



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 410 - February, 2025

FEBRUARY MEETING - GENERAL MATTERS

The meeting was chaired by Bruce McGuiness.

A shortage of confirmed growers for the 2025 Plant Sale was discussed. For a range of reasons there are only 3 confirmed growers at this stage. If a viable number of growers cannot be confirmed by the end of February, this year's event is likely to be cancelled. All APS Geelong members are asked to watch this space closely. Notification will be sent out to members and all associated groups if the cancellation goes ahead.

Peter Nuzum advised that long time member and APS stalwart Tony Cavanagh is unwell. Those present at the meeting signed a card of well wishes to support Tony on his journey to recovery. We wish him well on this journey.

FEBRUARY MEETING PRESENTATION BY BELLARINE LANDCARE

Sophie Small from Bellarine Landcare spoke on the topic of Bellarine Landcare's role in restoration of the Bellarine landscape and how we as Australian native gardeners can directly help this effort.

Landcare as an organisation came out of a grass-roots movement of farmers and others concerned about the degradation and increased salinity of farming land across Australia in the 1980's. Formally established in 1989 there are now around 6000 groups responding to local ecological issues across Australia, working to build resilient ecosystems.

Bellarine Landcare is our local Landcare Group. A key local issue on the Bellarine is habitat loss. Across Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula only around 5% of pre-European local native vegetation remains. To help to address this the Bellarine Landcare Nursery was opened around two decades ago. The nursery propagates then sells plants that are indigenous to the Bellarine region at all the different "layers" including trees, shrubs and groundcovers along with native grasses, creepers and herbs. Sophie talked the group through how the nursery works with gardeners and landscapers to get these plants back into the local landscape. Her passion and enthusiasm was as inspiring as her talk was informative.

The Bellarine Landcare Nursery has developed two free booklets that introduce gardeners to appropriate local plants to acquire by categorising them as:

- Bird attracting (habitat and/or food)
- Insect or butterfly attracting
- Listed as a threatened species
- Of indigenous practical use or significance

To assist in garden design the booklets are further colour coded so that the gardener knows whether the plants are:

- Ground covers
- Tufted plants
- Herbs
- Creepers/climbers
- Shrubs
- Trees

There's a booklet for the coastal plant areas and a booklet for the inland plant areas of the Bellarine. Sophie handed out copies along with a mix of Bellarine grassland and wildflower seed to members who were present at the meeting. Both booklets are also available online on the [nursery website](#).

President: Position Vacant
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Australian Plants Society, Geelong - Website: www.apsgeelong.org

Secretary: Peter Nuzum: apsgeelong@gmail.com
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Below are some images from the booklets that show how easy they are to use:

Ground Cover

Distichlis distichophylla

Australian Salt-grass



EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic
EVC 9 Coastal Saltmarsh

- Australian Salt-grass is a coarse prickly grass that can reach up to 20cm high and grows in damp salty areas, often around saltmarsh fringes.
- It has long, creeping rhizomes and leaves that are thin and rigid.
- This plant is similar in appearance to the invasive Cooch grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and native Salt-couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*).

Flower colour: Green-straw

Flowering: October - April

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Tuft



Caladenia latifolia

Pink Fairies



EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic
EVC 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Pink Fairies are hairy pink orchids reaching up to 40cm high.
- Each plant has a single broad leaf that lies flat on the ground.
- These now rare tubers are a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Pink

Flowering: September - October

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Shrub



Amyema preissii

Wire-leaf Mistletoe



EVC 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Wire-leaf Mistletoe is a parasitic shrub that grows and feeds on a host tree.
- Mistletoe birds eat the white or pink berries and deposit the sticky seeds on a host tree. Coast Wirlida, Golden Wattle and Drooping Sheoak can often host this species on the Bellarine.
- This plant is a traditional food and medicinal resource for the Wadawurrung.
- There are several species of mistletoe on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Flower colour: Pink-white

Flowering: December - April

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Tree



Melaleuca lanceolata

Moonah



EVC 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland)

- Moonah is a shady tree reaching up to 10m high and 6m wide.
- In Coastal Moonah Woodlands, it provides shelter for many understory plants.
- It has creamy flower-spikes which provide nectar for birds, butterflies and moths. The seeds are contained within woody capsules that surround the stem.
- The sweet drink made from the flowers soaked in water is a traditional food source for the Wadawurrung.

Flower colour: Cream-white

Flowering: September - December

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All APS Geelong Members are strongly encouraged to pay a visit to the Landcare Nursery. The nursery is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3 along with the last Sunday of the month from 10-1 and is located in [Drysdale](#). You can also subscribe to the Bellarine Landcare newsletter or become a Landcare member via their [website](#).

PLANT TABLE - FEBRUARY

A *Trachymene Caerulea* or Rottneest Island Daisy was chosen as Plant of the Month. It is a short-lived (6 months) member of the carrot family that easily self seeds and germinates. It grows to around half a metre and has a pretty daisy flower.



