

# Salvia News

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Official Newsletter of the  
**Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc**

[www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au)

Autumn 2022

# VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP inc

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Find us on  **Salvia Study Group Vic**

## THE AIMS OF THE SALVIA STUDY GROUP ARE;

1. To grow and collect Salvias for the purpose of enjoyment and study
2. Promote and encourage the growing of Salvias
3. Correctly name existing and new salvias
4. Maintain our Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park for the Group & the general public

The Group is a Not for Profit Organisation. Any monies received are used to run the Group's activities and for the planting and maintenance of our GPCAA (Garden Plants Conservation Association of Australia) registered garden collection. ('Plants Trust' has been a shortened, more comprehensive name for the GPCAAA and has been used for quite a while now).

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Have you been watching the latest Monty Don series on American gardens? Like his previous sets on Japanese and French gardens, I've loved how it provokes me to think about the purpose of gardening. Whether a garden is aimed at contemplation, ostentation, demonstration of control, or display of a category of plants (among other aims) a central element is observation, and the feeling that the garden gives us by being in it. Even community vegetable gardens are arguably as much about being there together as they are about harvesting food.

Another demonstration of the infinite fascination of gardens is their capacity to be viewed at all levels. You might appreciate the grand symmetry and engineered spectacle of Versailles as much as the tiny elegance of a single native orchid flower, or the restraint of a White Garden as much as the spectrum of a Prairie Garden. If being in a garden has inspired us, then the garden has proved itself to be something special, don't you think?

This Autumn edition has some great articles on observation, with some individual takes on garden visits and inspiration to get out there and see more. Meg takes us right up close (a hand lens is cheap and opens up a new aspect of your garden), and Maureen contemplates the colour blue. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have and get some inspiration to get out there among your salvias.

*Stephen*



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**Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is  
 9th May 2022**

Please email your articles and photos to: [vssged@gmail.com](mailto:vssged@gmail.com)

Cover Photo is *S. dombeyii*. Photo by Lyndi Garnett

**Read more of what's happening next year on page 18.**

We began the year by visiting the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. A beautiful restful place to begin the year and we will continue to visit more wonderful gardens throughout the year, so come and join us.

**MAR SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH | Ferny Creek Plant Collectors Sale & Garden Expo | 100 Hilton Rd (south end) Sassafras – 10am-4pm**

It's on again, the first major garden event for the year, so come and see our fresh summer Salvia collection waiting to be found.

Salvia books and cards for sale. Bring plants to be identified.

Place orders now so you don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Email Lyndi: lgarnett844@gmail.com Ph: 9803 4534.

**MAR SUN 20TH | Geelong Garden Visit | 30 Cityview Dve, Wandana Heights – 11am**

This is a magnificent garden with so much to see where ever you look. This is a garden not to be missed. Carpooling may be necessary.

Bring a lunch plate to share. Tea / Coffee will be provided.

Phone Lyndi if coming Ph 9803 4534.

Phone Judy Medlyn Ph 0432 939 051.

**APR SAT 23RD & SUN 24TH | Yarra Valley Autumn Festival | 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 10am-5pm**

Come and check out our autumn collection of Salvias.

Salvias of every colour, sun or shade, tall or small.

Salvia books will be on sale. Bring flowers/ leaves to be identified.

Pre order your plants NOW so you don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Email or phone Lyndi with inquiries or order Ph 9803 4534.

Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

**MAY SUN 15TH | Garden Visit to Jan Wood's Garden | 16 Wellesley Rd, Ringwood North – 11.30am**

A beautiful garden to wander through. So many rare and unusual plants, all balanced and working together in gorgeous garden setting under shady trees with all the autumnal tonings.

All members welcome. Bring a plate to share and a chair.

Phone Jan if coming Ph 0421 688 630.

Phone Lyndi to check numbers Ph 9803 4534.



# What has been going on at Nobelius 2021?

By Lyndi Garnett

Well, what has been going on at Nobelius all last year? A lot, as far as Jillian and I are concerned.

We have been going up each week – all those weeks during lockdown etc. and have been steadily working and achieving sometimes a lot or sometimes not so much each time we go up. But each week, you could tell we had been and that is an achievement.

We began on the bottom Red Bed at the beginning of last year and slowly progressed up the slope. What we did do that was different was that we divided the bed into small sections, so when we had finished that section completely, we could move on to another.

Jillian attacked the big Salvias and I attacked the smaller ones and everything in between. We cleared the area of leaves, pruned and cleaned out each plant. Pruning back heavily if a plant was growing badly, staking if necessary. New Salvias were planted to fill empty spaces. We really wanted the whole area to look full.

