



Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc

Registered No. A001049IR

WGAP, PO Box 533, Horsham 3402, Secretary 0409 879 194, wgapinc@gmail.com
 Newsletter – Gil Hopkins 5383 8207 giliz@activ8.net.au

August - October 2018

2018 events and dates for your diary

Meetings are usually at 7.30pm the first Thursday of the month.

Thursday August 2, 7.30pm, at Wimmera Lodge Retirement Village.

Banksias to grow locally. Speaker – **Royce Raleigh**. See page 2.

Rosters: Plants – Lib & Graeme Gulline; Supper – Anthea Garth



Thursday September 6, 7.30pm, at Warracknabeal Town Hall Supper Room.

Rewilding the Desert. Speaker **Ben Holmes**. See the bottom of page 5.

Rosters: Plants and Supper from Warracknabeal members



Thursday October 4, no meeting because of F.J.C. Rogers Seminar

October 13 & 14, Horsham Spring Garden Festival, Botanic Gardens, Horsham.

WGAP no display this year due to FJC Rogers Seminar.

October 20 & 21, FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae, co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

or Royce Raleigh, Chairman of FJC Rogers Goodeniaceae Seminar 2018 Committee Phone 5383 6200.

Have you booked in yet? Seminar details at <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/>

Thursday November 1, 5pm – Garden visit- to Jan Bansemer's garden, McKenzie Creek
 BYO everything

Sunday December 9, 5pm - Christmas Breakup at Mabel Brouwer's house and garden.
 Shared meal - BYO meat, salad and sweets to share.

APS SHOWS, CONFERENCES, PLANT SALES AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST 2018

18 & 19 August APS Foothills hosts APS Victoria Quarterly Gathering – Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills – including the Victorian COMM and AGM to be held Sunday 19 August.

1 September APS Wilson Park Australian Native Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, 668 Princes Highway, Berwick. 9 to 3. No entry fee.
8 & 9 September APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.

22 & 23 September Bendigo Native Plant Group Australian Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive (off Olympic Parade), Kangaroo Flat Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

22 & 23 September Anglesea Wildflower Weekend and Art Show, celebrating the area's remarkable biodiversity and wildflowers. Held at the Anglesea Memorial Hall, 3 McMillan Street, Anglesea 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

6 and 7 of October APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30-5.00 Saturday, 10– 4 Sunday.

13 & 14 October South Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Flower Show, South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreating Reserve. 10 am to 4 pm both days.

20 & 21 October FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae, co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com or Royce Raleigh, Chairman of FJC Rogers Goodeniaceae Seminar 2018 Committee Phone 5383 6200. Registrations close 1 October 2018.

27 October APS Echuca Moama hold the Native Flower Showcase at the Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. From 9.00 am to 4.00 pm and entry is \$2.00.

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)

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, held between 30th Sept to 4 October 2019 in Albany, WA.

From the President by Royce Raleigh

Although we have had some very cold weather and numerous frosts it has been good to see some rain falling at last. However, I suspect most gardens are still reasonably dry.

Jeanne & I have been busy doing a lot of planting, pruning and generally cleaning up garden beds in preparation for the spring, and also hoping that we will have the garden looking great for the Seminar weekend in October.

We have been spreading quite a lot of scoria and the beds that have been completed look great.

Under **FJC Rogers Seminar 2018** we are making a request for some helpers over that weekend. If you are able to help in any way contact Royce, Maree or Wendy (details last page).

Jeanne & I may need a little help with weeding or raking up leaves in the last weeks leading up to the conference. If anyone is able to help just let us know – probably towards the end of September.

For those who cannot make the trip out to Wartook, I am sure that Mabel would appreciate similar help as her garden is open to Seminar participants from 4pm onwards on Saturday 20th October.

Many of us are envious of Graham and Maree, Alan & Wendy, who are currently touring the Gibson Desert, and wishing we were there. We look forward to hearing all about it when they return!

A reminder to all members- if you have not yet paid your subs, please do. Also, a reminder that for this year we are not participating in the Horsham Spring Garden Show as last-minute preparations for the FJC Roger Seminar are going to keep many of our members very busy. We hope to be able to resume participation next year.

We wish all members happy gardening and hope that we can all look forward to a great spring and that our Seminar proves to be the success that we are planning for!

Next Meeting- Thursday August 2, 2018

Banksias -by Royce Raleigh



Banksia caleyi

There are 173 **Banksia** species and all but one occurs naturally in Australia. The number is large because in recent years the genus **Dryandra** has been incorporated into the genus **Banksia**. Before Dryandra was included there were almost 80 species of Banksia found across Australia with 60 species endemic to South West WA. There are trees, shrubs and even prostrate plants.



