

SalviaNews

Victorian Salvia Study Group
A Branch of the Herb Society of Victoria

December 03
January February 04

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Summer is here and brings with it glorious salvias, extraordinary weeds and, at last, the shade house is re-built. An ugly shade cloth covered thing instead of the beautiful vine clad delight but useful. The polyhouse has been repaired too and instead of doing Salvia News I have been rushing salvias into intensive care and propagating ready for the Salvia Spectacular on April 3rd and 4th next year.

The computer crashed destroying my confidence as well as all files so please tell me again anything I should have on record and forgive me if this edition is rather inadequate. And I thought I had 'backed-up' and yet there is so little that I can find.

Hope you all have a sensational Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, wealth and fun.

Dates for your Diary

SALVIA STUDY GROUP SEED SOWING DEMONSTRATION FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY 25TH 2004. AT ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS NURSERY 11AM ARRIVAL

MEG HIRST WILL GREET THE GROUP ON THEIR ARRIVAL, AND GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RBG NURSERY FACILITIES.

11.15AM STUDY GROUP WILL ENTER SEED HOUSE TO DISCUSS GREENHOUSE CONDITIONS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO SEED GERMINATION REQUIREMENTS.

11.30 AM SEED SOWING DISCUSSION, HELD IN PROPAGATION HOUSE, INCLUDES;

- 1. SEED SIZE VERSUS DEPTH**
- 2. SEED QUALITY**
- 3. SEED VIABILITY**
- 4. INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND TESTING**
- 5. MEDIUM**
- 6. %OF SOWING VERSUS % OF GERMINATION**
- 7. GERMINATION**
- 8. DORMANCY ISSUES AND PRICKING OUT AND POTTING ON**

12PM SEED SOWING DEMONSTRATION A HAND OUT WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH PARTICIPANT

12.45PM QUESTIONS FURTHER DISCUSSION

1.00 PM WRAP UP SESSION

Such an opportunity to learn through the Botanic Gardens should not be missed!

Let us know of your intention to attend, contact :

Lyndi Garnett 9803 4534 or Meg Bentley 59649360

We will meet inside the gates at the Herbarium in Birdwood Ave.

No later than 10.45 am. BYO lunch.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY : 2004

As part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme

Elly & Leon Roos invite you to Lemon Tree Cottage

59 Ferguson Street

Upwey (Mel. Ref: 74 K9)

SATURDAY 20TH & Sunday 21ST March 2004 from 10 am to 4.30 pm each day

A large variety of plants for sale

Devonshire tea & cold drinks available

Entry \$5 per person

Proceeds to the Open Garden Scheme and Upwey Fire Brigade

APRIL 3RD & 4TH 2004 SALVIA SPECTACULAR

Put this date in your diary NOW!

Held at the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Hall,

Hilton Rd. East, Ferny Creek. (Melways 66 E12)

Read flyer included with this issue.

Note the Melbourne International Flower Show runs from the 31ST March to the 4TH April 2004, **why not combine the two!**

LEMON TREE COTTAGE

Isn't it amazing what one day of 39 degree heat can do to the garden? Leon and I went to Perth for 4 days (to some cool weather) while our garden got a burst of searing heat bringing all the roses into full bloom, it was an absolute picture. We have lost a few salvias this year to the snails and with a layer of snail bait around *Salvia patens* (4 varieties) only 2 have survived, *S. longispicata* was also eaten to the ground. *S. microphylla* 'Musk' also disappeared, even with clearing around the base it still didn't get going. Everything else, with the help of some great spring rain is going great guns.

Plants of *S. 'Phyllis Fancy'* were moved but now seem to be worse off while *S. africana lutea*, also moved, is surviving well! *S. corrugata*, is now in its 4th position! Finding the right place for this plant has been a problem, hopefully moving it to a more open position will encourage it to flower properly.

