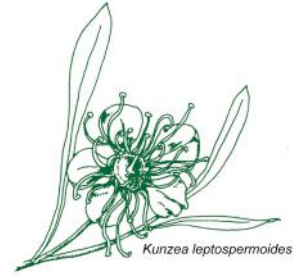




# KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah  
Preservation by Cultivation



## January 2022

It is great to be able to welcome in 2022 and start our Maroondah activities. This should be a very exciting year as APS Maroondah will be hosting the FJC Rogers' Seminar on "Fabulous Peas" on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of October. Hopefully, all other APS activities such as Plant Sales will be back.

However, with the extent of CoVid infection around in January, your Committee has decided to hold an outdoor social event this month in place of a formal meeting and garden visit.

## January Get-Together

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January

5.30 pm

Blackburn Lake, Blackburn

We will be gathering to socialise and eat and drink near the Visitors' Centre. This is the same spot that we have met in the past prior to our first meeting of the year when we were meeting at Australian Unity Hall.

Parking is available close to the Visitors' Centre. Enter from Central Road (Melway map 48 B11). Bring whatever you want to eat and drink, and a chair to sit on.

## November Meeting

Alison Rogers, President

Well, 2021 has been and gone and it was a strange one for us all. We hope you had a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

It was wonderful to meet up with other members at our November meeting. We all enjoyed our speaker Bill Aitchison's talk and shared a lovely supper.

Thank you to those who have been in contact with me with favourable comments regarding the new venue. Members remarked on the size of the hall, space between the chairs, comfortable chairs, sound, wheelchair- and walker-friendly and disabled parking at the door.

It was good also to have both Chris Fletcher and Joe Wilson there with their plants for sale.

We did have some hiccups with technical issues, but these should be sorted for our February meeting.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be in the New Year. We wish you a Safe and Healthy 2022 and look forward to catching up in the coming months.

## Plants in hanging baskets

Andrea Dennis brought along a few hanging baskets to our November meeting, and explained that she has been trying to grow a lot of different plants this way – and it has been an interesting journey. She noted that her kids aren't happy because all their playground equipment is covered in baskets!

The baskets that she brought along featured *Viola hederacea* 'Monga Magic' (a gorgeous little plant), *Goodenia pusilla*, *Goodenia glomerata*, *Goodenia decursiva*, *Calytrix depressa* (an absolutely stunning plant) and *Swainsona canescens*.

Further about the viola, it turns out that it was collected by John Knight (APS Maroondah Honorary Life Member) close to where he lives in New South Wales. He tells us that it came from a track near the Mongarlowe River, growing in wet sclerophyll forest within Monga State Forest (now Monga National Park). He gave the collection to Peter Ollarenschaw of Bywong nursery, and he made it available as one of his many amazing cultivars.

John describes it as a viable a garden plant, as are the more usual colour forms of *Viola hederacea* complex, but he think it holds its mauve colouration better in shade.

## Thomasia Book

Trevor Blake has been working on a field and garden guide to Thomasias and their near relatives for a very long time. You may have heard this massive work has now come to fruition and is published under the title "Lantern Bushes of Australia: Thomasias & Allied Genera".

Congratulations Trevor – you should be very proud!

Sue and Bill have copies available for sale at \$48. If you want one please contact them at aitchguy@gmail.com, or on 9872 3583. You can pick it up from their home in Donvale. Alternatively, if you are going to the Blackburn Lake get-together, they can bring along your copy.



*Viola hederacea* 'Monga Magic'



## “Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rev Hugh Davies and Danny DeVito – a look at the genus Daviesia”

notes from a talk given by Bill Aitchison  
at the November meeting.

written up by Diane Hedin

*Daviesia acicularis*,  
the type specimen of the genus.  
Photo: Ivan Margitta

The genus *Daviesia* was first described in 1798 by James Edward Smith, an English Botanist, from a collection brought to England from near Port Jackson. Smith named the genus in honour of the Rev. Hugh Davies, a Welsh Botanist and Anglican clergyman.

