

Salvia News

NUMBER 57



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group

Spring 2014

THE VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP

A BRANCH OF THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

THE AIMS OF THE SALVIA STUDY GROUP ARE:

1. To grow and collect salvias to study their growth habits.
2. To identify and name plants correctly.
3. To propagate new and existing Salvias.

The group is a not for profit organization. Any monies received are used to run the Group's activities and for the planting and maintenance of our GPCAA registered garden collection.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE; www.salvias.org.au

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SALVIA NEWS SUBMISSIONS

All copy must be received on or preferably prior to copy deadline.
Copy Deadline for the next edition is on or before 14 October 2014.

Please post your copy to:

VSSG c/- Beth Clisby
3 Creebank View, Pakenham. Vic 3810

or email:

beth.c@bigpond.com
don't forget the dot between beth and 'c'.



SALVIA NEWS

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP

Website: www.salvias.org.au

Welcome to the Spring edition of Salvia News. Hope you enjoy the articles sourced for you. We always welcome your input about Salvia News, any changes you would like to see and the content of the articles within or that you would like to see in the future. Please do not hesitate to email, write or phone me.

VSSG has a new Treasurer. Welcome to Gordon Donaldson who has taken over from Pat Jenzen. Pat was unable to continue in this role but she is still an active VSSG committee member.

There is a new layout for the Calendar of Events this issue which came through necessity. There are so many events coming up, it was the only way to fit them all in. Don't forget to view the VSSG website regularly for updates, further information and any changes. For those attending the annual Pakenham Garden Club Garden Expo on Saturday 6 September, please note there is a new venue, easy to find, loads of parking, all undercover I hear so that inclement weather won't be a problem.

Just a reminder for those who have omitted returning your renewal subscription to Salvia News, it is hoped it is an oversight (due June each year for most of us). You will have received your reminder with this edition. Should you have any queries, please contact Meg Gadd VSSG subscriptions officer.

Lyndi Garnet, has a new email address, lgarnett844@gmail.com Please amend your records accordingly. Don't forget to diarise Lyndi's Open Garden Visit 12 October. RSVP required.

Please note that although Lyndi goes out of her way to source the Salvias you are seeking, VSSG is not a nursery. Lyndi is not running a nursery. VSSG is a not for profit, study group promoting the species. Lyndi is therefore not available for people to just drop by for plants without an appointment please. Although she does her utmost to fit in with people, she can't wait around when people don't arrive at the agreed times. Thankyou for your support.

Hope you are managing some quality time in your garden. What a joy it is at this time of year.

Happy Gardening, Beth

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

All Subscriptions to the Salvia News are due June/July each year. If you have not renewed as yet, could you please do so as soon as possible. A renewal form is enclosed with this Spring edition of the Salvia News.

This form must be posted to the Subscriptions Officer with your details of Direct Credit into the Bendigo Bank Account as given on the Form **or** with your cheque enclosed. If paying into the Bendigo Bank, please give your name as the reference.

Meg Gadd /Subscriptions Officer

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COMING SOON

At your request, the next issue will include

Salvia Nurseries, Mail Order
Retail

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the VSSG website for more details, www.salvias.org.au
Take your plant lists or email your list to Lyndi, lgarnett844@gmail.com

21 AUGUST

U3A DEEPPDENE

Thursday 21 August 2-3.30pm
Stradbroke Park Pavillion
Cnr Harp & Burke Rds, Kew
Mel: 45 H4

Lyndi will be speaking. Salvia plants, books & seed for sale. Bring plants for identification.

6 SEPTEMBER

Pakenham Garden Club GARDEN EXPO

Saturday 6 September 9am-2pm
Beaconhills College Mel: 317 A4
Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham
Guest Presenter, Tino Carnevale of
ABC TV's Gardening Australia.
Entry \$5. Large range of plants &
products including Salvias.
Refreshments available.

13 SEPTEMBER

REDHILL SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 13 September 10am-4pm
Redhill Recreational Reserve
Mel:190 J4

*Huge range of plants and products,
demonstrations and displays.
Salvia plants, books & seeds for sale.*

13 & 14 SEPTEMBER

BIRCHWOOD NEAR BENALLA OPEN GARDEN

Sat 13/Sun 14 September
10am-4pm

653 O'Dea Road, Molyullah,
Benalla.

*Beautiful garden full of Spring bulbs,
salvias, camellias, perennials, dry
creek bank with native flora &
spreading lawn. See editorial this
issue. Proceeds to Cancer Council of
Vic & Wangaratta Hospital Oncology
Unit.*

21 SEPTEMBER

PLANT PROPOGATING DAY

Professional Propagator Sue Stevens

Sunday 21 September 1.30-3pm at
Nobelius Heritage Park Mel:127 G4
*Learn how to successfully take
cuttings & have those cuttings
successfully root. Bookings required,
phone Lyndi on 9803 4534.*

8 OCTOBER

PRETTY SALLY GARDEN CLUB, KILMORE

Wednesday 8 October 2pm
Kilmore Bowls Club
Mel: Touring Map 920 L9
Cnr Sydney & Bourke Sts, Kilmore
Entry to carpark is via Bourke St.
*Lyndi will be speaking. Salvia plants,
books & seed on sale. Bring plants
for identification.*

12 OCTOBER

LYNDI GARNETT'S OPEN GARDEN VISIT

Sunday 12 October, 11am
Mel: 62 J10
844 Highbury Road, Glen Waverley
*Lyndi is opening her garden full of
Salvias. Bring a plate to share and a
chair. RSVP essential, ph Lyndi
98034534 All subscribers are
welcome.*

15 OCTOBER

GARDENING AT NOBELIUS

Wednesday 15 October 11am-3pm
Nobelius Heritage Park Mel:127 G4
The Packing Shed, Crighton Rd,
Emerald
*Help to maintain our display garden.
Chance to identify different Salvias.
Take home lots of cuttings. Bring a
plate to share, a chair, gardening
tools, wet weather gear, hat and bags
for cuttings. Fun day for all
subscribers.*

26 OCTOBER

IVANHOE FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Sunday 26 October 12-4pm
Bellfield Community Centre
Mel: 31 E2
Cnr Oriel Rd & Bell St, Ivanhoe
*Salvia plants, books & seed for sale.
Many other activities and displays.
Celebrating 108th Birthday of the
Ivanhoe Garden Club.*

9 NOVEMBER

ROSE SHOW

Sat 8 & Sun 9 November
Mt Waverly Community Centre
Mel 70: E1 .Cnr Stephenson Rd &
Miller Crs, Mt Waverley.