As well as salvias taking off, aquilegias, roses and clematis are all at their peak. Clematis 'Nelly Moser' has over 100 saucer plate sized lilac blossoms like a waterfall cascading down from the veranda roof gutters to the garden bed, an unbelievable sight as you walk around to the back garden. They are a great addition to any garden, and so easy to grow. I have more than 20 varieties some flowering spring and autumn and others summer. I actually pruned the hydrangeas the right way and now every stem has a flower head. The leaves are already singed from the heat so I hope the blooms will be OK.

Salvia fallax had its longest flowering season this year after I moved it from a position with morning sun and afternoon shade close to a pine tree to one where it has dappled light and late evening sun. It seems to enjoy the company of the camellias and the hydrangeas. *Salvia curtiflora* has been moved to a similar position giving its lax branches some structured support. *Salvia dombeyii* just won't take off. I've been trying to trail it up the abutilon. *S. chiapsis* has been a real gem too and hasn't stopped flowering since I planted it 2 years ago. It has such an unusual flower compared to other salvias, almost with a fan-like spread. *S. roemeriana*, a great low growing salvia, is just starting to take off and it is a little beauty, although described as a red flower, I'd call it a pinky red. *Salvia rubiginosa*, left to do its own thing this year has turned out to be a handsome plant underneath deciduous trees. I'm not sure how to prune it back so I may be a little conservative this year to see what happens.

I trust all S.S.G. Members see lots of interesting things happening in their gardens and if anything like me you wander around early in the morning to see what's happening and it's such a treat to see a salvia flowering for the first time.

Leon and I wish you Christmas Greeting and a Safe and Happy New Year and we welcome you to our Open Garden on the 20th and 21st of March 2004. It is always so good to see so many people enjoying the garden in such a relaxed atmosphere. It is an opportunity to promote the Salvia Spectacular by showing salvias in a garden setting.

Happy Gardening Elly Roos

The South Australian Salvia Study Group Report

This year the South Australian Salvia Show was held at the Urrbrae House gardens on Sunday 23rd of November in conjunction with the Heritage Rose Society of South Australia.

Again the show was a great success. The early morning rain cleared up quickly giving us a fine cool day. The show was well attended and plant sales were brisk. Unlike last year we did not run out of plants though extra loads did come down from Tupelo Grove Nursery.

In preparation for the show the Salvia Study Group had a plant propagation program resulting in a supply of salvia plants in 100 cm. pots, concentrating on those which were dry tolerant, mainly the South African species such as *S. africana lutea*, *S. africana caerulea*, *S. chamelaeagnea* and *S. scabra* and the more dry tolerant American salvias such as some of the *S. microphyllas* and *S. chamaedryoides*, both the normal grey form and "Marine Blue". The emphasis on dry tolerant plants was because the South Australian Government had introduced water restrictions.

The propagation program is continuing, this time with an emphasis on Autumn flowering salvias. The plants should be ready for sale in time for the Autumn Salvia Show.

It was good to see the Victorian visitors Meg and Jillian. They combined their visit to the Salvia Show with visits to gardens of Salvia Study Group members.

The Autumn Salvia Show is planned for Sunday April 25th 2004 at Urrbrae High School (not Urrbrae House). At this show will be talks on salvias available for sale at the show. Also in the planning for 2004 will be a couple of public symposiums on salvias and a mini bus trip to Victoria for the Salvia Spectacular.

Peter Love

Renmark News

Meg Bentley and Jillian Barkell recently spent a few nights in Renmark. While here they visited several local gardens including the prize winning garden developed by the Rogers. Roses form the backbone of their extensive cottage style gardens. A large area of roses in front of the house is interplanted with *Salvia azurea*, *S. involucrata* 'Bethelii' and Salvia 'Indigo Spires' doing well in relatively sheltered positions in this sandy garden.

As the Rogers showed a lot of interest in Salvias I made a follow up visit to give them some plants that I had propagated; *Salvia karwinskii*, *S. somalensis*, *S. chiapensis*, *S. chamelaeagnea*, *S. iodantha*, and *S. 'Purple Majesty'*.

