

Salvia News

NUMBER 94



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Autumn 2024

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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Welcome to Salvia News, Autumn 2024. Ahead, we can look forward to another year of great gardening, to finding new salvias to add to our collections, or even to rediscovering old favourites we may have lost along the way.

Our magazine's tradition of by the members, for the members continues with this edition; our members never let us down, penning the contributions that give the magazine its very readable and informative content.

Terry Ashon's report on the Yarra Valley Spring Expo provides a behind-the-scenes account of the hard work that goes into the selling events we participate in during the year, and highlights the fun and new learnings that we all gain from helping out. If you haven't tried being a helper at one of our selling events give it a go – you'll rub shoulders with all sorts of like-minded salvia enthusiasts, have a great time checking out the other stalls and exhibits, and be inspired, I'm sure, to do a return bout of selling salvias at our next event.

Geoff Crowhurst continues his series on 'A Favourite Salvia', this issue featuring *Salvia muirii*. I imagine many, if not most, of us would agree with Geoff that it's impossible to settle on one salvia as a favourite. Time and place play a part in determining which salvia captures our attention on any particular occasion, and the sight of that near perfect flower or plant in full bloom is always a breath-catching moment.

Well, with this hot, streamy, mid-February run of weather we're having presently, it's time to water the garden, and give my many pot plants their nightly drink. That's the trouble with having a small garden, you can only have another plant if you put it in a pot, and I have plenty of those – too many, probably, but I wouldn't have it any other way!

Happy gardening,

Andreina

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Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is

1st May 2024

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

Cover Photo is 'Wensley Apricot'. Photo by Lyndi Garnett.

In case an unforeseen circumstance occurs necessitating a change to a proposed garden visit, it is recommended that members check our web site (www.salvias.org.au) to confirm that the visit is going ahead as scheduled.

Read more of what's happening this winter on page 16.

We begin the year with the wonderful Ferny Creek Plant Collectors Fair The first Garden Fair of the year .

MAR SAT 9TH & SUN 10TH | Ferny Creek Plant Collectors Fair | 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafras – 10.00am-4.00pm

Come and see our new year's collection with the Autumn Salvias just beginning to come into flower.

Now is the time to buy the Winter flowering Salvias. Plant them now so they begin flowering brightly on those cold wintery days.

Plenty of colour and versatility from the greggii/microphylla types.

Ask our members to help you select the right salvias for your garden.

MAR SUN 24TH | Judy Percy's Garden | 25 Murray Rd, Croydon – 11.00am

Visit a beautiful garden in the middle of Croydon. A garden that is always changing, always something new to be seen, always evolving.

Lovely garden to wander through with a cuppa.

APR SAT 13TH | Jindivick Garden Festival | Palmers Rd, Broughton Hall, Jindivick Jindivick Festival is back! This time in the beautiful grounds of Broughton Hall.

Come to buy your Autumn and Winter Salvias, and wander through the gorgeous revamped gardens with their magnificent views of the local river.

A great selection of Salvias for sale, gorgeous Autumn colours just coming into flower.

APR SAT 20TH & SUN 21ST | Yarra Valley Autumn Fair & Garden Expo | 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 10.00am-5.00pm

Great lot colours available in pinks, reds, yellows, blues and purples for sun, shade, frost hardy positions, tall and small.

Winter Salvias are just coming into flower, with those stunning, in your face flowers, so grab some quickly before they all walk out.

MAY SUN 19TH | Melton Botanic Gardens | 40 Lakewood Boulevard – 11am

Visit a magnificent Dryland Botanic Gardens with specialised Worldwide Collections.

A very extensive Salvia collection in the South African Garden. The Dryland Eucalyptus Arboretum is a must with loads of different small Eucalypts showcased that can be grown in small gardens. An extensive Mediterranean Garden with a good collection of Salvias. A good Californian and Central & South American garden with all sorts of interesting plants that can be grown here in Melbourne.

An wonderful collection of plants in the nursery to plunder.

Meet at the Public Carpark.

JUNE SAT 15TH | Gardeners Day Out

Salvias will be ready and available for those early buyers.

Come and see our Mid Winter Collection. Collect those early Salvias ready for Spring. Lots of colour and variety.

Salvia Manuals and cards will be available. Bring plants and flowers to be identified.

Place orders early, to be collected on the day. Don't miss out.

Any queries, contact Lyndi Ph 9803 4534.

Notes from Gruyere

Text by Meg Bentley, Photo from VSSG website

What an enjoyable day for the Salvia Study Group to visit the gardens here in Gruyere and have their AGM as well. Thank you all for coming and hope you went home loaded with plants, there were certainly many assorted plants to share.

I do hope everyone had wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations, a great time to catch up with friends and family.

We have been so lucky with the weather here, usually under the cloud of a rain-shadow but can't believe how much rain there has been. Tanks are full, gardens have been watered and the birds are happy everywhere. Pots and contained plants of course still need to be watered often but that's not a problem. It gives you time to view the garden, observe the plants and their performance and make mental notes of what needs to be propagated and spread around.