*Wonderful rose displays with a good
selection for sale. Salvia plants,
books & seeds for sale. Bring plants
for identification.*

16 NOVEMBER

GARDENING AT NOBELIUS

Sunday 16 November 11am-3pm,
Nobelius Heritage Park Mel:127 G4
The Packing Shed, Crighton Rd,
Emerald
*Fun day while helping to maintain
our display garden. Learn to identify
different Salvias. Loads of cuttings to
take home. Bring a plate to share for
lunch, a chair, gardening tools, wet
weather gear.*

19 NOVEMBER

MT ELIZA GARDEN CLUB

Wed 19 November 11am-12pm
Mt Eliza Community Centre
Mel: 101 12F, Canadian Bay Rd,
Mt Eliza
*Lyndi will be speaking. Salvia plants,
books & seed on sale. Bring plants
for identification.*

23 NOVEMBER

SALVIAS AT NOBELIUS DISPLAY GARDEN

Sunday 23 November, 11am-3pm.
Mel: 127 G4. Nobelius Heritage
Park, Crighton Rd, Emerald.
*Walk through the Salvia Display
garden to see what is in flower. Come
and the salvias you have been
searching for, Salvia books and seed
also on sale.. Bring a list or to
avoid disappointment, email you list
to Lyndi prior to the day.*

25 NOVEMBER

BENTLEIGH GARDEN CLUB

Tuesday 25 November 7.45pm
St Johns' Anglican Church,
Mel: 77 G1. 624 Centre Rd,
Bentleigh.
*Speaker: Patrick Hogan. Salvia
plants & books for sale.*

*For all enquiries relating to
Calendar of Events, please contact
Lyndi Garnett on 9803 4534 or
email: lgarnett844@gmail.com*

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND NEWS

Lynn McAllister - The Perennial Poppies Group Inc

Hello everyone! Finally the weather has cooled a bit and we are enjoying a wonderful south east Queensland autumn. There have been a few showers around which are much appreciated after the very long dry spell over the last 12 months. Some areas of SEQ have enjoyed up to 200mm rain in the last couple of months but many remain quite dry and quite the gardening challenge. Just north of Brisbane, I have had a few good falls and around 100mm since February. The garden tank is full for a change and once again I can be more liberal with the hose. I am very fortunate to be on town water and able to alleviate the 'drought' in my garden, so plant losses have been minimal. As we all know, plants really know the difference though and would much prefer a shower of rain.

The winter flowering salvias are 'coming into their own' at the moment. With just a couple of nights recently in the single-digit minimums, my *Salvia wagneriana* is suddenly threatening to take over the whole side yard. I have counted thirty-five lovely fat flower spikes beginning to colour. My original, 2004, specimen of *S. wagneriana*, which is in full sun facing west, has spread to cover nearly 40 square metres. I assume it is layering as it goes. There is another *S. wagneriana* in a semi shaded, north facing shared bed. It flowers just as prolifically but remains a much smaller spread than the sunny specimen. It shares a bed with *S. guaranitica* 'Omaha Gold', which is currently looking absolutely wonderful and the contrast of leaf and flowers something to behold, and *S. elegans* 'Golden Delicious' which has been in flower for weeks. Smaller bed buddies are *S.* 'Mrs Bucket', *S.* 'San Carlos Festival' and *S.* 'Sweet Laura' which flowered quite sparsely during summer and are now taking a rest. They flowered continually through summer but do seem to need a regular hose. *Salvia madrensis* has burst into beautiful yellow flowers in the last week sending its arching flower spikes up and over the *cestrum purpureum*, *brunfelsia grandiflora* and the Marguerite daisies which really do need pruning back now ready for next

spring. The dark form of *S. wagneriana* which I added to the garden three year ago is quite different to the usual form, equally beautiful though and markedly darker with shorter, stouter flower spikes and a shorter habit. The local honey eaters go crazy on it, so perhaps it tastes good too.

About 18 months ago I decided to try to flood and drought proof my salvia collection by planting the same type of salvia in different parts of the yard and also by taking cuttings more regularly than I usually do. My idea being to have multiple plantings, so I can repopulate where the odd one succumbs to the weather (or neglect), and have fresh younger plants coming on to replace the old timers that just never come back from a good prune. I now have three large *S.* 'Timboon' and two *S. involucrata* 'Bethellii' just beginning to flower and looking very lovely indeed sprawling through the Cranberry hibiscus (*hibiscus acetosella*). Unfortunately, *S. involucrata* 'Joan' is either hiding or has succumbed to neglect. She has always been rather reluctant in my garden, for some reason. Along the north west fence where it is mostly sunny, (a little dappled shade) there are still a few flowers on the smaller leaved *S.* 'Penny's Smile' with her mid pink flowers, the lovely peach pink *S.* 'La Siesta', dark pink *S.* 'Bullet Proof' and *S.* 'Glare' which is the only cream/white salvia that I have as *S.* 'Peg' did not survive the extended dry. *Salvia coccinea* 'Tavistock' is now 90cms tall with a quite narrow spread. The lovely pale peach flowers have very attractive darker shading on the lower lip and together with its light, bright green foliage brightens up the shady spot it occupies under one of the *S. wagneriana*. While only time will tell if my multiple plantings are useful in safeguarding the collection, it has certainly provided more colour for my autumn garden. I am looking forward to extending the collection even further, in early spring, before the weather gets too hot. Wherever you are gardening, I wish you all the best and may there be lots of 'salvia colour' in your gardens.