When we had finished stomping over the bed, we hoed that section, fed and mulched it well before moving on to the next section. That way we could see where we had been. The bottom bed was completed by the first half of the year. It wasn't long before each plant was putting on new growth and looking healthy.



Bottom beds – needs attention again.



Around June, we began attacking the top Red Bed, again using the same method, pruning, hacking back and planting as we went. Some things were shifted and replanted, others were pulled out that weren't performing well. We finished that bed by early October.

By golly, it looked good, the bed was all nice and clean and no leaves! But it didn't take long before lots of tiny weeds appeared, so the task at the beginning of each week was to go around and weed!



Top Red Bed cleared for winter maintenance all done by Aug – looking sparse but tidy and clean – all mulched

## What has been going on at Nobelius 2021? (cont...)



Nobelius Aug 21 – one side finished, other side to begin

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Now we could move over to the Pink Bed. When I inspected it, that whole bed looked exhausted, starved, none of the Salvias were growing well. Except the big tall Salvias that were well established. I noticed that the soil had an unusual look about it, patchy, so I began digging around these patches only to find they were matted clumps of very fine roots. Beneath these were loads of roots! Cherry roots, which had decided that the Salvia bed was a good place to invade and explore.

When I began digging around some plants I found massive roots – they all seemed to go either very close to or beneath the plant, which proved very difficult to extract without pulling up the whole plant and replanting.

I decided to dig a trench beside the bed to cut through all those roots that thought the Salvia bed was a better option.



Pink top bed cleared and cut back. Trench and pile of roots.

Because of all the roots, I had to begin digging up the whole of the bed. It took about 5 weeks. Each time I think I grew about 2-3 inches, because of the mud. I found roots that extended from one side through to the path!

Despite all the hard work there were a lot of positives: I was able to replant Salvias to a better location, bring clumps together, create spaces for more Salvias and of course build up my muscles. No photos of that!

When digging was completed, the whole bed was well fed with a number of fertilisers, leaves were replaced to help replenish the soil and then the bed was well mulched. This mulching helps to encourage worms.

It didn't take long before the bed began to bloom and say thankyou for all the hard work. Even by our Sale day, the bed was looking better and in December/January, it looks full, loads of colour and all plants thriving.

What now? Well we have to maintain the trench, making sure those roots don't reappear and continue that idea down by the other beds. I won't



Bed dug over Oct 2022.

dig up the other beds but I will try and get rid of as many roots as I can and try to revitalise the beds with lots of fertilisers and mulch.

Of course the finished beds need our attention again – cutting back etc. It's a never-ending story. It's a good thing that Nobelius is a "labour of love".

We would really like members to be able to come up a give a hand for a couple of hours – we could always do with an extra pair of hands, just to get those small jobs done.



Plenty of colour now, fabulous regrowth Dec/ Jan 2022.

# Lambley's 'Crimson Belle'

By Lyndi Garnett

*Extract from Lambley's website:* "Salvia 'Crimson Belle'. This beautiful Salvia was raised by Lyndi Garnett who gave it to Lambley to trial, two years ago. A seedling of 'Penny's Smile'. It carries its beautiful crimson flowers from quite early spring until autumn. In our garden it has grown 120cmH, the flowers being just as large as its parent. Bees love the flowers, although as the flower's lower lip is pressed tightly against the upper lip, both honey bees and native bees pierce the corolla tube near the base to access the nectar.



The horticultural world is thankful for the sterling work that Lyndi Garnett has done promoting the genus Salvia. She is always very generous with her knowledge."

The story behind this little find is; that David really liked 'Penny's Smile' and was always on the lookout for a chance seedling that was different.

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When I found this large crimson flower in my garden, I knew it had come from 'Penny's Smile' and David might possibly be interested in naming and promoting this crimson beauty.

As it grows tall and strong, I took some cuttings and sent them to David.

When they struck and began flowering, I asked him what he was going to call this lovely flower. He immediately suggested naming it after myself, but no way would I agree to that so I suggested 'Crimson Belle', which he gladly accepted. After all it really was the belle of the ball.

I'm extremely glad that it has done so well for David and he can grow and promote it at his Nursery.



# News from southeast Queensland

By Adrienne Starkey, The Perennial Poppies Group inc.

