



Australian Plants Society

Yarra Yarra

Group Inc

(Incorporation No. A0039676Y)

Newsletter March 2018

March 1st

A virtual tour of Victoria's rainforests

Speaker: Marc Freestone

While the word "rainforest" inspires images of jaguar-filled jungles in tropical climes, Victoria is home to hundreds of rainforest gullies. Marc Freestone from the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria will take us on a virtual tour of Gippsland's rainforests. We will hike into remote ravines near Mallacoota, trek up to the misty heights of the Errinundra plateau and stroll around Toolangi. We will explore different types of rainforest and the unique plants and animals that live there. There'll



be tall trees, exotic orchids, and lots of ferns. As night falls, we might hear a Sooty Owl or glimpse a Potoroo. We will learn about the ecology of rainforests and how they have managed to survive in a sea of fire-prone eucalyptus forests. Marc will share his own stories and accounts from expeditions into these wild places and offer his thoughts on their future.

Marc Freestone is a PhD student with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) and Australian National University. Together with the Orchid Conservation Program at the RBGV, he is researching how to grow Leek Orchids (*Prasophyllum*), a large genus of native orchids with many species on the brink of extinction, but which cannot currently be

grown in cultivation. Prior to joining the Orchid Conservation Program in 2015, he worked as a botanist for five years, working all over Victoria. Since boyhood, he has held a passion for the flora of Victoria and he is now an expert in that area. He also delivers a monthly radio program, broadcast on ABC Gippsland, on the wildflowers of that region, and coordinates the Facebook group "Victorian Botany".

From the Editor:

A note to the members on this issue: This is longer than our usual newsletter for several good reasons. We are now over our holiday lag and have gathered up information on many exciting events our members have attended. It is interesting how many different levels of participation are possible that are illustrated within these pages - at our local group level (APS YY events), at the State level (APS Vic) & at the National level (ANPSA). There are many opportunities for extending learning, friendship & connection.

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APS Yarra Yarra Particulars

APS YY General Meeting Speakers:

- 5-Apr** Anne Langmaid *Eremophilas*
- 3-May** Graham & Maree Goods *Australian Inland Deserts*
- 7-June** Greg Moore *Urban Greening*
- 5-July** Ryan Phillips *Animal Interactions*
- 2-Aug** AGM & *Grand Flower Table*
- 6-Sept** Katie Holmes *Mallee Landscapes*
- 4-Oct** David & Barbara Pye *Melton Botanic Gardens*
- 1-Nov** APS YY *Grand Flower Table*
- 6-Dec** APS YY *Slide Show & Party*

APS YY Garden Visits:

March 4, Sunday 2pm, Monash University Ramble: we meet at the entrance to the Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University. Melway map X875 F9, enter via main entrance on Wellington Road. See you there

The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:

- Miriam Ford (President, Newsletter Editor, COM delegate) M 0409 600 644
 - Rob Dunlop (Vice-President & Multi-media Tech guy) 0419 521 813
 - Mike Ridley (Treasurer & Multi-media Tech guy) 0418 322 969
 - Joanne Cairns (Secretary & Coeditor 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.

APS YY & other Dates:

- 6 March:** APS YY Committee Meeting, Carmen's
- 17 March:** APS Wyndham host APS COM. Details in December Growing Australian.
- 17-18 March:** Cranbourne Friends RBG Spring Plant Sale. 10am-4pm.
- 21 April:** APS Geelong Native Plant Sale at Wirrawilla, 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. \$2 per adult or \$5 per car. 8.30 - 5pm.
- 28 April:** APS YY Native Plant & Book Sale. Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.
- 12 May** APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. 9 am - 1 pm.
- 8 - 9 September:** APS YY Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10.00am - 4.00 pm
- 20-21 October:** FJC Rogers Seminar, **Goodeniaceae**. Horsham. **This is a great weekend to attend.** Do consider going & if so book now. Go to apsvic.gov.au & click on the Goodeniaceae icon or check *Growing Australian*. Guest speakers include Angus Stewart, Hazel Dempster, Roger & Gwen Elliott & others. The Keynote speaker is Dr Kelly Ann Shepherd from the WA Herbarium. Many APS members regularly attend.

