

Salvia News

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Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Spring 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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Website: www.salvias.org.au

EDITORIAL

Do you head for the Botanic Gardens when you visit a new city? They so often capture the essence of the city; Kew Gardens in London of course spring to mind with their legacy from a history of exploration and empire, and here the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane city gardens reflect their particular urban landscapes. The Kings Park gardens in Perth take it to another level with extensive plantings of native plants, which blend into hundreds of hectares of natural bush.

Botanic Gardens have a broad range of tasks. Of course people expect a beautifully landscaped environment to visit and relax in, but their educational roles have developed independently since the first Gardens, like Bologna, were built to hold and show medicinal plants. They are also places where local residents can come to see what plants might suit their own gardens. My first salvia 'wow' moment was when I detoured through the RBG Sydney and saw the salvia

bed, which sits outside the South side of a glasshouse. It was blooming with the big American salvias like *guaranitica*, so much bigger and lusher than the tight *S. leucantha*, *S. farinacea* and *S. splendens* that I had grown up with in dry-Summer Perth. That's when I thought they might be nice to include if I ever got a garden on the East Coast.

Of course you can go one further and go see your plants in the wild, which is what Meg and Geoff write about in this edition. Or if your passport has lapsed you can take a safari to Albury to see Sue Templeton's collection and restock your bushfire-ravaged garden as Margie did. We also have stories of 'How did I come to garden with salvias?' (always welcome, so feel free to put fingers to keypad) and garden visits and reports to entertain you in this busy gardening season. I hope you enjoy this Spring edition.

Stephen

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**Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is
14th November 2022**

Please email your articles and photos to: vssged@gmail.com

Cover Photo is *Salvia nemerosa* 'Caradonna'. Photo by Lyndi Garnett

Read more of what's happening this spring on page 20.

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.

SEPTEMBER SAT 17TH | Martina's Garden | Martina Cleven – 20 Army Rd, Boronia – 10am

A beautiful garden, that all who come to visit say wow! Beautifully planted and maintained. Come and share a cup of tea/ coffee and wander around the garden. Bring a plate to share and a chair.

Phone Martina on 0422 638 353 if coming.

Phone Lyndi 9803 4534 or email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

OCTOBER SAT 1ST & SUN 2ND | Garden Lovers' Fair | Bolobek, 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon – 10am-4pm

Come and find the new Spring Salvias with lots of variety, loads of colour, a Salvia for every position in the garden. Find the plants for sun, shade, tall screening Salvias, groundcovers, hedging plants and lots more. Bring plants to identify.

Email your wish list, don't miss out: lgarnett844@gmail.com

OCTOBER SAT 8TH & SUN 9TH | Herb Conference | 500 Yarra Blvd, Richmond Vic – 8.30am-4.30pm both days

Victorian Herb Society is holding the 17th Aust & NZ Herb Conference. at Burnley Campus of University of Melbourne. Bring plants to be identified.

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

Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

NOVEMBER SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH | Yarra Valley Spring Festival | 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 10am -5pm

Come and check out our spring 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

NOVEMBER SUN 20TH | Salvias at Nobelius | Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius – Nobelius Heritage Park, Crighton Rd, Emerald (Beneath the Packing Shed along the Puffing Billy Train Line) – 10am-12 noon

Our Annual Salvia Sale. Come early, bargains for everyone. While stock lasts.

Email your wish lists. Don't miss out. Pick up on day.

Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

NOVEMBER SUN 27TH | Connie's Garden Visit | 85 Browns Rd, Werribee – 11am

Wild and wonderful, something for everyone, masses of Roses, Salvias, different perennials so beautifully put together. Bring a plate to share and a chair. Tea/ coffee provided.

Phone Connie if coming – Ph 0407 512 754

Phone Lyndi 98034534 or email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

DECEMBER SUN 4TH | Xmas Luncheon | To be advised – 11am

Notes from Gruyere

By Meg Bentley

It was interesting to read in the last *Salvia News* an article from Geoff Crowhurst relating to areas where salvias could be found and having travelled to those areas especially in China.

It reminded me of my collecting trip to Yunnan, China many years ago, which brought back many fond memories and prompted me to write about a few salvias I had seen and collected in the 'wild' areas of Yunnan.

It is great to come across plants growing in their native habitat, and no doubt there are many people who have either been to WA or to the Grampians and even Tasmania and have seen plants growing in the 'wild'. Noting how they grew along with other vegetation close at hand, the different soil types, sunlight or shade and the wind, but also noting their heights which can differ from plants bought from a nursery and growing in our home gardens.

I was invited to join a very small group of 'plants people' from Australia and UK, on invitation from Kunming Research Institute of Botanical Sciences, in China and issued with our Visas and Permits. Most of the group were looking for trees and shrubs on a higher level, compared to my observations at the ground, to which I was affectionately given the name of 'Mud Sniffer' since salvias are found low down on ground level. It was interesting to see a few salvias that I came across, noting where they were growing, soil types and conditions either open sunny or part shade and also whether the soil was disturbed, whether the plants grew amongst other foliage close at hand and whether the area was raised, rocky, flat or in forest margins. The trees and shrubs of course far out-weighed the ground dwelling plants especially up in the forested areas.

I was delighted to come across *Salvia flava* growing on an embankment in the morning sun, amongst grasses and rocks, and that clear yellow stood out like a beacon. Other salvias were found in many other areas as we travelled. *Salvia trijuga* and *S. przewalskii* were two notables, found in disturbed soil along the roadside as well as in undergrowth areas. The little *Salvia plectranthoides* was not

so prominent. I found a shy, light blue salvia that I had not seen before and with the help of botanists that travelled with our group, checked it out and found it was *Salvia bulleyana*, note, not the yellow and dark-lipped species we called 'bulleyana'. All the specimens collected by everyone were left with the botanists overnight, so that they could ID them, and then early the following morning everyone raced to see what had been given their correct names.

