

Salvia News

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Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Winter 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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Salvia News

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP INC
Website: www.salvias.org.au

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Salvia News, Winter 2024. We are pleased to welcome a new contributor to this edition, Ann Halliday from West Australia, who reports on an unexpected find she discovered earlier this year, growing between her *Salvia* 'Mesa Azure' and *S. Candleglow*'. In this quarter's article from South East Queensland's Perennial Poppies, Dulcie Adam gives us a lovely description of her own garden, and the many salvias and other plants she has managed to fit into her Brisbane plot. We also have excerpts from an email Lyndi received from Daniel Lozano in the U.S.A. about a salvia Daniel developed in 1998 – *Salvia* 'Byron Flynt'. And, of course, our News would not be complete without Meg's "Notes from Gruyere". As usual, Meg gives us lots of useful hints on getting the best out of our gardens and our salvias, including some pertinent planting and propagation tips. Thank you, one and all, to all our writers and photographers.

Many salvias in my own small garden are flowering or just coming into flower. *Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight', which popped up of its own accord (the seed must have come from a plant I had several years ago) is looking spectacular, and the bright-pink geranium hanging basket just above it makes a wonderful contrast, highlighting this lovely salvia's lime-green

calyces and purple/blue corollas. Ready to burst into bud, and side by side in the narrow space along the boundary fence, I have *S. purpurea* and *S. iodantha*. These two, being tall and very floriferous, will provide a lovely archway of flowers over the coming weeks. In previous years, I have had problems keeping the arching branches above head height, the weight of the flowers making them lean down too far. I finally hit on a solution of two, tall star pickets with a bamboo pole between, set at a level which keeps the plants' curving ways above head height, but still allows for the lovely arch of flowers along the path. How lucky we are that the *Salvia* genus provides so many choices, caters for every demand, and makes our gardens such a pleasure.

Our 'Calendar of Events' and 'What's On In Winter' pages provide a wealth of things to do over the coming months. We hope most, or better still all, of our new members will be able to attend our "Welcome to New Members Lunch" on Sunday, August 18th. This lunch is a great way for new members to meet the Committee and each other.

Happy winter gardening,

Andreina

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**Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is
1st August 2024**

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

Cover Photo is 'Van Houtii'. 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.

JUNE SUN 9TH | Propagation Day | Nobelius Heritage Park, Crichton Rd. Emerald (Beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line) – 1.00-3.00pm on the lawn in front of the Emerald Museum

Learn how and when to propagate Salvias. Take cuttings of difficult Salvias. Learn how and when to pot up those rooted cuttings. Take home pots of cuttings and potted up plants.

Bookings essential.

JUNE SAT 15TH | Gardeners Day Out

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

Salvias will be ready and available for those early buyers.

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.

AUG SUN 18TH | New Member's Luncheon | Nobelius Heritage Park, Crichton Rd. Emerald (Beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line) – 12.30pm

All new members are invited to come. Enjoy a lunch to welcome and thank these new members for joining the Salvia Group.

What to bring: Nothing but a smile and a chair. Lunch, tea/coffee will be provided

SEPT SUN 15TH | Beechmont Historical Gardens | 12 Mernda Rd, Olinda – 1.00pm, afternoon tea

Visit these beautiful gardens in Olinda with their grand old trees just coming into leaf whilst large shrubs and Cherries are coming into blossom. A beautiful time of year to visit these unique gardens with the magic of the afternoon sun streaming down.

Bring a picnic to share. Tea/coffee will be provided. Ring Heather Ph 0417 056 179 if coming. Bookings needed.

OCT SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH | Bolobek Garden Fair | Bolobek, 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon – 10.00am-4.00pm

Come and find our new Spring Salvias with lots of variety and colour. Look for those frost hardy Salvias, those tough hardy Salvias for hot, dry positions. Tall screening Salvias, for sun and shade. Groundcovers, hedging plants and lots more

Email your wish list, order NOW, don't miss out. Pick up on the day. Bring plants to be identified.

OCT SUN 20TH | Yolande Murray's Garden Visit | 14 Nelson St, Sandringham – 11.00am

A gorgeous small garden, neat, tidy with so many plants and so much colour, beautifully designed. A lovely garden with loads of ideas that are achievable in suburbia. See how Yolande deals with her bee hives.

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

Phone Yolande Ph: 0431 862 332 if coming

OCT SAT 26TH & SUN 27TH | Tine's Open Garden | 4 Crimea Close, Rowville – 10.00am-4.00pm

A gorgeous garden open through the Victorian Open Garden Scheme. An ever-changing garden full of quirky ideas and wonderful delights. Entry \$10.00.