Contributions to the 2018 April APS YY News to Miriam (note the new email!) by 23 March 2018 please

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

Thank you to Jill Lulham, Rob Dunlop, Mike Ridley, Joanne Cairns, Charles Young, Jenny Hedley & Peter Smith for articles, Jill and Joanne for proof reading, Ben Eaton for FT & Garden Visit images, Editor (MF) & Joanne Cairns for other images.

Thank you to our Sponsor, Hume Bricks & Paving & to Vicki Ward's Office for printing

APS YY - what's in a name? Mike Ridley

Re: Motion on Notice to name change of the YY Group:

Opportunity for members to write their opinions 'for' or 'against' name change.

This notice is to give members the opportunity to put their point of view before the AGM, the newsletter editorial group will publish brief statements 'in favour' and 'against' the motion – in the April newsletter.

If members wish to write to the newsletter, then they can do so under the following conditions:

- Statements to be forwarded to the Editor of the Newsletter – by email to: The Editor, YY Newsletter, apsyarrayarra@gmail.com; or by post to: The Editor, YY Newsletter, PO Box 298, Eltham, 3095.
- Statements not more than 50 words.
- Closing date for publication in this newsletter (March)
- The editor will publish an equal number of statements 'in favour' and 'against' the motion.
- Two successive newsletters will be the maximum to carry statements.
- If statements exceed the word limit, then the editor reserves the right to edit down to 50 words.
- If different members write the same arguments, then the editor reserves the right to edit the number of contributions.

Consequences of change

As members are aware there is a motion on notice from a member to change the name of the group at the next AGM. To change the name of an Incorporated Association is not a simple matter of changing the stationery. An organisation has to jump through several hoops that are costly, time consuming and often complicated. *Just a few* of the consequences for the group are:

To hold special meetings to change the 'Model Rules' and 'By laws' or 'rules'. (A member, or members, have to change the wording in the constitution – according to the agreed name change.)

To make administrative changes to bank and investment accounts (or open new bank accounts); notices; banners; stationery; post office boxes; website addresses; gmail accounts (including forwarding information) and facebook accounts.

Name changing is an important Constitutional step not to be taken lightly and therefore to justify such a

change some considerations are outlined below:

To decide whether any changes to the constitution will be an improvement - or not; to decide whether any new name will enhance the reputation - or not, and to decide whether any new name will increase the catchment area for new members - or not.

For those members not able to attend the AGM a future newsletter will include a proxy form. (Ed. *It is also important for the membership to note that the workload involved in the name change, should it go ahead, will be great and the committee cannot be assumed to shoulder the entire burden*).

Feb 1 Meeting Report: Banksias by Graeme Woods

Graeme has spoken to the group several times before. In most recent memory on Hakea – his motto *when in doubt, plant a Hakea*. Joseph Banks paid an enormous sum to journey with Cook to Australia. They arrived in Botany Bay, to be greeted by an extraordinary array of totally different & unknown plants particularly the coastal banksia. Banks was amply rewarded and we know that his namesake is our Australian Icon.

The family grows all over Australia, about 80 species in total, the most recently named *B. croajingolensis* from Croajingalong NP, near Mallacoota. They can have flower/cones ranging in size from small (a few cms) to very large (> 20 cms) in size. The leaf types are very diverse & a great feature of the plants in addition to the flowers. Propagation is from seed & seed is released from the cone by fire or heat (a warm oven). Seeds are watered in as are Banksias when they are initially planted. They can take 15 years to flower from seed.

Banksias have a reputation as being difficult to grow. Some are, some aren't. (Ed :I have all mine in large pipes, i.e. raised planting). They are fusspots and you need to consider carefully where to plant them. They require minimal water & nutrition once established. Soil is important, preferably sandy & placement is crucial so plant on a mound or slope as good drainage is essential. Keep watering and feeding minimal once established. Pruning is helpful, if plant has a lignotuber it can be pruned to the base and will re-sprout. If no lignotuber then prune carefully & from when young. A warning: Banksia, as a family, are very susceptible to a water borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi* which has devastated large areas of banksia woodland in WA and is the scourge of Botanic Gardens

Ground covers: *B. petiolaris* (mousy smell), *B.*

chamaephyton, *B. blechnifolia*, *B. dryandroides*, *B. laricina* (rose banksia), *B. laevigata*, *B. meisneri*.