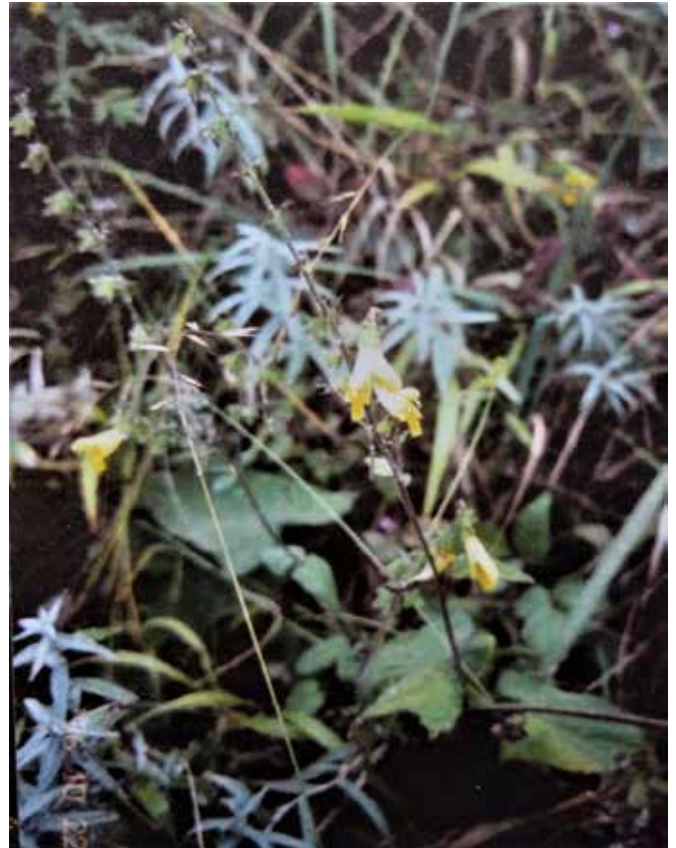
Many evenings were spent cleaning seed, pressing plant specimens, labelling and writing up their notes. All plant material of course had to be declared, going through customs and go into quarantine before anyone could collect their material. Eventually, after quarantine gave the OK we were able to collect seeds and plants, and once they arrived I was eager to plant my seeds, as anyone would be.

But to replicate those same conditions of China, back here in my garden in Gruyere, in a 'rain-shadow' that can also get very hot Summers (Australian climate) did not quite meet the needs of my newly acquired seed of Chinese Salvias, filtered or full sun at high altitudes didn't mean full sun here. Many that were planted either didn't flower or set seed, and it was too late to dig them up and move to a better location. But some remain faithful friends and there are many growing in other people's gardens that have acclimatised over time.

Over the years I have learnt much about the conditions needed for certain salvias and reading the published Floras of various countries has been a great help assisting with the necessary requirements for certain salvias. We all go through times of losing some plants and it's what we learn from those times that benefit the plants we choose to grow. However, there are some plants that do not like our conditions and it is best to give up trying, especially if that same plant is lost each time you try.

I have included a few photos of areas like the Cangshan Mountains, out of Dali in Yunnan, China, and the *Salvia flava* that I found growing there. Also showing *Salvia trijuga* and other areas of Yunnan.

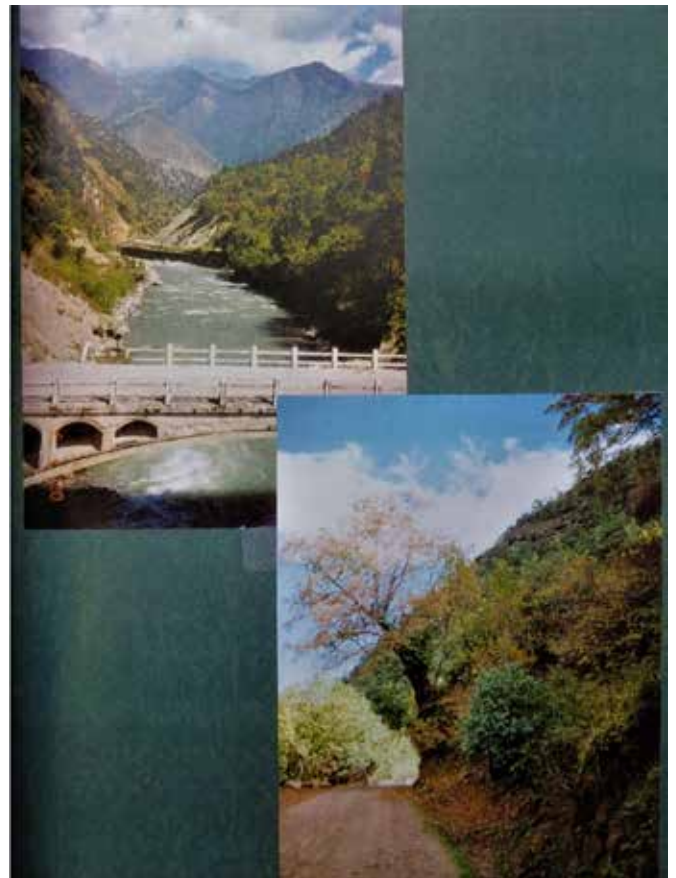
Notes from Gruyere (cont...)



Above: Cangshan Mountains, Yunnan, where *Salvia flava*, above right, was collected.

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Below: *Salvia trijuga* illustration (MB) and areas where some salvia seeds were collected.