Any queries, contact Lyndi Ph: 9803 4534 Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

Notes from Gruyere

Text and photos by Meg Bentley

Winter will be upon us very soon and many gardeners will either want to get plants out into the ground or wait for Spring planting.

With the abundance of events and plant sales lately, many people have been enquiring about planting methods, whether to prune, and suitable positions for their salvias. I always recommend that if the salvia has long stems whilst growing in its pot and you wish to plant it into the garden, then dig the hole deep and plant it like you would a tomato, deep into the soil. Depending on the species or cultivar, I'd plant it perhaps two or three nodes down into the ground, (this could be three or four inches) but if it is a bushy plant, then perhaps just up to the main lower leaves (one or two inches). This helps to steady the plant in the ground and give it a chance to create further bushiness. It helps to nip out the growing tips also to create a bushy plant. Further pruning could be left until the plant becomes established but, if necessary, don't prune down too far, just remove enough to shape the plant. You might find some of the Winter flowering salvias will be coming into bud so pruning at this time will remove the flowers.

During the Autumn I have been dividing up an overgrown *Salvia nipponica* 'Crug's Cream' and potting up the small divisions into suitable small pots. If the pots are too big at this time of the year, they may become water saturated and rot the roots. They are then positioned in a sheltered spot out of direct sun and wind and turned every so often so they don't grow all to one side. Normally, this division could be done at the end of Winter but I didn't want to risk losing the overcrowded plant. So far, the small rootlets have recovered well and the remainder of the parent plant has settled into a new pot and is flowering again. I have included pictures of this salvia.

Seedlings have been coming up which I'll pot up into small tubes ready for Spring; these too recover better if placed into appropriate small pot sizes to suit. Some of course, if too small, will be left alone until closer to Spring or when the weather is suitable. Autumn has been a wonderful colourful season this year, must be the result of rains earlier in the year. Hope you all enjoy your gardens, whatever you are planning to do.



'Crug's Cream' seedlings



'Crug's Cream' in flower

News from The Perennial Poppies, Southeast Queensland

Text and Photos by Dulcie Adam

As I write this, the first indications of autumn are beginning to appear. The later sunrise is the most notable and just a tiny drop below 30 in the daytime temperatures. Once the stifling humidity lets up, we subtropical gardeners emerge once more to enjoy productive time in our gardens. Here in Brisbane, this past summer has been a very hot, very humid and quite wet which has led to new challenges, especially the appearance in plague proportions of mealy bugs, grasshoppers and caterpillars! This has led to the early pruning of many of my salvias as they have been very heavily impacted with mealy bug. My walk around the garden will be interesting.

Flanked by the rambling white rose 'Prosperity', one of my best performing salvias has to be 'Kisses & Wishes', the pretty pink member of the 'Wishes Series'. It grows to about a metre by a metre and seems to be rarely without flowers. In this same garden, on the other side of my 'Duchesse de Brabant' is S. 'Envy' with deep crimson maroon flowers and growing to 1-1.2m, another exuberant grower. The flowers are not large but very plentiful. I've just cut it back (due to mealy bug infestation) and it's coming back very strongly. Unfortunately, it is also suckering but sometimes, this does not matter.

A few new additions to my collection have been S. 'Rockin Fuchsia', obviously from the 'Rockin series,' and 'Lake Tahoe' ('Lake series'). Both these plants are very sturdy, compact and, at this stage, only around 60cm which makes them very useful in a full garden like mine. 'Rockin Fuchsia', as the name suggests, is a fuchsia pink while 'Lake Tahoe' has mauve pink flowers. Both these plants look like very worthwhile additions to the garden, with only one drawback being that the little green grasshoppers like them too! These two plants look great against the grey foliage of S. 'Celestial Blue' and S. *lanceolata*. Blue perennial asters and pink and white gaura add to the picture.

Another newcomer to my garden is S. 'Clara Rosa', another two-toned beauty with a slight hint of coral. I first came across this salvia when visiting gardens in Pittsworth, south of Toowoomba. This

salvia grew prolifically in the gardens of salvia enthusiasts there and it's taken me nearly two years before sourcing one here. I am currently nurturing it and hoping for great things.

S. 'Amistad' is a real favourite in my garden and I find that everything looks good against that royal purple. The black calyces really add to its stunning effect, with the only downside being its very exuberance in growth and spread. It is also very keen to colonise by suckering as is its relative S. 'Amante.' Both of these grow really well here in Brisbane and are very easy to team with other colours in the garden. I currently have a lovely soft apricot allamanda growing in my verge garden and the combination of that colour with S. 'Amistad' is spectacular.