Other featured plants included a *Scaevola* which was very prickly – ideal habitat for small birds, along with a beautiful *Eucalyptus Landsdownia* that has an open

nature and grows to about 3 metres so it's great for small gardens. A very attractive *Baloskion Tetrphyllum* specimen was brought in. This is lovely for anyone liking grassy plants.



Also very pretty was a Canning Cumquat *Grevillea*:



And a *Banksia Acculeata* or Prickly Banksia with a huge flower that grows quickly and produces a honey that is



a favourite with birds. It grows to 2m high by 4m wide so it needs space.

2025 GEELONG GROUP MEETINGS and OUTINGS

It was fantastic to catch up with our fellow members at the year's first meeting in February. We also welcomed two new members, which was great. A huge welcome to both Pam and Alex – it was lovely to meet you both and we look forward to regularly seeing you at APS Geelong meetings.

The next meeting is on March 18th at 7.30 and features Kelly Clitheroe speaking on the fascinating topic of the effect that light pollution has on our night skies for the health of all living creatures. Kelly's talk is:

“DARK SKIES: the effects of light pollution are well known for having a significant impact on humans and other animals. Learn how excessive use of blue/white LEDS and constant projected light are having a major effect on planet life and the consequences for the food web.”

Kelly, the Director of the Astronomical Society of Victoria, is a widely published expert on the subject and it is sure to be enlightening (boom tish – see what I did there) for all attendees.

Further APS Geelong topics for you to schedule into your busy calendars for later in the year are below:

Apr 5 - Plant Sale

Apr 15 - John Lenagan – Insects and Ecosystems

May 20 – Plant Based Trivia and Pizza

Jun 17 - Ian Evans – Brachychitons

July 15 Chris Larkin - Hakeas

Aug 19 – AGM and Photo Competition

The location is The Ballroom Hamlyn Park, 1 Carey Street Hamlyn Heights. Click [here](#) to see the location on google maps.

ADDITIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND PLANT SALES

In addition to the above activities of our local Geelong District Group, below are some more dates for further activities in the first half of 2025 that may be of great interest to many of you:

Mar 15-16 Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) Biodiversity Symposium – “Impacts on biodiversity during the Anthropocene – 10 years on”. Blackburn RSL, Diggers Way, Blackburn Further information at <https://www.fncv.org.au/biodiversity-symposium/>

Mar 22-23 Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Garden Victoria (RBGV) Autumn Plant Sale. Plant list available one week before the sale. Further information at [Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale – 22-23 March 2025 – CFRBGV Inc.](#)

Mar 26-30 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, Carlton Gardens. Volunteers required. Contact Chris Clarke 0439 378 897.

Apr 12 APS Heathcote Flower Show and Plant Sale – Barrack Reserve, Heathcote 9am – 3pm.

Apr 12 APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale – Eltham Community Centre 801 Main Rd Eltham 10am – 3pm.

Apr 12-13 Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair and Garden Expo. 125 Quayle Rd., Wandin 9am – 4pm.

Apr 26 APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. The Briars, 450 Nepean Highway, Mount Martha. 10am – 3.30pm.

May 10 APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. St. Andrews Uniting Church, 18 Gisborne Rd., Bacchus Marsh.

2025 APS GEELONG PLANT SALE - 5 APRIL

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter the viability of the 2025 sale is currently under review. Should it proceed, the sale will be held at Lovely Banks on Saturday 5th April and will be an all-day event commencing at 8.30am. Should it be cancelled, you will be notified by the APS Geelong Committee.

On the assumption that the sale does go ahead (crossed fingers) **WE NEED YOU** to circulate the news to your circle of family, friends and local community as widely as possible. This is our major fundraiser for the year so the more people who know about the sale, the more money we have as a Group to conduct our activities such as tours, great speakers and trips.

Please help us to get the word out by any of the following methods (or any other legal method you can think of!):

- Email the separate pdf file to folks or groups who might be interested or who might further distribute it to local audiences.

- Print the separate pdf file and put it on your supermarket, library or community centre noticeboard.
- Copy and paste the below image or the attached pdf and post it on your Facebook, Instagram, X, Tik Tok or other relevant social media avenue.



- Nurseries you've come across with great quality native products or really good price tags!
...anything really that you think your like-minded APS Geelong District Group members might enjoy reading or hearing about.

Send any contributions to the newsletter editor at apsgeelongnews@gmail.com

GARDENING THOUGHT FOR MARCH



FROM APS HQ

APS Geelong District Group is a member of [APS Victoria](#). And at the 2024 biennial Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) Conference, APS Vic took over the executive roles of ANPSA. That means that your membership of APS Geelong is part of a much bigger picture of growing and propagating Australian plants as well as helping to preserve our native plants through initiatives such as monitoring and lobbying and seed management. Your part of something that really matters!

SEE/HEAR ANYTHING INTERESTING?

This newsletter is put together by volunteers. Do you have anything interesting to share? Let us know. It could be in the fields of any of the following:

- Native gardening
- Local conservation
- Australian Biodiversity
- Local pests/weeds
- Council or community initiatives
- Academic research or conferences
- Photos of your native garden or wildlife in your local area
- Gardening tips
- Species information that others might find useful