A tale of two salvias

By Geoff Crowhurst

In 2018 I had a very interesting trip to South Africa. When in Cape Town I planned to walk uphill until I could get the chair lift to the top of Table Mountain. Well up the hill I came upon a secondary school with a striking salvia growing close to the fence. It was obviously a *S. africana* type, with gray leaves but mauve flowers. I had the email address of a local plant group, but I couldn't get any useful information about the salvia: it is apparently nothing out of the ordinary for group members. As it was early season (September) I had no hope of scrounging a few seeds.

Salvia 2: I have seeds of this – *S. multicaulis* – from the Mediterranean Garden Society, sent to me from France just before the phytosanitary certificate requirement came into force. I expect no one already has plants of this in Australia, and my information comes from an internet search. It looks like a most interesting plant, a low growing and spreading shrub from Turkey and

surrounding countries, with silver-gray leaves, blue flowers and bronze-red bracts. This salvia is recommended as a groundcover or container plant. I am waiting until near spring to sow the seed, probably in two separate batches.



Salvia multicaulis.



Cape Town salvia.

Garden report

By Connie Menegazzo

My love for salvias started about five years ago when my friend Maureen showed me through her lovely garden where she has many growing happily. Maureen generously shared many plants that have found homes throughout my garden. Since then I have added many more, often propagating them. The garden is quite large with many trees, so sometimes it takes a couple of attempts to find the right spot.

The roundabout has a collection of 'So Cool' salvias in three different shades (purple lilac and violet) together in the middle with blue agapanthus, hebes and convolvulus. It's a mass of blue and purple when they are all flowering.

Salvia 'Meigans Magic' has a couple of homes in the garden and is lovely during winter when there isn't much happening. *S.* 'Anthony Parker' is another that is happy in the garden planted near some plectranthus. They both flower around the same time with some lamb's ears at their base, again repeating the blue and purple theme.

I have just cut back the *S.* 'Amistad' which I have planted throughout the garden. I have combined it with the Rose 'Bonian', and I love the purple and pink together. There is some catmint along the path in front of them that adds more colour and texture.

Salvia 'Phyllis Fancy' is such an elegant plant and the flowers are so delicate. I have propagated a few and am trying them in different parts of the garden. *S.* 'African Sky' is another one that does very well, although I have to keep an eye on it as it tends to smother what is growing around it. *S. lanceolata*, *S.* 'Allen Chickering', *S. mexicana* 'Limelight' and *S. discolor* and two or three others add to my collection of salvias.

As I write this, I am in the middle of cutting everything back in preparation for spring when it all comes back to life. I love a garden that changes with the seasons, there is always

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something to look forward to. The bulbs are all starting to poke through with the jonquils already flowering, the perfume is lovely as you walk around the garden.

The camellias have grown into small trees since they were planted in 1983 when we moved in. The avenue of elms has almost finished dropping their leaves and the willows around the dam have just started so it's quite a job to clean up at the moment. My husband Julian picks these up with the mower a couple of times a week.

Being on the farm we often have weeds blowing in from the neighbour's farms. It's a never-ending battle trying to keep them under control. I have now purchased a gas weed gun to add to my arsenal, as weeding by hand is hard on my back and I'm trying to cut back on using sprays.

I am looking forward to receiving some advice and ideas of what else would work well in the garden when Julian and I welcome the salvia group to our farm in November.



News from Southeast Queensland

By Glenda Sellenger – The Perennial Poppies Group Inc

After thirty plus years living in Victoria and having returned to Queensland late 2020, it has been a big learning curve to readjust from the hot, dry summers and cold winters of the south to the hot, humid, wet summers and mild winters of the north, not that I'm complaining. Early this year was exceptionally wet as you will have read in previous newsletters, which of course has led to the loss of quite a few salvias and other plants, hardly surprising when you receive 33 inches (840 mm) of rain in a week, some areas received much more than that. I am writing this in May and we are having another of those weather events, 18 inches (460 mm) so far this month. Although I had a garden in Brisbane before I moved south, I knew very little about salvias until I was introduced to them by my dear friend Wendy Smith in our Rosebud days,

Perhaps I should start with the salvia losses and it will come as no surprise that the majority of them are the grey leaf varieties, probably a bit too adventurous planting them in this climate. *Salvia muirii*, *caudata*, *semiatrata*, *dolomitica*, *discolor*, *S. 'Celestial Blue'*, *S. officinalis* 'Berggarten' and 'Tricolor', *fruticosa* 'Greek Skies' and quite a few of the greggii/microphylla varieties succumbed. Some had a quick death and some curled up their toes in the weeks following. I had replacement plants of some and there are some 'must haves' amongst the losses, but not sure I will take the chance again with all the grey foliage salvias, but never say never. I should point out that we have rich red volcanic loamy soil which drains well but also holds the moisture. After the last bout of rain, it looks like some more of the greggii/microphyllas are curling up their toes.

On the upside I have had success with many salvias that didn't do well down south, anything containing splendens has flourished, the Wishes

Series, *S. 'Rockin' Fuchsia'* and 'Deep Purple', *S. 'Roman Red'* and *S. 'Van Houttii'*. I am thrilled to be able to grow *S. confertiflora* well, I could never get it to thrive down south. Of course, the bigger salvias 'Phyllis Fancy', 'Meigans Magic', 'Timboon', *pallida*, 'Amistad', 'Amante', the



Salvia 'Wendy's Wish'



Salvia 'Amistad' and S. 'Amante'



From left, *Salvia microphylla x saggittata*, *S. curviflora*, *S. greggii* (yellow and red)

involucratas, the leucanthas, 'Magenta Magic', *tuerckheimii*, *miniata*, *rubiginosa* are all thriving, and of course *oxyphora* is spreading itself around in these ideal conditions as is *rypara*. I could continue and name many others but there will always be some that don't grow successfully, my biggest disappointment is probably *S. patens*, but I haven't given up on it completely just yet.

