

Salvia News

NUMBER 97



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc
www.salvias.org.au
Summer 2024

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP inc

Lyndi Garnett: 844 Highbury Rd, Glen Waverley 3150
Phone: 03 9803 4534 Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com

www.salvias.org

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. To promote and encourage the growing of Salvias.
3. To correctly name existing and new Salvias.
4. To maintain our Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park for the Group and 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. (Note: 'Plant's Trust' is now the commonly used abbreviation for GPCAAA.).

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| GROUP CO-ORDINATOR | Lyndi Garnett lgarnett844@gmail.com | 03 9803 4534 |
| SECRETARY | Heather Lucas | 0417 056 179 |
| TREASURER | Gordon Donaldson | 0411 111 979 |
| MEMBERSHIP OFFICER | Laurie Norman laurienorman@bigpond.com | 0419 509 592 |
| EMAIL NOTICES | Tine Grimston tinegrimston@gmail.com | 0466 285 542 |
| GENERAL COMMITTEE | Norm Winn | 0438 733 060 |
| EDITOR'S ASSISTANT & PUBLICITY | Andreina Chinn andreina.chinn@gmail.com | 0404 429 327 |
| SEEDS OFFICER | Wayne Burgess Wayne_burgess@optusnet.com.au | 03 9728 1144 |
| FACEBOOK | Julie Kavanagh jules.kavanagh@gmail.com | 0408 122 780 |
| PLANT SALES & ENQUIRIES | Lyndi Garnett | 03 9803 4534 |

Graphic Design by Sharon Westin Graphic Design – sharon@sharonwestinshaw.com.au

The views expressed by the contributors of this publication are not necessarily those of the *Editor* or the *Committee* of this Study Group. While every effort is made to publish reliable information, the use of the information is at the discretion of the individual. The Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc takes no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed. We do not offer treatment or advice.



Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the Salvia News.

As the end of the calendar year approaches, it's time to say a big thank-you to the team behind the Salvia News.

Front of house is our small but always reliable group of regular contributors who form the backbone of our magazine: Meg Bentley, Geoff Crowhurst, Lyndi Garnett and the Perennial Poppies Group from South-East Queensland.

Backing these stalwarts are our semi-regular and occasional contributors, whose contributions and reports keep us in touch with all the activities the VSSG participates in as well as what's going on in their gardens and lives.

Behind the scenes, the distribution group (Lyndi Garnett, Norm Winn and Tine Grimston) do the last-minute rush of the several jobs involved in posting out or emailing the magazine so that it arrives in your letterbox/inbox as promptly as Australia Post/internet providers allow.

And, of course, the creativity and technical skills of our professional graphic designer, Sharon Westin, which are evident in each edition, bring to the magazine the flair and professionalism that make it so special.

So, thank you, one and all. Without you, we wouldn't have our "Salvia News".

Season's Greetings and happy summer gardening to all our members.

Andreina



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Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is
1st February 2025

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

Cover Photo is *Salvia coccinea* 'Tavistock'. Photo from VSSG website.

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 summer on page 16.

DECEMBER SUN 1ST | AGM & Christmas Lunch | 36-38 The Eryie, Eaglemont – 11am

Jane Crone's beautiful garden is a historical home with beautiful views across Melbourne and a lovely garden to match.

AGM at 12 noon.

Bring a sumptuous Christmas plate to share. Tea/coffee available. Christmas drinks available on request.

Phone Jane if coming Ph 0409 571 675.



Merry *Christmas* & a Happy **NEW YEAR**



2025

MARCH SAT 8TH & SUN 9TH | Ferny Creek's Annual Plant Collector's Expo | 100 Hillton Rd, Sassafras – 9am- 4pm

Loads of colour, a great selection of plants for sun, shade and in between, for screening, groundcovers, hedges and those pops of colour to brighten up that dull corner.

Place your orders early – email Lyndi: Igarnett844@gmail.com Don't miss out. Phone Lyndi with any queries.

MARCH SUN 16TH | Fiona Williams – A Rainbow of Colour | 65 Glynns Rd, North Warrandyte – 11.30am

Fiona is showing The Group's collection of greggii and microphylla varieties. This is a large collection, gathered over many years, and should be in full bloom.

