



April Newsletter

Australian Plants Society

Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc.

Inc. A0028350T ABN 69 324 096 622

Website for Australian Plants Society Victoria is www.apsvic.org.au

Website for APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc. is

www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/APSWilsonParkBerwick>).

Eucalyptus caesia – *Silver Princess*

Description: This graceful, weeping tree grows to 6 m high. Its young stems, leaves, buds and fruit are blue-green in colour and are covered in a showy white, waxy bloom, that is, they are glaucous. The mature trunk has decorative minni-ritchi bark—bark that peels in small curly flakes but does not detach. The trunk, bark, foliage, flowers and fruit are all very appealing attributes.

Flowers: Silver Princess flowers range in colour from pink to red and are up to 4 cm in diameter. It is a signature plant heralding the winter months. The spectacular showy flowers occur in clusters and produce nectar which is a great food source for birds during winter.

Growing conditions: This plant occurs naturally on granite outcrops and thrives in all soil types, but it is important that the site is free-draining and in full sun. The Silver Princess is best planted in the autumn and winter months.

Watering: Water well at planting time and monitor soil moisture until rains return in the following winter. Give a deep watering twice a week through the first summer. Once established, it should not require further water, except during prolonged dry spells.

Pruning: This tree has a natural irregular and weeping form that forms part of its character and it is therefore difficult to prune. Some light pruning can be done once established if desired, including cutting stems for floral arrangements. Selective removal of some fruits will reduce branch weight and risk of splitting. It can be cut at the base and allowed to re-shoot.



Eucalyptus caesia – *Silver Princess* – continued

Fertiliser: Apply slow-release native-blend 8–9 month fertiliser at the time of planting and annually as required in the spring months.

Pests and diseases: This species sometimes gets scale and is prone to wind damage, but usually recovers readily. Any damaged branches can be pruned carefully.

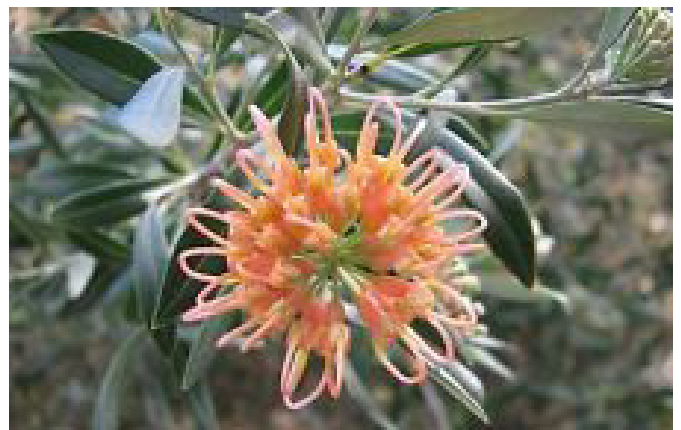
Miscellaneous: Plant the Silver Princess as a specimen tree or in groups. Eucalyptus caesia is threatened in the wild but has been a garden favourite for many years

Grevilleas

Grevillea levis was sold originally as a pink form of G. paniculata. It comes from WA in a fairly hot dry area but it does very well in heavy soils in Hobart. It is a dense prickly shrub with leaves resembling TV antennas. This species usually has white flowers, but the form grown in Hobart has masses of pink and white flowers. They make a very pretty display and in the rain or mist and they hold millions of droplets on their leaves.



Grevillea Apricot Glow: An evergreen compact native with dark green foliage which adds a striking contrast for the masses of apricot flowers that appear in spring. It is frost hardy and requires little water once established. It can grow in full sun to part shade position. Bird attracting. Ideal for rockeries and garden planting. Frost tolerant once established. Require little water once established. Suitable for areas with full sun Suitable for areas with part shade. Ideal in pots or containers. Suitable to cut for vases. Grows 1.5 m wide, Grows to 2 m high, Flowers Spring.