Larger forms: *B. saxicola* (Grampians), *B. laevigata* ssp *fuscolutea*, *B. solandri* (wonderful leaves), *B. burdettii*

Very large: *B. tricuspis*, *B. baxteri*, *B. praemorsa* (lots of colours, best one of the WA types to try), *B. occidentalis*, *B. ashbyi* (brilliant orange, very visible cones) *B. speciosa*, *B. epica*, *B. menziesii* & *B. media*.

An aside: Graeme mentioned a new Hakea hybrid: *Hakea grammatophylla* 'Ninbella Brilliance', massive cones of pinky red. If you see it grab it! He also mentioned a close friend, Max, who has been supplying the Melton/Bacchus Marsh club with Hakea seed for many years. Max is going to leave his seed to Graeme & Graeme has offered seed to our club for our propagation efforts. **Yes, please!**

Thank you Graeme for an entertaining & informative talk. Thank you also to David who also organised the two Banksia books that were for sale – Celia Rosser & Philippa Nikulinsky's 'The Firewood Banksia, *Banksia menziesii*'. I have both & recommend them highly.

Images: *Banksia aemula*, *Banksia brownii* & *B. speciosa* bud, all taken in Paul Kennedy's garden. The variety in the foliage is very apparent.



The February Flower Table - Jill Lulham

PROTEACEAE

Persoonia pinifolia (Pine-leaved Geebung, NSW, fruits are called drupes which go from green to purple when ripe, propagation difficult for both seeds and cuttings, ANBG tip for cuttings is to use firm yet soft growing tips and not to cut off tips)

Grevillea 'Pink Surprise' (parents were cream Grevillea sp. from Mundubbera and red form of G. banksii, registered cultivar from seedling in Brisbane garden), G. 'Spirit of Anzac' (red flowers, to 2m, cultivar bred by Kings Park for RSL to commemorate Gallipoli, released in 2015), G. 'Caloundra Gem' (to 4 m, cultivar G. banksii x G. Coochin Hill) G. 'Bronze Rambler' (grafted standard, normally a fast growing, spreading ground cover, long flowering, bird attracting)

RUTACEAE

Crowea exalata (Vic, NSW, small, hardy, long flowering Summer to mid-Winter)

MYRTACEAE

Melaleuca fulgens 'Hot Pink' (to 2.5m, late Winter to Summer), M. laterita (Robin Red-breast bush, to 2m, sw WA, bright red to orange colour)



Verticordia chrysostachys var pallida (grafted, WA, to 2m, cream flowers, repeat and long flowering), V. venusta (grafted, WA, to 3m, pink flowers), V. pennigera (grafted, WA, to 0.5m, pink flowers)

Corymbia ficifolia (grafted, red form, to 3m)

Regelia ciliata (sw WA, to 1.5 M), mauve flowers.

HAEMODORACEAE

Anigozanthos flavidus hybrid 'Landscape Lilac' (hybrid bred by Angus Stewart)

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Eremophila maculata (various colour forms, widespread across Australia, to 2.5m), E. drummondii (sw WA, sticky branches and leaves, mauve-purple flowers, variable to 3m, usually flowers in Spring), E. mackinlayi (WA, branches and leaves covered in yellow to grey hairs, to 1m, deep purple flowers)

MALVACEAE

Alyogyne hakeifolia (southern WA, SA, to 3m, desert plants, well-drained, cream-yellow colour)



Flower Table Images: Ben Eaton



Images Page 5 - A Spectrum of Magenta from the Document Camera (courtesy of Mike R) : *Crocea exalata*, *Melaleuca fulgens*, *Regelia ciliata* & *Eremophila maculata*

Images Page 6: *Corymbia ficifolia* "Summer Red" Dwarf, grafted; *Persoonia pinifolia*, *Grevillea 'Caloundra Gem'*, *Verticordia venusta*, *Anigozanthos flavidus* hybrids : Landscape Lilac & Bushranger Orange



Box Hill Garden Visits Feb 4 : Jenny Hedley & Peter Smith

On Sunday 4th February, 20 APS YY members visited 2 gardens in Box Hill with an emphasis on the successful use of small areas, which is where modern communities are heading. The first visit was to a unit development consisting of several private and common areas built in the sixties by the Blessed Sacrament Religious order. Frank O'Dea, now an elderly member of this community, took it upon himself to turn the gardens to Australian plants. He joined the Maroondah APS and over the years has established a remarkable garden. Of late, Frank has assigned Joe Wilson (also a Maroondah APS member) to tend the plants. Joe guided us around.