As there is such a huge range of colour, all these plants will be shown graduating from one colour to the next – in other words a rainbow of colour.

Phone or email Fiona if coming – Ph 0417323785 | Em: diuris@bigpond.net.au



Any queries, contact Lyndi Ph: 9803 4534 Email: Igarnett844@gmail.com

Notes from Gruyere

Text and Photos by Meg Bentley

In the Spring Salvia News No. 96, there was a good article on pruning salvias by Lyndi, which covered many steps on this subject, along with suitable diagrams.

I had been pruning many salvias lately, especially the tall woody ones. We have all, at some stage, come across those species that have grown and become far too big in the area where they were first planted. The area that I speak of was perfect to grow *Salvia karwinskii*, but in later years it has grown so large (3-4m), it overhangs the pathway and many visitors to the garden have to duck down to go under the hanging branches, especially after rain. These original positions were once ideal but now, after many years, this salvia had to be removed and the area opened up and replanted with a selection of lower growing species and cultivars. The stems were quite thick and required a large saw to cut them down, which was done in stages. Unfortunately, it was still in bloom, covered in lovely watermelon pink flowers and much loved by the honeyeaters and the bees too. Wattlebirds of course and parrots love to chew off the flowering stems, leaving a carpet of leaves and flowers below.

This is the first salvia that I have cut completely to the ground; it had to be removed so I wasn't concerned about pruning down to the lower leafy nodes. What I did do was collect a few thick short pieces, about 30mm in diameter, with one or two roots at the base where I was cutting the plant away, and I was going to see if they could be propagated.

I have taken photos of the roots before potting up, and then a follow up of new shoots and leaves emerging from those rooted stems in the pot, and included them here. It will be interesting to see how they perform over the summer months and also whether the shoots are strong enough to hold onto the base stem and any branches as it grows.

There are times when we all have to give a certain plant a very hard prune and unless we have a go at something like this, how do we know what a plant is capable of? Although I would recommend propagating any plant before drastic measures like this have to take place, especially if you do not have a replacement for it. It will be interesting to see the outcome of these rooted pieces of *Salvia karwinskii*.



Salvia karwinskii roots pruned from the ground



Salvia karwinskii roots with leaves emerging

The Salvia Greggii and Microphylla Collection

Text and Photos by Fiona Williams

Many fine minds among the Salvia Study Group have spent time looking at the range of Salvia greggii and microphylla hybrids and trying to identify what plant is what! And to be honest, it can be quite a struggle to tell them apart.

In Victoria, we have nearly 200 plants available with varying degrees of greggii and microphylla ancestry (and often a dash of other DNA added to complicate life). The traditional approach with these plants has been to look at the leaves to decide whether a plant is a greggii or microphylla. The leaf shape of *S. greggii* plants is narrow, smooth edged and has smooth surfaces, while leaves of *S. microphylla* are more heart shaped with rougher surfaces and toothed edges. To quote one of the Salvia News articles from 2012, "Another distinguishing feature is the presence of a pair of papillae (2 tiny finger-like growths) inside the base of the corolla tube of *S. microphylla* and generally in any offspring with this as a parent, but not present in *S. greggii*". Typically, microphyllas are more robust and larger than greggii plants.

We also have plants identified as *Salvia x jamensis*. This name is officially able to be applied to any hybrid between *S. greggii* and *S. microphylla*, but in common use *S. x jamensis* is the name given to a few hybrids, in particular the yellow one that many of us grow.

When you look at some of the new hybrids, however, it can be more difficult to divide them neatly into the 2 groups. All salvias are essentially promiscuous and readily hybridise with neighbouring plants, and the small leaved salvias are particularly renowned for producing new varieties. The Mexican Bandit series first appeared in the early 1990s and we also have plants released under different group names including Navaho, Sierra, Heatwave, So Cool and more recently Mirage. We also have the Shann plants from Queensland and lots of hybrids that have appeared in members' gardens.

Many of these series have plants in a range of colours and they can be very similar and difficult to identify. So Pat Anderson, as a long-term member of the Salvia Study Group, decided to

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Salvia 'Pink Pearl'



Salvia 'Cherry Chief'



Salvia 'Hot Pink'

collect all the plants she could find and compare them.