Hot and humid here. Can't move without rivulets of sweat running down. All my pots are doing well. Too well. They are out the bottom in some cases and thru the weed mat. I guess I should have kept a closer eye on them. Since I have been using sprinklers they have really gone ahead.

Mary Ann Dyer

News From Werri Beach NSW.

Unfortunately we haven't had much rain for about 3-4 weeks and we've again had some hot windy days so the tanks are emptying and the garden looks like it needs a good drink. There is talk of some rain next week, however, which may be just in time. At the moment there is a raging nor'easterly and I'm not going to even look at the back garden after a hot windy typical summer's day at Werri.

I've been a bit disappointed in the annual *Salvia splendens*, the bi-colour ones. Two years in a row I've planted them in a bed facing south but with ample sun and in amongst other perennials including salvias and they've just sat there despite regular watering and seasoil and what I thought was good soil preparation. Maybe there is too much competition but I don't think that should matter.

Finding the right place for any new *Salvia* though exciting is often a problem. You think you've picked the ideal spot, according to all the literature, but they sometimes refuse to thrive. Such was the case with *S.forskaohlei* and *S.spathacea*. I've had to move both of them even though they were both supposed to tolerate some shade. They have since improved in a position with more sun.

Salvia regla did not reappear after it's winter dormancy. So disappointing! Will have to get another one. I have had some success with the herbaceous *S. nemorosa*, *S. x superba* and *S.x sylvestris* and am looking forward to them spreading a bit further. I came across *S.horminum* at a local nursery and have been pleased with it's lovely pink whorls. This nursery, in particular, seems to be looking out for Salvias and has a good stock of ones more readily available.

I am amazed at the extraordinary growth of *S.iodantha*. All of a sudden it has shot up in the centre and formed a straight column with clumps on either side. I do remember Sheila saying that it could be vigorous. I'll leave it for the moment as it looks so good and deal with it when it gets out of hand.

I had the garden club members down to look at the water tanks and other water saving techniques I have employed and all of them were so impressed with *S.microphylla* 'Sensation' and 'Iced Lemon' that I gave out lots of 'bits'. I have both of them in a bed of mainly pinks and the lime green of Oregano and the lime Helychrysum?.

I bought another lemon/yellow which I thought was going to be the same as Iced Lemon but it's turned out to be 'La Luna' which is different again.

I tried propagating some of the grey leafed Salvias in my new plastic propagating 'thingy' and unfortunately, I had placed it in too much sun and they rotted. I decided to leave the greys to their own devices in the open and have had more success.

When we get some more decent rain, I'll be looking out for more Salvias to add to the garden to replace other plants which may not perform as well as they do. *S. broussonetii* has flowered for the first time and I really like it, not only for it's flowers but also for it's leaves. *S.canariensis* is also becoming one of my favourites.

I am hoping to be in Victoria for the *Salvia Spectacular*.

Maureen Cox

Comparing Three Yellow Coloured Salvias

With 2 recently purchased salvias, plus a similar long term favourite, I thought I would do some comparisons. I make this attempt with little botanical knowledge, but with much interest and experience in growing salvias in Geelong for many years.

Salvia x jamensis 'Iced Lemon'

I have possessed this for several years and it is one of my favourites. The parents of this hybrid are *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*. The former is claimed to be the dominant parent. In any case I will compare this species to a typical *greggii*. Firstly, "Iced Lemon" once established, is relatively prostrate. It grows to a height of about 40cms in my garden. On the other hand, a typical *greggii* grows to a height of about 80cms here. Further, 'Iced Lemon' enjoys spreading above and below ground with its underground runners whilst the typical *greggii* is a woody perennial emerging from the ground, usually with one or two basic stems. The leaves of 'Iced Lemon' have a very broad elliptical shape with an average size of about 40mm x 25mm, whilst those of *greggii* are much smaller, being about 25mm x 10mm with a narrower or more linear elliptical shape. 'Iced Lemon' leaves have slightly serrated edges, whereas *greggii* have no serrations at all. All these features of "Iced Lemon", underground runners, broader leaves with serrations, in my opinion, all tend towards *microphylla* being the major parent.