As this very wet summer draws to a close, I'm left with an overwhelming amount of weeding, lopping and chopping ahead of me. Growth has been rampant here on my rocky hillside – not a negative thing, as the plants I love are looking lovely and lush – just what one would wish for in the subtropics. I'll worry about the work later.

My most ambitious summer salvia job was to remove *Salvia madrensis*. No easy decision, as its buttery yellow plumes juxtaposed against a blue sky have utterly delighted me for years, but, teetering around on a steep bank trying to contain its enthusiastic growth has taken its toll. Aging knees and steep banks are not a healthy combination, so common sense has prevailed and *S. madrensis* is gone! In its place are *S. 'Costa Rica Blue'*, *S. canariensis 'Lancelot'*, three *S. 'African Sky'* and several *S. 'Arabella'*. This sounds like too much but there was a big gap to fill and it was a great deal of fun choosing the new ones. In the middle of the 'African Sky' trio, I've placed an old urn with *Rosa 'Spring Song'*. I have a vision!



*Salvia madrensis* with a brown goshawk

Rainfall was so frequent and constant, that, even though I have hillside drainage, soil was overly moist, which did suit many plants, but not so much the *microphylla* group. Many responded with lanky, lush growth, which then withered when the sun hit them. No losses so far, but I did cut back quite hard and as the rains are easing off, I hope for more compact regrowth. Not affected in this way were *S. 'Angel Wings'*, *S. 'Blaze'*, *S. 'Mesa Azure'* and *S. 'Candleglow'*. For me, these four are reliable stalwarts. *Salvia*

'Candleglow' is a great substitution for *S. 'Easter Bonnet'*, whose colour I've always loved, but found to be twiggy and temperamental. 'Candleglow' is a much more dense and robust plant in my garden.

A new salvia for me, giving great joy, is *S. 'Faye Shann'*. As a bicolor, I'm really enjoying the changing hues as it ages. It reminds me a little of the colour changes in *Rosa mutabilis*. Very pretty.



*Salvia 'Faye Shann'*

Others favourites which succumbed to the conditions were *S. semiatrata* and *S. moconoi* (syn. *S. rubiginosa*). These I've replaced, as usually they've been good performers, and I don't want to be without them. *S. 'Mystic Spires'* has sulked, but a light trim has seen it respond well.

I've noticed on recent nursery trips, quite a number of supposed cultivars of *S. farinacea*, all with quite 'cutsie' names. I've bought some, but do wonder how different they will be, especially given that the reliable old *S. farinacea* is readily available in punnets – much easier on the purse if one wants a mass planting. New releases are very welcome if they are different. *S. 'Roman Red'* seems to be very popular and rightly so as it's a lovely blowsy red beacon, which when cut back, grows back quickly, deserving a prominent position.

Soon, the season will change and the autumn/winter flowerers will come into their own. I keenly await the flowering of the beautiful *S. 'Pink Icicles'*, as it is one of my all-time favourites.

For now though, I'm outward bound to attend to some of that weeding.



*Salvia 'Pink Icicles'*

# Blue (and a bit of purple and mauve)

By Maureen Scoble

Blue flowers are many people's favourite. Almost everybody loves blue. Let's start with the ultimate blue, the heartbreak blue, the Holy Grail for gardeners everywhere - *Meconopsis* blue. These plants came from the Himalayas. Discovered by Western plant hunters in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they took the gardening world by storm. Two of the most often grown are *Meconopsis grandis* and *Meconopsis betonicifolia*. Both grow to about 1 m. They hate summer heat so don't think of growing them unless you live in a cold climate. I think they do have some in Tasmania though. I actually saw one plant many years ago in a Scottish garden. I know they grow well in Scotland but I have never seen a meadow full, except in a photo. In Carlton at Readings Book Shop I bought a gardening book about Lady Gardeners. In this book was a garden in the north of England (North Yorkshire Moors). Cold, and beloved by *Meconopsis*. One lady had these plants naturalized under dappled shade. Absolutely breathtaking, there were hundreds and hundreds of them. Dream on.

In the meantime we can be content with our blue salvias and there are some wonderful blues there. Lovely deep rich blue as you get with *Salvia* 'Black and Blue' and *S. corrugata*. *S. macrophylla* I would call a royal blue. Some of the so-called blue salvias I would maybe call purple/blue rather than true blue. I mean salvias like *S. mexicana* 'Limelight' and *S. 'Lolly'*. *S. patens* is definitely a blue as is *S. azurea*. I don't think we could call *S. 'Anthony Parker'* or *S. 'Meigans Magic'* blue at all, more navy. *S. 'Meigans Magic'* I just adore. I do however admit it is a thug. Needs cutting back twice per season really. That way I get a compact plant that looks lovely but does flower later. *S. chamaedryoides* is a fantastic blue. That clear, rich blue goes with its little grey leaves. Tough too. *S. 'Cookie'* is a true blue, and *S. 'Greek Skies'* has wonderful mid blue flowers and lots of them. *S. uliginosa* is well known for its light blue flowers. *S. cacaliifolia* flowers royal blue but they really stand out in dappled shade. It does look lovely.