I know that many who visited the gardens would have noticed 'singular' plantings of salvias in various positions, where, as in other areas, there were several of the same species planted out. This is to find the best spot for a new salvia out in the garden, to see how it performs and to check if it is actually in the most suitable position, rather than plant out a mass display of a particular species or cultivar, then find it is just not coping as well as you would like. It would be lovely to actually plant out a mass display of certain salvias, but due to hard clay and stony ground, it's not always satisfactory. There are many areas here in the gardens where most shade lovers are growing in cooler, shady positions on the lower side of the hill and the hardy, sun-lovers are up on the topside of the hill in full sun. These hardy ones also have to cope with the slope as well as tough soil conditions.

This doesn't apply to *Salvia forskaohlii*, so named after a plant collector from Finland, Peter Forsskal, in the mid 1700's. This salvia has had many variations of spelling including forskahlii, forsskaohlii, forskaohlei and forskahlei but, whatever the spelling, it is a great plant for the border or as a filler, just as long as you don't mind it self-seeding close by.

Whilst the weather has been up and down with wet, cool and at times hot, I have been taking advantage of propagating certain plants, not just salvias. Taking the cuttings early in the morning, soaking them in diluted seaweed solution and after removing the lower leaves, placing several together into a good free-draining mix with perlite added. Tamp down to firm them into the mix and add labels then water gently overhead with the remaining solution and place in part shade out of the sun and wind, sometimes, depending on which species it is, I'll let it stand in an empty bucket with a very small amount of water in the bottom (about a cupful) then leave it until all the water has been re-absorbed, this can be a day or two. This method I have found over Summer has been quite successful for propagating.

Wishing everyone a great planting year ahead for 2024.



Salvia forskaohlii

The Perennial Poppies Salvia Study Day

Text by Ann Roffey, Photos by Kristen Mathews and Ann Roffey

The Perennial Poppies Salvia Study Group met September 2023 at the home of Brenda Seabourne and her daughter Kristen, at Burpengary East. This was my first attendance, and what a lovely group it is! Salvias are such a diverse group of plants, with beautiful flowers, so hardy and easy to grow. I was eager to learn more about them.

Our hosts gave us a tour of their garden, which featured a large variety of salvias, some growing in the ground and a lot in pots. Having moved from acreage 10 years ago, to suburbia, they have confined their salvia collection to more compact varieties such as the 'Wishes' series and microphylla and greggii forms. I was interested to see and learn more about the smaller growing salvias, as I also live on a suburban block. I have some of the larger varieties in my garden and am forever pruning them back to keep them in check.

A few of the salvias I jotted down were *S.* 'Wendy's Wish', 'Mrs Bucket', *S. microphylla* 'Musk', *S. coahuilensis* 'Blue Lightning' (although the flowers look purple), 'Ballerina', 'Di's Delight', and one of Brenda's favourites, *S. greggii* 'Playa Rosa'. Along the back fence were some spectacular hybrid salvias 'Rockin Fuchsia', another winner which flowers nearly all the time. I was given some cuttings of the latter to propagate. Hopefully, they will take, as I am looking forward to adding it to my garden.



'Cupie Doll', 'Brandy', 'Ballerina' 'Hot Crush' and 'Arabella'

We continued our tour round the front, where most plants were growing in the ground. Against the house, a row of *S.* 'Kisses & Wishes' was growing, with beautiful dark pink gaura planted in front, flowering profusely. The red foliage was a lovely contrast. I made a mental note to look out for this plant next time I'm at a nursery. It's wonderful to visit other gardens, isn't it? It gives inspiration and ideas for our gardens. Some beautiful flowering hippeastrums also received our attention. The dark purple *Salvia* 'Lake Spencer' was a drawcard, especially since it is a low grower. Growing near the front door are the best-looking variegated shrimp plants I have ever seen! The secret of their success is they are pruned regularly so they bush up, making them tough and able to hold themselves up.



From Back – Kisses & Wishes, Gaura, Orlaya and Agapanthus

Brenda started preparing for our visit at the beginning of August (six weeks before our visit), by giving all her salvias a hard prune. This was followed by a liquid fertiliser program of Seasol® and Powerfeed® every two weeks. About 4 weeks before our arrival, they were fertilised twice with Thrive®. Once buds appeared, the liquid feeding was ceased. The rest of the garden is fertilised with Organic Xtra®. We've had little to no rain in southeast Queensland in the last few months. This is a common occurrence in winter and early spring, but it is more keenly felt this year, after the plentiful rain from La Nina in recent years.

Once we had finished our tour and taken many photos, it was inside for the serious stuff, sharing new discoveries of salvias, and what's doing well in our own gardens. Glenda Sellenger prepared notes for us about the new salvia series on the market, the Lake series, Fashion series, and Fisher series. Flowers were passed around as an example of some of them, with lots of admiration from all seventeen attendees.

