



Australian Plants Society

Yarra Yarra

Group Inc

(Incorporation No. A0039676Y)

Newsletter November 2018

General Meeting
1st November, 8pm

Grand Flower Table

Bring your flowers. Please place into relevant genera i.e. Grevillea, Hakea, etc as indicated. If unknown put on the **Grand Illumination** table

Christmas General Meeting
6th December:

APS YY Christmas Party & Slide Show.

6 to 10 images per person, you are welcome to submit on USB, via Dropbox or We Transfer anytime

Final Garden Visit of the Year:

Sunday Nov 4, 2pm Garden 1. Joe Wilson's Garden. Joe is a former nursery man and Maroondah APS member. This is a small garden with numerous genera, natural style. 3-4 years old, easy walking. Good parking on the street. Best to pool cars for travel to the Johnsons.

Garden 2. Lee & Nancy Johnson garden. Park on Vale Park Drive, Donvale Village end & enter through Gate to Village. Easy walking, slight hill.

THE RHSV Hanging Basket at the International Flower and Garden Show, April. 2019.

Do we have a volunteer for this? If so please let us know who you are. There was a great representation from the various APS Groups last year. We are putting in our entry form as this newsletter goes to press.

Images this page: Isopogon formosus & Kunzea affinis from Merele Webb's beautiful garden. See page 6 for the report on this visit.



The Melton Botanic Garden - David & Barbara Pye, Oct 4th

David began by talking about the garden generally, how it is managed, the local environment, the design, the indigenous garden, the Eucalyptus arboretum and the WA & SA gardens.

The garden, at 21 William St, Melton, has been built and managed by volunteers through the Friends of Melton Botanic Garden (FMBG) who were established 15 years ago. It took a further 5 years before the council granted them a site for the garden around 10 years ago. There were a number of project managers for the different sections of the garden and a manager for the nursery – Anne Langmaid - the current manager & also the APS Vic membership officer. The work is funded by grants from the State Government. The funding is now ongoing to ensure the garden's development and longevity. They have around 50 volunteers with extra labour coming occasionally from Work for the Dole & Centrelink projects.

The site is 24 hectares (60 acres) in area and has a number of very old, magnificent River Red Gums. The rainfall, less than 500mm/yr, is the lowest in Melbourne which is good for growing dryland plants. There are some remnant trees which were planted around 40 years ago when the farm that was previously on the site was taken over by the council. There is a permanent water course which runs through the garden & ends in a lake (man-made) that always has water in it, largely storm water runoff. The Council hired a landscape designer, Mike Smith who has designed for other municipalities who did the design for the garden (see http://www.fmbg.org.au/garden_plan.htm). He was strongly influenced by Eucalypts and

hence the largest section is the Eucalyptus dryland arboretum & just south of that is the WA & SA garden.

Most people arrive at the depot and nursery when visiting. Some sections remain to be developed and a more substantial carpark is underway. The Council built a large, long concrete path to the lake which has recently been extended around the lake to create a walking loop that is 2 K long. The creek has good habitat for flora & fauna. The large lake has an island which has been recently cleared of weeds to create habitat for birds. The garden has become a haven for birds & twitchers who often visit to spot the unusual and brief migratory visitor.



MBG Report (continued)- Miriam Ford (also images)

The Eucalyptus Arboretum & WA SA beds. There are two main areas that Barbara and David have been involved with. The Eucalyptus arboretum was the first part of the planting, around 8 years ago. Planted in 2011 in an informal manner, around 100 species. Some are now self-seeding. The largest trees are the 40 year old trees that line the concrete path & include a lovely *E. dolichorhynca*. The second area is adjacent to the arboretum - the WA SA garden which is around 1 hectare in size & was begun around 3 years ago. The raised deep sand mounds were inspired by Marilyn Sprague's hugely successful approach in her garden on the outskirts of Bendigo. An additional *Eremophila* bed was constructed 1 year ago.

There are many different habitat zones in WA however just the low rainfall ones that are suitable for the Melton area are adhered to in the planting. The display bed of paper daisies has a rabbit proof fence. At the southern end is the Coolgardie area, a woodland area & is dominated by trees. At the northern end are the plants of the Avon Wheatbelt & Geraldton area. There are several hundred species there which include *Acacias*, *Boronias*, *Verticordia*, *Isopogon*, *Petrophile*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea* & *Hypocalymma* to name a few.