Among the impressive plants were: *Grevillea georgeana* (2M), *Correa backhouseana*, *Pomaderris lanigera*, *Eremophila mirabilis*, *E. nivea*, *Allocasuarina nana*, *Melaleuca decussata*, *Spyridium halmaturinum* (Kangaroo Island), *Leptospermum petersonii*, *Hibbertia scandens*, *Pandorea jasminoides* (reaching for the heavens), *Chorilaena quercifolia*, *Calothamnus* species, *Darwinia meeboldii*, *D. citriodora* (2x2m), *Marianthus* (was

Billardiera) *bicolor*, various *Acacia*, a towering *Euc. maculata* (25m+) and more. We were amazed at the vigour and variety of the small area plantings attesting to the good soils around Box Hill and the vigilant pruning done by Joe Wilson, our knowledgeable guide. Frank also invited us in to admire his 3m+ *Wollemi* pine growing in a pot on his balcony. (see page 8)



Images P7 *Eremophila nivea*, *Grevillea georgeana*, the group at Garden 1 & Images p8 the *Wollemi* Pine, Garden 2, layered planting.

Garden Visit images: Ben Eaton

Off to the second garden, a diverse, fenced-in corner block garden designed by Merele Webb and planted out by the owner, Diane Hedin. Merele outlined to us some of the challenges that the site presented. The small original pond was moved and enlarged and a stream and a 'gorge' were created, both leading to the pond.

Granite rocks were used and eventually the large Eucalypt was removed and replaced by 3 Euc. saxatilis (Suggan Buggan mallee) and a Euc. pumila.



Diane used lots of local plants and grasses (sourced from CRISP nursery), plants from Chris Fletcher and a couple of Phil Vaughan's special Grevilleas. Two dogs took their toll on the garden early in the piece, but since their departure, the garden has flourished with abundant skink and insect life.

Merele emphasized that Diane had achieved a multi-layered effect in just a couple of years, using predominantly tube plants. Diane hosted us to a lovely cup of tea.



ANPSA 2018 Conference - Hobart - Grass Roots to Mountain Tops: Miriam Ford & Jill Lulham

Several APS YY members attended this year's ANPSA conference in Hobart held at the Wrest Point Casino with spectacular views of the Derwent and Mt Wellington. The conference was entitled Grass Roots to Mountain Tops and did just that – took us from Grasslands & swampy marsh areas up to the very top of Mt Wellington, in addition to other alpine areas offered on some tours (see Joanne Cairns' piece). The message that came through loud and clear from the many brilliant talks and tours was that climate change is affecting Tasmanian flora at an alarming rate. What was also clear and inspiring were the number of people whose work is dedicated to understanding & ameliorating the effects.

These conferences are hosted by a particular State every two years & usually have a particular format of lectures in the morning & afternoon tours to local gardens or bushland areas. The next one, hosted by the Wildflower Society in WA 'Blooming Diversity' will be based in Albany in late September & early October, 2019. Because of the distances involved the format there will be alternate days of lectures and tours.

The program for Hobart included pre and post tours to various locations all over the State. The daily conference format was lectures/talks in the morning, then afternoon tours. For example: Day 1: Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick (From Uni of Tasmania) spoke about *Alpine Vegetation of Tasmania*; Mark Fountain: *200 years of Botanical History – The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Bicentenary* & Nick Fitzgerald *The Subantarctic Flora & Vegetation of Macquarie Island*. Excursions were to Mt Wellington, Tasmanian Bushland Garden, Inverawe Native Gardens & Kingston Wetlands, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens & Champion garden; & Salt-Marsh Wetlands, Lauderdale & Green garden.