I think that salvias go well with almost everything in the garden! In my small back garden, I have a profusion of multi coloured coleus mixed in with a lovely soft ivory ixora and many salvias such as 'Wendy's Wish', 'Ember's Wish', 'Love & Wishes', 'San Carlos Festival', 'Cerise Velvet' and a very pretty purple and mauve splendens. I do have a number of splendens throughout the garden in combinations of colours. I especially love the dusky rose pink one. The splendens are such an underrated member of the salvia family but so well suited to a cottage garden and providing so many different variations in colour due to their very friendly habits.

Happy salvia growing, Dulcie.

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Clara Rosa



Leucantha and Scorcher

Ann's Pretty Surprise

Text and Photos by Ann Halliday

Greetings from a very cool, cloudy Albany! It has been like this since late November whilst Perth scorches! I'm sending you a photo of a seedling that emerged last year that is now flowering. I was expecting either *Salvia* 'Candleglow' or *S.* 'Mesa Azure' and then I got this very pretty surprise! It sits between these two varieties so it must be their cross (only the N.Z. honeyeaters will know). I certainly have never bought one of this colour. I've called the new one "Smokey Joe" after a silver-grey tabby cat I had on my small farm in England. I am now busy taking cuttings from it. Its growth is similar to 'Candleglow' in that it is a lot taller than 'Mesa Azure'. Salvias grow very well down here in Albany. Most of our soil within the area is grey sand so we have to do a lot of soil prep to produce something suitable for any plant! I propagate a lot from my cottage garden plants and every few months four or five friends get together at my place and we have a Community Plant Sale, selling everything from begonias and bromeliads to succulents and salvias. Our sales have made quite a name for themselves locally! My friends and I always look enviously at the events you put forward each year. It is such a shame that we in WA are unable to share your plethora of salvia plants – we just have to make the best of it with seeds!



'Smokey Joe'

Recent update

'Smokey Joe' has flourished during our very dry summer (only 6 mls here since the end of November) We had one day of 44.6 degrees (thank goodness it was only one day!) and many plants in my garden looked as though they had been under the grill! However, most of the salvias have battled through with the minimum of water. But I have lost a lot of other plants, unfortunately. The shape of things to come, I feel.



'Salvia 'Candleglow'' (Possible Parent)



'Mesa Azure' (Possible Parent)

A Favourite Salvia: *Salvia coccinea* 'Brenthurst'

Text and Photo by Geoff Crowhurst

It was quite a surprise this last spring to have a seedling of this salvia suddenly appear in my back garden. Fortunately, it was in a good position, protected by other plants from the worst of the summer sun. I had grown it previously some years before from seed, with young plants in pots given out to members of my



Salvia coccinea 'Brenthurst'

Heritage Roses in Australia group. It is quite a mystery how seed remained in my garden. Meg Bentley's *A Manual for Salvia Growers* describes five other forms of *coccinea*, with the species being red. I don't remember seeing any of them in other people's gardens. My *S. coccinea* 'Brenthurst' has come true from seed though Meg writes that seedlings are not reliable. My plant is a cheerful little plant, and I will certainly be saving some seed. In frost free areas it can be biennial or even perennial.

S. coccinea comes from Mexico and South America, though Betsy Clebsch (*The New Book of Salvias*) favours Mexico. She writes that it was first described and named in 1778, and has since been widely introduced or naturalized in many warmer parts of the world. Well grown plants can range in height from half a metre to

twice that size or more. They respond to being dead-headed, and, if being grown into a further season, pruned quite hard in spring. Betsy grouped three or more plants in front of climbing roses and evergreen shrubs, with plants of different colours, considering a white form a very good mixer. *Salvia coccinea* is certainly a very worthwhile member of the very large salvia family, being easy to grow in most garden soils, needing a modest amount of water and flowering for a considerable time.

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Another Favourite Salvia

Text and Photo by Geoff Crowhurst

Blue is always a nice colour to have in the garden, and fortunately salvia lovers have a number of blue salvias to choose from. In my mind, the hybrid *Salvia* 'African Sky' is one of the best. It is said to be a cross between *S. chamelaeagnea* and *S. scabra*. I once grew the former, and *S. scabra* has found its way to grow in the crack between my brick front fence and concrete footpath. 'African Sky' is a vigorous plant, and unfortunately, I've no room for it in my small back yard, but can admire it growing on the nature-strip of my next-door neighbour. Meg Bentley's *A Manual for*



Salvia 'African Sky'

Salvia Growers says that it is 'Very hardy, withstands the dry, heat, cold', and can be propagated from cuttings.

