of hard work ahead.



Next stop was the Community Cottage where we were met by Kezia, and after a tour of the Cottage we made our way to the cosy nursery shed, where we were served hot sausage rolls and slice and a welcome cuppa. After a quick history lesson of the nursery which started in 2002 to help with costs of the community car, then when the Girgarre monthly market started in 2005 - which is held on the second Sunday of the month - nursery sales really took off. The nursery has a core group of four volunteers and has out grown the back and side yards of the cottage, hence the future move to the Gargarro Botanic Garden site. Girgarre is not a town as the population is less than 200 people, so they call themselves a village. After lunch we went to the Railway Park, where there is a variety of musical instruments dotted around, including a piano, bush guitar and bells made from differing sizes of fire extinguisher cylinders, all making unique sounds. On October 27<sup>th</sup> Girgarre Open Garden Day is to be held with four gardens open, and afternoon tea is included in the \$15.00 admission fee



## **GEELONG – COLAC VISIT**

After the June 15<sup>th</sup> Committee of Management meeting, we had lunch at the Geelong Botanic Gardens tea rooms, then joined other APS Vic members on a guided tour of Geelong Botanic Gardens. These gardens were established in 1851 and are the fourth oldest botanic gardens in Australia. It is an important garden which conserves plants from around the world. We started our tour at the 21<sup>st</sup> century garden and weaved our way around to seek out Australian plants and their uses.



## Colac

We continued our journey onto Colac and woke up to a lovely sunny day. After having morning tea with Barbara and Paul Kennedy we joined with APS Grampians and toured Paul's garden. My has this garden grown in five years. Paul has 160 species of Hakea growing out of the 169 species and has 83 species of Banksia of the 98 species. Paul has had visitors from Western Australia collecting seed from his garden, with planned seed collecting days by Cranbourne Australian Gardens, as it is extremely hard to source seed from Western Australia. Colac had 150mm of rain in May and another 50mm to June 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Western Australian collection survives really well in Paul's raised garden beds. It was interesting to note that Paul never uses fertiliser, as his theory is if you get your soil right there is no need to fertilise. After lunch we visited Brendan's garden and then into the Otways to visit Val and her ever increasing garden full of colour and garden art created by her husband. Three very different Australian gardens to visit, and three beautiful gardens.



## JULY EXCURSION TO EUROA

An invitation has been extended to us by APS Strathbogie Ranges group to join with them on July 27<sup>th</sup> where Geoff Lay is speaking. This day starts at 10.30am with morning tea and the talk starts at 11am. We will meet at the Shepparton Library Car Park at 9.30 am to car pool. BYO lunch.

## AUGUST MEETING – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at Vision Centre Channel Road, Shepparton at 8pm. Bring along any specimens you have from your gardens for members to enjoy, and take cuttings home to try.

## SEPTEMBER EXCURSION

For many years we have discussed a trip to Mangalore Flora & Fauna Reserve. THIS is the year we make it happen. September 7<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date, this to be confirmed at the August meeting.

Other dates to keep in mind is the Bendigo APS Flower Show on September 21 & 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019.

APS Echuca Moama are holding their Flower Show October 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

Laurie Baglin bought seed of Xanthorrhoea Gluca hybrid to our April meeting offering members to try their hand to grow this quick flowering grass tree, with flower spikes after six years. I thought I would give it a go and wrote down all of Laurie's instructions. First was to put the seed between damp cotton wool on the window sill, and keep moist. And note that the roots come from the middle of the seed, rather than from the end. The next instruction was once the roots appeared to plant in a tube, filling the pot to half and inch from top with potting mix then put the seed in and cover with a quarter inch potting mix, and be ready to wait for the roots to form before any green shoots appears, which could take 2-3 weeks. When green shoot appears protect from slugs and snails as they love them. Equipped with this new knowledge, I started the process on April 10<sup>th</sup>. I potted on four seeds on May 1<sup>st</sup> and continued until the last seed was potted on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Then waited and waited and waited and after talking with Laurie he thought that maybe the potting mix was too heavy and must have needed sand mixed in. I decided to "have a look", so gently tipped one out and it was very much alive, with roots going down and a shoot looking as if was heading the right way. I gently put it back in the pot, whether it grows or not remains to be seen, I have 10 others! BUT..... I have a green shoot up on one of the others, which took 27 days to appear after potting on, which I am excited about. The moral of this story is to use every bit of knowledge people offer, and have a go.

Hope to see you at our planned excursions, and the AGM, where there is always a job for any interested in taking one on. Our October and November meetings will be at Vision Centre.

Best Wishes,

Jenny