The flowers of *greggii* and *microphylla* including 'Iced Lemon', all appear to me to be somewhat similar in structure and size. The emerging buds of 'Iced Lemon' are a strong yellow but tend to go whitish with age. The calyces are a striking deep brown, almost black, which offers a vivid contrast as they partially envelop the yellow flowers whilst the calyx colours of the *greggii*s vary depending on the colour of the cultivar being considered.

Salvia greggii 'Yellow'

I bought this plant several weeks ago and it is still in its pot and in flower since purchased. I consider the red flowered *greggii* as the original *greggii* introduced to the gardening world. By that reasoning the above named *greggii* must be a cultivar. Because it is a typical *greggii*, it is a woody perennial with 2 major stems emerging from its potted soil. Being only a young plant with a height of 50cms it has a lot of growing to do. Again its leaves are of a typical *greggii*, linear elliptical in shape with no serrated edges. The bright yellow flowers, so prominent as I write, do not seem to fade. Its calyces, that partially envelop the flowers, are a very pale green and are similar in colour to those of the white flowered *greggii* cultivar. I find my yellow coloured cultivar a true *greggii* in every respect.

Salvia x jamensis 'La Luna'

Again this was recently purchased, still in its pot, and is only 25cms in height. It is stated to be a hybrid with parents *greggii* and *microphylla* and with *greggii* being the dominant parent. Similar to all *greggii*s, it is a woody perennial with 2 major stems emerging from the pot of soil. This strongly suggests a leaning to its *greggii* parentage. Its mid-green leaves are broadly elliptical, and at this stage of its growth, have an average size of about 24mm x 12mm and are finely serrated. Both the leaf shape and the serrations strongly suggest a leaning towards the *microphylla* parent. As I write this article, in early November, my 'La Luna' has produced some of its yellow flowers. These are similar in every respect to the *greggii* 'yellow' cultivar, including the latter's pale green calyces. In summary, as a hybrid, I believe 'La Luna' leans more strongly to its *greggii* parent than to *microphylla*.

John Sutton in his book, page 115, plate v111, shows a life size photo of 'La Luna'.

Bill Whitehead

Salvia Propagation Workshop October 20th 2003

What a marvellous afternoon we had at Trudi's home and garden! Great company, great coffee and cake, and great information. There were five of us 'students', with Meg instructing, assisted by Trudi and Jillian.

Meg collected suitable cutting material from Trudi's extensive collection, while we checked the range, and size of the salvias around the garden. We then went indoors to learn the finer points of propagation from cuttings, and division. For cuttings we concentrated on *Salvia uncinata*, *S. canariensis*, *S. eigii*, *S. africana-lutea* and *S. chamelaeagnea*.

We learnt what to look for in selecting cutting material, how to keep it in prime condition, how to prepare cuttings and differing propagating mediums to maximise success.

We each came away with five pots, crowded with healthy cuttings, to care for at home. We will be potting on many of these for the Salvia Spectacular (hopefully).

Like all keen gardeners we had all done quite a bit of propagation previously but I am sure we all learnt some new ideas and were able to share our ideas and experiences.

All in all, it was a friendly, informative and fun session which I would recommend to all.

Wendy Smith (Rosebud)

SE Queensland Salvia News - 18/12/03

Four members of The Perennial Poppies Group travelled to Christchurch in late November with Sue Perkins and the Cottage Garden Group from Sydney. What a fabulous trip viewing some magnificent gardens around the Christchurch area! Wow! Can they grow roses. It was interesting though we found very few salvias in the gardens we visited.

Here in SE Queensland we are having quite a bit of rain and lots of humidity so it looks like this summer may be a testing one for those salvias that don't like the humidity. I have already lost *Salvia thymoides* so as was the second time I've had a go at growing it I've decided it is not for this climate. *S. spathacea* is still looking healthy, however this is one that will need watching through the humid weather. Recent additions *S. greggi* 'Fulhams Red', *S. microphylla* 'Ever Red Ruby', *S. verticillata* and *S. taraxacifolia* 'Purple Gem', are doing well.