One of the highlights was the Government House Reception on Monday evening. The Governor, Her Excellency Professor, the Honourable Kate Warner, AC who is also APS Tasmania's patron, was a very friendly & engaging host. She also opened the conference with great style & erudition.

There was also a session on the ANPSA Study Groups where several leaders gave presentations on what the groups do and encouraged people to join. This is very worthwhile. You get quarterly electronic newsletter which are very informative & can join group gatherings & exploratory tours. Many of them are free to join or minimal cost - you just need an email address.

I would encourage members to consider attending these gatherings. You learn so much in spectacular settings, get to meet lots of interesting people from other states and have many opportunities to get close to & enjoy the local flora. This was my first of many, a hugely enjoyable experience. You have 18 months or less to save up, before booking, so plan a great holiday now!



Images this page, P9: Christine Corbett bounding around the Octopus Tree, Mt Wellington; out and about in the Lauderdale Grasslands - spot Jill and Joanne if you can & **Image P 10:** Beware the dinosaur amongst the Jurassic dolerite boulders of the Tasmanian Bushland Garden, Buckland, Tasmania.



I think that some of the more personal things from the lectures were an extra bonus. It was Mark Fountain who, along with others took us around the Tasmanian Botanic gardens which celebrates its bicentenary this year, and pointed out some of the historic trees and the particular Tasmanian vegetation. This connected up with his talk on the first morning. Also connected was the tour of the sub-Antarctic plant house (replicating the conditions on Macquarie Island including the rain and the bird calls) which tied in with the talk by Nick Fitzgerald on that subject.

The A.J Swaby address (by James Wood) about the seedbank at the gardens was also an area that we were shown through on that visit. It was a revelation the effort that is taken to collect a sufficient number of seeds in the wild in order to capture the genetic diversity, and what is required to store & then test the viability of the huge variety of seed types. I was impressed with James' description of collecting the required number of Hakea seed pods - they try to collect around 10,000 seeds for a particular species.

Then there was Sib Corbett, who led the trip to Mt Wellington, & who also talked to us about the history, geology and vegetation of that area, with passion. Her husband led the excursion to the Tasmanian Bush Garden in Buckland & her daughter (quite the larrikin – see image) was also a guide on the Mt Wellington tour. A family affair.

Also being able to talk to local people at the conference, as well as finding out about some of the interesting projects that others around the country were involved in was good. I am thinking particularly of the two ladies from WA and their revegetation project of a saline area, and of Alice who told us about the plant rescue team she leads in suburban Adelaide.

I remember Miriam's comment, about talking to different people each day. It was good advice and led to lots of good information and interesting ideas. There were so many things that came up at the conference that I had certainly never thought about. As Poirot said "good for the little grey cells"



I feel so lucky to have been able to spend 4 days before the conference in 4 different National parks from coastal trails to Alpine lakes. Bruce Champion from Hobart APS organized a truly wonderful few days and we bussed then walked in the Tasman National Park, Hartz Mountain National Park, Wellington Park and Mount Field National Park. There were botanists, so generous with their expertise, to lead and help us on each trip.

APS members of all backgrounds, generally seniors, with their passion for native plants made good company and were a great help as we worked our way along the tracks finding all sorts of treasures and trying to identify and photograph them. Needless to say we were all exhausted by the end of the day. Lots of discovery as well as exercise every day. Perfect plan for native plant enthusiasts.

The geology and related ecosystems are fascinating and awe inspiring. From coastal heath, rain cloud forest, Pandani groves and alpine meadows along with block streams and dolerite columns, the vegetation and geology surprises and delights. Some similar plants to Victoria plus many very different ones. Many with berries white, pink or cherry coloured. Walking through the towering Pandani grove at Lake Dobson, you could easily imagine dinosaurs appearing between the plants to inspect the intruders. Seeing ancient pines overlooking glass-like alpine lakes was wonderful, a pristine

scene that would not have altered for how long? How did that *Galaxia* get there?

My favourite breathtaking scene wasn't the views of the Devil's Backbone at Hartz Mountains national Park. No, it was the surprise at the top of the boardwalk on Wombat Moor (Mt. Field NP). A copse of weather-stunted Eucalypts and underneath it a mosaic blanketing the ground of pineapple grass with pale pink boronia in flower in between. How did that happen? It literally took my breath away. Any designer would give their eye teeth to pull that one off. It's no wonder that many of our successful designers have spent much time walking the bush tracks and seeing these wonderful combinations.