My neighbours do very little to look after their plant – no watering that I am aware of, and only the occasional hard cut back, and no fertiliser. I mulch around the plant when I

mulch plants on my own part of the nature-strip: phlomis, a couple of other salvias, and three Grevilleas 'Peaches and Cream'. It's nice to have plants that virtually look after themselves, especially during hot and dry summer weather, and *S. 'African Sky'* certainly fits into that category.

The Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair & Garden Expo, 2024

Text and Photos by Terry Ashton



This year's Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair & Garden Expo was held on April the 20th & 21st at 125 Quayle Road, Wandin.

It was a great weekend of amazing plants and gardening inspiration with some new vendors,

including Phillip Vaughan who launched his new range of Native Perennials.

Beside speakers who included Jane Edmanson who answered gardening questions and Stephen Ryan who held an auction of rare and unusual plants, with proceeds going to the Kids with Cancer foundation, there were other talks and demonstrations, including:

- **Ben Brooker** | *Regenerative Horticulture for the Perennial Garden*
- **Vasili Kanidiadis** | *Veggie growing for kids*
- **Stephen Ryan** | *Plant collecting for the novice to expert*
- **Seasol** | *The Seasol story*
- **Phillip Vaughan** | *Australian Perennial Collection*
- **Stephen Ryan** | *Collection of rare or unusual plants auctioned with proceeds going to the Kids with Cancer Foundation*

But, of course, most importantly was the Salvia Study Group stall which was situated directly opposite the speaker's stage. Lyndi had done an amazing job of setting the trestles up with plants as well as having a display table of flowering salvias.



Lyndi with a 'few' of the Salvias to sell



Display of labelled Salvias

There was a lot to do before the public was allowed in at 10 a.m. Plant 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!



Andreina and Norm waiting for purchasers

A great many salvia plants were sold, and the volunteers worked hard answering many queries. By the end of the day, half of the plants had been purchased, which allowed Lyndi to stock up and deliver more plants on Sunday.

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

There will be another chance to purchase salvias at the "Gardeners' Day Out" on Saturday, June 15th from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Deakin University, Burwood, so if you can help with our stall, that will be greatly appreciated.

We need more members to volunteer to help on 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 with the public and you will have a good time working with like-minded people on the Salvia Study Group of Victoria's stall.

And finally, The Yarra Valley Spring Plant Fair & Garden Expo, will be held on November the 9th and 10th, 2024.



More vases of lovely Salvias

Story of *Salvia mexicana* 'Byron Flynt'

Text by Lyndi Garnett and Daniel Lozano. Photos by Lyndi Garnett and Pat Anderson



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Salvia mexicana 'Byron Flynt'

This is an excerpt from an email about 'Byron Flynt' sent to Lyndi by Daniel Lozano in the U.S.A.:

"Hello, I found your study group on an internet search. I was looking into how my *Salvia* 'Byron Flynt' was doing around the world and I was happy to see your info. I developed this plant circa 1998 or so. It was named after my grandfather Byron Flynt. The mother was *Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight' and the father was *S. hispanica*. Now we know that *S. hispanica* was not the father. A plant that was purchased had dark calyces, was a leggy tall plant and pretty frost hardy. This plant was bought at a notable sf Bay Area nursery called Western Hills Nursery. The tag said *Salvia hispanica* but the lady running the place thought it was a little different, but she knew her plants for sure.

In Betsy Clebsch's first edition of her *Salvia* book, under *Salvia mexicana* is a short sentence about *Salvia hispanica*. I suspect this *Salvia hispanica* I used was this plant. Western

Hills Nursery got their plants from Strybing Arboretum.... So, the father of *S.* 'Byron Flynt' is this *Salvia*, probably a form of *S. mexicana*, but someone at Strybing (my conjecture) found it in the wild and called it *hispanica*, as was on the tag?

When I originally crossed these plants, I got 7 seeds. 4 of them damped off, 1 was weak and the other 2 were good. But the seedling that became 'Byron Flynt' was bushier and had great hybrid vigour. Really was an animal. That is the story of 'Byron Flynt'. Thank you for showing interest in my plant, it makes me so happy."

After asking a few questions, mentioning that we have a similar plant 'Bill Whitehead', but thought that a possible parent was *S. mexicana minor* which has a dappled calyx.

He goes on to say "It's been so long since I grew it, and no local wholesalers have it anymore. I can't locate a personal photo, but I found a few photos on line. "Flowers By The Sea" still

grow it, but I would have to look at it personally to see how accurate it is. Just from the close up, the 'Bill Whitehead' pic you sent me more closely looks like 'Byron Flynt' than the others. 'Byron Flynt' had huge flower heads and the plant wasn't as leggy as 'Limelight' ... it was more rounded and shrubby. Very Large. This is one of the original photos from an old nursery – Suncrest Nursery. They were the original company that was propagating this plant for the nurseries in California. I developed this plant in 1997... around that time. I had 3 seedlings and kept the one that looked the best.”