There are other good blue flowers that I don't grow but wish I could. That wicked vine called *Ipomoea* (Morning Glory) is one I would grow if

I were allowed. What a glorious deep blue that is. I do grow the *Convolvulus mauritanicus*, which is a relative with a clear, sky blue. I have quite a bit of *Ceratostigma willmottianum*, a tough plant and a good, deep blue. The problem is that the individual flowers are small so you need to think about where you plant it. It can get lost.

Campanulas have lots of different blues. The ground cover *C. poscharskana* is sky blue and flowers in Spring. *C. persicifolia* grows about 1M with bell shaped blue flowers. One I will grow this year is *C. glomerata* 'Superba', The clustered bell flower. It has intense violet/blue flowers with big, fat, round heads. Unfortunately it likes damp dappled shade. I must have it just once so I have put it in a big pot, and it can have all the water it wants this year. When it flowers I'll take lots of photos and gloat for many years. Why do we always want to grow what we can't, do you think?

*Ceanothus* have some lovely blues and of course *Nepeta* (catmint) is wonderful. I have a fantastic photo of a garden in England that has a tunnel lined on both sides with *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant' and roses overhead. Magic. *Nepeta* self seeds in my garden. It loves my gravel.

Do you grow the steel blue *Eryngium*? I think that colour needs a strong red to set it off. Any of our small red salvias would do the job except *S. 'Hotlips'*. That would take over and you would lose your *Eryngium*. That brings me to another point. What colours go well with blue? I guess to a certain extent you also need to decide what blue it is: Sky blue, royal blue, violet blue? Some blues look good with yellow or lemon. White is good, of course. In fact a friend of mine has a wonderful white iris edged in a deep, rich blue. Just lovely. For some reason I currently have a passion for blue and purple together. I think it was because *S. chamaedryoides* self seeded itself into a little *S. greggii* bush in a nice purple colour. I thought the combination very pretty so there it stays.

On the other hand, sometimes you don't need anything else at all. If you have ever walked in the dappled shade of a bluebell wood, you understand that absolutely nothing else is required. Blue and green is perfect.

# Notes from Gruyere – A quick look under the microscope.

By Meg Bentley

Looks like Summer has arrived with a vengeance and once the necessary things have been done especially the watering of hundreds of pots and a few specials in the gardens, it's time to retreat to the house where the 'cooler' is on and do inside work.

When there is a lot of free time, I like to get out the microscope and study the plants, be it *Plectranthus*, *Coleus*, *Prostanthera* or *Salvia*, they all look interesting under the microscope. Not everyone is lucky enough to possess one, but I'd like to relay the observations that I have found.

I was looking at the *Salvia xeropapilosa* with neat rounded leaves and red corolla and noticed how the tip end of the corolla was closed off. At first, I thought that insects had eaten the tip of the flower but on closer observation, I could see what looked like a small flap (presumably the top hood) had been shut down over the opening where the stamens emerge. This was a job for the microscope, to come out of hiding for a closer look. I always make sure there are enough flowers on a plant before I start pulling it apart, because to study the inner workings one has to be ruthless enough to dissect the flower to examine each part.

The illustrations above show what I found, including photos of the leaves and the flowers.

Quite interesting too, when you come across such an unusual name like *Salvia xeropapilosa*, and if like me, you are an inquisitive type, one has to get to the bottom of this as to where or how it got its name. The dictionary states = xero, relating to dryness, xeromorphic = relating to plants having



## Notes from Gruyere – A quick look under the microscope. (cont...)

characteristics that serve as protection against excessive loss of water. Then we look at the word papillosa and according to the dictionary, papillose/papilla = a small pimple or wart-like projection at the base of a hair or similar protruberance, pilose = with long straight hairs, papillae can relate to any minute blunt hair or process occurring in plants. So does this mean our plant *Salvia xeropapilosa* has qualities to defend itself against dryness or does it mean it cannot access moisture within the flower because it has a 'closed' throat? (see illustration above). Although this plant is in a container I have to say it has held up well through extreme temperatures, with only minimum watering.