Many of the seedling salvias that Debbie Follett obtained from Althea Drew in the South Burnett are growing well and in the near future Debbie will have them for sale. I have had discussion with Sue Templeton re their naming and she has suggested that a form be issued to all groups to enable information on new seedlings to be collated and passed onto members of both the Victorian Salvia Study group and the Salvia Association.

Our group recently had our Christmas function at Albert River Winery at Tamborine Village – a lovely day however it rained much of the day so we were unable to view the garden other than from the verandahs. We were most impressed with a mass planting of *S. 'Indigo Spires'* and many of us declared we must use more of it. I guess because it is one of the originals we forget how useful a plant it is for continual colour.

Here is a list of some of the salvias flowering at this time of year: *S. 'Anthony Parker'*, *S. 'Phyllis Fancy'*, all *greggii* and *microphyllas* (San Carlos Festival especially wonderful), *lycoides*, 'Christine Yeo', 'Blue Ribbon', *chiapensis*, *melissadora*, Navajo purple, *muirii*, *sinaloensis*, *sagittatus* 'Mosquito', and *chamelaegnea*.

We are opening our garden in mid May so at the moment I'm putting some effort into getting it into shape – pruning, mulching, fertilising etc. Many of our group have found that pruning only part of a salvia at a time is most successful – pruning hard particularly at this time of year can often kill the plant.

Barb Wickes

Stop The Munchies At Night

So often I have sown salvia seed (salvia seed needs to be sown on top of the seed raising mix and not covered—it needs light) only to find some little beastie came along during the night and ate the seed as is or when the seed has germinated has had a gourmet midnight feast. Well I've found a way to stop that by placing fly screen over the pots.

If you are sowing seed in a square pot cut the wire exactly the outer edge of the pot, this folds and fits inside the pot snugly. If sowing seed in a circular pot cut the wire slightly larger than the pot, this then fits like a dome into the pot. When the plants grow too big for the wire, cut a larger piece of wire, cutting into the 4 corners to form a taller dome to accommodate the growing plant and to continue to frustrate the snail and slugs.

This idea works well for herbaceous plants needing protection as they grow out of the soil to the snails waiting to say hello to such delicious items as *Salvia patens* and East Friesland and others.

Lyndi Garnett

The Nobelius Salvia Garden Report November 2003-12-19

A grove of silver birches next to our Emerald Salvia Collection was the setting for the Salvia Study Group of the HSOV Christmas gathering at the end of November. Lillian and Meg provided colourful table settings amongst the trees and a 'gourmet feast' of festive 'goodies' was provided by all the participants.

The Collection was the centre of attraction before, during and after the feasting. John de Graaf (helped by Jenny no doubt) had previously cut the grass pathways, and most of the plants had had their spring pruning and were producing lush new growth.

The winter has been severe at Emerald with frosts, gale force winds and cold, wet days over a long period, and we have lost some plants as a result of these conditions. Amongst the losses are *Salvia glutinosa* (always hard to overwinter) *S. japonica*, *S. patens*, *S. nubicola*, *S. officinalis* 'Tricolor' (this lone plant has miraculously survived for more than 10 years) *S. hians* and *S. murrilii* to name a few. All forms of *S. coccinea* have died this winter---in many areas they will survive a winter and produce new growth for a second season.

Unfortunately 2 or 3 plants have been stolen from the Collection... this has happened from the beginning and we should know by now never to plant a specimen in bloom! At least we do not plant unless we have a parent plant or a duplicate 'waiting in the wings'

Certain plants which were thought to have disappeared by the end of winter, have reappeared with the warmer weather and the removal of weeds. These include *Salvia* 'Black and Blue' (a variegated form as well as the usual green leaved form). Obviously, as these are forms of *S. guarantica* I should have realised they would appear in due course.