After asking more questions: “It was short lived and too vigorous for nurseries to sell. It would break out of a 1gallon container and nurseries didn't want to transplant to a larger pot. Mine died in a very cold winter and I didn't propagate it. I just assumed that it would be around.... Mistake on my part. I think the one at “Flowers By The Sea” near Mendocino, CA might be the original because they don't get frost there. They could be doing vegetative propagation and have described their version as pretty big.



Salvia mexicana 'Byron Flynt'

I suspect the seeds from my plant that have gone around the world are probably not true to form.... Mine was the F1, but all the seedlings are F2. You could get the same plant, but there were very good odds that the seedlings would not come true to form.

'Byron Flynt' was a very righteous plant when in flower, like 'Limelight', but with a much bushier and epic habit. Is that a ringing endorsement? 'Byron Flint' was mentioned by Betsy Clebsch in a pacific Horticulture article in the early 2000's.... that was fun seeing it in there. I hope this info is good for your club. Maybe some of your members might be inspired to do a little of their own cross hybridizing.”



Salvia mexicana 'Bill Whitehead'



Salvia mexicana 'Minor'

Out and About, Around the Traps

Text and Photos by Lyndi Garnett

Although many Nurseries like to show case their new releases in Spring for the upcoming warm Summer season. many also like to release their favourite plants during Autumn. After the heat of Summer has passed, with the days being milder, we gardeners like to get back in the garden, tidying up and cutting back after the hot summer. This is the ideal time for the Nurseries to release more new stock and favourites, reminding the public of what is available, keeping the public interest continuing into the winter months.

One Nursery is Ozbreed, which has released two new *Salvia microphyllas*: 'Super Pink', a beautiful bright pink, compact bush to around 40-60cm H, and 'Intense', a good red with dark calyces, very similar to 'Royal Bumble'. Being a microphylla type, both plants are tough and hardy (we know that), both are summer and winter hardy and do very well in coastal conditions. Both put on a great display, especially if mass planted, flowering for a long time (we know that).



'Super Pink' Ozbreed



'Intense' Ozbreed

These will be propagated by Haars Nursery, so could soon be found in the Bunnings Stores and definitely in your local Nursery, so keep an eye out for these two little beauties.

Talking of Bunning stores, whilst looking around, I found a great display of *Salvia* 'Blue Knight' – *S. guaranitica*. Looking lovely and very appealing, being a smaller and possibly an improved form. This release also belongs to Haars nursery. As many of the new releases of Salvias have the *S. guaranitica* gene, it wasn't surprising to see the re-emergence of this *Salvia*.

Let me remind you that *S. guaranitica* and many of these new releases have the ability to spread. *S. guaranitica* has tubers while others have insidious roots, spreading by underground runners. Whilst having a beautiful blue flower and looking gorgeous, it is winter dormant, so you don't realise their spread until they've popped up in different areas of your garden in the Spring. In a large garden, this is a great way to fill a large garden bed and put on a great display, but in a small or average garden, most don't have the room to have multiple plants popping up in the wrong place.

It can also be difficult to get rid of as the roots and tubers will sprout from small pieces. Roots, pieces of stems/ tubers should be wrapped up and placed in your small red lidded bin, NOT the recycling bin.

Another good find was the reappearance of 'Purple Jewel'. This is under the label of *Salvia greggii/microphylla*, but so we can distinguish these ambiguous plants from other varieties, we called it 'Purple Jewel' which came out some time ago. We thought we had lost it and Haars nursery has brought it out again. It does look similar to 'Mirage Purple' (Ball Aust.) but the leaves are smaller and the colour purple is different. But coupled with this is a beautiful dark burgundy coloured *Salvia*, (similar to *greggii* 'Midnight') again with an ambiguous label, so we call it 'Burgundy Jewel', possibly a sister to the 'Purple Jewel'. Both will surely walk off the shelves as they are good hardy plants in the garden with plenty of dramatic colour.

On a brighter note, Ball Aust are still promoting their Salvia releases from Spring. *S. 'Rhythm and Blues'*, *'Smokey Jazz'* and *'Hummingbird Falls'* – this last Salvia is a prostrate plant, ideal for hanging baskets, which is a relatively new concept as not many Salvias lend themselves to being grown in hanging baskets for very long. Many of these new releases may look like older plants that we know well, but they are improved forms, either in their compactness of growth or have bigger flower spikes and flower longer.