I am still trying to master the art of keeping the *greggii*/*microphylla* varieties neat, they seem to grow so fast and get very woody stems, maybe the secret is to prune them more often or grow new plants and replace them, I will persevere. Perhaps one of my errors of judgement was to plant the *coccinea* varieties which have definitely grown to weed status. Whilst I have been pulling out the seedlings, I'm not sure that I want to eliminate them totally, some people never learn.

It is a little disappointing that there are not more salvias available in the nurseries up here given how well they perform but there are always the mail order nurseries to satisfy our needs, I

may change my mind if the rain doesn't stop. Whilst I am loving the conditions of no frost and summer rains, it seems to be the perfect growing conditions for salvias and the many other sorts of plants in the garden, but I have to admit everything grows so fast, pruning seems to be a never-ending job. What else would we gardeners do, the best therapy in the world.



Salvia 'Van Houttei'



Salvia 'Rockin Deep Purple'

Garden visit to Birchwood near Benalla

By Julie Kavanagh

In March, we were very fortunate to visit Birchwood near Benalla, which is owned by Julie and Gary Campbell. This is a one acre property set in between rolling hills and farmlands. The garden is used mainly for charity and open garden weekends and weddings. It's open from September to 1st July. Our group of eleven people strolled through the many varied garden beds and nature areas. We were staggered by the number of different salvia varieties on display. And this was only the start of the Autumn colours!

As we walked through the front gate, we realised that this was an extremely well looked-after garden. The paths were carefully raked, the lawn edges trim and tidy, but there was a quality of peacefulness you could feel in the surroundings. On the eastern edge of the built up borders, the salvias, roses and petunias were all worshipping the sun, brightly coloured and glittering. Then you walked around another wall, and you were welcomed with autumn toning, not in leaves, but yellow, orange and rust coloured flowers beneath the shaded trees.

On the western side of the garden, the tougher dry climate plants are installed to keep the fierce summer heat out of the house and inner garden beds of more delicate species of plants. Here the larger salvias and grevillias were attracting the bees and butterflies to collect the pollen and pollinate the garden. Summer dahlias were still on display as were many of the perennial plants.

As we headed to the back of the garden where

the vegetable gardens are, we brushed against the many coloured salvias that spread gently over the paths. By this time, the heat from the sun was becoming warmer, so we headed for the overhead shade of the native trees to look at the veggie patch and the new area of native trees and shrubs.

The white garden is more formal, as this is where special events such as weddings, birthdays and club outings are held. Well manicured lawns were surrounded by white azaleas, salvias and roses.

We sat under the shaded verandah to enjoy a morning tea of scones, jam and coffee/tea and casually ate and talked, surrounded by lush greenery and vases stunningly arranged with many coloured salvia cuttings. Right throughout the garden, there are many sculptures and rock features to whet your appetite.

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Towards the back of the west side



Salvias everywhere



West side garden

I feel I must visit this garden in spring to see the bulbs, watsonias, clivias, and peonies. The roses and lilies would look stunning in early summer.

I love salvias but I am unable to name the varieties in the photographs. I hope that you enjoy viewing them without being named.

I would recommend you visit this stunning property, whether with a group or as an open garden.

Visit the website
www.birchwoodnearbenalla.com.au,
or Facebook Birchwood Near Benalla.
You can contact Julie Campbell or
03 57 666275 or
juliecambellcecil@gmail.com.



Border garden east side



Julie and Gary

A garden in Buchan, East Gippsland

By Margie McCole

I have been hooked on salvias ever since I saw an article about Sue Templeton's Website /Mail order in the Gardening Australia magazine, which led to meeting Sue herself along with other salvia enthusiasts.

I live in Buchan East Gippsland where we have distinct four seasons, with some extended dry periods at times. We were impacted by the 2019 bushfires and lost our home and some of the garden including some of my beloved salvias. In December 2021 we moved into our new home and have been busy re-planning some of the garden. We have had good rainfalls over Summer and Spring and the weeds took advantage, taking over the garden beds, so I was kept busy whilst the house was being built.

I lost some of my 'Heatwave' series salvias, but with a few visits to nurseries I found replacements. My beautiful *Salvia* 'Costa Rica Blue' didn't survive, nor did *S. guaranitica* (which I know can be a thug but I love it for its toughness as I'm on tank water), so I contacted Sue and ordered them quickly, and they grew beautifully. I also look forward to getting back *S. curviflora* which flowered for months, and *S. macrophylla x sagittata* which flowered often, only needing a tidy up and away it would go. I thought it looked a bit delicate but it was the opposite.

It's hard to narrow down my favourites but I do tend to go for the tougher ones due to limited water but some of my tops would be

S. chamaedryoides with its lovely little sky blue flowers; a good border plant or just to fill in a spot. Another would be *S. 'Marine Blue'* with its deep blue flowers, another tough one which suckers and divides easily.

I love 'Meagans Magic', 'Phyllis



Salvia chamaedryoides

'Fancy' and 'Anthony Parker' for their lovely Autumn display, and 'Waverly' which seems to flower most of the year. Years ago I had *S. corrugata* but lost through neglect, but I found it at a market recently along with *S. semi atrata* which I had lost in the fires. They are both very hardy, *S. semi atrata* flowers for most of the year and just needs a trim to tidy it up. Another hardy one is *S. africana lutea*, which I've had for years with its lovely unusual rust-coloured flowers. Just cut it back when it gets too big.

Before the fires I bought *Salvia* 'Amistad' with its beautiful deep purple flowers, thinking maybe it would be delicate in the heat of summer, but how wrong was I? A good mulch and a drink and it didn't show any stress with a couple of 40°C days. 'Black and Blue' is another favourite salvia with its showy royal blue flowers over Summer.