S. argentea has 'popped up' again from what I was sure was a dead and withered root mass. *S. 'Tammy'* and *S. verticillata* 'Purple Rain' have also resurrected themselves, the latter is almost ready to bloom.

The 'eye catchers' in the garden on the day of our picnic were *S. pratensis*, *S. microphylla* *neurepia* (Graham Sage) *S. 'Fulhams Red'*, *S. leucophylla* with its almost white leaves and whorls of attractive mauve flowers, and *S. gesneriiflora*. *S. karvinskii* was a bank of brilliant pink flowers with burgundy bracts against the side fence, while *S. rubiginosa* provided a lake of brilliant blue and ruby red at ground level (this beautiful salvia needs to be staked for its true beauty to be revealed, it should not really be a ground cover!) Several bushes of grey leaved sage, *S. officinalis* were just beginning to bloom in various parts of the plot.

But the outstanding 'bloomers' were *S. interrupta* and *S. africana caerulea*. The former is a hard to grow salvia and our plant at Nobelius has self seeded from its now non-existent parent plant It has formed a large clump and was in full bloom. The large florets on their tall stems were a mecca for bees and for the admiring eyes of everyone. The other magnificent scene stealer, *S. africana caerulea* is a perfectly formed shrubby plant which has been covered with large sky blue flowers for months.

The miracle plants in this Collection are the 26 specimens of *S. officinalis purpurescens*, grown as a border along one of the long beds. These have been in position for at least 12 years, and although they are now becoming rather woody their brilliant purple growth and flowering heads are, at the moment, quite spectacular.

Another lovely foliage plant here is *S. apiana*. The whitish grey leaves of this Californian *Salvia* contrast brilliantly with the dark greenleaves of *S. corrugata* and the purple foliage of *S. purpurea*.

We have made some mistakes at Nobelius but, after all, this is an experimental plot. For example some very rampant salvias are taking over portions of the garden as well as overcrowding more tender specimens. Four of these are *S. cinnabarina*, *S. uliginosa*, *S. spathacea* and *S. forskaohlei*. I would suggest that the first of these is

not worth garden space. The flowers are quite insignificant and the runners from one plant can occupy a square metre in 12 months. The last 2 produce beautiful flowers but give them plenty of space. *S. forskahlei* self seeds—cut off the heads before the seeds set.

We are gradually learning through our experience with the salvias at Nobelius correct methods of pruning. Almost every plant has a different growth habit. So pruning methods vary from plant to plant. Because of incorrect pruning, for example, *Salvia dolomitica* is not flowering this year. The plant was pruned to give it a rounded shape, which meant that all the flowering tips were cut off. *S. dolomitica* should be pruned almost like a raspberry cane with all last years flowering stems cut off from the base leaving the latest stems to flower in the summer.

Our plot may soon be extended to allow for more plants to be added. An excavation for an additional room at the museum has unearthed a huge load of top soil which will be added to the top portion of our plot.

Another bonus for us is the offer of a small garden-minded group from the local U3A branch to assist with the general maintenance of the garden. An offer I have accepted with alacrity!

Ray Boatman

Trip to Adelaide and the Salvia Show

My first trip to Renmark and South Australia was one of interest and observation but this trip was not new to travelling companion, Jillian Barkell, who has on several occasions been to see the South Australian Salvia Show. Mary Anne Dyer also joined us on the trip to Adelaide.

I was amazed to see how well salvias performed in these dry, hot and in many cases tree-less areas. The South African species were by far the greatest survivors, hardy souls that more or less take as much as nature dishes out. The Californian species are pretty much the same when it comes to hardiness.

In Renmark, the salvias grew so well, I couldn't believe the height and size of them, especially compared with their growth patterns at home in Victoria. Here the soil consisted of clay-loam over red sand and is alkaline.