It was a pleasure to attend my first Perennial Poppies Salvia Study group meeting at Brenda and Kristen's house. The words on one of their ornaments sums up their passion for gardening very well, *Of all the joys my life brings, a blooming garden makes my heart sing.*

The Perennial Poppies Group Inc
Southeast Queensland



'Lake Tahoe', 'Lake McKenzie', 'Lake Strawfuerry', 'Lake Spencer', 'Cupie Doll', and Leucantah 'Pink Velour'



Salvia 'Rockin' Fuschia'

A Favourite Salvia

Text and Photo by Geoff Crowhurst

With there being so many interesting and attractive salvias, it is impossible to select just the one favourite salvia, but somewhere at the top of my list would have to be *Salvia muirii*. It seems that Sue Templeton introduced this species, having grown it from seed, and has described it as “one of my all time favourite salvias”.

The plant is named after a Dr John Muir, an enthusiastic Scottish plant collector who lived for some time in the southern Cape area of South Africa where he found it in 1915. *S. muirii* is among the entries of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) where the description refers to “this beautiful plant”, and its flowering from mid-summer to autumn. Maybe my own conditions – dryish, quite ordinary soil – suit it well, as it has already been flowering for some time (mid- November). Apart from an earlier clipping back, the plant has had no attention whatever, including any watering. *S. muirii* has been noted elsewhere as being long-lived, drought resistant and almost pest free.

appear more luminous when the sun is not shining. They also mix well with all other colours, including orange, which can be difficult to place in the garden: I am thinking particularly of the common strelitzia, which as it happens, also comes from South Africa. *S. muirii* makes a very tidy bush, and would be a worthwhile addition to any garden in a sunny, well-drained position.



Salvia muirii

6 Blue flowers are great to have in a garden, and although mirroring the colour of the sky, probably

Some Hints for Those Interested in Knowing More About Salvias

Text by Lyndi Garnett

Lyndi has many requests from various groups, particularly gardening groups, to speak at their meetings, but she is not always able to accept those kind invitations and, on those occasions, she recommends the following:

“I can appreciate that many members, including those in Regional Victoria, want to know more about Salvias. A few of the ways of learning about Salvias are:

Collect and grow Salvias in your garden – try and plant them in the garden rather than leave them in pots. Some don’t grow well in pots for any length of time.

Grab Meg’s Manual which tells you how to grow Salvias. Books can be obtained either from the website or at any of this year’s Garden Events, beginning with Ferny Creek.

Come up and help at Nobelius (Emerald) at a working bee. That is where you can see how the plants grow – their heights, bushiness, their growth habit. Learn to prune and cut back. There are always cuttings to be taken home.

Do your research on the individual Salvias that you are collecting. Go to our website and visit the pages on identification with many lists of Salvias. If you can’t find information on that particular Salvia then contact me on **Phone 9803 4534** or **Email lgarnett844@gmail.com**. I can then tell you about that Salvia.

Bring plants, or flowers with leaves, you want identified to any of our Gardening Events. The Calendar of Events on our website or in our magazine will provide dates and locations. Don’t forget labels and a pen.”

Salvia Christmas Luncheon December, 2023

Text and Photos by Terry Ashton

Members of the Victorian Salvia Study Group enjoyed a lovely day at the home of Meg Bentley and her family in Gruyere just prior to Christmas and it was good to get together and catch up with others who have the same delight in Salvias.

Prior to lunch, Lyndi thanked Meg for having us and also thanked the Committee for their tireless work throughout the year. There will be some changes to the 2024 committee as Gordon Donaldson is stepping down as treasurer and Tine Grimston will be relinquishing the position of membership officer during the new year.

Lyndi then gave an overview of the past year and what was coming in the year ahead, including the fact that the website is being updated. Lyndi was thanked as Coordinator for everything that she does for the Group and she reminded everyone to visit the Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park in Emerald as it is in full flower.

The lunch was delicious and there was a wonderful variety of food including Meg's famous 'Fruit Cup Sage Tea Cake with Dorisiana Syrup,' which was truly delicious!

After lunch there was time for everyone to have a look around Megs' lovely garden. It's an enormous garden and everywhere you look, there were salvias. Many members had brought plants to share and swap, all of which added to what was a special day. Many of us went home with a couple of potted Salvias.

Thank you to Meg and her family, for a great day.



Meg With Her Delicious Sage Tea Cake



Members Enjoying Lunch



Lyndi Presenting Her 2023 Co-ordinator's Report



A Laden Sweets Table

Storm Damage at Nobelius

Text and Photos by Lyndi Garnett



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On the Wednesday after all those horrific Summer storms we had at the beginning of January, I thought I should go up to inspect the garden for any damage, only to find a huge rill (ditch) carved into the main path, snaking its way down past the two, side entry paths.

It was as if someone had upturned an enormous vat of water from high above and dumped it at that point. I and others are still puzzled about where such a volume of water had come from with such velocity when nothing surrounding the top of the path was damaged or showed any sign of water surging past or through the area.

After a few calls, I was able to gather a few bodies to help rake the toppings back the following Thursday. We were lucky with the weather as it was a beautiful day that Thursday, but rained the next day!