One of the first species described was *Daviesia acicularis*. It is widespread from central Queensland, through NSW to the border with Victoria and it is now taken as the type species for the genus.

*Daviesia* occurs only in Australia, and although widespread, more than half of the species are found in south west Western Australia.

### Why talk on Daviesia?

Pea plants in general are given less attention than other genera; there are few publications, there has not been an FJC Rogers Seminar on the subject and there was only a short-lived Pea Study Group. Bill was also drawn to study this genus because *Daviesia* has the most species within the sub family Faboideae, and there is up to date information from a 2017 publication by Professor Michael Crisp on the complete review of the genus. Professor Crisp will be the Keynote Speaker at this year’s FJC Rogers Seminar.

#### Top ten genera in the sub family Faboideae

<i>Daviesia</i>	156
<i>Pultenaea</i>	134
<i>Tephrosia</i>	132
<i>Gastrolobium</i>	114
<i>Desmodium</i>	96
<i>Swainsona</i>	85
<i>Indigofera</i>	84
<i>Bossiaea</i>	83
<i>Jacksonia</i>	71
<i>Crotalaria</i>	53

### What makes a Daviesia a Daviesia?

*Seed pod*: triangular in shape.

*Foliage*: the common name of bitter peas aptly describes the taste of the foliage.

The *leaves* are modified as phyllodes, being prickles, spines, thorns and spikes: e.g. *D. horrida*. The foliage can appear similar to Acacias, and about 40 species of *Daviesia* share the same species name as Acacias – e.g. *D. genistifolia*.

*Daviesia* don’t have *stipules* or they are very minute.

*Flowers*: yellow and orange with red markings. There are just a few species with larger red flowers – e.g. *D. speciosa*.

*Petal shape* (standard): generally round or kidney-shaped.

*Stamens*: 10 stamens, all free (group 1).

### Why are they not grown much and do they deserve to be grown more?

There are few *Daviesias* available at nurseries and not much seed available from seed companies. A community nursery in Busselton (W.A.), *The Geographe Community Landcare Nursery*, undertakes revegetation programmes. The group, however, has had difficulty collecting seeds of some species, and difficulty establishing peas in soil. It is looking at options such as direct sowing and planting very young tube stock.

Dr Julie Ardley at Murdoch University, a researcher in Microbiology and Molecular Biology, is investigating the relationship of Rhizobia with legumes in nitrogen fixing. Dr. Ardley will be presenting some results of her research at the FJC Rogers Seminar. *Daviesias*, although not popular in gardens – likely due to their prickly nature, e.g. *D. pectinata* – are good for attracting insects, native bees, butterflies, birds and even the dwarf bearded dragon, e.g. *D. benthamii*.

There are small to medium-sized *Daviesia* that would make excellent garden speci-mens including *D. incrassata* ssp. *incrassata*, *D. trigonophylla* and *D. microphylla*. There are *Daviesias* that are suitable for growing in pots such as *D. cordata*, *D. epiphyllum* and *D. longifolia*.



*Daviesia incrassata* seed pods.



*Daviesia leptophylla* seed pods.



Peter Rogers

*Daviesia latifolia*



Bill Aitchison

*Daviesia incrassata* ssp *incrassata*

### Some interesting species

- D. arborea*: grows to a height of 8-12m, with a weeping habit. It is difficult to establish from cuttings and seeds are difficult to source.
- D. schwarzenegger* and *D. devito*: the former being the larger and more robust, the latter being the smaller and weaker of what was once thought to be sub-species of *D. benthamii*, but are now known to be unrelated.
- D. laevis*: also known as the Grampians Bitter Pea, and thought to be extinct, until 2004 when populations were discovered on Mount Langi Ghiran.
- D. suaveolens*: occurs in Bermagui. It is one of the 4 *Daviesia* amongst 486 species considered by the Commonwealth Government to be endangered and requiring management intervention to secure their future following the bushfires in 2020.
- D. leptophylla*: common around Melbourne and has wide distribution.
- D. mimosoides*: it is widespread and in wide ranging altitudes.
- D. latifolia*: occurs from south east Queensland to southern Tasmania. Its common name is the Native Hop, and a description in 1914 lists its medicinal qualities, including use in a compound for cure of hydatids, worms in horses and in making yeast.

