

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th March
7:30pm Pomonal Hall
Graham and Maree Goods

Little Desert Plants

Supper L to Z

Tuesday 21st April

Attila Kapitany

Xerophytes

Tuesday May 19th

Dean Nicole

Small Eucalypts

Next Meeting

Graham and Maree Goods are old friends of Grampians Group and it's always a pleasure to welcome them to one of our meetings. Both have unrivalled knowledge of the Little Desert and their outstanding photography is evident in their beautiful book, co authored with Ian Morgan, *Birds and Plants of the Little Desert*. I think we are in for a treat, so don't miss it.

Reminder: it's L to Z turn for supper. (we still have vacancy for a member whose name begins with Z, but we live in hope)

Last Meeting

Speaker: Lawrie Smith. Subject: Design with Nature



How lucky we were to have such an accomplished landscape designer come so far to speak to us, (lucky because APS Maroondah were flying him down from QLD for their meeting). John and Joc offered to meet and billet him, (unluckily travelling on the 2 days of the train strike), but what a speaker!

Lawrie is the current National President for the Australian Native Plants Society, and the leader and editor of the Garden Design Study Group.

With over 45 years' experience in landscape and garden design, specialising in Botanic Gardens, he also designed the Australian

Landscape in International Garden Expo in Japan and the UK, as well as many of the Botanic Gardens in Queensland.

First Lawrie spoke clearly about concept design and site analysis, the aspect and slope, with an easy how-to of marking sun and shade patterns, understanding borrowed views and imagining zones and landform with bubble diagrams. There were tips for a welcoming entrance and inviting meandering paths, there was a ticklist for different work and play activities, controlled environments, water, art, lighting. But at planting time, always look locally, such as at your botanic gardens to see what grows well, always look for inspiration to express your love of Australian plants. He mentioned a Word diagram option, and a Google map, and well, John promised he could help us with that!

The second part was at a faster pace. The map pictured below shows Lawrie's Botanic Garden accomplishments, quoting one extravaganza with visitation of 80million (to the Roma St Gardens, Brisbane Expo 1988.) Lawrie's pictures showed the daily displays were so perfect,



with the imagination he input paralleled only by the unbelievably huge budget and labour input. He showed us a Proteaceae design that compared Australia with South Africa, talked of an interactive fountain, we saw floral emblems and an epiphyte forest, and he showed what disastrous cyclone weather can do to a massive shade sail. I would say Lawrie expressed a strong belief in the unique quality and value of the Australian environment, in designing quality open space facilities for the community, that

sustainably use Australian flora in the face of diminishing water resources and expanding urban populations.

Wendy

Propagation Successes

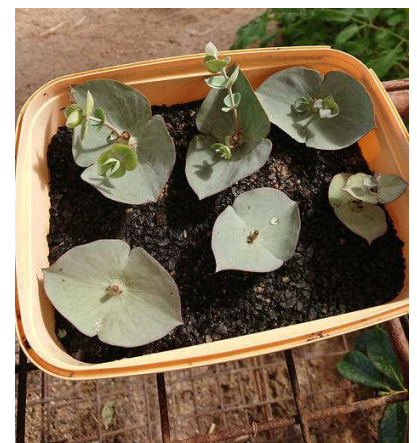


Many of you love going round nurseries and finding new plants, but for me nothing beats the satisfaction of growing my own and I am delighted when other people get infected with that bug.

Some of the plants produced from cuttings done at our propagation session in November (on the left)

Frank Azzopardi took on a challenge from Neil Marriott to strike some cuttings from a flower table specimen, results on the right.

Frank not only grows natives but has banana, mango, avocado, paw paw, guava, tomatoes, beans, pineapple in his greenhouse where he propagates all his cuttings and seedlings. Plus fish tank with gold fish.



Veronica perfoliata

Champion Survivors

In his excellent article 'What do we plant in the future?' in the current issue of *Growing Australian*, Neil Marriott has suggested that each district group recommends the toughest, most resilient plants for their area; ones which have coped with the extreme conditions of last year, conditions which are now becoming more frequent.