Interestingly, if googling *S. 'Hummingbird'*, in America, they refer to the *S. coccinea* series being the 'Hummingbird' series as the beautiful little Hummingbird can be seen enjoying their tubular flowers.

Ball Aust. are also bringing out another addition to their collection of Salvias – *'Blue Chill'* This is similar to *S. 'Mystic Spires'* but a paler blue with white or pale hues throughout the flower spikes. This looks wonderful mass planted especially if contrasted with oranges, bright pinks and reds in the garden. Growing to approximately 60-80 cm with flowers, I believe it has perennial growth, unlike many of the *'Celestial'* series which have more of an annual growth habit. All these Salvias should be available from your local Nursery.

I also noticed that Tavistock Nursery is propagating and promoting the Salvia Saloon *'Lake'* series, which Glenda mentioned in her article in Summer edition. This series have been available mainly up north, but occasionally fleetingly appearing down here in some of the larger Garden Centres, where they sell out as soon as they are on the shelves. It's good to know that this series is locally being promoted and again should be available from your local nursery.

Keep your eye out for any of these releases and let me know if you find something different or new whilst you're shopping for more Salvias.



Rhythm and Blues
Bodacious x guaranitica



'Smokey Jazz' Bodacious



'Hummingbird Falls' basket



Salvia 'Blue Chill'



'Lake Titicaca' (Saloon)



'Lake Garda' (Saloon)



'Lake Tahoe' (Saloon)

Visit to Judy Percy's Garden, 24th March 2024

Text and Photos by Geoff Crowhurst

It is always worth visiting this garden, as there seems something worth seeing at any time. Judy has a great variety of plants – from small trees, shrubs of all kinds, perennials, bulbs, succulents, ferns, and annuals. The garden also contains a few quirky elements, and a tile-decorated, four-sided plinth. I imagine she does something in the garden almost every day. Judy says there was no grand plan for the garden, but that she wanted easy access to all parts, which accounts for the many paths and relatively small garden beds. As the garden has sunny, part and full shade areas, it can meet the needs of a great variety of plants.

Autumn is always a good time for salvias. Judy has a group of different coloured microphylla types growing together; a good plant of the *Salvia farinacea* (blue) which is usually grown as an annual, and the rich, maroon *S. splendens* 'Van Houttii'. Her garden is liberally spread around with the closely related species, plectranthus. In my own garden I have a very nice blue flowered one in a large pot, courtesy of a cutting from Judy a year or two ago.

Things to catch my attention included a beautiful purple-blue clematis that Judy says came from a seedling. Tucked away in one bed was a colourful patch of cyclamen, happy in the ground, and not cosseted in a pot like many of its kind. In a sheltered spot near the house cane begonias look right at home. Also near the house is a table with many succulents in containers. Along one fence both elk and stag-horn ferns flourish – one so large it almost takes one's breath away.

This is a garden that has grown over time, and I think I remember 20 years being mentioned, though I could be wrong. Judy's interest in plants is obviously wide-ranging, and the fact that they do and look so well suggests that she is knowledgeable about what each needs to thrive. A garden like this gives pleasure not only to the garden maker but also to anyone who visits.



Plinth



Judy's Clematis



Mass of salvia microphylla types



Salvia 'Van Houttii'



Judy's front garden



Salvia farinacea



Shirley sitting in Judy's garden

Jindivick Garden Festival

Photos by Lyndi Garnett

The return of this one-day Festival, in its new location on Saturday, 13th April, was much anticipated and welcomed. Visitors flocked to buy the offerings on sale, and to experience the opportunity to visit the wonderful gardens of Broughton Hall. Our own stall was well attended, and plants flew off the tables, going to good homes with very happy Salvia enthusiasts.



Marnie at Jindivick



Flowers at Jindivick

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Time to Say Thank You and Welcome

Text by Lyndi Garnett

Most members will remember that at the AGM, both Gordon and Tine mentioned that they were retiring from their positions this year, and that we were looking for a new Treasurer and Membership Officer. Despite a number of emails being sent out asking for those positions to be filled, it wasn't until Tine recently sent out an email asking our members for HELP that that little four-letter word seemed to do the trick. Within a day, a number of members had thought about the need to help our Group, and it wasn't long before we had a lovely surprise at the Yarra Valley Autumn Fair, with Amanda Habgood announcing that she will put her hand up for the Treasurer's position. A wonderful result.

Of course, with any new person entering into a Committee position there is an overlap period where they need to settle into their new position, which Gordon will oversee until Amanda is familiar with the job at hand.

So it is with great joy that we welcome Amanda to the friendly mix of characters that make up the Committee of the Salvia Study Group.