Salvia 'Phyllis Fancy' and *S. 'Hot Lips'*

I have had to isolate a couple of salvias that wanted to take over the garden bed. *S.* 'Christine Yeo' and *S. microphylla* 'Margaret Arnold'. I got the latter as it has the names of my father and I, so can't get rid of it, but it's in the naughty corner.

I have a few others, and look forward to collecting more and replacing those I lost. I also enjoy the newsletters in the new format and the web site of the Study group; both are very informative.



Salvia 'Meagans Magic'



Salvia 'Marine Blue'



Salvia 'Amistad' flourished with the good rain early this year

Winter at Ashford Park

By Daryl Lyons and Janine Molan

At the time of writing this article (15 Aug 22), down here in the South West of the State it has been almost a perfect winter, if that is possible. Just enough rain, so as stock are not blackening paddocks and mild enough days to grow some grass. Our newly installed water wheel is still to turn, the drain in which it sits is yet to run which is very unusual for this time of year. To this point we have only had a couple of frosts, only one of which was significant.

As a result it has been very good for our salvias. Frost and more so wet boggy conditions are generally the enemy of some of our less hardy salvias. Given a heavy commitment with the local Nirranda Football Club, cut back is always done on a piecemeal basis, as time allows and ramps up now that the last home game has occurred. To this point I am about half way through, which has included a pole saw reduction of a number of our deciduous trees, to ensure that garden beds are not completely shaded out in summer. As most would be aware, an untouched golden elm can eventually have a massive shade canopy. As much as our salvias tolerate a lot of shade, there is a limit to which many can tolerate.

Through autumn and winter the salvias that we acquired during our visit to Melbourne in February have shown good growth, a number flowering including Ruth, Pennellii, Desley, Myriantha and Bogotensis. We always get excited when our new acquisitions first come into flower. And our regular winter flowering salvias are currently giving us plenty of colour and nectar for our birdlife.

Spring is not far away down here, the days are lengthening, the lawns are starting to grow and a great guide to this is that *Salvia Guaranitica* is firing new growth out of the ground. Another month and we will start to see many in flower.

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Water wheel



Golden elm cut back

On a very sad note, Jan McCluggage, whose garden club members attended on the Sunday morning of last Novembers' visit to the south west, passed away last week after a very long

battle with breast cancer. Jan was a dedicated gardener, and was always welcoming to any garden group wanting to visit her immaculate garden.



S. iodantha



Myriantha

PP5 recycling program gathers momentum

By Lyndi Garnett. Permission for this article was given by the NGIV magazine *Groundswell*.

In positive news for the industry, the move to build a national, closed loop polypropylene (PP5) recycling economy is rapidly growing in reach and impact.

Since launching in 2021, the program – a joint initiative between Garden City Plastics, Norwood and Polymer Processors – has expanded to include 600 bins nationally, covering every state and territory, and collecting a whopping 60 tonnes of plant pots and tags each month, up from 4.5 tonnes in May last year.

“The bins have been so well received, which goes to show that people in our sector want to make a difference. There’s now an awful lot of plastic being diverted from landfill and best of all it’s being recycled back into pots to fill with beautiful plant life,” said Greg Carrick, Sales Manager Victoria and Tasmania, Garden City Plastics.

The early success of the program can perhaps be credited to its simplicity. Plastic waste in horticulture is, after all, inevitable. It is estimated

that, prior to the program’s inception, a mere eight per cent of PP5 waste was being recycled each year – just one pot or label out of every ten purchased. A major contributing factor to this, aside from a lack of education, was the fact that the infrared sensors on sorting machines cannot identify black plastics, seeing them only as a dark shape and thus sending them to landfill.

Given the ease with which PP5 can be remoulded and reused, many times and with minimal degradation, the partner companies involved saw the opportunity to create a self-supporting, industry-wide scheme. By embracing the program, and each stepping up to become a cog in the wheel, retailers, suppliers and third parties have rapidly shown the true power of collaboration.

Phase two of the rollout has now commenced and involves three key initiatives. At a national level, positive discussions with major national retailers are moving full steam ahead and will



hopefully come to fruition in the near future. On a regional front, the program's scope is being expanded to make bins more broadly available, with several logistical and cost issues having now been resolved. Another key focus will be a drive towards consumers, with point-of-sale materials now available for display. By encouraging people to return to their place of purchase to deposit used pots and labels, retailers are not only making a positive contribution to the circular economy, but can also make repeat sales and grow loyalty across their consumer base.

A recent highlight of phase two was a knowledge sharing site hosted by the program at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show. During the four-day event, representatives spoke to a diverse group of stakeholders, from consumers and council members to major retailers and wholesale nurseries. A lot of useful feedback was received about the program, with conversations showing that people have a high degree of understanding about the issue and are willing to roll up their sleeves and be part of the solution. Importantly, outcomes from the event reinforced the need for the program and showed that the mission resonates with the broader community.

Reducing the impact of horticulture packaging on the environment is also helping the industry work

towards the 2025 National Packaging Targets. Established by the Australian Government in 2018, the four ambitious targets apply to all packaging that is made, used and sold across the country. The initiative aims to make:

- 100 per cent of packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable
- 70 per cent of plastic packaging recycled or composted
- An average of 50 per cent recycled content in packaging
- Phase out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging.

“There's no doubt that there's a responsibility within our sector to not only meet the National Packaging Targets, but to exceed them. Collectively, we are now making giant strides towards that goal, and have done so in a relatively short amount of time, which is incredibly pleasing,” said Adam Coyle, Creative Manager at Norwood Industries.

Getting involved is easy, and simply requires businesses to contact PP5 to request a bin and point-of-sale materials. Delivery takes roughly 2-4 weeks for metropolitan areas. Regional areas coming soon!