Banksia blechnifolia

Banksias usually grow best in well drained soils in sites that get quite a bit of sun. They generally do not grow well in parts of Australia with high humidity and summer rainfall. Many are known for their spectacular flowers heads and the nectar they produce for the birds. There are many species which can be grown successfully in the Wimmera as there are a number that can cope with a range of soil types.

Royce is going to show some Banksias that do well in the Wimmera and several others worth considering.



Banksia grandis and visitor

Birds

We have seen so many Eastern & Crimson Rosellas in the garden in recent months. In the past we have seen many Crimson Rosellas in the garden but only the occasional Eastern Rosella in the paddocks around us.

For some reason this year we have had flocks of up to 12 Crimson Rosellas and up to 8 Eastern Rosellas regularly in the garden itself. It has been most satisfying to see so many now-regular visitors around the garden.

New Garden Progress

It is so important to know the natural conditions and situation where the plants that we put in our gardens actually grow. There are a few plants in our new garden that we did not research well enough and therefore some Goodenias that we have planted have frosted badly and we will probably lose them. It is disappointing as they were growing so well. It means that we have lost a lot of time before we can now see these plants flowering at Wartook.

Unfortunately, the early frosts caught us by surprise and we had not utilised our frost-cloth.

We are generally very pleased with the way most things are growing and are looking forward to seeing them flowering in the spring.



FJC Rogers Seminar 2018

The committee is delighted at the numbers of registrations that we have so far – we are getting close to 200. I am particularly pleased that so many of our WGAP members have registered, I am sure that we will all get a lot out of the weekend.

Maree has completed the Goodeniaceae Photo-guides and they have all been loaded onto USB sticks. Maree could not have completed the task without the particular help of Gil and Liz Hopkins who did a mammoth job of proof-reading all of the Guides. Many thanks Gil & Liz. *(Nothing compared to Maree's effort! I have suggested we rename the plant family "Goodseniaceae" – Gil)*

We are asking members who can help us with plant sales on the Friday evening at the Holy Trinity Lutheran School 6pm to 8pm. We may also be looking for some assistance on the Saturday for plant sales and possibly at Wartook Gardens on the Sunday morning. (Contact Royce at the moment as Maree and Wendy are away).

More details will be available much closer to the event.

Horsham Sports & Community Club Grant

Wimmera Growers applied for a grant to put towards a printer and large screen. We received \$600! The printer is full colour and can print A3 size. We have purchased the printer and extra inks and initially we will use it for the FJC Rogers Seminar and get reimbursed for expendables. It will then go to our newsletter editor and we will be able to produce all newsletters, etc in full colour for those who do not have email.

Jeanne & I went to the presentation at Coughlin Park and we thank the Sports and Community Club for their generosity.

Some possible new plants for the Garden

It is almost time to consider some more planting as hopefully the coldest part of the year will soon be behind us. Here are some plants worth trying.

***Pimelea physodes* WA; Qualup Bell**

An outstanding *Pimelea* restricted to the Fitzgerald River National Park – Ravensthorpe Region where it is growing in a range of soils from sand through to very rocky sites in the Ravensthorpe Range. We are growing grafted plants and they do best in a protected area in well-drained soil that gets plenty of sun. They are approx. 1m x 1m. Severe winds and bad frost can be a problem as plants can become top heavy. It is well worth trying as a container plant if you are not prepared to try it in the garden.



***Acacia restiacea* WA**

A lovely plant about 1m x 1.5m with rush-like foliage and bright yellow flowers. It is a shrub that literally lights up a garden. Some pruning will keep it a bushy shrub. We have it growing in full sun in a very well-drained bed. Hardy to frost and will stand extended dry periods. It is a species that is not widely grown but it is worthy of much more widespread use in the garden. However, it may get too large for small gardens.



***Cheiranthra cyanea* NSW, Vic, SA; Finger Flower**

An upright slender shrub usually under 1m with blue flowers 3-4cm across, hardy to frost and dry periods. We have a number of plants growing in full sun, filtered sun and partial shade in well-drained soils and built-up beds. It is a most attractive plant in flower and should be much more widely grown as they have proved adaptable to a range of situations in our garden. It is a plant we don't often notice until the lovely flowers arrive. It is another plant that could do very well in a container.



Scaevola albida Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas, SA
Small-fruited Fan Flower

Dwarf perennial herb with some suckering forms and is widespread in eastern Australia. It grows in a diverse range of soil types and habitats. It adapts very well to garden cultivation and in containers.