Grevillea Nancy Otzen: A continuous flowering from autumn to spring makes any shrub desirable, but especially so when the flowers are a warm shade of pinkish red, and set off superbly by the fine, deep green foliage, as they are with Grevillea 'Nancy Otzen'. This lover of sunshine and well drained soils is ideal for low maintenance borders and banks. It's happiest when soils aren't too rich, so you don't need to spend time or money on giving it fertiliser, and all it needs is an occasional trimming to shape after flowering, but even that isn't essential.



Hardenbergia Violacea



Family: Fabaceae subfamily Faboideae

Hardenbergia violacea syn. *H. monophylla* is a species of flowering plant in the pea family Fabaceae, native to Australia from Queensland to Tasmania. It is known in Australia by the common names false sarsaparilla, purple coral pea, happy wanderer, native lilac and waraburra (which comes from the Kattang language). Elsewhere it is also called vine lilac or lilac vine.

It is a vigorous evergreen climber growing to 6 m (20 ft) or more, sometimes growing as a subshrub. It has typical pea-like flowers which are usually violet but can be white, pink or other colours. The leaves are dark green, "hard" and leathery, with prominent venation.

Common Name: Native sarsaparilla; Purple Coral Pea.

H. violacea is a widespread species found in many habitats. It is also widely grown as a garden plant, with many cultivars now available. It is hardy in mild and coastal areas of the UK where temperatures do not fall below -5°C (23°F), but it does require a sheltered, south or west facing situation. Alternatively it may be grown indoors with full daylight, for instance in an unheated conservatory or greenhouse. It has been given the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

H. violacea regrows from its roots after fire. The roots were experimented with by early European settlers as a substitute for sarsaparilla. It can be propagated from seed after pre-treatment (e.g. scarification), when around 21°C . The seeds are naturally dispersed by ants.

MEMBERS

Once again I am appealing for articles for the Newsletter. Sunday Night I spent three hours sourcing out material for the newsletter.

Forward articles via email to: joysbuck@bigpond.com

Photos to be in jpeg format. Photos sent by mail will be returned if required.

Address is: Joy Buck, 13 Anchorage Drive, Blind Bight, Vic. 3980

*Thank you to Cardinya View Nursery
for bringing along a selection of tubestock for
members to purchase.*

Diary Dates 2018



TUESDAY, MAY 8:

7.30pm Anne Makhijani, coordinator of Whitehorse Gardens for Wildlife program (G4W), and Irene Kelly, Vice President, Knox Environment Society and heavily involved in Knox G4W. They will be giving a mixture of power point display and lots of information on the G4W program.

Proposed Speakers for 2018 to be confirmed.

Jamie Simpson of Pakenham 'Bushfoods'

Heather Stewart of Cardinia 'Cardinia Home Garden Scheme'

Ken Gosbell on 'Migratory Wader Birds'

Janet Hodgkiss and Chris Larkin from APS-Foothills group on 'The Science and Art of Pruning'

Paul Birch on 'Maranoa Gardens' in conjunction with a visit.

APS Victoria Calendar of upcoming events

APRIL 21: – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6). Entry is \$2 per adult or \$5 per car, children free of charge. 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.

APRIL 28: APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. At Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

MAY 12: APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. From 9 am to 1 pm.

JUNE 16-27: ANPSA 2018 Kimberley Tour – Kununurra to Broome. Details from Nicky Zanen, email nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0401975191.

JUNE 30 & JULY 1 APS Ballarat District Group Winter Flower Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

JULY 21 & 22: Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

AUGUST 18 & 19: APS Foothills host APS Victoria Quarterly Gathering and AGM.

SEPTEMBER 1: APS Wilson Park Australian Native Plant Sale, Venue to be confirmed.

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9: APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. To be confirmed. Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.

*Thank you to Facey's Wholesale Nursery
for their ongoing support in
donating plants towards our raffle*