If you're an NGI member business, retailer or grower, and would like to find out more, please go to PP5.com.au, email your state Garden City Plastics office or visit the Sustainability section on the GCP website.

A Name Change

According to the RBGV Melbourne, *S. lavandulifolia* and *S. officinalis rosea* are corrected to:

Salvia officinalis subsp. *lavandulifolia*

Salvia officinalis 'Rosea'

This was checked on the World Checklist Plant Names Kew Science – Plants of the World online.

Trim or Prune

What is the difference?

First of all, all Salvias need pruning each year. I usually do this in Winter (as it's the only time I have to cut back and clean out my beds), but around May June or July.

Trimming can be done in late summer when the shrubs are looking a bit tired, a bit straggly, old leaves or even becoming open. These are the microphylla/ greggii types and other small leaf varieties. Trim back about ¼ to a ½ including all the flowers; the amount will depend if you are in a cold area with frosts or in the suburbs where it is generally warmer.

Some want cone shapes, others like a rounded shape or you may be trimming a hedge.

At this stage all those other Salvias that grow 1m – 1.2 1.5mH, all those that are fillers etc.. they need tidying up, by dead heading, cutting out any dead or twiggly stems. When finished trimming and cleaning up, give them all a feed and top up the mulch to keep the root area cool during the hot dry months of summer.

At this point **don't touch any of the tall Salvias**. These are still growing and the early flowering varieties will be beginning to form flower buds.

Although most small leaf varieties can flower most of the year; once the weather is colder, most of the flowers have finished. Now is the time to prune all those small shrubs.

If you look, you can see new growth at the base of the stems. Remove any remaining flowers, these will begin to appear in Spring. Cut each stem down to that new growth, cut to a new shoot low down on the stem. This again will depend if you are in a cold area with frosts (leave the growth until after frosts are finished). Clean out the bush, taking out any dead or twiggly stems. This a good time to look at the shape of the plant. Cut off any stems that might grow out onto a path, cut out any crossed stems (like roses) or into a neighbouring plant. When finished, feed and top up the mulch.

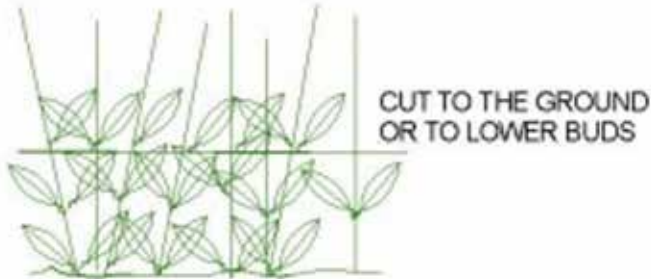
I know that some varieties naturally shoot up and become woody quickly. For those plants that become woody – how to prune? There is probably couple of alternatives:



1. If the plant has 2 -3 stems, then cut down 2 stems down to the second or third node, but never any lower, leaving 1 stem alone. If you cut down all the stems all at once, then there is a good chance that the whole plant can go into shock and die. If you can leave 1 stem, (this might be unsightly) the plant realises that it can continue to grow. When the new growth begin to appear, then you can cut down that unsightly stem. New growth should appear within 4-6 weeks. If by that stage no growth appears, then you will have to trim and look after that 1 remaining stem.
2. Rather than take out the plant, (there may not be another plant available) if you have another young new plant, plant this beside the old whilst waiting for new growth to appear. Plant quick growing plants in and around the old plant, such as annuals, bulbs or other low ground covers.

To try and prevent some of these varieties from becoming woody, it is best to regularly tip prune young shoots so the shrub becomes bushy.

PERENNIAL SALVIAS



At this time those taller plants can also be cut back. For those with perennial growth e.g. *S. leucantha*, Bog Sage or 'Joan', these should have new growth coming up; stems can be cut right down to the base. Many other varieties can be cut down to new green shoots appearing along the stems. Again feed and top up mulch.

At the end of Winter, beginning of Spring when most of the tall Salvias have finished flowering, wait until new growth appears at the base. **Don't automatically cut the old stems down to the ground.** When flowering stems have finished, then cut stems down by only $\frac{1}{4}$ to produce new shoots, this also seems to promote those new shoots at the base. When these are big enough, then cut down the old

stems, and take cuttings of all those new tip shoots – (pot them up and give them to others).

TALL SALVIAS



For those plants that have become woody e.g. 'Costa Rican Blue', again cut down stems to at least 3-4 nodes (not lower) and leave 1 good stem, which hopefully promotes new growth either at the base or new shoots from those pruned stems.

In Spring, when the first flowers appear and lots of new growth, then these new stems plus flowers should be cut back by half. These shoots are the first to wilt in the warm weather in October, so the new shoots from that trim will be tougher to deal with the oncoming warm weather. **Don't worry about the flowers, these will be back in a week or two.**



Salvia 'Costa Rica Blue'

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SPRING

2022

SEPT – SAT 17TH

**Martina's Garden (10am) –
Martina Cleven: 20 Army Rd, Boronia**

A beautiful garden, that all who come to visit say wow!

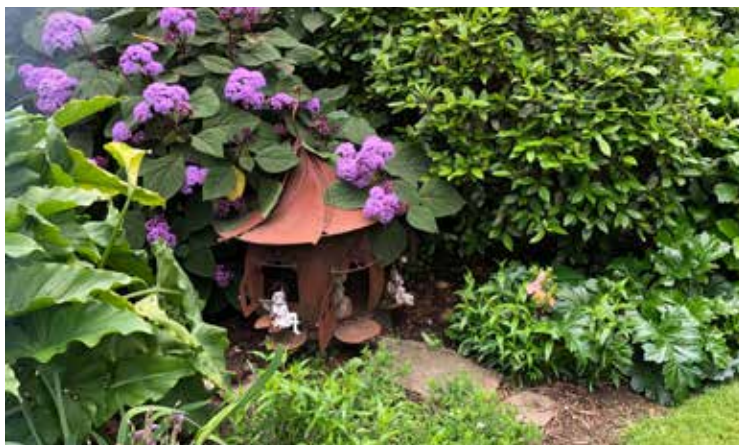
A garden to wander through and enjoy, all plants beautifully placed, complimenting other surrounding plants. Beautifully planted and maintained.