Each plant has been grown in a pot with similar fertilising and growing conditions so we can compare their range of colours, sizes and growth habits. The plants are arranged on benches in different colour groups so subtle differences between them can be identified.

Early this year, Pat moved to a smaller garden and handed her collection and notes onto me to continue the tradition. It took a couple of months to decide where to keep the collection and I finally settled on an area next to my veggie garden where they have good access to water and fences to protect them from kangaroos and deer (possum protection is a work in progress!). The pots are on benches under a large Cherry Ballart so they get morning sun and afternoon shade which is needed to stop them all drying out too fast on hot days. The only change I've made is to mulch each pot with gravel to try and improve their capacity to hold moisture.

In addition to the named hybrids, we also have the species *microphyllas*; *S. microphylla* var *microphylla*, *S. microphylla* var *neurepia*, *S. microphylla* var *wizlisennii*, plus a few other small leaved species that are commonly used in breeding such as *S. serpyllifolia* and *S. muelleri*. There are also a few interesting looking seedlings that are being grown in the pots to compare with the existing plants to decide whether they are worth naming and propagating into the future.

If you are growing small leaved salvias, you will probably have new seedlings coming up. It is important to remember that almost all these plants are hybrids so they will not come true from seed. The only way of making sure you have a named plant is to take cuttings. Most of the new seedlings are very similar to the ones we already have but if you have something special and different that isn't generally available, we would love to hear from you. Plants with dramatic new bicolours or different shades of blue are always interesting.

If you are actively trying to hybridise new varieties, please get in touch and come and collect some of the less common flowers to harvest their pollen. I have a list of the plants we currently have in the collection, just let me

know if anyone wants a copy. My email is: diuris@bigpond.net.au

Members are warmly invited to come and see the *microphylla* and *greggii* collection when the Salvia Study Group is visiting my garden on Saturday 16th March. Many of the plants are also growing in the garden so you can see how large some can get when not constrained by a pot. Visit details are in the "What's On" section of the newsletter and website.

Fiona Williams 0417 323 785



Salvia 'Mirage Violet'

What I Saw in Europe

Text and Photos by Lyndi Garnett

I've never been to Europe in the summer time, usually only at Christmas in the depths of Winter, so it was lovely to see all the trees in leaf, the sun shining, and flowers in front gardens. Zurich was lovely and warm, about 26°C, but not too humid as it's situated on the banks of Lake Zurich, which brings a welcome breeze at the end of the day.

Travelling around Zurich was so easy, trams and buses were nearby and frequent, (only having to wait 7mins till the next tram arrived) and very quiet. Travelling around, it seemed that Zurich is a mixture of old and new styles, the architecture of the old being quite different than the English style. Their buildings were simple and elegant. The spires of old gothic churches were tall and

narrow, but all had beautiful clock faces, usually large gold letters on a black face or something similar, easily seen where ever you were. Very stylish.

Walking down the streets, around shops, there were always raised garden beds, full of colourful annuals, or at least perennials they used as annuals. I could always find a Salvia popping out to greet me, be it Bog Sage, 'Hotlips' or a *microphylla* type of Salvia, most of which looked similar to our Mirage Collection. Because of their colour range and long flowering time, these were used to add colour to the planter boxes everywhere. They even planted around the base of street trees, which was a pleasant surprise with Thyme, roses, *S. pratensis* type

Freiburg

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Beautiful baskets along Canal Colmar, Freiburg

Salvias, etc. It was so nice to walk along the streets, peering into people's gardens and being able to identify all the various plantings. In one garden they had a magnificent, huge Hydrangea, possibly 'Annabelle' it was 2m H at least. I didn't realise they grew so tall. Many of the trees were conifers – magnificently tall and straight, mostly of the Abies/ Picea types. These were mingled with deciduous trees, usually Linden, Ginko or Dutch Elm – all provided welcome shade in the midday sun.

We eventually found the Zurich Botanical Gardens – up the hill! The entrance was gorgeous, lots of colour, again from annual plantings – Salvia 'Amistad' providing a show of deep purple, while Bog Sage popped out with its feathery blue flowers, combined with Zinnias, roses, cleome, daisies of all sorts, the occasional grass and so much more, it was hard to take it all in. They do their annual planting so well.