We all arrived with rakes and spades to inspect the damage. It seems that not only did the force of the water make a deep cut in the path, taking the toppings with it as it went down the path, but it pushed the toppings up and over into the beds.

We began by finding all those toppings at the bottom and bringing them to the top to fill in the rill, then reclaiming the toppings from the garden

beds where they had smothered a number of plants. I'm sure those plants were relieved to get all that load off them, and they could have some fresh air again.

That Thursday was our lucky day as the Shire had deposited a huge load of toppings on the top road to help with the damage found on the main road down to the Museum. The driver very kindly allowed us to take a few bags of toppings to fill in the dints in the path. When as much of the toppings as possible were raked back into place it was time for lots of feet to begin dancing down the path to make sure there weren't any holes or gaps that were missed.

Although the path is now safe again, it will need a few extra millimetres of toppings added, a bit of cement dust spread through and a good heavy compactor to complete the job.

I would like to thank those who volunteered their time to restore the path, making it safe for others to walk through the garden once again, admiring the flowers and all the growth the Salvias have put on since last year. Lots of work to be done at the first working bee – 7th March, 1st Thursday of the month.



Yarra Valley Garden Expo 11th-12th November 2023

Text and Photos by Terry Ashton

The Victorian Salvia Study Group was one of many plant stall holders at this year's Spring Garden Expo at Wandin in the Yarra Valley, which was held on November 11th and 12th.

Guest compere, Sophie Thomson from 'Gardening Australia', was the MC and guest speaker for the weekend and the whole event was well supported by a number of expert plant growers.

When I arrived on the Saturday at 8.30 a.m., Lyndi, Andreina and Gordon had done a great job of setting the trestles up with a huge stock of salvia plants. With an hour and a half to go before the public was allowed in at 10 a.m., there was still a lot to do. ID photos had to be placed along the outside of each trestle; plants needed a drink of water and printed information had to be folded for purchasers. By the time 10 o'clock came, we were ready!

Everyone worked so hard, answering many queries as well as selling a great many salvia

plants. The Saturday was especially busy in the morning and by the day's end, many of the plants had been sold. This allowed Lyndi to stock up and deliver many more plants on Sunday which was a quieter day but still very good and of course everyone wanted what was out of stock.

By weekend's end, the number of written pages with orders was considerable, so Lyndi will be busy processing these.

Please save the date for the Autumn sale at the Yarra Valley Garden Expo, which will be held on April 20th-21st, 2024. If you can help with our stall, Lyndi will be very appreciative.

We need more members to volunteer to help with future selling days. It's a great way of learning about this amazing genre of plants. You don't need to know the names, just come along to help and you will enjoy working with like-minded people on the Salvia Study Group of Victoria's stall.

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So much to choose from!



Happy purchasers



Lyndi Setting Out Photo IDs



Gordon and Andreina folding handouts

AGM Report 2023

Text by Lyndi Garnett

We were lucky to be able to hold our AGM and Christmas Lunch at Meg Bentley's wonderful garden on Sunday, 3rd December 2023.

I say lucky as the day before was raining and miserable and the next week was also miserable, but as I knew it was to be a Salvia Day, it was a perfect sunny day, even becoming rather hot in the afternoon.

The event was well attended by members, with a number still coming through during the proceedings. All were welcomed, and encouraged to participate in those proceedings.

To keep this report short, I would like to thank Meg for allowing us to host the AGM at her property and to all those who came.

The Co-ordinator's annual report was read out with a few points being emphasised about wanting more members to participate in the Group's activities, either helping to maintain our Display Garden at Nobelius, or help on the committee, or give a helping hand behind the lines. It was also mentioned that the Website was being updated, making it more user friendly to all devices with some interesting new features, which should be available shortly.

The Treasurer's report included an explanation of how we use whatever funds we receive and reported a healthy bank balance going into 2024.

At this time, it was revealed that Gordon Donaldson, our Treasurer, is stepping down after holding the helm steady for a number of years. Tine Grimston, our Membership Officer, will also be stepping down at the end of our financial year. They, of course, will continue in those roles until someone says "I can do that" and steps up to take over that position.

All Committee of Management positions were vacated and, with Fiona Williams officiating over the meeting, the following members were elected unopposed:

Co Ordinator:	Lyndi Garnett
Treasurer:	vacant
Secretary:	Heather Lucas
Membership Officer:	Tine Grimston until end of membership year
Facebook Manager:	Julie Kavanagh
General Committee:	Andreina Chinn – Editor's Assistant and Publicity Norm Winn

Jillian Barkell is presently on leave from committee duties.

Thanks was given to each and every member of the committee and those helping in other areas for all the hard work and help given during the year.

Many thanks to Gordon for doing a wonderful job in keeping the Group balanced over his many years.

Thank-you also to Tine for the fantastic job of co-ordinating the members and sending out the many emails to members keeping them informed about the Group's activities

At the end of the AGM meeting and conclusion of events it was time for the party to begin!!

Note: Both the Treasurer's position and the Membership Officer's position are vacant. These are both very interesting and rewarding positions for any member who wants to help the Group or wants to get involved, wanting to know more of how the Group operates.