### Floral mimicry between Peas and Orchids

Where the orchid appears similar to the *Daviesia* to attract pollinators – e.g. *Daviesia divaricata* and *Diuris magnifica*, and *Daviesia decurrens* and *Diuris brumalis*.

Thanks to Bill for a very informative and entertaining talk on *Daviesia*, and a not too bitter taste of this diverse genus. We look forward to participating in the FJC



Geoff Lay

*Daviesia pectinata*

Rogers Seminar in October to hear more and see more of the Fabulous Faboideae.

*Footnote:* The November meeting was used as a trial for transmitting via Zoom to members unable to attend on the night. Very concentrated effort was required from our “technicians”, as Nicky Zanen’s photo shows!



# Specimen Table

Bill Aitchison

Our thanks to Peter Rogers and Bruce Schroder for leading the Specimen Table at our November meeting.

**Mirbelia dilatata** – a nice prickly shrub from the southwest of WA, about 2–3m high, it has pea shaped flowers for quite a long period spring into summer. It will grow in full sun or part shade and in heavy, moist but well drained soils.

**Quoya dilatata** (previously *Pityrodia dilatata*) – a “weird little thing” that Andrea Dennis bought with the hope that she wouldn’t kill it. She has now had it 12 months, in the garden and so far surviving.



*Quoya dilatata*

Murray Fagg via Wikimedia Commons  
CCBY 3.0 AU

**Goodenia amplexans** – this was in full flower in Bruce’s garden, a great plant except that “it stinks”! Bruce has had it around 3–4 years, and it has grown really well, but he doesn’t think it justifies a place in the garden because of its horrible musty smell. It is found in western Victoria extending through to the southern Flinders Ranges in SA.

**Melaleuca armillaris** – our specimen was a pink form that is less common than the usual white form. Grows up to 3–4m, flowers prolifically.

**Viminaria juncea** – this is a rapid grower. The fact that it will grow quickly to about 3m in a couple of years suggests that it won’t have a long life span – and it doesn’t; they look their best after a couple of years.

**Prostanthera magnifica** – about 1.5–2m high, very showy in flower.

**Calothamnus lateralis** – this specimen was from Marilyn Bull. It has lovely long leaves and interesting dark wine red flowers whose bases are buried in the corky bark. Quite a small plant that will probably not get more than 1½m tall. Most *Calothamnus* like a dry spot, but this is one that likes a wet spot. Marilyn has two plants, both now in sunny positions (most *Calothamnus* like a lot of sun).



*Calothamnus lateralis*

Kevin Thiele via Flickr

**Melaleuca thymifolia** – another specimen from Marilyn, who commented that it normally grows around ½ to 1m tall, but the plant that her specimen came from is now taller than she is. Marilyn loves them and has them scattered all over the place. They do like a bit of moisture, but also don’t mind dry.

**Pelargonium rodneyanum** (or maybe *P. australe*) – There was some debate as to which species we were looking at. It is a beautiful small plant that dies down during summer but will then come back up again.

**Howittia trilocularis** – this occurs from Gippsland up into NSW. It will grow in full sun or shade, and get to a height of 2–3m.

**Elaeocarpus reticulatus** (Blueberry Ash) – this was from Bev Fox. In her garden it has become a large tree that currawongs love.

**Banksia caleyi** – also from Marilyn. She prunes it, and wattle birds love it at the moment. One of the unusual banksias in that it is pendulous. Marilyn’s plant is over 30 years old.



*Banksia caleyi*

Bill Aitchison

**Grevillea treueriana** – Graeme Nicholls brought this along, from a grafted plant in his garden. It has really prickly foliage, and is good for birds but not for humans if they get too close. It is restricted to Mt Finke in South Australia.

**Grevillea georgeana** – this flowers a bit more profusely than *G. treueriana*, and is also very pungent, and very difficult to weed underneath.