It is with great sadness that we have to say goodbye and thank you to Gordon who readily took up the job of Treasurer from Pat Jenson ten years ago – how time flies!! As members will testify, Gordon has done a fantastic job with the Treasury purse, keeping our heads well afloat and now needs our thanks for a job well done.

Although Gordon is retiring from the Committee, which will give him more time for his interests in music, he will remain an active member, so we look forward to seeing Gordon at Garden Events as an ordinary member of the Group.

Thank you, Gordon, for your time as Treasurer (2014 - 2024).

Possum Problems and Deterrents

Text by Lyndi Garnett

Most people with gardens have noticed that with our late Summer and Autumn being so dry that the possums have been out and about in our gardens, just trying to find something moist or tasty to eat.

I have noticed in my own garden that, although possums more or less leave my Salvias alone, they actually come down to the ground, sniff around the pots of Salvias and begin nibbling nice, young, tender leaves on plants at the end of the row – something I haven't seen before. They seem to sniff out those tender leaves of Salvias in the garden that have *Salvia elegans* or *S. guaranitica* genes – the latest collection of plants from PGA and the newer plants appearing from the Commercial nurseries; these have all been nibbled or eaten down to their stumps! There must be something tasty in those genes after all!

They have begun on the tops of my Photinia – usually they leave those until winter - and have gone along the fence finding my *S. karwinskii* rather tasty, but have left *S. rosida* and *S. pupurea* alone – different smells and tastes. They have left my 'Romantic Rose' alone, but found *S. tortuosa* really tasty! so I have cut these tasty morsels away from the fence.

I've found it curious what possums like and what they won't touch. Some of these observations come from what my next-door neighbour grows by my fence. It seems that possums don't like Jacaranda trees (you won't find them running

through a Jacaranda tree to get to the roof or power lines), they don't like Olive trees nor do they like Potato Vine – it was this that protected my 'Romantic Rose' for many years.

Possums, and for that matter rabbits, don't like anything with pungent smells, e.g. lavender, wormwood and many Salvias when established. Rabbits will eat plants purchased from nurseries that haven't had time to develop that Sagey smell or sufficient amount of Sulphur within their leaves. Once established, rabbits and possums won't touch these plants. They become unpalatable – not to their taste anymore!

I know there are loads of ideas for trying to deter possums, some work but many don't. A friend told me of another that seemed to work for her and her vegetables: spraying English Mustard. Mixing a couple of spoons of dry mustard or from a jar, mix that with water until completely dissolved, pour into your spray bottle or apparatus and spray over the affected plants, not forgetting the fences they like to travel along. Spray the trunks of trees/ plants they like to climb to get to your precious plants. Don't forget that this needs repeated applications as any rain or watering may wash it off. I think adding some chilli powder or even some wasabi might also be effective.

So have a go and see if the possums prefer English mustard or Dijon or how hot can they stand their chilli and if they sneeze with wasabi.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER

2024

We begin the season with the Propagation Day at Nobelius.

JUNE – SUN 9TH

Propagation Day – 1-3pm on the lawn in front of the Emerald Museum | Nobelius heritage Park, Emerald. Crichton Rd. Beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line.

Learn how and when to propagate Salvias. Take cuttings of difficult Salvias. Learn how and when to pot up those rooted cuttings. Take home pots of cuttings and potted up plants.

Bookings essential. Email or phone Lyndi if coming



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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.



CONTACT LYNDI

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

AUGUST – SUN 18TH

**New Member's Luncheon
– Nobelius Heritage Park,
Emerald, Crichton Rd. Beneath
the Packing Shed, along the
Puffing Billy Train Line –
12.30pm**

All new members are invited to come and enjoy a lunch to welcome and thank these new members for joining the Salvia Group.

What to bring: Nothing but a smile and a chair.

Lunch, tea/coffee will be provided

Phone Lyndi if coming.



SEPTEMBER – SUN 15TH

**Beechmont Historical Gardens – 12
Mernda Rd, Olinda – 1pm afternoon tea**

Visit these beautiful gardens in Olinda with their grand old trees just coming into leaf whilst large shrubs and Cherries are coming into blossom. A beautiful time of year to visit these unique gardens with the magic of the afternoon sun streaming down.

Entry \$20.00 for a guided tour by the Head Gardener.

Bring a picnic lunch to share. Tea/coffee will be provided.

Ring Heather Ph 0417 056 179 if coming.
Bookings needed.



(continued over...)

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

OCTOBER – SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH

**Bolobek, 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon
–10.00-4.00pm**

Come and find our new Spring Salvias with lots of variety and colour.