Our plants are growing in sunny and semi-shaded situations and doing equally well. Older plants can become scruffy, but a hard prune will rejuvenate them. There are a number of colour forms around from white, mauve, pale blue or pink. They can be most floriferous and should be able to find a spot in any garden.



Melton Botanic Garden on Ryans Creek in Melton

The areas covered by the talk were:

Management of the garden - they rely very heavily on volunteers through Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens plus a workforce provided by Matchworks, Centrelink volunteers and other Community volunteers. Funded by grants and now supported by Council.

Local environment - 24 hectares following a watercourse Ryans Creek to a Lake. Lots of old magnificent redgums. Rainfall 450–500 mm, lowest in the Melbourne Region. There were some remnant trees from plantings some years ago.

Master plan (design) of the garden (zoom, or see Facebook)



Personia pinifolia NSW; **Pine-leaved Geebung**

Medium to tall shrub, which in our garden reaches about 3m with bright green pine-like foliage. Flowers are fragrant and golden-yellow and can be abundant and conspicuous, followed by drupes about 1cm in size. It is a graceful shrub growing naturally in the Central Coast area of NSW. We have a number of plants growing in full sun and semi-shaded situations. Seedlings often come up in the garden and mature plants are often in flower for long periods. In our climate we have to give plants supplementary water through the summer. It can often be used as a Christmas tree as it flowers around Christmas time as well as at other times of the year



Indigenous peoples' gardens - The MBGardens work closely with the local indigenous people and have established a Koori student garden and have planted a garden of indigenous plants that were used by aboriginal people. They have also constructed a ceremonial pit and a bush foods garden.



Koori student garden

June Meeting – Melton Botanic Gardens
 by Royce Raleigh

David and Barbara Pye gave us a great insight into how the Melton Botanic Gardens (MBG) is set up and operates.



Aboriginal plant usage



WA display garden



Bush Foods



WA display garden

The MBGardens have also planted a Sensory Garden, South African Garden and a Mediterranean Garden.

Eucalyptus arboretum - David & Barbara then went on to show some of the unusual Eucalypts that are in the arboretum. They included *Eucalyptus rhodantha* and *synandra*.



WASA Garden - incorporates plants from Western and South Australia. It comprises 1 hectare and commenced construction in 2015, covering 7 Biogeographic regions of WA, has 2 South Australian beds and an Eremophila bed. This area has been sand mulched which has proved very effective.

Some challenges that are faced include – the size and scope of the project; its dependence on Volunteers; rabbits and hares; weeds; the dry and windy site; and funding signage.

David and Barbara then showed many of the wonderful and unusual plants that they are growing and finished up with a little about the Nursery that they use to help raise funds. They brought a few plants along for sale as well.



Melton Botanic Gardens Nursery area.

Thanks David and Barbara for a great and very interesting evening.

And thanks Royce for all your reports. But any errors are mine!- Gil

Thursday September 6, 7.30pm Warracknabeal meeting

Rewilding the Desert. Speaker **Ben Holmes**



Ben is a senior wildlife ecologist working with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) at the Little Desert Nature Lodge. He manages CVA's Reserves in the Wimmera and conservation projects.

Continued -->>

The flagship project is the **Rewilding the Desert** Program; an innovative, ambitious, long-term program aiming to:

- Save Australia's most endangered wildlife, such as Western Quoll, Brushtailed Bettongs and Western Barred Bandicoot.
- Conduct world-leading scientific research and monitoring to demonstrate the ecological importance of these species in the landscape and purposefully connect people with nature and our incredible native wildlife.

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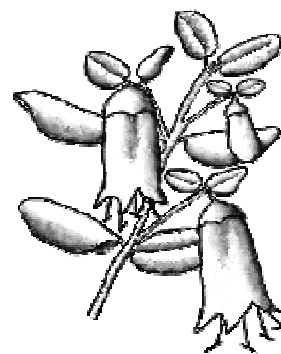
Registered Number A001049IR

President: Royce Raleigh 5383 6200
royce@wartookgardens.com.au

Secretary: Anthea Garth 0409 879 194
garth@wimmera.com.au

Treasurer: Maree Goods 5383 2229
gmgoods@telstra.com

Newsletter: Gil Hopkins 5383 8207
giliz@activ8.net.au



Please make sure we have your correct address or email and correct method of delivery for this Newsletter. Tell Anthea or Maree.

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Registered Number; A0010491R

P O Box 533, Horsham 3402

wgapinc@gmail.com
<https://apsvic.org.au/wimmera-growers-of-australian-plants/>

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Annual membership cost: Single: \$10, Family: \$20

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