A Garden Visit to Beechwood

23rd October 2023

Text and Photos by Lyndi Garnett

I thought a visit to Julie Campbell's garden "Beechwood" near Benalla for her open day in October was highly overdue and would be a breath of fresh air. I wasn't wrong, it was wonderful.

When we arrived on time at 10 am, I was amazed that the car park along the road was full already – where had all these people come from? On our way to the gate, who should I spy but Meryl and Keith Waterhouse from Pakenham. It was like old lost friends finding each other again. Unfortunately, Meryl was in a wheelchair, and Keith had to push her up the hill to the gate. From the outside, the garden looked glorious, so shady, full of colour and inviting. Julie was fortunate to have so many helpers for the event. The gate was manned by so many smiling faces, and at last, we were through. We were welcomed by magnificent stands of purple *Salvia leucantha* in full flower – a glorious sight.

Winding our way up the beautifully graded, granitic sand paths, beautifully manicured lawns and shady trees, we found an area for Meryl and Keith to set up home for a couple of hours. It didn't take Meryl long to scout around the

garden to find the plant stall, which was selling pots of Irises, Salvias and other beauties from the garden. Meryl let me know where the stall was and what was selling, so of course, I made a beeline for the stall, buying some magnificent coloured Irises. As I didn't want to have to carry too many plants back with me, I kept my purchases to the Irises as I already had most of the Salvias on offer.

With my purchases in hand, I could now look around the garden. It was gorgeous; so many layers in such a small area. All beds had trees running through the spine of the bed, some tall, some tall and spreading, others small and shady to sit beneath. We were parked in a shady area on the side of the lawn, overlooking the rotunda where the local Benalla Jazz band was playing.

It really was an ideal position, not too hot, but sunny, with a view of Julie's plantings. The most striking plants in flower at that time were the clumps of Irises – they were stunning – perfect timing on Julie's behalf. Gorgeous purples, yellows and pale blues with a few bicolours were interspersed with small shrubs and clumps of grasses and, of course, Salvias.

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Yellow Iris Clump and Side Garden



Superba Pink Sensation

I was so pleased to see a whole edging of *Salvia superba* 'Snowhills', something not often seen these days.

While wandering, who should I bump into but Janine and Daryl Lyon from Wangaratta while they were having a weekend away from the farm. We all wandered around the garden, with oohs and aahs, at the different plants we saw, especially the *Salvia* 'Rocking Purple' and 'Rocking Fuchsia'. We initially thought these were 'Amistad' and 'Amante', but no, they were a new variety from NSW with the same gene pool, looking very similar to the original but different. Anyway, both plants looked stunning in their display of flowers in a semi-shaded position under a tree. As we moved away, more people came up to admire the flowers.



Pratenis Indigo

We walked around admiring how both Julie and Gary had put so much hard work into every bed – the planting, care of the plants, fertilising and mulching – and at the same time, admiring and trying to name all the *Salvias* we saw along

the way. So many different areas of the garden to visit, to wander, to admire the planting, the timing of the flowering, and of the careful positioning of the planting, all within a short distance from the hub of people all wanting to find a spot to sit and have lunch. It was a gorgeous setting with all who attended enjoying the garden, the band and the day's ambience in a beautiful garden.



Lilac Iris



Mauve Iris



Red Peonies



Blue Marvel



Clump of Mauve Irises

Pruning Salvias

These notes on pruning have been taken from Lyndi Garnett's Propagation and Pruning section on our Website.

Pruning Salvias is very easy. If you live in the suburbs, it can be done at any time of the year, but if you live in the country, or live in a cold area which is frost prone, then a little more care is needed.

The rule of thumb is to always cut to a bud that looks as if it's growing, or about to shoot. Salvias put on new growth at the base of the stems. This is especially true of the small-leaf Salvias and perennial Salvias.

There are basically 4 types of Salvias: small-leaf, bushy Salvias; perennial Salvias; clumping Salvias, which can be herbaceous or biennial, and usually have rosette type growth; and tall Salvias. However, they don't all have the same method of pruning.

Small-Leaf, Bushy Salvias:

These can be cut down to half or lower if they are actively growing but certainly not cut to the ground. If in a frost prone area, just tip prune and leave any major pruning until after the frosts are past. They need to be regularly pruned to keep their compact shape and to keep the flowers coming.

Don't worry about cutting off the flowers as they'll be back in about 3-4 weeks' time.

If the plant is straggly and has two or three stems, cut two stems back to lower nodes and leave the third stem. Wait until the pruned stems begin to shoot before cutting down that last, straggly one. Often, if you cut all the stems down at once – especially if too severely – then the plant can go into shock and die. This method ensures that you don't lose your plant when pruned.

Tip pruning helps to create more compact growth, and this can be done at any time after planting out. Most salvias can be pruned back by one third after flowering, removing spent flowering stems as they finish which can result in a second flush of flowers.