It is also interesting to come across some flowers that can be mall-formed like this *Salvia microphylla* (red flower, below left). We all know that Salvias have fused flowers with a top hood, two small side arms and a lower lip that can be either tubular like *S. elegans* and *S. splendens* or a flared lower lip like the *microphylla*- and *greggii*-type and they do not have the five regular petals found on other flowers. This can happen due perhaps to an insect getting into the corolla at bud formation. Sometimes these things can pass by and we may not notice them but it's interesting to actually see a five petaled flower on a salvia, they still only have two stamens, the style and stigma. Below right



*Salvia microphylla* with 5 petals.



*Salvia greggii* flower and one with 5 petals.

shows a white *Salvia greggii* cultivar with normal flowers and one flower deformed with the five petals. One doesn't notice these things unless you actually study the flowers.

When viewing anything under the microscope opens up a whole new world, especially in the plant world. There are many things that can be taken for granted – either because it was taught, written about or the spoken word, stating 'this is so' but to view things for ourselves, under the microscope, opens up a whole new world and especially when, in my case looking at the ins and outs of a salvia to note the differences.

Sometimes we don't know why plants have the names they are given, often times they can represent plant collectors, botanists, countries, habitat and even the type of plant etc. but to try and understand why a plant is sticky, the type of hairs or even to find out how a flower is constructed, one can understand a little better when viewing things under the microscope.

The following photos show a few salvias enlarged, to view the opened out and internal parts of the salvia corolla also to show the calyx and glandular hairs and why it can be sticky to the touch. How often we have crushed a leaf or ran our hands over a leaf and been left with sticky fingers. *Salvia microphylla* 'Margaret Arnold' and *Salvia gesneriiflora* 'Tequila' are split



*Salvia gesneriiflora* 'Tequila'.



*Salvia microphylla* 'Margaret Arnold'.



Close-up of *Salvia spathacea* calyces.



Showing the calyces of *Salvia* 'Timboon' and glandular hairs.

open to reveal the inside structure of the stamens, style and stigma and the connective arms that hold the stamens in place and the ovules within the calyx, usually with four seeds.

*Salvia spathacea*, close up, shows the calyces with sticky glandular hairs and *Salvia* 'Timboon' showing calyx covered in sticky glandular hairs.

## Facebook is happening again

Facebook is once again on the move, but this time with Julie Kavanagh at it's helm. Julie has kindly stepped in as Jennie was unable to continue.

Julie will bring her own stamp of creativity to the page, once again being a hive of activity, posting photos, answering questions, promoting the Group, advertising what is happening and what will be coming up, so if you are a Facebook fan, please help Julie make this page a fascinating "Go to" page.

# Western District Gardens

By Geoff Crowhurst

By staying with a friend in Warrnambool, I was able to see the advised open gardens for the last weekend in November. Everything, including both the dairy country and the farm gardens visited was incredibly lush and green, and garden owners had obviously gone to much trouble to cut grass and edges before visitors came. All the gardens were generous in size – considerably more than our own ¼ acre suburban blocks. Three of the four gardens had deep shrub and perennial borders, so that salvias became part of a bigger picture, and



'Very neat garden'



*Salvia gesneriiflora* 'Tequila'

not always very noticeable. The fourth garden included a sizeable rose garden, but otherwise comprised large areas with manicured grass and some large trees. Visitors were warned that it would be very neat, and it certainly was – but nevertheless very pleasant to wander around. A non-garden feature at this property was a large shed with an intricately designed model train layout inside – with trains that could traverse a number of circuits.

The most noticeable salvia was a *S. gesneriiflora* 'Tequila' growing beyond veranda height. I was taken by a small patch of dark blue salvia, which Lyndi told me was *S. x sylvestris* (or *x nemorosa*) 'Viola Klos'. Commercially this is available through both Lambley Nursery and Garden Express. I also noticed *Salvia leucantha* and *S. 'Indigo Spires'*, but I am sure there were others that I missed. The plant I was most impressed with, and which I had never come across before, was a *xDigiplexis*, an English cross (by the seed firm Thompson and Morgan) between *Digitalis purpurea* (a foxglove) and *Isoplexis canariensis*. The *xDigiplexis* comes in several different colours, including an orange, but what I saw was a very nice dusky red with creamy inner petals, a bit spotted. I am now hunting down a plant of this most desirable plant, which is said to be quite hardy in either sun or part shade, but requiring water in dry times.