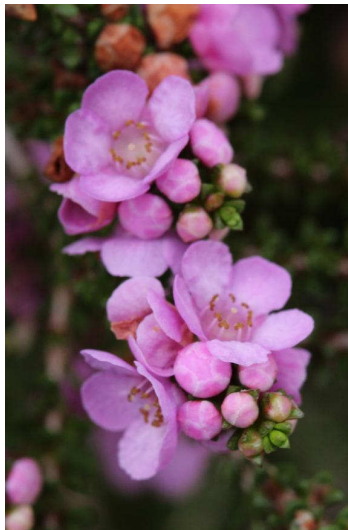
We would like to run a series on this in the newsletter throughout the year. It is something which everyone can take part in, because it relies on your own experience of your own garden. Have a wander round your garden and pick one plant which has sailed through the last few years with little or no problems, and preferably with little or no maintenance.

Obviously the most important attribute a plant needs is survival, and this is what Neil's article concentrates on. However, we require our garden plants to do more than just survive. We want them to be attractive, long flowering, tidy in their growth habit and easy to maintain. If they are used by wildlife also, that is a bonus. For many years the advice on how to choose plants most likely to survive at your place was to use the local species which have evolved to deal with the local conditions. Unfortunately this is no longer always the case, our once reliable local *Banksia marginata*, Silver Banksia are dying every summer, both in gardens and the bush.

I started this thinking I'd make a list, but as the list grew, I realised that it would be more effective if I narrowed it down and tried to identify one plant, which ticked all the boxes. I have several specimens of the species in many different areas of the garden. Some are over twenty years old and are in areas which never get watered, fertilised or weeded, yet still flower every year. So the winner is: *Thryptomene denticulata* (No Common Name). Botanical name means 'a small plant with tiny teeth' (on the leaves and calyx lobes).

That's my choice, what's yours?

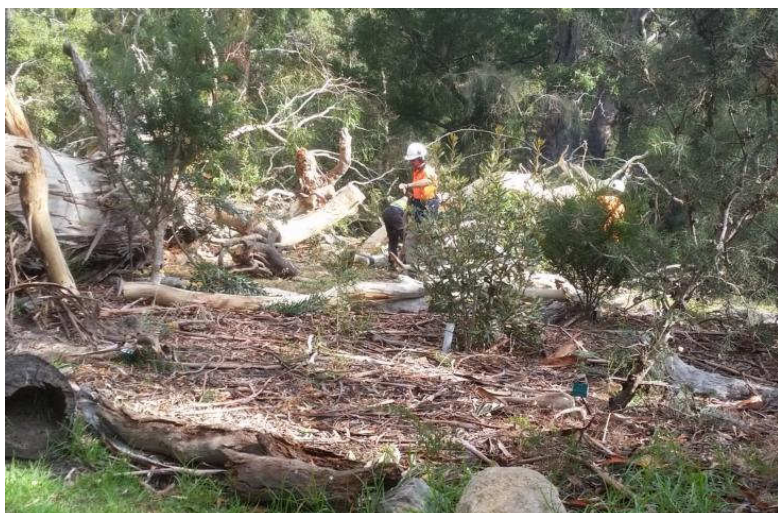
Phil



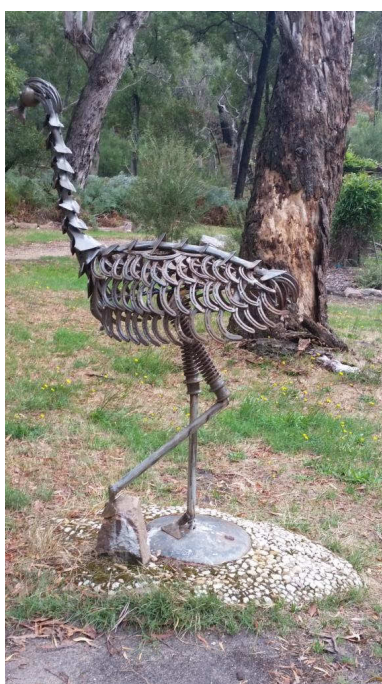
HALLS GAP BOTANIC GARDEN REPORT

We have moved our monthly working bee to a Friday this year, hoping that might bring us more workers, but may need to play around with dates.