Barbara then told us about the various trees in the Eucalyptus Arboretum. The remarkable success of this arboretum is a testament to them and their careful planning and propagation work. Within 2 years after tubestock was planted, their *E. woodwardii* flowered and has now taken on a lovely weeping form. All stock has been established from seed & so it can be something of a lottery in terms of flower colour but most have flowered within 2 years. Barb says they have been really lucky, whenever two are planted they will usually

have two colour forms. There are only a few Victorian species, the majority are WA mallees. (Ed: Some 9 months ago David and Barbara asked me to create a slide show of the Dryland Eucalypt Arboretum for their website and for the council - see <https://vimeo.com/249964642>.)

Barbara spoke about other species including the *Verticordias* and some of the recent problems with frost damage. The *Verticordias* are good because they flower after many species have finished. Most are also on their own roots and many cope with frost. They have had some stolen as well as other plants. The garden has no security fence and is open to the public at all times. There is a wonderful array of species with amazing growth given the time the garden has been established. The in-house nursery (run by the FMBG) supplies most of the plants to the garden and also for sale to the public. They do very well with their sales.

Challenges. Many of the Volunteers are older, willing workers but not expected to do heavy labour which is needed at times. They have rabbits and hares which are a real problem with respect to the understorey planting. It is a sunny & windy site which is a bonus in the main in terms of flowering with full sun but has a down side. Frost wasn't a consideration at first but the timing can be a real problem especially when all the plants are budding up for the spring display. This year the late August frost was very damaging. Funding was a problem but now they have good solid funding from Council. Signage is a constant problem. Plants die and need to be replaced. Barb concluded with- *We do have A LOT of interesting plants. Do they ever!* What a delight this garden is to visit and if you haven't seen it make sure you do, SOON.



River Red Gum reflections in the Lake at the Melton Botanic Garden. There are many superb old gums lining the water.

October Flower Table - Report by Jill Lulham

FABACEAE FAMILY

Acacia laricina (WA, 20cm x 2m, prostrate), *A. cupularis* (Vic, SA, WA, 3m, golden balls, Oct flowering), *A. sessilispica* (WA, 3m x 3m, gold rod flowers, fine foliage), *A. argyrophylla* (Silver Mulga, SA, 3 x 3m, golden ball flowers, silver foliage)

Chorizema cordatum (Heart-leaf Flame Pea, sw WA, 1 x 1m)

Senna artemisioides (all States & Territories, to 3m, variable forms), *S. nemophila* (Desert Cassia, <2m, needle leaves)

SCROPHULARIACEAE FAMILY

Eremophila georgei x *glabra* 'Murrin Magic' (Russell Wait, 0.5 x 1m), *E. muelleriana* (Round-leaf eremophila, WA, <1m, deep purple-violet flowers), *E. nivea* (WA, white flowered form), *E. aureivisca* (Rason Poverty bush, WA, <1m, creamy green aging to deep pink flowers) *E. lehmanniana* (WA, 1m x 1m, white to lilac flowers), *E. platycalyx* (WA, <1.5m, cream coloured flowers with spots on outside), *E. oppositifolia* (all States, to 5m, flower tube can be cream, pink, red or purple, also colourful calyces)

RUTACEAE FAMILY

Boronia chartacea (NSW, <2.5m, bright pink)

Eriostemon australasius (Pink Wax Flower, coastal NSW to southern Qld, 1m)

LAMIACEAE FAMILY

Prostanthera magnifica (Magnificent Prostanthera, WA, <2m, pink flower with purple-red calyx), *P. rotundifolium* (Round leafed Mint Bush, NSW, Vic, pink to purple flowers), *P. lanceolata* (NSW, <4m, mauve to deep purple flower, long flowering, hardy), *P. stenophylla* (Wollemi NP, NSW, previously called *P. rylstonii*, < 2m, mauve to violet flowers)

Westringia glabra (Violet Westringia, Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, Tas, variable colours – popular one is Deep Purple)

GOODENIACEAE FAMILY

Goodenia decursiva (WA, <1.5m, white flower)

Images this page: *Boronia chartacea*, *Eriostemon australasius* & *Prostanthera magnifica*.