*Salvia x sylvestris* 'Viola Klos'



*xDigiplexis*

# Have you been keeping up??

By Lyndi Garnett

Have you been taking notice of all the new and different Salvias appearing in Bunnings and your local Nursery ?

If you have, you would have noticed that whilst there are a few brand new Salvias – a new group of Salmias, coming in pink, orange, crimson and what they call purple. These are a hybrid of possibly *S. buchananii* x *splendens*. Only 30cmH, they like a sunny well protected position. Don't place them in too much shade as they don't perform as well as in a nice sunny spot. Keep the water up and feed regularly and they will put on a lovely show while this weather lasts.

We recently found a new microphylla type plant 'Tickled Pink' – lovely name. This has 2 tone baby pink colouring, extremely similar to 'Sweet Laura', but when coming out of the bud, the whole flower is a whole pink and then gradually it takes on this 2 tone effect.

We may be seeing a lot of this in Nurseries this coming Autumn as will be PGA's small 'Skyblue' Salvia, which is a lovely small mounding groundcover with pale blue flowers.

Going through Bunnings you'll find various Salvias under the brand name of Garden Jewels. These labels rarely mention the name of

the plant. As you wander you might see a lovely pale pink Salvia or a beautiful Burgundy or Crimson Salvia, these unfortunately have been propagated from the Mirage Collection 2019/20. This same nursery also produces 'Mystic Spires' and 'Mysty', both without their correct names.

Another plant you might see is the 2 tone pale pink Salvia, put out by Regal Passions. As this also has no name, just *greggii/microphylla* we've named it 'Appleblossom' which is very apt, but at least you know what plant you are talking about.

Keep you eyes peeled, do some snooping to see what you can find and keep your wits about you, just because it has a different name, doesn't mean it's a new plant, so you don't go buying something that you may already have.



'Mirage Soft Pink' bloom



'Mirage Deep Purple'



'Mirage Burgundy'



'Mirage Soft Pink' flower



'Appleblossom'

# November weekend away garden visits

By Julie Kavanagh

As we walked into Ashford Park, the first garden of our November weekend away, we knew we were in for a great weekend. Many members and friends of members of the Salvia Study Group were standing around enjoying each other's company. The owners Janine and Daryl, who are both members, warmly welcomed us and insisted we have morning tea before the walk around their country garden. They are both very enthusiastic about salvias and they have counted over 150 species in their garden. Most of them were flowering, but tucked in between were cordylines, roses, and alstroemeria, plus many large English trees including a large *Sambucus nigra*. Near the well-established

vegetable garden plots, we spent quite some time looking at the performing turkey, the draught horses, ducks and sheep.



Ashford Park.

After a delicious lunch in the lush lawn areas, and surrounded by much talking and laughter, it was suggested that we looked at the hut near the dam opposite their house. It was their lockdown project, and congratulations to Janine and Daryl, it was stunning.

Time was marching too quickly so we drove six km to the next property, Rosandaway. Here, we were welcomed by Sue and Danny, who walked us around their extensive country garden, with various dogs following us. Salvias, aquilegias, poppies and roses were nestled amongst the many English specimen trees as we wandered through manicured lawns and around the ponds. One plant I was fascinated with was spotty dotty – an unusual herbaceous perennial with lobed, umbrella-like foliage and ideal in shade under deciduous trees. The Ash Wednesday bushfire burnt a few buildings but a huge old apple survived. The dairy buildings were rebuilt and it is still a working dairy farm today. We were privileged to be able to watch the gorgeous jersey cows being milked in the very modern up-to-date technological environment, one which Danny is very proud to have achieved. Also a must was to visit Danny's large train setup where quite a few minutes were spent watching the trains run through pastures, towns and stations. Another win was the delicious home made jam and scones for

afternoon tea in the large front verandah of the farmhouse. And I must mention Magpie, the old pig that greeted us as we drove into the property. Sue and Danny have retired her, but she has been given her own paddock with plenty of mud!



Rosandaway.

## November weekend away garden visits (cont...)

On Sunday morning, it was recommended that we visit Pearson's Nursery in Allansford, east of Warrnambool. This nursery supports local growers and other local/family businesses. And I can assure you that many of the Salvia Group bought many perennial plants that were new to us.

The third garden owned by Jan and Bob was a beautiful formal country garden with sweeping lawns, which had many species of roses in full bloom. We walked through extremely neat raised vegetable beds with large ornamental and edible vegetables. Bob donates the excess crop to nearby opportunity shops to help the local people. I enjoyed walking through a rose and clematis serpentine walk, intrigued with the ducks and silky hens, a hard to find delphinium plant and terracotta courtyard.