The Zurich Bot Gardens is situated on top of a

Freiburg Botanic Gardens



hill, but most walks were on gentle slopes. On one slope, they had a Pinus collection where they produced a showcase showing all the different pine cones, some very large down to quite small little pine cones - fascinating comparing them all. I think most of the gardens were theme based. As we walked in, there on one slope was a scree garden, full of small alpine plants and grasses planted in a shale screen. This was set off by a lovely swath of lawn.

Around the next corner was a large area of raised beds attracting quite a lot of attention from schools and those wandering through. This was their food origins and useful plant area. Many beds were grouped by country of origin, others were grouped by their usefulness, e.g. plants for making rope, twine or used in the woollen mills. Extremely interesting.

I asked an attendee if they had any Salvias, so she took me to a small collection, where most plants were potted, planted and covered with mulch! This is what so many cold countries do, so they can remove the potted plant when the weather turns cold and take them into the glasshouses. Included in these potted plants were *S. apiana*, *S. candelabrum*, *sclarea*, 'Amistad', some microphyllas and a few others that had gone to seed.

In the middle of a grassed area were 2 huge glass domes being washed down – that was an interesting exercise. The first Dome housed all the tropical plants – magnificent! All sorts of leafy vegetation in assorted colours, huge bromeliads in flower, flowering orchids hanging down. This wasn't just on one level, but there was a spiral staircase winding to the top. Everything was grown together, big things next to small tiny plants nestled into crevices –

What I Saw in Europe (cont..)

fascinating, and no doubt a nightmare to keep it looking good. The next dome was the arid areas, obviously not as fascinating, but what they did have was impressive, with large shrubs of cacti of various types, tall cacti, reaching for the top and then the tiny, little ones that take ages to grow - the ones that look like stones, all located together in a sandy bed.

Outside were more colourful beds of *Salvia microphylla* types, more Bog Sage and a lovely Crepe Myrtle in flower. The café was situated in a large plaza, again with raised beds of annuals and more Salvias. Although we couldn't do the gardens justice, what we did see was worthwhile and impressive.

After leaving Zurich, we went to Freiburg in Germany, situated near the Black Forest. This

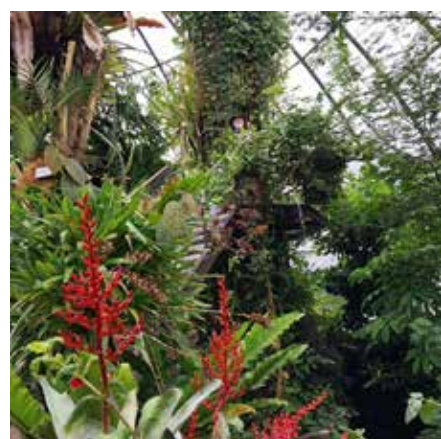
was accessed by cable car and looking around at the surrounding countryside, those forests were indeed almost black, as they were so dense with conifers – all tall and straight, growing towards the heavens, mainly the *Abies* / *Picea* types, they really were inspiring. As there was low cloud that morning, it gave a very eerie feeling going up in the cable car to who knew where! At the top it was sunny, where we could take various walks to the summit – identifying plants along the way – lots of Fireweed (*Chamaeneron angustifolium*) Willowherb. Although very pretty when in flower, it was proving to be a pest in the area. Beautiful views of the surrounding fields and farms.

Freiburg is a lovely place, a historical town with some beautifully decorated buildings. Paved roads and pathways with most shops within walking distance. Again, a good transport