A Sebastopol (Ballarat) Garden

Laurelle Willis, Sebastopol, Victoria

Just a small area, maybe 30ft, the length of the house building and perhaps 10ft wide, surrounded by metal fences and brick house walls, this space is well packed with all manner of plants, not all by any means Salvias, but by diversification I hope to always manage to have something blooming. After such devastating frosts last year, really my first season here, I decided I'd allow the Salvias another year, then if I suffered the same frosts I'd simply remove them and begin again with my other love, Roses.

Ahh well, thus far the Gods have smiled on us and the frosts have not appeared, early days of course but the Salvias are enormous; *S.* 'Pink Icicles' well past the 6' fence and *S. myriantha* too peeks above the fence. I've been boasting and sending photos to all and sundry BUT the other morning - doing 'matron's rounds' - my *S.* 'Pink Icicles' no longer had any shoots taller than the fence. WHAT!!!!

Didn't take too long to realise the back neighbour very evidently enjoyed the blooms too as every single stem above the fence line had been snipped off (as in secateurs), fortunately I do retain the photos to attest to my claim.



Salvia 'Pink Icicles'

The birds continue to be attracted to the many Summer/Autumn bloomers as they too have kept flowering with the constant nipping back I do and with a background of the heritage rose 'General Gallieni', some of the lovely purples of the shrubby Salvias are indeed striking.

The 'Friends' at the Botanical gardens (yes, here they're called the botanical) are currently negotiating with Lyndi for a date to visit and talk about the species. I'm aware that the interest here is enormous and as currently supply is mostly via the local nurseries, the

varieties are fairly restricted. I'm fortunate indeed to have friendly folk happy to source my 'desires' for me. Hopefully we'll have sufficient numbers to make the visit worthwhile for Lyndi. I'm also working towards encouraging a small group to go down to visit *Nobelius* in Emerald, a pipe dream currently really.

Wishing everyone a happy gardening season and soon the Spring bulbs will be blooming encouraging all to discover the 'gems' quietly developing without much input from busy people.

A Common Sage

Meridith Hutchinson, Abbotsford Vic
(*editor Herb Society of Vic- The Herb Age*)

They say wisdom is for the wise
But maybe my label belies
For even from an early age
I am always known as a sage
Salvia Officinalis is my name
But I'm called 'common' all the same
My blooms mass mauve from my stems
Attracting bees as I intend
My leaves the colour of winter's day
Are a soft, greenish, bluey, grey
And often picked as good to eat
Tossed in butter, served with meat
Mixed with cheese in a muffin
Or with onion for the stuffing
But my talents go beyond the meal
It is said that I can heal
For aromatherapy I am used
To rouse the mind and sooth your moods
For rheumatism and inflammation
And there are many more applications
I'm good for throat, gums and teeth
The digestive tract, my speciality
For bloating and stomach cramps
Try a my tea to revamp
So you see I have many guises
Perhaps my name is the wisest
For it is written on the page
I am both common and a sage

Victorian Salvia Study Group (VSSG)

844 Highbury Road
Glen Waverly VIC 3150

Profit & Loss Statement

1/07/2013 through 30/06/2014

16/07/2014

Income

Subscriptions	\$1,665
Book Sales	\$228
Plant Sales	\$12,191
Seed Sales	\$69

Total Income, \$14,153

Cost of Sales

Betsy Clebsch Book	-\$108
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Total Cost of Sales -\$108

Gross Profit \$14,261

Expenses

Purchase Betsy Clebsch Book	\$288
Plant Tags	\$283
Plant Supplies	\$4,459
Subscriptions	\$45
Membership	\$30
Rental of Display Stall	\$1,356
Merchant Fees	\$132
Printing	\$2,688
Salvia News	\$1,314
Advertising Banner	\$219
Display Stands	\$509
Garden Supplies (Soil & Mulch)	\$115
Donations	\$200
Stationery Supplies	\$996
Photo Copying	\$79
Web Hosting	\$385
Magnetic Name Tags	\$92
Security	\$17
Postage	\$82

Total Expenses \$13,293

Operating Profit \$968

Statement prepared by VSSG Treasurer: Gordon Donaldson email nodrog@myacn.net.au

PROBLEMS WITH INCORRECT LABELLING

Lyndi Garnett, Glen Waverley Vic

This article is what can sometimes happen in Nurseries who don't know their Salvias well enough and hope to gain more of a market share.

Some of the problems we have with incorrect labelling

These are some of the incorrect listing of Salvia plants found on nursery's websites.

Please be aware of these labels, don't be duped and find that you have bought the same plant, with a different name.

S. greggii 'Navajo Dark Purple' = *S. coahuilensis* a dark blue purple. 'Navajo Purple' has a violet purple flower, the stems are coloured, dark calyx and dark flower stem. Leaves are dark green, narrow and shiny.

S. coahuilensis has a blue purple flower, stems are green, calyx and flower stem are green. Lvs are longer, wider and a mat green.

S. greggii 'Navajo White' = *greggii* 'Alba', make sure that the stock is *greggii* Alba and **NOT** *S. 'Snow White'*. I have found a few 'Snow White' among the 'Albas'.

S. greggii 'Navajo Pink' = *greggii* 'Sierra Pink'

S. greggii 'Navajo Rose' = *greggii* 'Raspberry Royale'

S. x guaranitica 'Plum' = 'Desley' 'Plum' is not a *guaranitica* x but a *splendens* x.

S. guaranitica 'Tequila Blue' = *S. 'Tequila Blue'* – we've taken out the name of *guaranitica* as it still scares people off and adds confusion. They know that *guaranitica* runs everywhere, but 'Tequila Blue' does not. *S. guaranitica* may have been its grandmother.

S. chamaedryoides 'Marine Blue' = just *S. chamaedryoides* **NO** 'Marine Blue' attached. These are two different plants with different growth habits.