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Jan and Bob's garden.

The group of six people I shared the weekend with, had decided to eat lunch at the Timboon Distillery – great food, staff and atmosphere, but not enough time for a whisky tasting. We will need to go back at some stage to enjoy the distillery.

Kerry's large wandering country garden was our afternoon treat. Much of her front garden had just been planted, but you can see what a delight it will be in a few years. We were surrounded by many varieties of succulents, geraniums, pelargoniums, roses, salvias, waratahs and proteas. Mature English trees are a specialty of this lush area due to high rainfall and

moderate summer conditions. Kerry's Mum lives on the adjoining property and Kerry's gardening skills and influences are flowing into the next garden. We all walked out of this property with cuttings to propagate.



Kerry's garden.

Thank you to everyone involved with the planning of this event. Thank you Lyndi and Daryl for putting the programme together. Thank you Janine, Sue, Danny, Jan, Bob and Kerry for opening your gardens to our group. We all had a fabulous time in perfect weather. The accommodation in and around Timboon was good and all the locals went out of their way to make sure we had a fabulous time. I hope that more people will visit Timboon and surrounding areas – it is well worth the visit.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR

We're beginning the year by visiting the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. A beautiful restful place to begin the year and we will continue to visit more wonderful gardens throughout the year, so come and join us.

# 2022

## MARCH – SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH

**Ferny Creek Plant Collectors Sale & Garden Expo (10-4pm)**  
**100 Hilton Rd (south end) Sassafras**

See our fresh summer Salvia collection waiting to be found. Salvia books and cards for sale.

Bring plants to be identified.


Place orders now so you don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Email or phone Lyndi with inquiries.



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*Do you like*  
unusual plants  
exciting plants  
beautiful plants  
rare plants  
chatting with plant lovers  
garden walks?



Yes? then come to

*Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's  
Plant Collectors' Expo*

Help us celebrate our 90th anniversary and experience;  
a cornucopia of plants for sale from multiple vendors



botanical artists  
garden sculpture  
wood turning  
children's activities  
gardening books  
light lunches and  
afternoon teas  
vintage car display  
ample parking

Where: 100 Hilton Road Sassafras  
When: Saturday 5th of March 2022 10am to 4 pm  
Sunday 6th of March 2022 10am to 4 pm  
Entry cost \$10 (members and under 15 free)

## CONTACT LYNDI

Email: [lgarnett844@gmail.com](mailto:lgarnett844@gmail.com) | Ph (03) 9803 4534

## MARCH – SUN 20TH

### Geelong Garden Visit (11am) 30 Cityview Dve, Wandana Heights

This is a magnificent garden with so much to see where ever you look. This is a garden not to be missed. Carpooling may be necessary.

Bring a lunch plate to share.  
Tea / Coffee will be provided.

Contact Lyndi (details below left) or phone Judy Medlyn on 0432 939 051 if coming.



## APRIL – SAT 23RD & SUN 24TH

### Yarra Valley Autumn Festival (10am-5pm) 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin

Come and check out our autumn collection of Salvias. Salvias of every colour, sun or shade, tall or small. Salvia books will be on sale. Bring flowers/ leaves to be identified.

Pre order your plants NOW so you don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Email or phone Lyndi with inquiries.



## MAY – SUN 15TH

### Garden Visit to Jan Wood's Garden (11.30am) 16 Wellesley Rd, Ringwood North

A beautiful garden to wander through. So many rare and unusual plants, all balanced and working together in gorgeous garden setting under shady trees with all the autumnal tonings.

A combination of Salvias, exotics and natives, all blended together to make a wonderful garden.

All members welcome.  
Bring a plate to share and a chair.

Phone Jan if coming  
0421 688 630

Phone Lyndi to check numbers 9803 4534



# The Victorian Salvia Study Group. Inc

## NEW MEMBERSHIP

Membership includes Salvia News Annual Subscription

(NOT FOR RENEWALS)

Any queries, phone Tine Grimston – see details below

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Victorian Salvia Study Group

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Ph. (03) 0466 285 542 Email: tinegrimston@gmail.com

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PayPal: online – vssginc1@tpg.com.au Website: www.salvias.org.au