Look for those frost hardy Salvias, those tough hardy Salvias for hot, dry positions. Tall screening Salvias, for sun and shade. Groundcovers, hedging plants and lots more

Email your wish list. Order NOW so you don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Bring plants to be identified.

OCTOBER – SUN 20TH

Yolande Murray's Garden Visit – 14 Nelson St, Sandringham – 11.00am

A gorgeous small garden, neat, tidy with so many plants and so much colour, beautifully designed.

Loads of ideas that are achievable in suburbia.

See how Yolande deals with her bee hives.

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

Phone Yolande Ph: 0431 862 332 if coming.

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OCTOBER – SAT 26TH & SUN 27TH

**Tine's Open Garden –
4 Crimea Close, Rowville –
10.00am-4.00pm**

A gorgeous garden open through the Victorian Open Garden Scheme. An ever changing garden full of quirky ideas and wonderful delights.

Entry \$10.00



Salvia Cards Order Form

Created by Meg Bentley



BEAUTIFUL HAND
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| 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:

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Suburb/ Town: State: Postcode:

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Subscribe for a Friend

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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

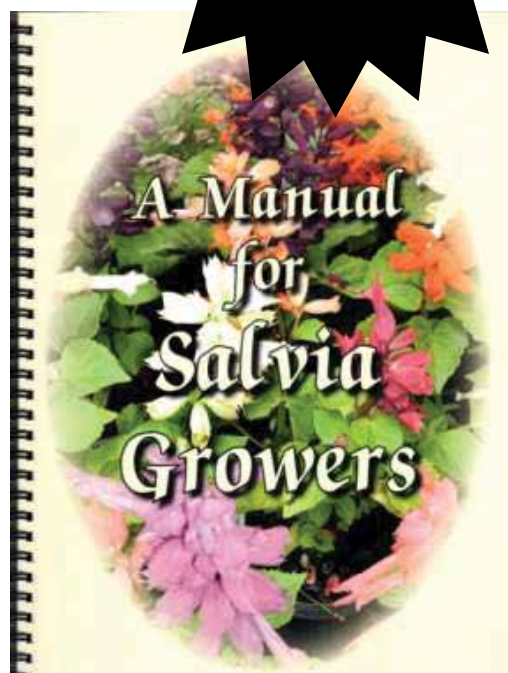
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by Meg Bentley

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- Pests and Disease
- Where to see Salvias
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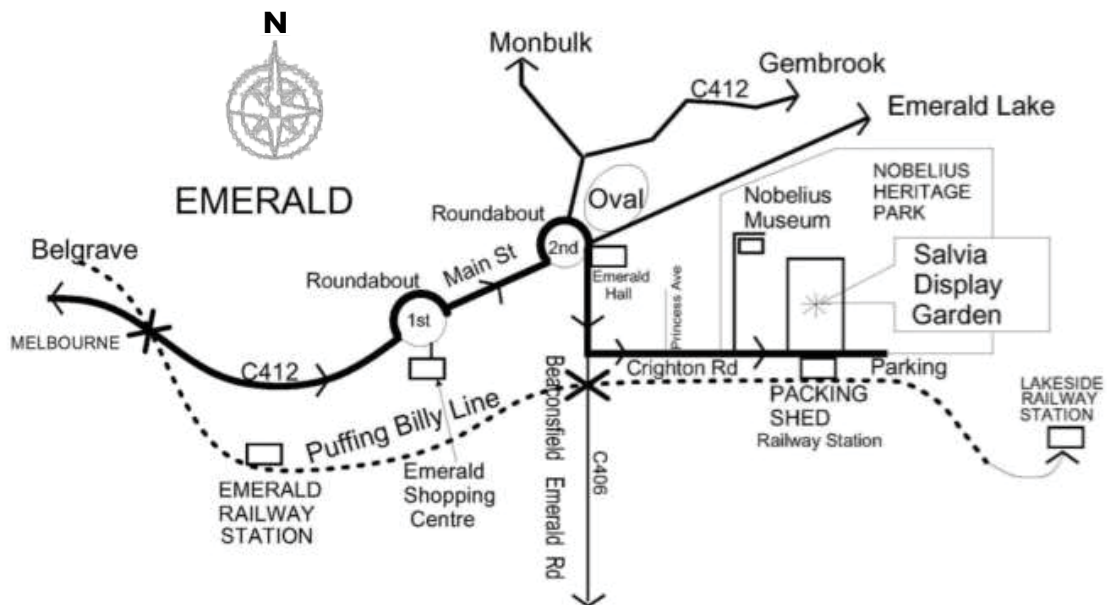
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DIRECTIONS TO THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN



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