If you order a tray of this/these, are you going to get *S. chamaedryoides* or *S. 'Marine Blue'* or a mixture of both?

S. chamaedryoides has small elliptical leaves, entire edges, silver grey, more silver in the summer in full sun. Small growing, veins are only visible when plant and leaves are older. Flowers are not as dark, they have a definite white bee line, flower stem not as stiff, nor is it coloured as much as *S. 'Marine Blue'*

S. 'Marine Blue' – larger plant, blue grey lvs, wider, heart shaped, crenated edges, veins visible at all stages – longer, stiffer flower stem, bigger flowers, more on the stems. Flower stem dark, dark calyx.

S. coahuilensis 'Blue Lightening' = just *coahuilensis* NO hybrid or fancy names attached.

It has dark purple blue flowers. All parts of plant are green – green stems, green calyx, mat green larger leaves than 'Navajo Purple'.

S. 'Navajo Purple' has violet purple flowers, stems are coloured, lvs, thin, shiny darker green, dark calyx and flower stem.

S. greggii 'Keegan' = *S. 'Keegan'* it is a seedling cross, not a proper *greggii*, so take that out of the name, it is also very similar to its parent *greggii* bicolor.

S. guaranitica 'Blue Majestic' = just *S. guaranitica* NO tagged on names

S. guaranitica 'Argentine Skies' & 'Black & Blue' are straight *guaranitica*'s – producing tubers and or producing insidious roots that run everywhere.

S. 'Violet Eyes' is a generation down – they have been crossed with something to make it perennial. It is still very upright, can go down in cold areas in winter, but no tuber, nor does it spread. Take the *guaranitica* out of the name

S. 'Tequila Blue' is a further generation down again – mating with something to make it bushy and branching out, lvs, not hairy. Take the *guaranitica* out of the name. It's no longer a *guaranitica* but a cross in its own right. Possible mother to *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'* again, no longer a *guaranitica*, but its own hybrid.

S. microphylla microphylla 'Baby Sage' = *microphylla* 'Baby Sage'.

This is very similar to 'Miss Scarlet' only smaller in every sense and calyx and flower stems are green.

S. namiensis 'Finn Grove' = *S. namiensis*

S. 'Finn Grove', two entirely different plants.

Again, if you order a tray of these, are you getting the little *namiensis* or the larger 'Finn Grove' or both?

S. namiensis is the spp mother
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Plant Profile – *Salvia* ‘Annie’

Pat Anderson

Plant Name: *Salvia* ‘Annie

Family: *Lamiaceae* **Genus:** *Salvia*

(No common name or synonym applicable)

Cultivar Name derivation: after Ann Butterworth, in whose garden in Yarrambat, this plant originated

Of the address: 39 Bannons Lane, Yarrambat, Victoria, in the year 2013

Origin: A chance seedling emerged in a gravel pathway, close to a specimen of *Salvia* ‘Anthony Parker’. The seedling resembled this plant in leaf and flowering time, but when the flowers emerged, they were a lovely purple colour and it was deemed that the plant was worth keeping. From the photographs and description, it is clear that *Salvia leucantha* must be involved in the parentage. Ann’s garden is full of small birds whose long, narrow beaks would be able to assist with spreading the pollen of a flower with a narrow corolla tube, like *Salvia leucantha*. Several other salvia cultivars, in addition to *Salvia* ‘Anthony Parker’ share this parentage, such as *Salvia* ‘Waverly’, *Salvia* ‘Phyllis Fancy’, *Salvia* ‘Blue Abyss’, *Salvia* ‘Meigan’s Magic’ and *Salvia* ‘Magenta Magic’.



Figure 1: *Salvia* ‘Annie B’

Foliage:

Lanceolate, 10cm x 3cm, base rounded, apex pointed, margins slightly crenulated, with fine hairs on the lower surface, especially along the veins.

Inflorescence: numerous purple flowers in verticils of up to 6 flowers, closely packed along racemes of 17cm, with flowers developing at the same time. Individual flowers have the same distinctive upward curve part way along the corolla tube as those of *Salvia leucantha*, and are equally hairy on both lips. The stigma is also hairy with the upper fork curling up and back as it emerges from the upper lip. The corolla tubes extend roughly 15mm beyond the calyces. The calyces are purple and greenish, hairy and veined. The stamens are inserted.

Other Comments: This new cultivar appears to have a shrubby habit, with woodier stems than *Salvia leucantha* and without the floppy habit of *Salvia* ‘Magenta Magic’. It appears to be reasonably hardy to frost. The lovely purple colour makes it a worthwhile garden plant, being significantly different from either the magenta colour of *Salvia leucantha* ‘Midnight’ (syn ‘Harry’s Red’ or ‘Magenta’) or the indigo colour of *Salvia* ‘Anthony Parker’ or ‘Blue Abyss’. In bud, the flowers appear almost light blue.

While photographs do not easily portray purple colours particularly well, hopefully the differences between the different cultivars are reasonably clear below.



Figure 2: left to right - *S.* ‘Anthony Parker’, ‘Annie B’, *leucantha* ‘Magenta’, ‘Annie B’

Editor’s Note: Pat mentioned this new *Salvia* in an article (page 10) in the Spring 2013 *Salvia News* edition no 53.

Moving on with More Salvias!

Julie Campbell, Vic.

OGA - Open Garden 13 & 14 September 2014

*raising money for the Cancer Research and the Oncology Unit at Wangaratta Hospital
Julie and Gary Campbell, Birchwood Near Benalla 653 O'Dea Road, Molyullah*

Autumn was a very busy time at Birchwood! In our garden this year we have opened up space for even more salvias by removing a large pig face bed on a sloping bank, as well as a very thuggish agapanthus border. We have also dug out the Louisiana Iris and placed it in pots for selling or donating. I will simply save my favourites after they flower

After placing about forty new salvias, I think I will have reached my 2014 goal of 200 different salvias. I have discovered it is a lot easier to be carried away with buying new salvias than it is to find the correct position for them. After seeing the lovely shade Meg's salvias have in her garden, I realized (again) that I have to stop choosing shade loving salvias



Salvia confertiflora

We are thrilled to bits with *Salvia confertiflora*. We bought a few two years ago and placed them in different aspects. We now have two vibrant specimens that have been flowering for months. The red is so vibrant! They are very happy with shade from midday.