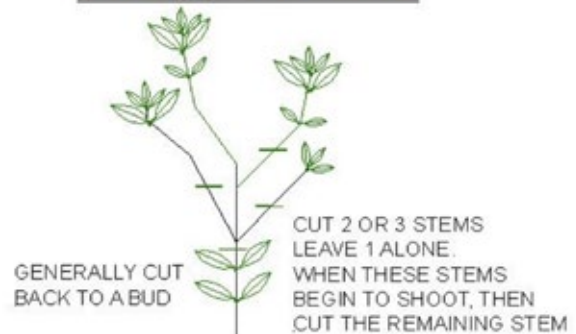
This group includes: the greggii/ microphylla group, 'Cookie', South African Salvias, flocculosa, setulosa, coccinea group, 'Superior

Purple', 'Josh', 'Silkes Dream', 'Penny's Smile' and many other small-leaf varieties

Prune small-leaf salvias twice a year:

1. Autumn, when they are looking straggly after Summer, is a good time to clean up the whole plant, get rid of any weak and dead little twigs and any old growth. If you are in a cold area then just dead head and leave the real pruning until all frosts are over when you can prune back to a good bud. After cleaning up the plants, it's a good opportunity to manure and mulch, as the plants are still growing and need some nourishment for the winter growth and a new flush of flowers.
2. In Spring, the new growth should be taken down by half. This ensures that the resulting new growth will be more sustainable for the upcoming hot weather. If you leave that new Spring growth, you'll find that it'll be the first to wilt when we have those hot days in October.

STRAGGLY SHRUBS

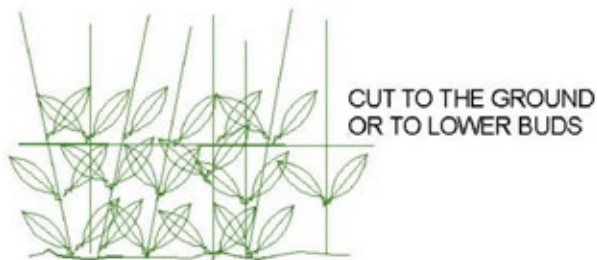


Perennial Salvias:

These are usually plants with tall, straight stems that come directly out of the ground. They produce new shoots at the base. These can be cut down to the ground, but only after new shoots have appeared. These plants don't need touching again until late Summer coming into Autumn, when they need cutting down again.

These include: Bog Sage, 'Bethelii', 'Joan', leucantha varieties, 'Violet Eyes', 'Winter Red', urica and many others.

PERENNIAL SALVIAS



Clumping, Herbaceous Salvias:

This type of pruning applies to all rosette, clumping Salvias, including the biennial Salvias from the Middle East, Turkey, etc. This group sends up one or more spikes of flower stems which can be cut down after they've finished flowering, or in Autumn. I like to leave a bit of a stem (unsightly as they look) so you know where they are (and you don't accidentally dig them up and you can keep an eye out for snails and slugs). When the new growth is about to appear, even a cloche of fly wire over the plant will help to protect the new shoots from those midnight feasting until the growth is strong enough to withstand their onslaught.

These Salvias include: the nemerosa/ suberba/x sylvestris group, Clary Sage, desoleana, indica, argentea, 'Rubin', aethiopsis, eigii, etc.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL



Tall Salvias:

Tall Salvias are the only group that is usually pruned after they have finished flowering. Some start flowering in Autumn, others through Winter into Spring. Many of the early flowering ones, e.g., *Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight', can be pruned in Spring, and the later ones, pruned in early Summer, before it gets too hot for any of the new shoots.

Take out the old tough stems and leave the new shoots that are coming up from the base. If there are no basal shoots, then cut down to a node

where you think there are buds – about a third to three quarters down the stem. New shoots should begin to show in a few weeks. If you are unsure, then adopt the above policy of cutting two stems and leaving one stem, then cutting that down when the others have begun to shoot. When the new shoots begin to appear, you can then see if you want to prune them down some more, or just leave the stems and new growth.

As these stems become very woody after some years, it is necessary to almost prune them to the ground to promote good fresh strong stems to take over. But again, if unsure, adopt the two stem, leave one stem policy.

If in a cold or frost area, these tall Salvias may have been frosted, but leave the blackened mess until after the frosts have passed. The blackened mess will protect the new shoots; obviously, clear away all blackened parts when the weather begins to warm up.

If in cold and frosty areas, these tall Salvias need protection – plant in, among or next to other hardy shrubs and trees which will give protection, or plant under deciduous trees - the tracery of the branches helps to break the frost. Plant near brick pathways and paved areas or areas that will absorb the heat – not concrete, as concrete is cold and reflects the heat/sun.

Tall Salvias include: iodantha, 'Bluebird', 'purpurea', involucrata spp, 'Timboon', 'Romantic Rose', the karwinskii group and many others.

All Salvias need pruning to keep them tidy and sustainable, and to get them through the next hard season of hot summer weather or cold, windy, wet winters.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS AUTUMN

2024

We begin the year with the Ferny Creek Rare Plant Collectors Fair. The first Garden Fair of the year.