Come and share a cup of tea/ coffee and wander around the garden.

Bring a plate to share and a chair.

Phone Martina Ph 0422 638 353 if coming.

Phone Lyndi 9803 4534 or email: lgarnett844@gmail.com



OCT – SAT 1ST & SUN 2ND

**Garden Lovers' Fair (10am-4pm) –
Bolobek, 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon**

Come and find the new Spring Salvias with lots of variety, loads of colour, a Salvia for every position in the garden. Find the plants for sun, shade, tall screening Salvias, groundcovers, hedging plants and lots more.

Email your wish list, don't miss out:
lgarnett844@gmail.com

Bring plants to identify.



CONTACT LYNDI

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

OCT – SAT 8TH & SUN 9TH

**Herb Conference – 500 Yarra Blvd, Richmond Vic.
(8.30am-4.30pm both days)**

Victorian Herb Society is holding the 17th Aust & NZ Herb Conference at Burnley Campus of University of Melbourne. This is a wonderful conference to learn more about herbs and all things herbal.

Speakers, garden tours, workshops, morning tea and lunch provided.

Salvia Stall to be held outside classrooms with a variety of Salvia plants, manuals, cards and place mats.

Bring plants to be identified.

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

Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com



The Herb Society of Victoria presents
17th Australian and New Zealand

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October At
Burnley Campus of Melbourne University

Herb Conference 2022

Ticket price includes:

- 8 wonderful presentations on a wide range of herb topics.
- herbal workshop
- garden tours
- lunch, morning tea and refreshments

Plus market stalls with plants, books and herb products AND a fabulous raffle

Join this fantastic event to connect and share a passion for herbs.

To book tickets, please scan

For details, please scan

NOV – SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH

Yarra Valley Spring Festival – 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin (10am-5pm)

Come and check out our spring 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

NOV – SUN 27TH

Connie's Garden Visit (11am) – Connie Menegrizzo's beautiful garden – 85 Browns Rd, Werribee

Wild and wonderful, something for everyone, masses of roses, salvias, different perennials so beautifully put together.

Come and enjoy a cup while you wander through this garden.

Bring a plate to share and a chair. Tea/ coffee provided.

Phone Connie if coming: Ph 0407 512 754.

Phone Lyndi 9803 4534 or email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

DEC – SUN 4TH

Xmas Luncheon (11am) – To be advised

Salvia News No 88 Spring 2022

NOV – SUN 20TH

Salvias at Nobelius – Our Annual Salvia Sale (10am-12 noon) – Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius – Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald. Crighton Rd. Beneath the Packing Shed along the Puffing Billy Train Line.

Site will be cordoned off.

Come early, bargains for everyone, while stock lasts.

Email your wish lists. Don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

Sunbury Rail Station Garden

By Cheryl Schembri

If you transit through Sunbury station, you may have admired the beautifully kept garden there. These photos are from Cheryl Schembri, one of three ladies who look after the Sunbury Railway Garden as Stationeers, all from Sunbury Garden Club.

The salvias are all from the 'Heatwave' series of *S. greggii*, and as you can see they do very well in the particular conditions at the station garden. The ladies prune them in early Spring, lockdowns permitting.



Salvia Cards & Salvia Placemats Order Form

Created by Meg Bentley

NEW!



PLACEMATS	QTY	SUBTOTAL \$
Set of 4 laminated = \$35 posted		
Prints only set of 4 = \$30 posted		
TOTAL		

Name:

Address:

Suburb/ Town:

State: Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

PAYMENT DETAILS Fill in the form and send to:

Norm Winn (Victorian Salvia Study Group) P O Box 197, Vermont 3133 Phone: 0438 733 060 Email: norm.winn@bigpond.com

Cheque / Money Order: payable to Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

Direct Deposit: BSB: 633-000 Acc. No: 116846122 Acc. Name: Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

PayPal: online – vssginc1@tpg.com.au Website: www.salvias.org.au **Surname & Initial please (admin purposes only)**



BEAUTIFUL HAND PAINTED CARDS

CARDS	QTY	SUBTOTAL \$
Individual cards only \$2.50 each		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia gesneriiflora		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia micro. var neurepia		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia roemeriana		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia leucantha		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia patens		
5 assorted flowers \$10.00/pack		
5 same flower \$10.00/pack		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia gesneriiflora		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia micro. var neurepia		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia roemeriana		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia leucantha		
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvia patens		
TOTAL		

PAYMENT DETAILS Fill in the form and send to:

Lyndi Garnett (Victorian Salvia Study Group)

844 Highbury Rd Glen Waverley VIC 3150

Phone: 03 9803 4534 Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

Cheque / Money Order: payable to Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

Direct Deposit: BSB: 633-000 Acc. No: 116846122 Acc. Name: Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

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

Surname & Initial please (admin purposes only)

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Address:

Suburb/ Town:

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The Victorian Salvia Study Group. Inc

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Membership includes Salvia News Annual Subscription

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Any queries, phone Tine Grimston – see details below

Name:

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Suburb/ Town: State: Postcode:

Phone: Email

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Hard copy posted \$20.00

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Subscribe for a Friend

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Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

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Rowville Vic. 3178

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

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BSB: 633-000 A/c No: 116846122 Acc. Name: Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