**Grevillea leptobotrys** – Bruce loves this plant because of its foliage and delightful pink, pendulous flowers. Our specimen was the Katanning form from WA, but Bruce has about 5 different leaf forms in his garden. There is one form of this species that is sold as *Grevillea* 'Lilac Tangles'.

**Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream'** – unlike the other grevilleas that we had on the Specimen Table, this does not need to be grafted. Bruce noted that this flowers profusely – but be wary, he finds that it grows much larger (3m x 3m, after hacking back) than indicated on the label. Bruce noted that the flowers on our specimen were looking a little sad. Jan Nicholls commented that she finds that cut grevillea flowers last a lot better if you put the stems into water that has just been boiled, for about 10 minutes.

Bev Fox



**Goodenia vernicosa** – Bev Fox brought this along. It is endemic to South Australia. It flowers for a long time, all over summer. Bruce noted that the yellow flowers are quite large for a Goodenia. ‘Vernicosa’ means varnished, in reference to the leaves, which are also sticky.



Marilyn Bull

**Microtis unifolia** (Common Onion-orchid) – one of our native orchids, Bruce finds it comes up everywhere. He is always removing it from somewhere, and describes it as a nuisance.

Graeme Nicholls



*Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream'*



Graeme Nicholls

*Viminaria juncea*

### Members Out and About

We have received the following photos of some of our Maroondah members enjoying post-lockdown freedoms.



Bill Aitchison and Sue Guymer catching up with APS Victoria Membership Officer Anne Langmaid and President Chris Clarke.



Michael Cook's picture of Rosemary and Tom Orton when he visited them in December. They are standing in front of the nature strip they share with their daughter Kate.



Bev and John Hanson with their "children" in the Grampians.

# November Garden Visit

## Bruce and Jill Schroder Garden

What a joy to be able to get together for a visit to the Schroder's garden with a lovely afternoon tea (not least Jill's scones!).

After the extensive lockdowns, about 25 Maroondah members gathered and socialised in the beautiful weather amidst a very beautiful garden. It was particularly good to see Bev and John Hanson there after John's recent bad health. Thanks to Peter Smith and Diane Hedin for bringing them along.

Bruce told us of recent tree damage, but he has taken this as an opportunity to add small plants in the more open garden beds. Many of the plants are from Western Australia and other areas of Australia, some rather difficult to grow in Melbourne, but Bruce seems to manage in Montrose.

Some of the plants which featured were *Grevillea scapigera*, *Anigozanthos* 'King's Park Federation Flame', *Xanthorrhoea* 'Super Grass', *Verticordia plumosa*,



Bill Aitchison

Enjoying a chat.

*Eremophila hygrophana* and *E.* 'Meringur Isaac', *Velleia foliosa*, *Goodenia macmillanii*, *Tecomanthe hillii*, *Acacia cognata* 'Lime Majik', and a *Pileanthus* species.

Many thanks to Bruce and Jill for hosting this wonderful end to 2021.



Sue Guymer

*Velleia foliosa*



Sue Guymer

*Grevillea scapigera*



Sue Guymer

*Goodenia macmillanii*



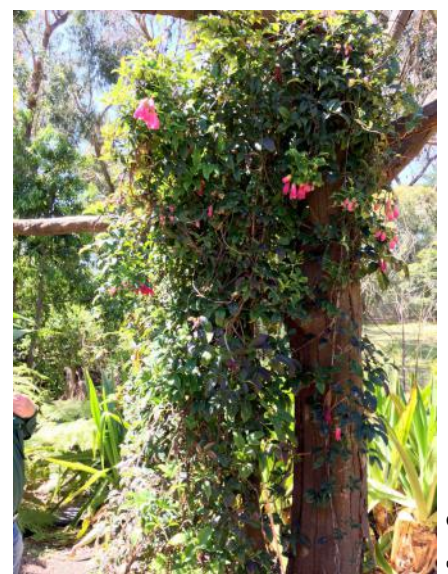
Sue Guymer

*Verticordia plumosa*



Sue Guymer

*Xanthorrhoea* 'Super Grass'