MARCH – SAT 9TH & SUN 10TH

Ferny Creek Plant Collectors Fair, 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafras – 10.00am-4.00pm

Come and see our new year's collection with the Autumn Salvias just beginning to come into flower. Now is the time to buy the Winter flowering Salvias. Plant them now so they begin flowering brightly on those cold wintery days.

Plenty of colour and versatility to cover all your needs from the little greggii/microphylla Salvias. Ask our members to help you select the right Salvias for your garden.

Salvia Manual and cards available. Place orders early, pick up on the day, so don't miss out. Bring flowers and leaves for identification.

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



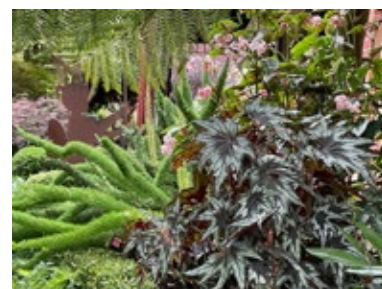
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MARCH – SUN 24TH

Judy Percy's Garden, 25 Murray Rd, Croydon – 11am

Visit a beautiful garden in the middle of Croydon. A garden that is always changing, always something new to be seen, always evolving.



Phone Judy if coming – 0408 570 423.

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

CONTACT LYNDI

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

APRIL – SAT 13TH

**Jindivick Garden Festival –
Palmers Rd, Broughton Hall, Jindivick –
10am-5pm**

Jindivick Festival is back! This time in the beautiful grounds of Broughton Hall.

Come to buy your Autumn and Winter Salvias, and wander through the gorgeous revamped gardens with their magnificent views of the local river.

A great selection of Salvias for sale – gorgeous Autumn colours just coming into flower.

Salvia Manual and cards for sale.

Place orders early so you miss out. Bring your lists and flowers to be identified.

Come and say hello!

Phone Lyndi: 9803 4534 Email: Igarnett844@gmail.com

**THE GIPPSLAND
RARE & UNUSUAL
PLANT
FAIR 2024** Admission to Garden & Fair: \$25

The Garden
AT BROUGHTON HALL

Date: Saturday 13th April
Time: 9.00am till 4.00pm
Venue: The Garden at Broughton Hall
125 Palmer Road,
Jindivick, 3818
CONTACT: 0417 056 110 (Lyndi)

STALL HOLDERS INCLUDE:

- Treasured Perennials
- G and M Rare Bulbs
- Wild Rose Nursery
- Barambar Rare Plants
- Hancock's Bulbs
- Hilltop Hives
- F.D. Ryan Tools
- Seedscape Seeds

• And many more including food and coffee, garden tools, sculptures and demonstrations by Topboxus and others



Broughton Hall Gardens



APRIL – SAT 20TH & SUN 21ST

**Yarra Valley Autumn Fair & Garden Expo –
125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 10am-5pm**

Great lot colours available in pinks, reds, yellows, blues and purples for sun, shade, frost hardy positions, tall and small, we've got them all. Winter Salvias are just coming into flower, with those stunning, in your face flowers, so grab some quickly before they all walk off the tables.

Salvia Manual and cards for sale. Place orders early so you miss out. Bring your lists and flowers to be identified.

Come and say hello! Phone Lyndi: Ph 9803 4534.
Email: Igarnett844@gmail.com



(continued over...)

What's Happening This Autumn (cont...)

MAY – SUN 19TH

Melton Botanic Gardens, 40 Lakewood Boulevard – 11.00am

Visit a magnificent Dryland Botanic Gardens with specialised Worldwide Collections.

A very extensive Salvia collection in the Sth African Garden.

The Dryland Eucalyptus Arboretum is a must with loads of different small Eucalypts that can be grown in small gardens.

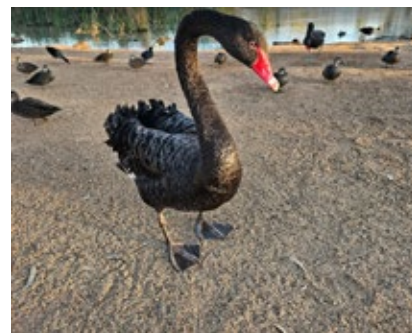
An extensive Mediterranean Garden with a good collection of Salvias. A good Californian and Central & South American garden with all sorts of interesting plants that can be grown here in Melbourne.

When you're finished wandering around all the magnificent collection of plants, there is the Nursery to plunder!

It is a nursery full of plants from each collection available to purchase. Bring boxes or bags for all those plants to take home.

Meet at the Public Carpark. Coffee/Tea provided. Bring a plate to share, a rug or chair.

Phone Lyndi if coming Ph 9803 45234 or mobile on the day 0417 301 048.



JUNE – SAT 15TH

Gardeners Day Out, Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Highway, Burwood – 9.30am

Salvias will be ready and available for those early buyers.

Come and see our Mid Winter Collection. Collect those early Salvias ready for Spring. Lots of colour and variety.

Salvia Manuals and cards will be available.

Bring plants and flowers to be identified.