My dry area is coming on now. A few leucophyllas and a radula are placed with other grey leafed salvias. I feel that I have rescued the dry creek bed area for the drier species. There are daffodils, blue bells and watsonias to add diversity in Spring. When I had placed thirty two of the new salvias I started trimming the greggiis and microphyllas. Quite daunting to discover how many! Oh dear. Adenophora is extremely huge and floppy because I didn't cut it back in early Summer. Fortunately I managed to give rubuginosa a trim, but looking around the garden in June, I see a few Winter flowering salvias that should have been trimmed a bit more. My favourite, oxyphora is looking good

though. It is loving its shady position and the water it received through the Summer.



A month ago I appraised a bed of salvias that had one year's growth, and realized that Costa Rican blue, Honeymelon, Mystique, a leucantha and Black and Blue were all basically on top of each other! Planted MUCH too close together. I took a deep breath and started digging them out. I have moved two Costa Rican blues and Mystique (a huge microphylla!). I have plans for the leucantha. Suddenly a congested bed looks much better! We have had a month of frequent rain so I'm pretty sure I got away with it. Next to go is an iceberg rose. I don't think that caudata has been given enough room.

Last year we were delighted to be included in the Open Gardens Australia (OGA) for our Open Garden Days in November. This year we are opening on the 13th and 14th of September to raise money for Cancer Research, and the Oncology Unit at Wangaratta Hospital. We have our own personal experience of cancer and we feel the need to help the fight against this dreadful disease. We have set up a direct link for donors through a page with the Council called "I Will". If you have been feeling motivated to donate to this worthy cause, this could be the ideal vehicle for you! If by some unlucky chance garden lovers are unable to make the trip in September, I am hoping that

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Moving on with More Salvias

...continued from page 11

they will make an on line donation in lieu of their entry. (In the spirit of the brotherhood of gardeners!) We have chosen September for two reasons. Firstly, there will be many salvias flowering. Secondly, daffodils, tulips, clivias and quite a few other bulbs, (testament to our life long addiction to spring flowering bulbs), will be flowering. I will be running a plant stall over the two days with salvias, dahlia tubers and other divisions from the garden. Our Facebook page: Birchwood Near Benalla has many images of the garden that you may like to refer to. If you choose to “like” our Facebook page that would be great.

If you are looking for a second garden to visit in the area, I can highly recommend the salvia display at the Benalla Botanic Gardens. I only saw it for the first time this Autumn. It is really extensive with many large salvias in several generously large beds. They are behind the rose garden and to the left of the gallery. The Gallery restaurant also has a discount lunch for group bookings. The view overlooking the lake is second to none!

Please contact me at: juliecampbellcecil@gmail.com with any questions about the Open Days or the “I will” link entered below Julie and Gary Campbell, Birchwood near Benalla, 653 O’Dea Road, Molyullah

Please donate to Cancer Council through our “I will” link

Photography and Computers

Patrick Hogan, Ferntree Gully Vic

12 Salvia Study Group newsletter subscribers attended the above meeting given by Patrick Hogan at Dion Street in Ferntree Gully on Sunday 13th July 2014. After a warm up cup of coffee equal time was given to the topics of Photography and Computers. It was very soon obvious that two hours was not enough time to cover the many sensible questions raised during the presentation, especially when every person may have a different camera and a different computer system to the one in the presentation. Many questions were answered and many questions were also raised during the lively presentation. One of the most important items that was conveyed was that you have to experiment in order to get the right settings for your photograph. Using the Auto mode on cameras is fine but taking control of such items as Aperture, ISO and shutter speed will result in a better photograph – after a little experimenting. I recommended that each participant take 10 photos using various settings and then when your photos are on your computer, look at the difference between each photograph. When you are happy with the best photo look at its properties (right click in windows and select properties) where you will find all the properties belonging to the photo – date taken, ISO, Aperture settings, shutter speed etc and you will soon find out what combination of settings best suit your requirements. With a little patience and some practice everyone can take good photos.

The diagram below explains briefly how the three selectable items in the camera settings are related.

ISO	SHUTTER SPEED	APERTURE
<p>Measures the sensitivity of the camera’s image sensor to light</p> <p>Lower numbers (100, 200, 400) Indicate a lower sensitivity to light</p> <p>Higher numbers (800+) Indicate a lower sensitivity to light</p> <p>Keep in mind: Lower ISO’s will produce cleaner, smoother images</p> <p>Higher ISO’s will show more grain or “noise”</p>	<p>Determines how long the shutter stays open for light to come in and hit the sensor</p> <p>Slower speeds (2”, 1”, 1/50) Require a very steady hand or tripod</p> <p>Most commonly beneficial in dark situations, but can also be used for fun effects with moving objects</p> <p>Faster Speeds (1/125+)</p> <p>Produce sharper images and can make moving objects appear frozen in place</p>	<p>Refers to the size of the lens when the picture is taken and how much light enters the lens.</p> <p>Measured in f stops</p> <p>Open Apertures (f/1.4 ,f2.8, f3.5) The lower the number, the less depth of field.</p> <p>The result is beautiful “bokeh” or background blur</p> <p>Closed Apertures (f/8, f/16, f/22) The higher the number, the more depth of field</p> <p>The result is more of your image being in focus</p>

POSSUM MAGIC

Lyndi Garnett, Glen Waverley Vic

Possums, you either hate them or like them, but they certainly are not the lovely wise, kind creatures that Mem Fox portrayed in her book *Possum Magic*.