Sue Guymer

*Tecomanthe hillii*

Bill Aitchison



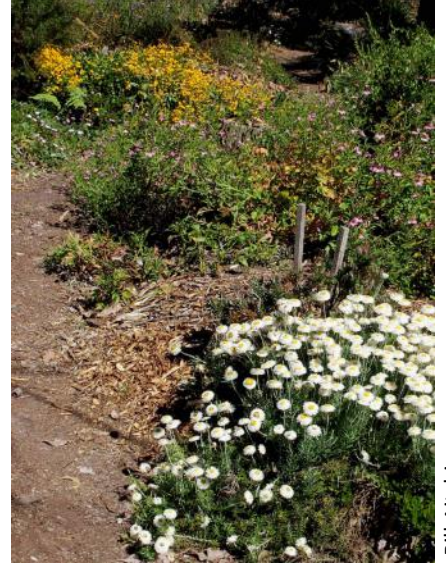
*Acacia 'Lime Majik'*

Sue Guymer



*Pileanthus species*

Bill Aitchison



Backyard wildflowers.

Sue Guymer



*Anigozanthos 'King's Park Federation Flame'*

Sue Guymer



*Eremophila 'Meringur Isaac'* with *Velleia*.

Sue Guymer



*Eremophila hygrophana*

### Vale Claude Culvenor

Dr Claude Culvenor died in December at the age of 96. Claude was a member of APS Maroondah group for a number of years, attending our meetings regularly.

In his working life, Claude was Chief Research Scientist, CSIRO Division of Organic Chemistry. Bill Aitchison recalls that on a number of occasions, Claude was only too happy to assist the Acacia Study Group with particular issues requiring specialist scientific knowledge. For example, in 2011 the Commonwealth Government proposed that the sale of plant species containing a particular chemical (DMT) should be banned. This proposal would have meant that the sale of many Acacia (and other) species would have been prohibited. Claude recognised the absurdity of the proposed legislation, and was particularly helpful to the Study Group in preparing their submission to the Attorney General arguing against the proposal.

Our condolences to Claude's loved ones.



'I don't want to be photographed!'

Bill Aitchison

# Looking lovely in Summer

Our garden in Blackburn has been looking great this summer.

Graeme Nicholls



This *Adenanthos sericeus* 'Bronze Glow' has bronze tips on the new growth, as long as it is grown in full sun. It was grown from a cutting from the Melton Botanic Garden. It attracts a lot of admiration from visitors. It has not produced any flowers this year, but who needs flowers when you have foliage like this!



*Leptospermum brachyandrum* can grow to 4 or 5 m high, but ours is less than that so far. It is currently covered with these small white flowers. There is a green-leaf form and a somewhat silver-leaf form.



*Grevillea georgeana* is a striking plant. Mine is growing in the street in clay soil like concrete, and is only 2.5 m high, but it can get to be much bigger than that. Great show, but absolutely terrible to weed beneath as the foliage is diabolically prickly. Easily grafted on *G. robusta*.



*Eremophila platycalyx* has dull greyish-green leaves and large flowers. The corolla is white. The sepals on our bush are pink and remain long after the corolla has fallen. Slow growing and drought resistant. Grafted.



I think this is the double flowered form of *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* – please correct me if I'm wrong. The deep blue flowers make a striking show in a shady spot in our garden. Blue colours are hard to reproduce on paper.