Frost seems to be the main detrimental factor, which in one area particularly would cut the taller species down to the fence-line. For example *Salvia iodantha*, as we all know, will grow metres upwards and be rather sparse underneath but because the frost had cut it down in size, it was a great benefit to the plant, making it quite bushy. This was the case with quite a few salvias. I couldn't believe the performance of *Salvia dolichantha*, looking so handsome and growing in soil that looked dry and sun-baked that one would wonder how a plant from cooler areas of China in a higher altitude, could possibly survive these conditions. It must have a lot to do with the minerals within the soil that give the plant exactly what it needs. Well, that's a thought anyway!

I couldn't help thinking the same thing about *Salvia dolomitica* that originates in Transvaal, South Africa, where it grows in limestone rocky slopes and here in Renmark and throughout South Australia, it looked quite at home.

Other salvias performing very well were *S. purpurea*, *S. karwinskii*, *S. involucrata* 'Bethellii', *S. 'Purple Majesty'*, *S. mexicana* 'Limelight' and *S. elegans purple*.

The amazing thing was that these ones usually require more moisture to survive and really only get going well for me after the Summer has passed and the coolness of Autumn has arrived. And of course growing marvellously well was *S. chamelaeagnea* and *S. somalensis*, as one would expect of these two hardy species!

We travelled on to our destination stay at Hahndorf, which was the 'base camp' so to speak, then headed for Adelaide the next morning and meeting up with Peter Love, Anthony Medcalf, Simon Ardill and Margaret Arnold at the South Australian Salvia Study Group Show. It was interesting to meet the lady who has a salvia by the same name *S. microphylla* 'Margaret Arnold' (or 'Margaret's Rose' as it was previously known).

Many folk in Victoria have heard of Urrbrae House in connection with the South Australian Salvia Study Group and this is where they held their Show.

Urrbrae House is where the Heritage Rose Gardens are situated, all part of the Waite Institute and it was the perfect venue to hold a Salvia Show.

Salvias and roses are good companions and the salvias found growing amongst the roses throughout these gardens were a credit to their workers in the Study Group.

Some particularly good specimens were *S. chamaedryoides* which was flowering a treat, *S. semiatrata*, *S. nemerosa* 'Ostfriesland', *S. discolor*, *S. 'Black Knight'* and *Salvia farinacea* which was mass planted throughout the rose beds. All of these were in flower and looked lovely.

Tables and trestles were set out on the lawn and fully laden with salvias of all descriptions and sizes. Specimen plants in flower were standing in large pots at the outer edge surrounded with smaller pots of the same species.

The stalls were very popular and people arrived early to get the best buys, as we all know and have done it ourselves. Some specimens were quite interesting to see especially the *Salvia candelabrum*, starting to flower and a beautiful plant when well grown. There was quite a good range of species and varieties, they were healthy plants and plenty of them!

Their indoor display was well set out and clearly named, it was a delight to go indoors to view the display and smell the 'old world' rose fragrances from the heritage rose display set out on the opposite side of the room.

I must say that participation with volunteers, helpers and Study Group workers was a joy to see... something I would like to see more of within our own Group and something that can be shared by **all** of our members to make our own show an even better success. Members of the South.Australian Salvia Study Group are going to come over to see our Salvia Spectacular next April 2004... lets all pull together and really make it **Spectacular**.

Their hospitality during our visit was very nice and much appreciated and we would like to extend our thanks to one and all for their kindness during our trip.

Extra notes will be included in the following Salvia Newsletter.

Meg Bentley

NOTES ON THE SALVIA SPECTACULAR

Re salvias in containers...

Do you have a good looking salvia in a container of sorts??

Why not enter it into the 'Salvias for Small Spaces' display at the Salvia Spectacular in April??

We need to have an idea of quantities so we can sort out positions and placings!

Also if you can give us some of your time to help with the Spectacular, let us know !

Some contact numbers for the Salvia Study Group Spectacular:

Lyndi Garnett 9803 4534 Meg Bentley 5964 9360

Jillian Barkell 9756 6361 Trudi Fry 9754 4041