In other news, we are very pleased that we are going to see more visits from the OutBeyond group. Having young people from Melbourne and overseas helping us will be a great help. The group has given us some gardening tools and first aid kits. We hope we will make good use of the first while never needing the second.



Recently we had to close the garden for safety reasons. We had a huge branch ready to fall in the kids' play area. Luckily we had time to close the garden before it fell as if anyone had been under it it would have been fatal. In the end six trees had to go, and we fear we may lose more after the arborist report.



We are going to need to look after our young eucalypts and probably plant some more. We were able to reopen in time for the long weekend.

Our Emily emu sculpture has finally been repaired.

We are grateful for the money that comes in from activities like the wildflower show, Joy's busking and shire grants, but we also really appreciate those of you who have been donating time or money. It helps enormously as many grants require us to put in an equivalent sum to what we are asking for. On our wish list are new noticeboards, electricity, repair costs.

If you donate over \$50 we give you a gift certificate which you can display to your guests. Why not start 2020 with a donation? You may have read in the Stawell paper about WAMA getting funding to help create a Botanic Garden of local plants. We are working closely with them as our gardens will complement not compete. They will be able to plant things that enjoy the flat plain and sunshine, while we have the forest and valley ones. We also

have an opportunity to apply to the same fund this year for a grant for some major improvements to the garden. We would love some input from APS members. What apart from electricity to our shed and a good database would you see as priorities? Finally, another appeal for help. Several of our workers are needing to reduce their commitment due to health problems, and others of us are ageing We need to look at our succession plans for the future. You can get involved in giving your ideas, help in applying for grants then spending them, recording our plants, supervising students, working on signs and so on, even if you can't weed. So if you would like to be on the mailing list do let me know.
Margo