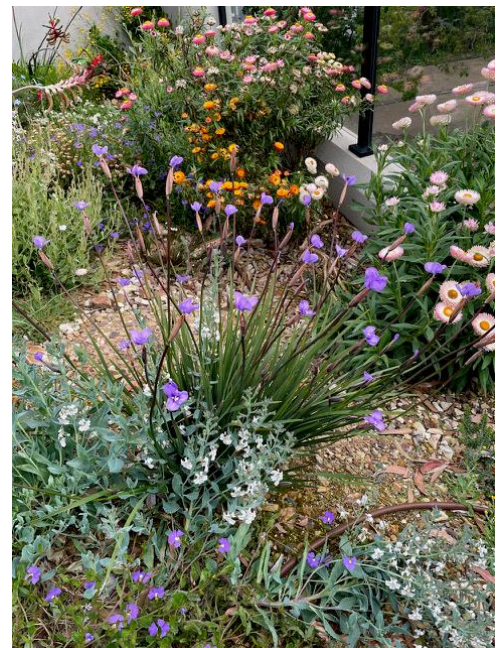
*Grevillea treueriana* is another one with extremely prickly foliage, but we love it. It nearly always has red flowers. It doesn't seem to grow to more than 1 m high and wide. Responds to pruning and grafts readily.



*Goodenia ovata* 'Prostrate' is one of our favourites – tough, showy, quick-growing and a great rockery plant or groundcover. It can take over if you let it, so give it a good tidy-up after flowering.

## Rooftop Garden

Do you remember when David Lightfoot created a rooftop garden as part of his new house? That was nearly two years ago. He has now sent these pictures to show how it has developed since then.



# Rutaceae Ruminations

Marilyn Bull and George Stolfo

This is the sixth in a series of articles on members of the Rutaceae family written by Marilyn and illustrated by George.

## *Leionema lamprophyllum*

Shiny Leionema, Shiny Phebalium

A vivid memory of spring at Karwarra Garden was the mass of brilliant white flowers covering *Leionema lamprophyllum* ssp *lamprophyllum*, formerly known as *Phebalium lamprophyllum*. Its dark green leaves were not to be seen. As with all Rutaceae it has aromatic foliage.

*L. lamprophyllum* is a small to medium rounded shrub 1-2m x 1-2m. It will grow in many conditions, from the shaded forest of Karwarra to a full sun position. It is equally at home in the deep mountain soil of Kalorama and the clay-loam of Montrose, making it a very useful garden plant. It works well as a low screen and could be pruned to make a dense hedge.

The white flowers form dense terminal clusters. The stamens extend prominently beyond the petals giving a starry appearance. They are insect-attracting. Branchlets and fruit are warty and stems have a fine hairy covering. The oil glands on the leaves are also obvious.

The revision of *Phebalium* placed this species in *Leionema* as it lacks the scales on various surfaces. There are 4 subspecies with 2 occurring in Victoria. Subspecies *lamprophyllum* has longer, to 11mm long, elliptic leaves, pointed at the tip. Subspecies *obovatum*, the form which I am growing, has obovate leaves which means that they are broader at the end, and the tip is rounded. The leaf edges near the tip have tiny rounded teeth. The leaves, flowers and flower stalks are all smaller than the type subspecies. NSW also has *Leionema lamprophyllum* ssp *orbiculare* with tiny circular leaves 2-4mm long. The subspecies *fractum* is critically endangered, known from a single population.



It has yellow to yellowish-green flowers and rhomboidal leaves 6-9mm long which also have rounded to pointed teeth near the rounded tip.

This is definitely a species which deserves a place in your garden due to its beauty and adaptability. It can be grown from cuttings so ask around and have a go.

## *Styloidium graminifolium*

Helen Morrow

I bought three plants of *Styloidium graminifolium* at the RBGV Cranbourne Growing Friends October Plant Sale 3 years ago.

In the following January they were still in 10cm pots and as we were going away for a week, I planted them in this round open planter with the hope that they would survive. Well, survive they did.

They are on our northeast side terrace, so they get plenty of sun. With the recent rains and occasional watering, they have been happily multiplying – at last count there are about 30 flowers. I do not think they would have done so well in the garden.

Next, when the flowering is finished it will be time to divide them and try some in the garden, and if that is not successful there will always be another plant sale.