Place orders early, to be collected on the day.

Don't miss out.

Any queries, contact Lyndi Ph 9803 4534.



Salvia Cards Order Form

Created by Meg Bentley



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		

CARDS	QTY	SUBTOTAL \$
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)**

Name:

Address:

Suburb/ Town:

State: Postcode: Phone:

Email:

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

Name:

Address:

Suburb/ Town: State: Postcode:

Phone: Email

Membership includes Salvia News Annual Subscription 1 year (4 issues)

Hard copy posted \$30.00 Online \$25.00

Subscribe for a Friend

Name:

Address:

Suburb/ Town: State: Postcode:

Phone: Email

Payment Details: Fill in the form and send to Membership Officer

Tine Grimston, Membership Officer

Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

4 Crimea CIs,

Rowville Vic. 3178

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

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

Direct Deposit:

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

Surname & Initial (admin purposes only) please

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

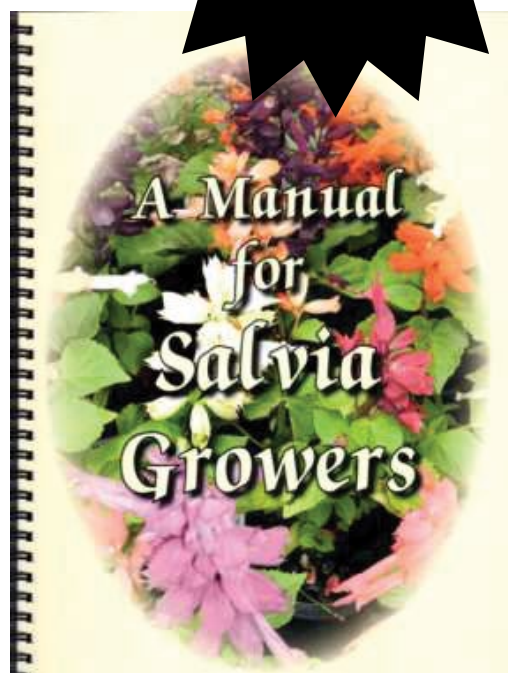
A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

by Meg Bentley

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

Contents include:

- Botany of Salvia
- 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
- Pests and Disease
- Where to see Salvias
- Cultivation Notes and Name Changes



Quantity	Item	Price per item	Postage per item	Total
_____	A Manual for Salvia Growers by Meg Bentley	\$30.00	\$10.00 (Australian postage only)	\$ _____

- Cheque/Money Order (payable to Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.)
- Direct Deposit: BSB: 633-000 Account No: 116846122 Account Name: Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.
- PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/au/webapps/mpp/send-money-online> (pay to: vssginc1@tpg.com.au)

Name: _____

Address: _____

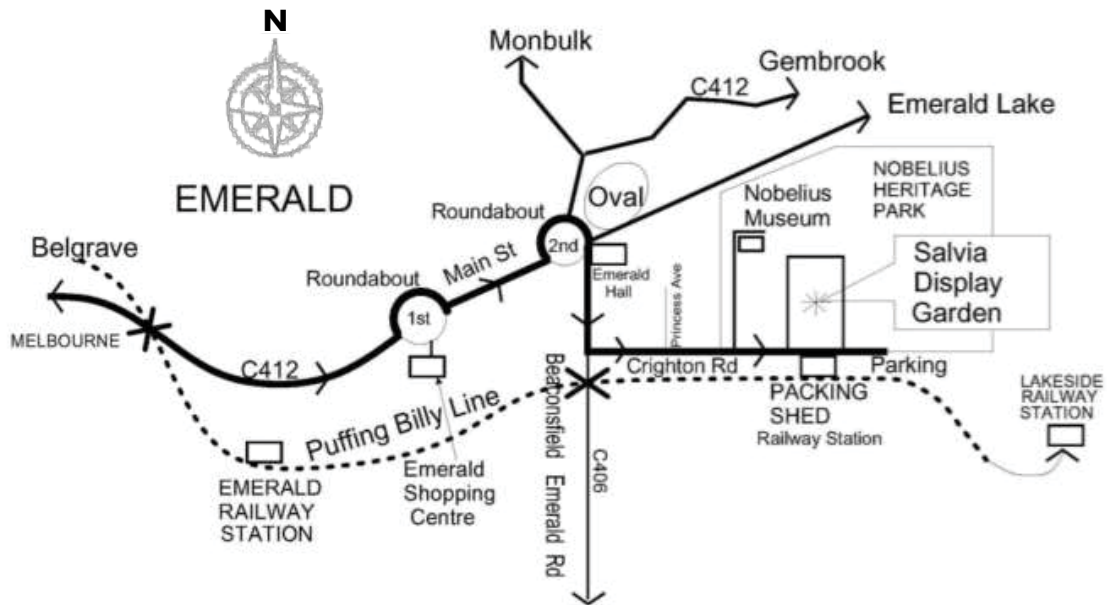
Suburb/Town: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Please return completed forms together with payment/proof of payment to:
tinegrimston@gmail.com

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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