October Flower Table: Images Ben Eaton & Rob Dunlop (Doc Camera)

MYRTACEAE FAMILY

Hypocalymma robustum (Swan River Myrtle, WA, <1m, pink to red flowers)

Darwinia macrostegia (Mondurup Bell, WA, <1m)

Melaleuca micromera (Wattle Honey-Myrtle, WA, to 3m, rare in the wild, very small leaves, yellow flowers looks like a wattle from a distance)

Chamelaucium uncinatum hybrid (WA, Geraldton Wax, <4m, prune once they are about 60cm)

Calothamnus quadrifidus (One-sided Bottle Brush, red form, dwarf form)

ASTERACEAE FAMILY

Olearia phlogopappa (Dusty Daisy Bush, NSW, Vic, Tas, <3m, pink/purple, also blue, and white forms)

Ozothamnus diosmifolius 'Royal Flush' (Rice Flower, Qld, NSW, <1.5m, white and various shades of pink available)

PROTEACEAE FAMILY

Grevillea 'Pink Ice' (*zygoloba* x *commutata*), *G. wilkinsonii* (Tumut *Grevillea*, Tumut, NSW, endangered, <2m, mauve to purple toothbrush flowers), *G. endlicheriana* (Spindly *Grevillea*, WA, <3m, racemes of small cream or pink flowers), *G. dielsiana* (WA, <2m, pink, red, orange and yellow forms, prickly foliage)

SERRANIDAE FAMILY

Pseudanthos pimelioides (NSW, <0.6m, white, needs some moisture)

THYMELAEACEAE FAMILY

Pimelia nivea (Tas, <2m, terminal clusters of white flowers)

HAEMODORACEAE FAMILY

Conostylis candicans (Grey Cottonheads, WA, <30cm, clusters of yellow flowers, can be tricky to grow)



Images this page: Melaleuca micromera, Olearia phlogopappa & Conostylis candicans.

Garden Visit Merele Webb 29 September, 2018 - Peter Smith

On Grand Final day after a late cancellation of Sandra McMahon's garden, seven members and one visitor attended our garden visit to Merele Webb's (landscape designer) Croydon North garden. Merele explained how the 4 year old garden took shape. Unfortunately, in order to erect a fence between properties, some original vegetation had to be removed, exposing Merele and daughter Kathy's house to the main road. Merele set about planting to screen and also to show off her favoured west Australian plants: Mallee Eucs leptophylla and dolychorhyncha, several Eremophilas, Grevilleas, a stunning Chorizema cordatum, Hardenbergia violacea and other species were planted. Merele's garden is "densely planted in the way that Australian plants grow naturally, to help protect them from the wind, sun and predators".

Of interest was a sport growing on Eremophila mackinlayii, the juvenile foliage of Euc. lunata (Moon Lagoon) an Eremophila splendens and an unnamed Scholtzia. On an exposed corner, Eremophila nivea had spread to 3m across and at 2m in height was a spectacular sight. Other Mallee Eucs were starting to develop, Banksia praemorsa (red), Grevillea alpina 'Warby Range', Westringias and Correas all fitting in.

Along a particularly hot stretch of concrete driveway, Eremophila freelingii, Isopogon, Darwinia and Dampiera were all thriving. On the shadier house side, Persoonia pinifolia, Spyridium, Correas, Chamelaucium and an Acacia gracilifolia combining well. Further along in a usually damp area, Callistemon, Melaleucas, Lambertia, a Correa and surprisingly a pink form of Eremophila drummondii were taking advantage of the extra moisture. Tall shrubs on the house side were protecting a Rhododendron lochiaie, Boronia 'Purple Jarred' and had several Epacris, reeds and grasses scrambling through.

Around in the back yard, Merele's daughter Katherine's cat breeding enterprise took everyone's interest. Merele pointed out the large Eremophila alternifolia cross (large purple flower) which was overtaking plants all around - Grevillea juncifolia was flowering below and Euc tetraptera reaching up. Further along was a Euc. albopurpurea unfortunately cream flowered, not the hoped for purple. Pimela nivea was doing well below and amongst the great variety of Merele's planting, a showy red Grevillea at the end of the track had everyone oohing and aahing. Indeed a beautiful garden with a host of genera and fascinating stories from Merele with each plant along the way.

Images: Eremophila maculata, Hibbertia riparia & Merele & crew admiring Acacia gracilifolia



Garden Visit Cook & Sikiris, Eaglemont. 7 October 2018 - Merele Webb

Kathy and Ken live on a lovely sloping fan-shaped block above the Yarra parklands with wide views, tranquility and much birdlife - even the odd kangaroo. There is a feeling of wandering and relaxing, of stepping out of time, which is rarely experienced in a suburban garden.