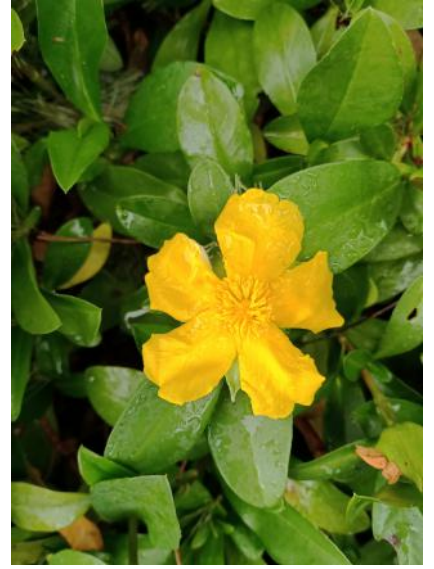
# Summer at Ray and Eva's garden in Cranbourne South



*Diplarrena moraea*



*Grevillea shirressii*



*Hibbertia scandens*



*Pileanthus aurantiacus*



*Prostanthera magnifica*



*Pileanthus rubrinitidus*



*Prostanthera saxicola*



*Verticordia pityrhops*



*Verticordia lindleyana* ssp *purpurea*

# Looking Forward to 2022 and Beyond

Our meetings will normally be held on the 4th Friday of the month,  
with the garden visit on the following Sunday.  
Keep an eye on your Kunzea for any disruptions to the planned program due to CoVid.

## APS Maroondah Meetings

(4th Friday of the month)

28<sup>th</sup> January – Social Get-Together at Blackburn Lake

## APS Victoria and other events

(APS Victoria website: [apsvic.org.au](http://apsvic.org.au))

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

ANPSA Conference, hosted by APS NSW at Kiama.

(NOTE: Deferred from 2021 due to CoVid19 restrictions)

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022

14th FJC Rogers Seminar on “*Fabulous Peas*”,  
hosted by APS Maroondah at Mt Evelyn.

Please send expressions of interest to  
[fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com).

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## Impressa Award for John Thompson

Congratulations to John Thompson for receiving an Impressa Award from APS Victoria.

The award was largely in respect of his work for APS South East Melbourne group where he has been leader since 2009 and was newsletter editor for 14 years. It also recognises his talks to various District Group meetings and the wider Australian plant community.

The citation said that John exemplifies the ideal member of APS as an ambassador for our flora and enhancing the knowledge of Australian plants.

John is also a Maroondah member and attends meetings when he can. We certainly appreciate the contribution which he makes.

## APS Maroondah on Facebook

Some of you may be unaware that APS Maroondah has a Facebook page, which is managed by Alison Rogers. This is a great resource for you or to refer others to in the hope that their interest in Australian plants (and our Society) can be inflamed!

You can find it through searching with your Web Browser for “APS Maroondah Facebook Page”.

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## Australian Garden at Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens

Bruce Schroder

Over the last couple of years there has been more going on than just CoVid19. You may remember that we had Alison Hill from People and Parks Foundation speak at our May 2021 meeting about the “Australian Garden” project.

This is the project for Phillip Johnson to create a much larger version of his Best in Show winning garden from the Chelsea Flower Show of 2013, in the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden. There was discussion with those attending the meeting as to whether we should financially support the project. As a result, your Committee decided to make a donation. Here is an update on that.

I spoke to Phillip Johnson in December. They are expecting to turn the first sod in early January 2022. I mentioned our desire for our contribution to be recognised through a specific element of the project if possible, acknowledging it wasn't a huge contribution in the scheme of things. Although Phillip was cognisant of our desire, he made it quite clear that, being a not for profit organisation, the People for Parks Foundation charter didn't allow for specific donor recognition. He did say, though, that major contributors would be recognised in affiliated promotional material.

He also mentioned that they were currently investigating specific involvement by interested parties in elements of the project such as planting and the development of a “Friends” type group. They are also extending the project to incorporate some sort of ongoing promotional and educational film/program through social networks, and would need additional funding to support this.

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## Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

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Email: [maroondah@apsvic.org.au](mailto:maroondah@apsvic.org.au)

### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the February 2022 Newsletter should be sent

to Sue Guymer at [aitchguy@gmail.com](mailto:aitchguy@gmail.com) no later than

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Maroondah Group website:

[australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah](http://australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah)

APS Vic website:

[www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

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