I have a resident possum in a tall palm tree right next to the house at the rear. The only reason I don't get rid of it is because I know that if this one goes, then another will take its place, so I tolerate whoever is there at the moment.

Possums to me are attractive but never cute. The bushy tails, especially the males are the worst, having huge appetites, eating everything they come across while running along the fences, while the little ringtails are more selective in their choice of food, or at least don't do so much damage.

I heard an unusual noise outside my back door one night, when I looked out the door, I saw a mother ringtail with a baby on her back having a meal from the kitchen scraps that I had accidentally forgotten to put into the compost. She looked attractive and nice with her baby, but not cute!

Another time I was in the kitchen, when I heard a huge thud, only to find that my possum (bushytail) had fallen from his home in my palm tree right down into a pot of waterlilies. He just sat there not knowing what had happened, completely soaking wet, dripping and sodden. He looked so forlorn I burst out laughing, but I 'm sure he didn't think it was a laughing matter at the time. When he regained his senses, he eventually made his way up the palm tree again. That made my day.

So often at night we would see the possum (and the neighbour's cat which I disliked) run along the fence top. We would of course yell and scream for it to clear off and other things, the possum would stop, look at us and then continue on his merry way, probably muttering under his breath – 'Those stupid humans, do they think they can stop me?'

Last year I had a terrible time with the possum/s, possibly a male bushytail, as they have voracious appetites. It was the first year that they had begun to eat my tall *Salvias* along the fence line – my beautiful *Salvia iodantha* coming into bloom, the *Salvia karvinskii*, *Salvia* 'Timboon' and the *Salvia* 'Romantic Rose', all in bud, and then stripped to twigs!! The possum also came down and grazed over all my newly planted pots. I was not happy, as you can imagine, I lost a lot of my pots last year.

So what to do. There are a number of ideas that have been suggested that I'm trying.

Tying containers of water to the top of the fence – I've heard that they don't like water, I'm spraying

SCAT to the top of the fence and on the effected *Salvias*, but I have to do this frequently and especially after it has rained. I have heard of a few other measures that are a bit unsavoury that have a more permanent result, but that can be discussed privately, later.

I do know what they don't like: stinging nettles in the vegie patch – the possums don't like getting their noses stung, so now I have to wear gloves and hunt for my vegetables among the nettles.

They don't seem to like the neighbour's Potato Vine, nor do I but (one *Salvia* saved) nor do they seem to like Jacaranda trees, another *Salvia* saved. They don't seem to like stuffing sage or common and Westmoreland Thyme, Dog Bane (*Plectranthus* syn *Coleus*) or any strong smelling herbs. These should be grown around the perimeter of a planter box or along the edge of a bed as a hedge. It is difficult to find a solution for trees and large bushes, especially when they have reduced a beautiful *Camellia*, *Photinia* or *Rose* to a skeleton of sticks.

While I'm working out how to stop him from eating my tall *Salvias* along the fence, each night he is weaving his Possum magic.

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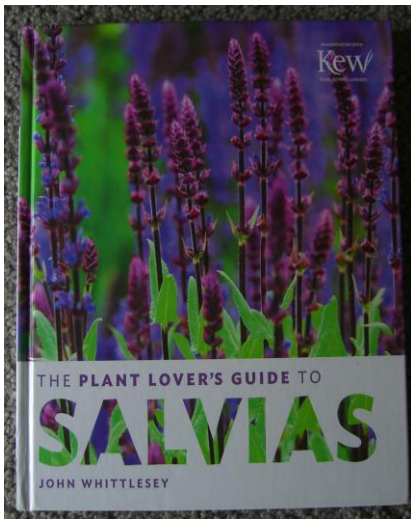
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NEW SALVIA BOOK –

A PLANT LOVER'S GUIDE TO SALVIAS John Whittlesey Heather Lucas, Heathmont, Vic

Hmmm, where do I begin, I've never written a book review before and of course I'm not a guru on botanical or technical terms for plants, but as a salvia fanatic and layman gardener, here we go.

Part of my reason for being a bit trepidatious about doing this book review is that I knew that one had been done in the Salvia Association of Australia's recent newsletter by Pat Anderson from Warrandyte in Melbourne. I'm sure most salvia lovers have heard of Pat's wonderful salvia garden and the fact that she is so knowledgeable about plant terminology and salvias only added to my concern. So I deliberately did not read Pat's article before I wrote this one, but I will be reading it tonight and devouring every word. Maybe I'll be more worried tonight when I read her article, but by then it will have been emailed to Beth Clisby and I'm hoping that every person has a different aspect to report.



When Sue Templeton mentioned to a group of salvia garden visitors that there was a new salvia book coming out, I was so excited and wanted to obtain it straight away. To wait

until it became available was agony. I have every book on salvias (and often go to bed reading them all over again and looking at the photos of the salvias. So I guess you could say to get a new one to read and peruse was just heaven. There was also the promise that apparently the photography was fabulous.

So I was scouring ebay one morning for new salvia plants and seeds and lo and behold on the bottom of the ebay page was an entry for Booktopia with three books displayed, one of them being The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias by John Whittlesey and I thought, this is it. Naturally I ordered it straight away and received it the following week.

To me it is a gorgeous book with wonderful photographs and information on salvias. The main contents of the book are sections on 'Why I Love Salvias, Designing with Flowers, Fragrance and Foliage, Understanding Salvias, 150 Salvias for the Garden and Growing and Propagating. This book is written by John Whittlesey, a nurseryman, garden designer, landscape contractor, and avid amateur photographer, who also owns Canyon Creek Nursery and Design in interior Northern California. So as this book comes from America it does have some salvias in it which we don't have available to us, which adds to the enjoyment of the book and

don't we always love seeing something new or different. What I really loved about the book was in the chapter '150 Salvias for the Garden' they listed the salvia and then had the following categories; Type, Habit and Size, Hardiness, Origin, Cultivation, Landscape Use and Related Plants. Also great was that they had the imperial and metric measurements. I am often on Robin Middleton's salvia site from the United Kingdom and the salvias are only listed in feet and I have to convert to metres so I know where to put some salvias. For anyone who is interested in looking at his site, it is called Robin's Salvias and he has just listed 20 new salvias, so if you go to <http://www.robinssalvias.com/latest.htm>, you can have a look at them on his site.