The sloping ground gives good drainage, so the front area near the road is hot and dry. Here the return driveway allows large boulders to act as shoulders for plants to lean over. *Acacia alata* sprawls over the huge rocks in a blanket of yellow. *Dampiera linearis* is colonising along the street with a rich show of blue. Darwinian and other WA species enjoy this area.

A pathway to the porch winds through bushes, some more recently planted since the huge heritage Oak died. This open area now has maturing shrubs and is being replanted with understorey. A Mallee *Euc woodwardii* hybrid with bunches of large fluffy yellow flowers and silver green foliage and stems, marks the entrance path, and *Hardenbergia Mini Ha Ha* drapes purple near its feet. Near the porch, 2 large flat mudstone steps give an air of grand welcome, with another defining the path around to the side.

The back garden has the parkland backdrop and a 2 metre drop to the roadway, so the planting is for screening and merging. Two *Euc leucoxyton rosea* help meld it into the view with a thriving *Eremophila nivea* a feature. *Euc citriodora* defines the end section with its shady seating area and scented and relaxing plants. At the other end is a large pond where local ducks fly in and *Grevilleas* offer food for small birds. Fences enclose the northern garden area with vegetables and fruit trees and an amphitheatre on 2 levels paved in Castlemaine slate. There a delicious afternoon tea awaited us under a large umbrella with Kathy's fresh scones and her famous ginger cake a real treat. Thanks Kathy! We were delighted to see this garden, now hardly 15 years old, while Kathy and Ken are in the process of refurbishing it.



The group with Merele explaining, Acacia glaucoptera, Euc hybrid (woodwardii X youngiana?) & Darwinia meeboldii. Images: Jill Lulham

The 12th FJC Rogers Seminar on the GOODENIACEAE family,

October 20 & 21, 2018

The 12th FJC Rogers Seminar on the Goodeniaceae Family hosted by the Wimmera Growers and APS Grampians groups at Horsham & local gardens on October 20 & 21 was a huge success. There were some 240 registrants and 2,500 plants for sale. There were 14 members of APS Yarra Yarra there.

There was a real buzz of excitement in the crowd queuing to register at Trinity College, Horsham on the Friday evening. The line snaked out of the door and across the quadrangle, 4 deep. Friends were meeting friends and catching up so there was no problem with spending time in line. In fact I am not sure we noticed. However we did notice people going straight to the plants sales after they had their lanyards announcing their bono fides. Apparently they sold \$6000 - worth of plants in the first 1.5 hours of sales. That enthusiasm maintained its momentum over the weekend from what I saw with the sales on the Saturday and also at some gardens (Wartook & Marriotts, Panrock Ridge).

The Saturday was a day of lectures where we heard from Dr Kelly Shepherd (from the WA herbarium), a lively and entertaining speaker who managed to keep us engaged with a truly monumental overview of the taxonomy of the Goodeniaceae, with various humorous asides and her vigorous perambulations around the stage trailing the mike – *like a rock star* – as she put it. There is going to be a shake-up of the various genera with some lost and some moving into others – just wait for it! Her intention with her work and her proposal to the next Botanical Congress is to make it the least disruptive with around 29 names changes rather than around 159! We also heard from Gwen and Roger Elliott on growing Goodeniaceae in containers and attending to the ecology of our plants. Hazel Dempster then spoke about horticultural aspects and surprised us all with her extraordinary success with propagation by leaf cuttings. We are all going to try it.

The dinner at the same venue was great fun. The many raffle prizes were drawn and what a superb raffle it was with genous supply of gifts from various businesses in the area as well as Neutrog. While we were having dinner there was a slide show up on the big screen of the pages from the Guide to the Goodeniaceae of Southern Australia and the Northern Territory by Maree Goods. What a superb production, one to be enormously proud of and all registrants have a copy on our USBs. Kelly Shepherd, as after dinner speaker, once again entertained us with her extraordinary life story & her involvement in forensic work for the state police. The MC for the evening, Glenda Lewin said

she must write the book and I think is worthy of an ABC Australian Story.