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

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A form must be completed with all types of payment and sent to the Membership Officer

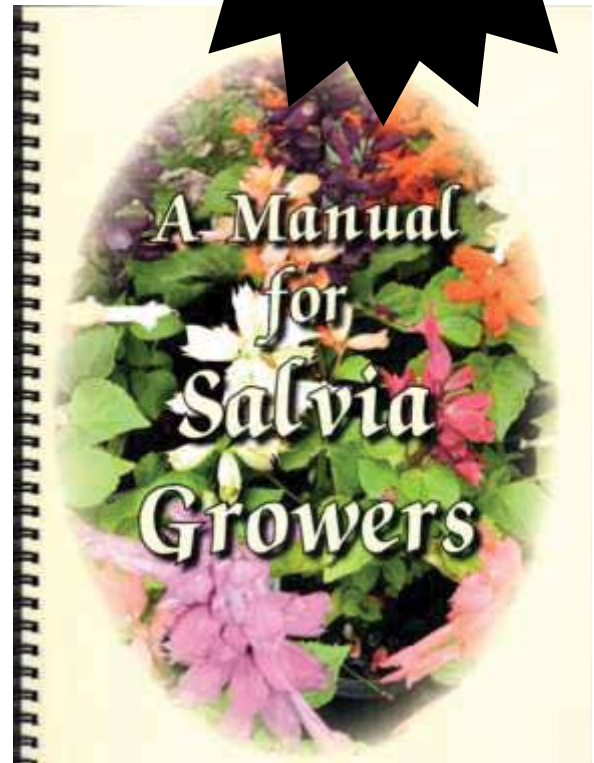
A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

by Meg Bentley

There are now approximately
370 Species and Cultivars represented,
202 Photographs, Illustrations and Index

Contents include:

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- Characteristics of Leaves
- Salvia microphylla & greggii differences
- Salvia karwinskii and cultivars
- Purple Majesty and Black Knight
- Salvia Maintenance
- Hardy Salvias and Shade Lovers
- Containers/Hanging Baskets/Hedges
- As an Accent in the Garden
- Propagating and Pruning
- Colourful Tints of Stressed Leaves
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- Where to see Salvias
- Cultivation Notes and Name Changes



Quantity	Item	Price per item	Postage per item	Total
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Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____

State: _____

Postcode: _____

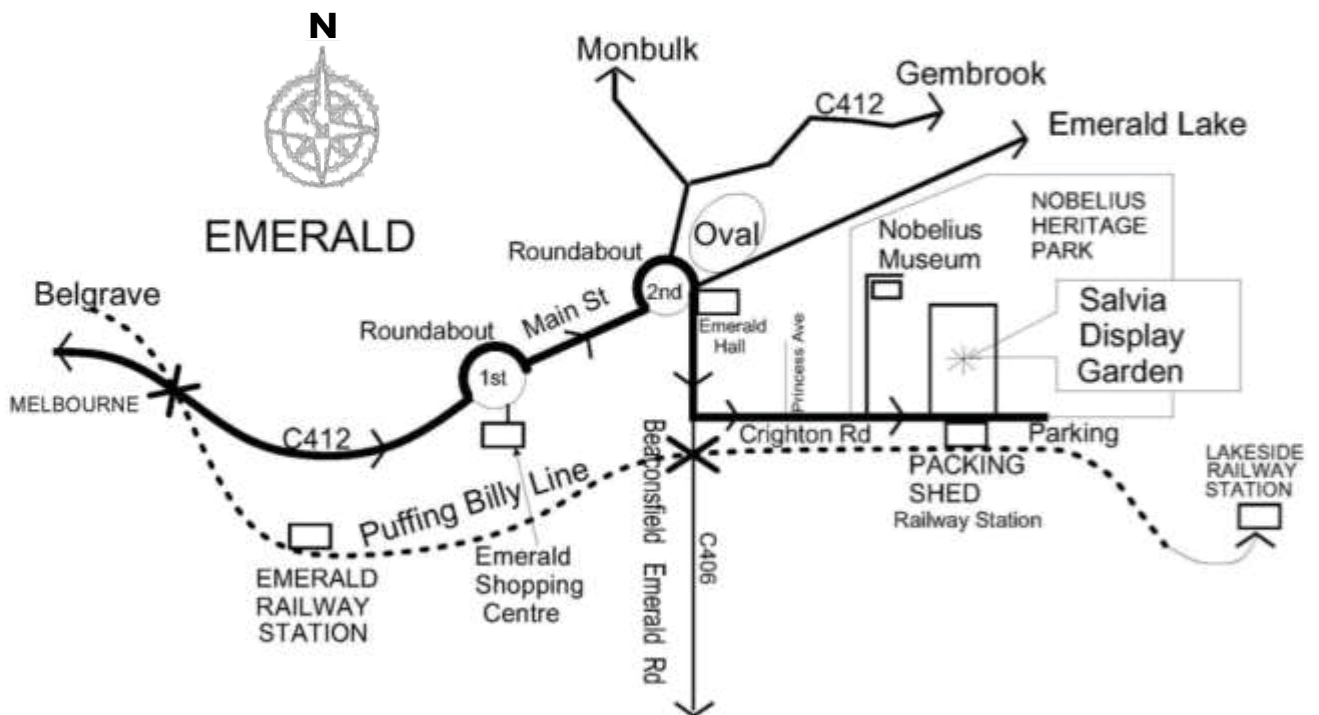
Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Please return completed forms together with payment/proof of payment to:
Victorian Salvia Study Group
6 Halcyon Avenue THE PATCH VIC 3792
Enquiries to Jillian Barkell (03) 9756 6361

Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc
c/- Lyndi Garnett
844 Highbury Road
Glen Waverley Vic 3150

DIRECTIONS TO THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN



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