Besides looking at the wonderful photos of salvias, you really do get some great ideas from this book. I have already copied a planting of salvias in a terracotta pot (page 193) which has *S. Pachyphylla* and *S. fruticosa* in it. These 2 salvias like well drained soil and not a lot of water and to date I think I have killed off about 4 *Pachyphylla*'s (I'm a bit better with the *Fruticosa*), so I felt giving them a try in a pot might help my success rate. I also added a *S. aurita* var. *Galpinii* to hopefully flow over the sides (might have to keep cutting this one back to keep

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A PLANT LOVER'S GUIDE TO SALVIAS - Heather Lucas

...continued from page 15

it compact), I also added some gravel stones into the soil and as a topping for the pot, which was what the book recommended.

Another photo that caught my eye on page 192 was of a Denver parking strip. This totally reminded me of Beth Clisby's article 'Planting out the Verge' in the last *Salvia News* winter edition. I have noticed that there are more and more parking strips (verges) that are being planted with lots of different plants, from succulents to hardier types of plants, salvias of course being very suitable. In the photo in the book they planted *S. recognita* and *S. cyanescens* with gaillardia, iris and yarrow. I also am reminded of another salvia member, Geoff Crowhurst, in Thornbury, Melbourne, who planted out his parking strip and then kept going by planting out his neighbours as well. I must try to find the article that Geoff wrote on his plantings, that of course is the joy of re-reading *Salvia News*. There is also the parking strip at Lyndi Garnett's

home in Glen Waverley, Melbourne which has lots of *S. greggii*'s and *S. microphylla*'s with small white stones as a topping that is really beautiful. I'm sure by now Beth's verge has put on lots more growth and filled out more than in the photos in her article. I think maybe I should chew up a bit more of my front garden by doing a salvia bed on my parking strip, although being in a court it is not separated by a path and I think that I may have to get the Local Council's approval. Wouldn't want to do all the hard work of digging and planting, to find out that I have to remove it!!

There are several sites on the internet that are selling this book and luckily for anyone now wanting to purchase it, the price has come down quite a bit. I think I purchased mine for about \$35.00. Online sources include www.booktopia.com.au \$29.50, www.bookdepository.com \$27.19, www.fishpond.com.au \$27.46, plus postage. This book is well

worth adding to any salvia fanatic's collection.

I'll end this article listing a couple of my favorite salvias found in this wonderful book and maybe it will wet your appetites to go and purchase this book for your own collection.

Salvia Brandegeei 'Pacific Blue' – a native Californian sage with narrow, pebbled deep green leaves and deeply coloured lavender-blue flowers. This photo has a butterfly nestling on a flower, very pretty.

Salvia x jamensis 'Golden Girl' – a wonderful photo of this cross between *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*, which is a warm shade of creamy yellow, with a bee in the photo.

Salvia puberula 'El Butano' – a beautiful photo of the *S. Puberula* *S. Involucrata* selection with dense clusters of magenta-pink flowers with a hummingbird in the photo.

Looks like I love butterflies, bees and hummingbirds – got to go – till next time.

Apology

Re the article Meg Bentley's Open Garden Visit on page 8 in the last edition of *Salvia News* (number 56), the photo *S. rumicifolia* x *sagittata* is NOT correct. If you had such a cross, then the plant would look the same and you couldn't tell if it was a cross or not.

The photo shows the leaves quite plainly and should be *S. rumicifolia* x *macrophylla*. Thankyou Lyndi for picking it up. Apologies for any confusion caused.

The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias

By John Whittlesey

2014 Timber Press (available from Florilegium in Sydney \$35 + postage and online from various sources)

Book Review – Pat Anderson, Warrandyte, Vic – June 2014

The anticipated arrival of a new book on salvias is always exciting and I wasn't disappointed when my copy arrived. This new book is by John Whittlesey, a nurseryman, landscape designer and amateur photographer from Northern California.

The book will please any gardener who is also a salvia enthusiast. As well as being in hardback form, with an abundance of photographs, it has an excellent opening section on why salvias are so Useful as garden plants as well as how they can be used in different garden settings and climates and even in containers, and it is strong on choosing suitable plant combinations for mutual enhancement in the garden.

The largest section of the book covers 150 species and cultivars, including some of the latest introductions, such as *Salvia* 'Amistad', each with a photograph and a succinct description under the headings: 'Type, habitat and site', 'Hardiness zone', 'Origin', 'Cultivation' and 'Landscape use', and just occasionally, an extra section on 'Related plants'. The rest of the book comprises two relatively short, but excellent sections on matters like growing and propagating salvias and where to see and acquire salvias, both in the USA and overseas, including Australia.

Having said that the book will please any salvia gardener, I should add that it is naturally biased towards gardeners in the USA. Many species described as half-hardy or tender are definitely hardy in southern Victoria (my perspective) and the reference to hardiness zones is very much a concept of the USDA (US Dept of

Agriculture), as detailed in a table at the back, referring to the range of minimum temperatures for each zone. This concept is a bit meaningless to me, as I think of hardiness in relation to high temperature extremes and drought conditions as well.

The book content is accurate, with no spelling errors in plant names (unlike 'La Connaissance des Sauges' by Christian Froissart), but for me, it lacks the botanical content of the latter, as well as that of Betsy Clebsch's 'New Book of Salvias' or information on the local cultivars that can be read about in Meg Bentley's 'Manual for Salvia Growers', which is relevant to gardeners in Victoria. The beauty of this latest book from the USA, however, is in the concise, clarity of the plant descriptions, with a photograph of each plant next to the description.