What a privilege to have members with so many years of experience to volunteer their time, to devise this trip, prepare all the notes and lists, organize all details (including what colour apple you want for lunch) and take on the responsibility of the visitors. It was a wonderful experience.



Images: Joanne Cairns



Images: P 11 Day 1 Tasman National Park - Coastal Track to Waterfall Bay, Inset: *Pentachondra involucrata* & *Prostanthera lasianthos*.

Images P 12 Day 2: Hartz Peak Track looking towards Devils Backbone, Lake Osborne & Day 4: Pineapple Grass mosaic at Wombat Moor, (Mt Field NP), Block Stream (Dolerite boulders), Mt Field & Towering *Richea pandanifolia*

APS YY Propagation Project: *Miriam Ford*

On Thursday, 8th February, a small group of us – Carmen Cooper, Anita Bourke, Jenny Hedley, Suzie Gordon and myself – gathered at the La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary and Nursery to begin what will become a regular monthly gathering & production line generating plants for our various plant sales throughout the year. Michael Cincotta took us through the induction process which all volunteers using the Nursery must go through. Once we were appraised of the various processes, given a tour of the facilities, which are state of the art, and made aware of the considerations & care required when working within a commercial nursery, we set about pricking out and potting up our seedlings.

As the images reveal between us we generated some 7X 54 tubes with varying numbers of these species: *Eucalyptus mcquodii*, *caesia* ssp *magna*, *macrocarpa* ssp *elacantha*, *preissiana* ssp *lobata*; *Hakea francisiana* (pink & cream forms) & *bucculenta*; *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Kennedia coccinea*, *Goodia lotifolia*. These were all from the seeds sown during our 17th December, 2017 session which we looked after most carefully by myself. The growth was terrific and on some, simply amazing (see image of Carmen). We used the LaTrobe nursery stock of brand new, out of the box, forestry tubes & their particular blend of potting mix with native fertilizer. Once potted up & labelled the foam boxes were relayed using a two wheeled wire trolley to the polyhouse site where an area has been set aside for APS YY stock.

The LaTrobe staff are most welcoming and generous. They are pleased to have us use their facilities. APS YY has the benefit of their expertise including their daily monitoring of our stock, the automated watering systems and staged care in protected

shelter prior to moving into the big wide world of hardening off in the outdoors. We are simply being charged for the tubes and potting mix at cost price. We will reciprocate by doing some volunteer work for them on the days we are there.

Tip-cuttings that were put up on the December days in late 2017 have also been potted on by Karen Guifre & myself and remain at my home under my care. These could not be taken to LaTrobe because of possible risk of contamination to their stock. Plants now underway in forestry tubes are mostly *Chamelaucium uncinatum* & some hybrids such as the *V.plumosa* cross (~50 tubes) with some *Boronia*, *Prostanthera* & *Chorizema cordatum*. There are also some acacia seedlings already in forestry tubes growing well.

A week after this session I returned to La Trobe nursery to check on the seedlings - they are growing like weeds, twice their original size already & both Scott & Mike agreed they would be ready for our Autumn Sale. We have hundreds!



APS YY Propagation (continued)

Several more APS YY members are keen to join the propagation group including Rob Dunlop, Joanne Cairns, Adrian Seckold. If you are also keen please let us know & we will add your name to the list. We would like to have a cohort of around 10 -12 people from which to draw a group of 5 to 6 for a regular monthly session at LaTrobe, every second Thursday 10.30 am to 1 pm.

Before new people can start they must go through the induction process with Michael Cincotta. Another session is scheduled on March 8 for new people. We intend to set up a large tip-cuttings effort in the Autumn which is a cooler and more

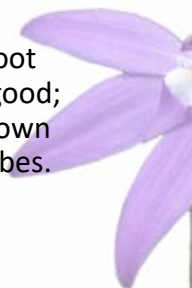
optimal time. La Trobe do not do tip cuttings over the Summer. We have had substantial losses in ours. However some have made it through and we now know which species are particularly hardy. Again there will be plenty of these available at the Autumn Sale

Thank you to Scott Tunbridge & Mike Cincotta. We are in expert hands & our plant stocks are all the better for it.