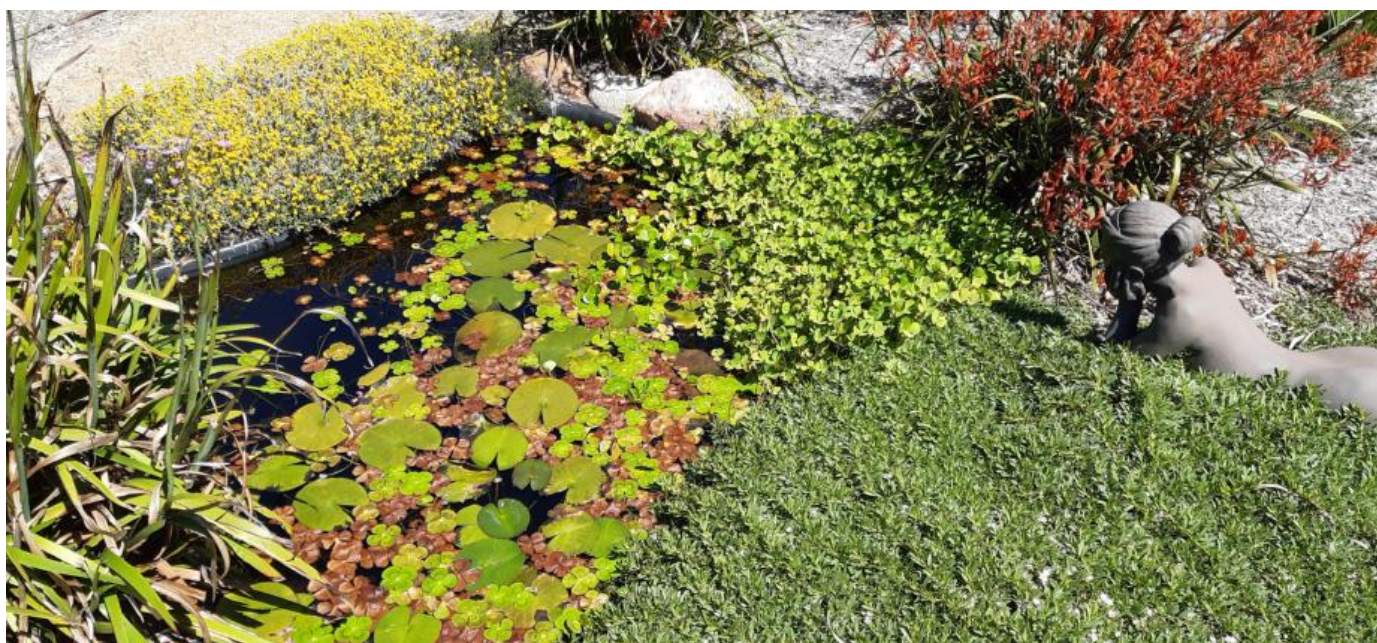
Gift certificate



More casualties

Kevin has sent in this picture of the beautiful pond in his garden, and also kind offer:

"If anybody wants some Nardoo for their pond or dam we have plenty to give away. All they need to do is give me a ring to arrange a time to come and get some. My number is 0418 302 151" Kevin



Wildlife in the Garden

Anyone who would like to see fantastic nature photographs should get onto the Natural Newstead mailing list. Local seedcollector Frances Cincotta captured a Wolf Spider sunning her egg sac [not the picture shown here] and offered this information From Museum Victoria website about Wolf Spiders:

“Males court female through a series of leg drums and vibrations while ‘dancing’ with his forelegs. If the female is receptive she will allow him to approach. The male will then present the female with a sperm package on one of his palpal bulbs, (as spiders do not have penises) which she will store and use to fertilise her eggs.

Sometime after fertilisation the female produces an egg sac by weaving a circular mat of fine silk onto which she deposits a hundred or more eggs. She then weaves silk around the eggs, draws up the sides of the mat and sews it into a silken ball. The size of this silken ball is often about the same as the spider itself.

Using strong silken threads, she then attaches the egg case to the under surface of her abdomen using her spinnerets (the organs that make silk) and carries it with her, even when hunting. She incubates the eggs during the day by facing the egg case towards the sun and slowly turning it.

Thirty to forty days later the eggs hatch producing up to 200 spiderlings. The spiderlings do not immediately disperse. Instead they climb up their mother’s legs and ride on her back for a few weeks, often covering her several layers deep. The spiderlings do not share any of the prey that the mother catches, and if they fall off they are not rescued. When they are ready to fend for themselves they disperse via silk strands. This maternal care of the spiderlings is unusual in the spider world”

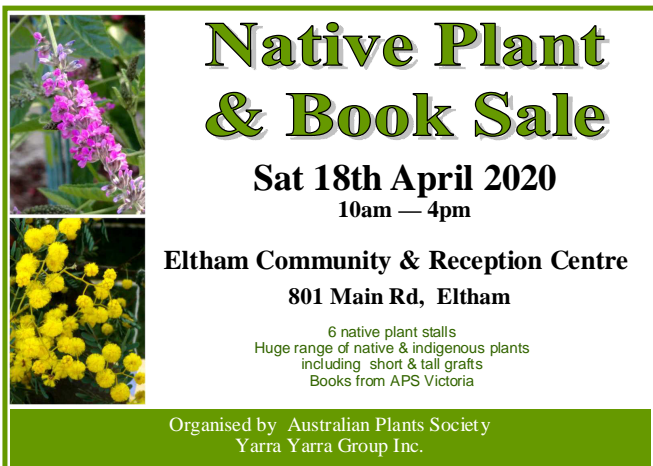
Wendy



Catherine sent these pictures of a beautiful copperhead snake in a friend’s pond



Forthcoming Events



**Native Plant
& Book Sale**

Sat 18th April 2020
10am — 4pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre
801 Main Rd, Eltham

6 native plant stalls
Huge range of native & indigenous plants
including short & tall grafts
Books from APS Victoria

Organised by Australian Plants Society
Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

250 Year Anniversary

APS is holding an exhibition to mark the 250th anniversary since Cook's expedition arrived in 1770 from a botanical perspective. The exhibition will feature six of the actual plant specimens and 30 images of other plants collected by botanists Banks and Solander in 1770.