It is possible to fire a few criticisms: For example, the author gets out of clearly distinguishing between *Salvia nubicola* and *Salvia glutinosa* (similar flower and habit) by presenting a photograph of the flower of one and the foliage of the other. Furthermore, there is little indication of specific flowering time for each plant, although that of course will vary with location, nor which ones will be winter dormant or indeed, how far some might spread, also a function of location. This criticism is therefore probably unjust as the

author is trying to make the book more widely relevant.

I was surprised at the suggestion of suitability of some species for container growing. With a plant like *Salvia madrensis*, for example, that can rapidly march sideways here, I wonder for how long it might thrive in a pot? The author, however, frequently makes the point that with such rapid growth, many salvias can be treated as annuals, so that probably answers my query.

A few specifics: The photo of *Salvia hians* looks very much like the '*hians NOT*' that results from most seed purchases – i.e. it is very similar to *Salvia przewalskii* or one of the several similar species from China. The author talks about *Salvia namaensis* as having dark green feathery foliage, while to me, its beauty is in the light, lime green appearance of the foliage. His description of *Salvia canariensis*, with hairy stems and leaves, sounds very much like *Salvia canariensis* var *candidissima*. And surely *Salvia somalensis* is from Somalia, not South Africa. Also the author doesn't mention the ease of hybridisation between species in groups of salvias, such as the Californian species in the *Audibertia* group, or the Chinese salvias, which can lead to unreliability in imported seed here. Betsy Clebsch is very clear on the frequency of

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The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias - Pat Anderson

...continued from page 17

hybridisation.

In the descriptive section, the 150 plants appear in alphabetical order, by species, including cultivars of species (e.g. *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winifred Gilman', but where a plant is a hybrid of known parentage, the author uses the cultivar name only (e.g. *Salvia* 'Carl Nielson' – a cross between *S. clevelandii* and *S. mohavensis*). Now there is always scope for confusion where cultivar names are concerned. For example, the author describes *S. caudata* 'El Cielo Blue'. For an Australian reader, the description pertains, for all intents and purposes, to that of *Salvia caudata*, while the cultivar name is one applied here to a totally different species, or cultivar, also known as 'Blue Chiquita'. Perhaps we should stick to the latter – and let's not go near 'Coconut Ice'!! But this is unfair and is criticism of Australian matters not of the book in questions.

Some of the positives about the book for me are: The name 'Sally Greenwood', which is given to a *Salvia coahuilensis*, *S. chamaedryoides* cross. Not only does this plant resemble a similar chance seedling in my own garden, but the name may be behind a plant I bought in Mitre 10 a year or 2 ago, called, *Salvia* 'Sally G Vanilla'. I often wondered about this one. Another positive is the good coverage of the species from California and SW USA that I love – *S. apiana*, *S. clevelandii*, *S. pachyphylla* etc, as well as some of the dry hardy ones from Turkey. These tend to be difficult to grow and difficult to obtain here, which makes them all the more alluring.

In summary, I am very pleased to have another book on salvias in my collection, especially one that gives more emphasis to some of my favourite salvias than previous books have. At \$35 (plus postage, if ordered

from Sydney) or probably less if ordered online, it is a good buy. For Australian readers/gardeners, a combination of Betsy Clebsch's and Meg Bentley's books is probably the most useful set of salvia bibles, supplemented by information from Robin Middleton's comprehensive website as well as Sue Templeton's re-vamped website. And for the French-speaking botanist, Christian Froissart's book has to be the most comprehensive. But for a gardener seeking clear, concise descriptions in a systematic format, with suggestions for planting combinations, this new book is excellent.

This Review has appeared in the July edition of the Salvia Association of Australia's newsletter

PROBLEMS WITH INCORRECT LABELLING

...continued from page 9

of 'Finngrove' – a very small plant 30cm with small tightly lobed leaves. Leaves are a pale yellow green.

S. 'Finngrove' is a much tall/bigger plant – to 1.2mH, leaves longer, darker green, bigger lobes, more lanky if grown in too much shade. Best grown hard in full sun.

Flowers are a pale blue, much larger than *S. namiensis*.

I hope these descriptions are helpful. We would appreciate if the fancy names were taken off, especially where there are none. People are not stupid anymore with the amount of easy information

available. People want to have the correct plant names these days. We know that most nurseries are trying to get the names correct.

If there are any doubts about the correct name for any *Salvia* plants, then send me a photo for identification, Lyndi Garnett, email; lgarnett844@gmail.com

A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

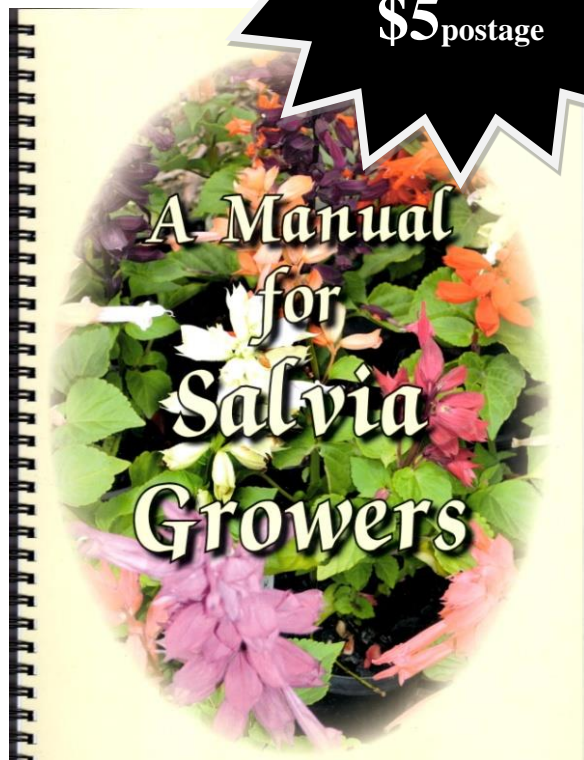
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- Colourful Tints of Stressed Leaves
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- Where to see Salvias
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A Manual for Salvia Growers by Meg Bentley can be ordered from:

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