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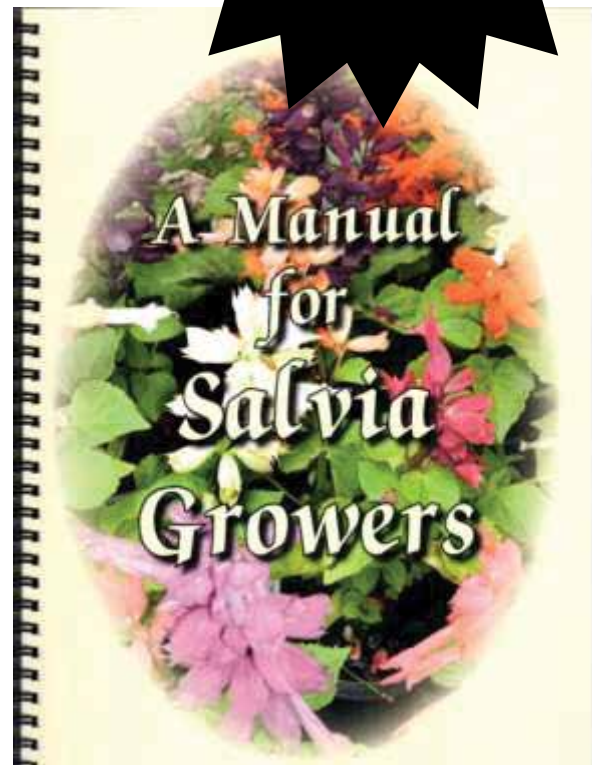
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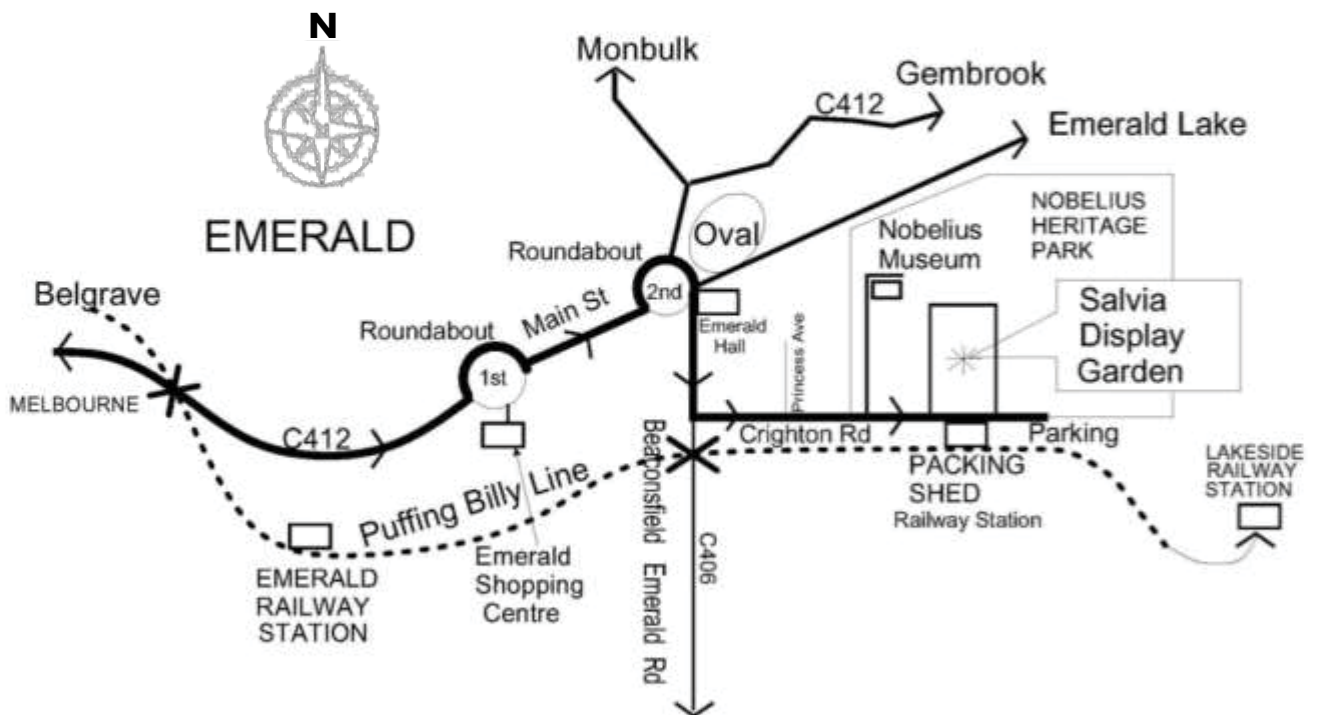
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