The garden visits followed on the Sunday. We all gathered at the bus stop and piled into 4 buses which proceeded n convoy along the highway first to Wartook (Royce & Jeanne Raleigh) where several new beds had been planted for a special Goodeniaceae display. They fortunately had ome good rain just prior to the event. They had been troubled by lack of it and also frosts prior to the weekend. Then the convoy proceeded to the Grannes Garden where a wonderful lunch was served in the marquee and we wandered for another hour, then to Panrock Ridge (the Marriott garden) with its impressive array of huge granite boulders amongst the lovely plants. These three large gardens were all truly superb and unique in their particular features. The images and the coming movie will reveal more. (Ed:Michael & I filmed all three gardens and I will be producing the 12th FJC Goodeniaceae story on the three gardens by Christmas).

This was a special weekend and made even more special by the fact that we, APS Yarra Yarra, are doing the next one. We gathered up a lot of information from people in attendance and were given much by the organisers. I gave a short presentation on what we are intending for the 13th FJC on the Lamiaceae, subfamily Prostantheroideae which was well received. This will be included in our Christmas Show. We now have an email address for Expressions of Interest: fjcrogersseminar2020@gmail.com.



The audience at the FJC Rogers Seminar , Trinity College Auditorium, Saturday 20 October, 2018

Panrock Ridge Garden, Top 4 images clockwise: *Grevillea eriostachya*, Joan amongst the granite boulders, *Verticordia ovalifolia*, *Prostanthera striatiflora*. Bottom set: Dinner flowers & the opening address with *Goodeniaceae* plants adorning stage.



Committee, Newsletter Contributions, Diary Dates

The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:

- Miriam Ford (President, Newsletter Editor, COM delegate) M 0409 600 644
- Mike Ridley (Treasurer & Multi-media Tech guy) 0418 322 969
- Joanne Cairns (Secretary & Co-editor of website & Facebook page) 0425 760 325
- Carmen Cooper (Membership Officer) 0413 012 045
- Adrian Seckold (Minutes Secretary & meeting plant sales) 0431 071 503
- *Peter Smith (Garden Visits) 0425 798 275.

Some APS YY Committee Meeting Dates:

Inaugural FJC 2020 Com meeting: 5 Nov, 7.30 PM

General APS YY Com Meeting: 13 Nov. 7.30 pm

Contributions to the 2018 December APS YY News to Miriam by 23 November please

Email: miriamdfc30@gmail.com OR post to Newsletter editor APS Yarra Yarra PO Box 298, Eltham 3095

Thank you to Jill Lulham, Peter Smith & Merele Webb for articles, Jill and Joanne for proof reading, Ben Eaton, Rob Dunlop, Jill Lulham, & Joanne Cairns for images. Editor (MF) for all other images & articles.

We wish to acknowledge the major sponsorship of our Expo by Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd.

Thank you to Vicki Ward's Office for printing

27 & 28 October APS Ballarat District Group Spring Plant Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 4.30 pm, at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens. A display of flowers and foliage and a large range of plants for sale. Hand painted floral art, books sales and other stall holders.

27 & 28 October Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

29 July - 11 November, 2018 - McClelland Gallery 390 McClelland Drive, Langwarrin. Vic: Performing systems of beauty: (re)visualising Gordon Ford's natural Australian garden. Annette Warner Floor Talk on **Friday 9 November, 11 am to 12 pm.** *Gordon Ford's work is central to this group's district. We will be organising a car pool for a group from APS Yarra Yarra to attend. We need to book numbers so please let us know if you would like to be included by **this weekend October 28. Email: apsyarrayarra@gmail.com***

1st Dec 2018 Saturday COM meeting, 10 am Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Auditorium

13 April, 2019 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale. Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am to 4 pm.

27 April 2019 – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6). From 8.30 am to 5.00 pm (sale is one day only). A BBQ, tea, coffee and refreshments, book sales, childrens' activities and a great selection of native plants.

Date saver: The **ANPSA 2019 Conference** hosted by Western Australia will be held between 30th Sept to 4 October 2019 in Albany, WA.

Meeting Particulars: Visitors always welcome

When: 8 pm 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.30 pm. Come early for plant sales.

Venue: Orana building, Araluen Centre. 226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty.

Guest Speaker: Learn more through talks and discussion by expert speakers

Audience etiquette: No interruptions to the speaker during the talk, questions (one only per person) at the end when requested.

Flower Table Specimens: Bring along your flowers, labelled if possible

Plant Sales: Members may buy or sell their own plants, unusual varieties are often available

Chairs: Members please help set up chairs from 7.30 onwards and put away again after the meeting.