Image P13 - Miriam, Carmen, Jenny & Suzie - proud parents of many hundreds of baby seedlings about to be left in the the very capable & expert care of La Trobe nursery. Lucky for them. As I mentioned, a week later they were growing like weeds!

Images p14: Miriam with a *Chamelalucium uncinatum* tip cutting (put up on the 17/12/2017). Six weeks on it was jumping out of the pot with a most extensive root system - it wouldn't fit in a forestry tube. Others weren't quite so virile but still good; Carmen with a similarly impressive *Hakea francisiana* seedling - these had been sown on New Years Eve & Anita potting up some *Hardenbergia violacea* into forestry tubes.



Feb 9 -11, Sustainable Living Festival : Jill Lulham

APS Vic had a Stall at the Sustainable Living Festival Big Weekend. Several APS YY members volunteered over the weekend - Jill Lulham, Mike Ridley & Julie Horsfall. We had brilliant weather, if a little bit humid, for the whole weekend.

Together with the great selection of flowering plants Richard had on display at the front (Image, bottom left), and the BOOK SALE: CASH OR CREDIT sign at the front, these gave us a way of enticing people over and engaging them in conversation.

We were able to give people a leaflet with all the plant sales from District Groups around Victoria listed for the year, and suggest they would find a bigger selection of books at some of them if they didn't find what they wanted there. (I also had a master copy attached to the table so those who didn't want to collect leaflets could take a photo of it).

Apart from the APS Vic leaflet and membership forms there were also leaflets advertising the FJC Rogers seminar on Goodeniaceae,

and I took leaflets to advertise the Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale as well.

We had a selection of leaves for people to smell and crush, and see if they could identify – Lemon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle, native Jasmine, Correa bauerlenii, Prostantheraetc. The little posies of flowers I made up to give away, seemed to be a hit with young and old alike (Image bottom right).

The people we spoke to came from a different demographic to those we usually meet at MIFGS.....lots of young people, people in conservation / environmental occupations, students, and tourists from around Australia and from overseas.

Thanks to Richard for organizing the stall, and Kuranga for allowing him to bring their plants for a display, and Sue and Bill for allowing me to take some books to sell. My concerns about parking and getting the APS Vic books to our stall proved to be not a problem. The books were only taken for the time I was there on Friday 12-4, and Saturday, 12-4, as we weren't sure about security or whether there would be interest.

There certainly was interest in our display, and in the society's events in the time I was there.

Ed: Thank you Jill for your creative ideas & energetic efforts towards promoting our lovely Australian plants at both the local and state level & to a much wider audience. APS YY benefits & is appreciative.



Our APS Yarra Storage Shed: Rob Dunlop

Decisions need to be made soon concerning our storage shed so this topic will be discussed at the March meeting. The shed is on land owned by the Department of Justice that is administered by the council. It is in serious need of repair. This caused us to move our equipment out late last year and store it temporarily in spaces provided by members. We are relying on the generosity of the people concerned so this cannot be a permanent arrangement. Nillumbik council have agreed to contribute to the cost of repairs which is welcome but complicates the approval and will undoubtedly cause delays.

Three quotes have been obtained. The first for \$15,425 from a builder the council contacted, a second for \$6,600 from a contact of Mike Williams and a third from a builder Peter Smith knows for \$16,713.40. The first two quotes are already with the council and the third will be submitted. How long they take to reach a decision is unknown.

My own personal opinion is that provided the council do contribute we should proceed with the \$6600 quote. Unless the council are prepared to make a

very large payment the other two are too much for us to consider. The \$6600 quote does not cover the same scope of works as the other two but in my opinion is sufficient to make the shed useable again.

Unfortunately I cannot be in the March meeting and so have included my opinion in this article. I have done similar work on my own home and outbuildings in the past and so have some knowledge of what is needed.



ANPSA 2018: Diana Snape receives her ANPSA Australian Plants award from outgoing ANPSA president, Ben Walcott; *Leptospermum rupestre* growing on a dolerite boulder, Mt Wellington

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.