The exhibition will also recognise the vast indigenous uses of these plants and celebrate the long history of Australia's original custodians.

Details: 17th February to 17th April 2020 in Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood.
Entry is free.



**Australian Plants
Society Victoria Inc**

Sat 24 & Sun 25
October 2020

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Inc



For expressions of interest:

Email: fjcrogersseminar2020@gmail.com

Mobile: Miriam 0409 600 644

Web: apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/

Saturday 24 October

Eltham Community & Reception Centre,
801 Main Rd Eltham, Victoria 3095

*Presentations by experts from NSW, WA & Victoria
on the identification, propagation and cultivation of
Mint Bushes and Allied Genera Plants (Westringia,
Hemiandra, Dasymalla etc).*

Evening Dinner with Guest Speaker

Plant Sales, Book Stall & Displays



Sunday 25 October

Garden Visits in the local area to Gardens
growing a wide variety of native plants
including Mint Bush and Allied Genera.



Images: Clockwise Front Page - *Dasymalla terminalis* (Barb Pye), *Hemiandra linearis* (Ben Eaton), *Prostanthera cineolifera* (Ruth Palsson), *Westringia eremicola*, *Prostanthera serpyllifolia* ssp *microphylla* & *Prostanthera arapilensis* (Ben Eaton). This page: *Newcastelia interrupta* (Miriam Ford), *Westringia dampieri* (Jill Lulham), *Prostanthera aspalathoides* Lake Marmal form & *Prostanthera behniana* (Miriam Ford)

2020 Program

Some time and details still to be arranged. Updates will be provided in future newsletters

March 17th March???	Graham and Maree Goods, 730 pm at Pomonal Hall Little Desert Plants Pruning at Halls Gap Botanic Garden [Date to be confirmed]
April 21st	Attila Kapitany - at 730 pm Pomonal Hall, Australian Xerophytes
May 19th May 23/24	Dean Nicole - Small Eucalypts 7.30 Pomonal Hall Preceded at 4.00pm by walk and talk at Marriotts Saturday, visit to Peter Francis Points Arboretum 11am tour. Other activities to be confirmed. Optional camping /motel overnight if people want a weekend away.
June 16th June 17th	Kevin Collins - Banksias Walk and Talk with Kevin at local gardens in Pomonal before late afternoon meeting, dinner to follow at Halls Gap Hotel? Walk and talk at Ross and Carole Mc Gregor garden Morning tea supplied by GG.
July	To be confirmed
August 18th	David Pye Correas . Walk and talk at Joan & Nick Pitaro's. Times TBA
Sept. 15th	Bill Aitchinson Small Wattles . Walk and Talk will Bill, at local Pomonal gardens before meeting at Pomonal Hall. Barbecue or picnic dinner? Time to be confirmed.
October 20th	Garden Visit to Raleighs, Wartook Gardens. Time TBA.
November 7th November 17th	Visit to Neville & Helen Collier garden from 10 am BYO lunch. Paul Kennedy. Hakeas : Walk and talk around Marriotts
December 15th	Visit to Aiden and Vanessa Banfield. Barbecue facilities are available, a tour of their wetlands will be organised. Time to be confirmed around November.

The newsletter will only continue if it has material to include. If you value the newsletter and enjoy reading it please consider making a contribution.

Contributions in any form, physical or digital are welcome. Items submitted on paper, for example photos, will be scanned and returned. subject matter need not be limited to native plants, but can also include anything you think members may find interesting.

Email: <mailto:grampiansnewsletter@psvic.org.au> or by phone: 0438 566 250 or by post to: Phil Williams P.O. Pomonal 3381

Thanks to Andrea, Wendy, Catherine, Kevin, Phil, John and Ann for their contributions to this issue.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS-Grampians-Group-960723023989990/>

APSVic Grampians Committee 2019-20

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Vice President: Neil Marriott
Secretary: Andrea Shelley (0405 993 763)
Treasurer: Anita Evans (0409 524 017)

Ordinary Members

Ross Simpson
Phil Williams
Wendy Marriott
Peter Shelley

Roles

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Memberships and Hall
Committee Rep: Anita Evans