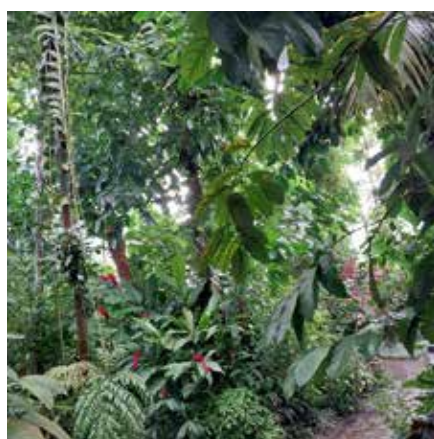
Zurich Botanic Gardens



Entrance



Michael in the undergrowth



Inside the Tropical Dome



Interesting cacti in the Arid Dome

system of trams and trains to anywhere. I was surprised when I saw that Freiburg had its own Botanical Gardens, again quite different from ours, many plants grouped into regions or flower types. Some areas were grouped according to families, that was fascinating as the Salvias contained both tall Sth American species such as *S. iodantha*, *S. fluviatilis*, some *S. mexicana* varieties, a small *S. dorisiana*, medium growers like 'Amistad', Bog Sage (*S. uliginosa*), a small 'Phyllis Fancy', some with old names no longer in use and of course quite a few microphylla types, *S. darcyi*, *S. sclarea*, *officinalis* and what looked like *S. coahuiliensis*. As it was a hot day in the sun, it was lovely to wander through their woodland area, to sit in the shade and enjoy the collection of bamboos and other grass collections.



Banksia, Crepe Myrtle and Salvia plantings



Screen planting

Again, throughout the city, most of the raised beds had Salvias of one sort or another – they really did provide a well needed pop of colour in shaded or dull areas.

On Sundays, everything closes down in Germany, (we are spoilt here in Melbourne) with nothing to do, so we went to Colmar – just across the border in France. We have been there before at Christmas – a beautiful place, with all things Christmas, but now in Summer, it had a completely different look. All the old Gothic houses were still the same with decorative items hanging from everywhere, beautiful displays in the windows. The thing that really attracted me was the planting of baskets and raised beds. The planting was beautiful. Often it was colour themed in hues of orange, lime and yellow, crimson and lime greens – all beautiful baskets attached to the tops of the canals. A lot of these had a wonderful colour range of Heucheras, they were so well grouped together and most had Salvias to add contrast in the themed colour range. Someone had done a lot of work putting them together, no doubt taking many hours of maintaining to keep them looking so good. As it had begun to rain, we retreated to the Ginger and Nougat shop for a coffee and a very expensive treat.

A good trip, lots to see and plants to identify as we went.



Historical Church, Zurich

News from The Perennial Poppies Southeast Queensland

Text and Photos by Sheryl Jenyns

Since my last salvia article, we have sold our home and garden at Rosh Eden in the Running Creek valley south east of Beaudesert, and downsized to a one-acre property at Blue Mountain Heights on the outskirts of Toowoomba. It was a mammoth undertaking at our time of life as we had lived at Running Creek for over 40 years. We have gone from a wet subtropical climate to a dry temperate climate on the edge of the Darling Downs. Many plants came with us but very few salvias, as we thought it would be too cold in the winter for them. How wrong were we. Most of the plants we bought with us have thrived except for the desert roses, they all died. Over the past two years many salvias have found their way into our 'new' garden, thanks to our salvia growing friends.

Our garden called Hilltop is on a high block on the edge of the escarpment with magnificent views overlooking Gatton and toward Ipswich/ Brisbane in the far distance. It was an established garden but getting neglected with lots of weed species that had to be dealt with. Our soil is a light clay over red volcanic, so slightly acidic and everything we have planted has thrived. Unfortunately, our rainfall is a lot lower than we were used to so have learnt how valuable mulching is and have installed a rainwater tank, catching the runoff from the house roof to be used in the garden.

Lots of new varieties of salvias have been planted. The 'Lake' and 'So Cool' series are especially nice, but the good old varieties 'Anthony Parker', 'Megan's Magic', 'Phyllis Fancy', the Wish series, greggii and microphylla varieties, are still our favourites. *Salvia* 'Anthony Parker' planted in a few places along the steep driveway, with its grey foliage and perfect natural shape and navy-blue flowers, is very pleasing to the eye. It blends in beautifully with the agapanthus, blushing pink Knock Out rose and crepe myrtles. This very dry area receives very little moisture, mainly natural rainfall and is mulched heavily. *Salvia* 'Penny's Smile' looks lovely in front of the Lady of Australia rose and even in our native plant area we have a 'Phyllis Fancy' and another 'Anthony Parker'. We have put in amongst the hybrid tea roses some of the cooler growing varieties such as nemorosa and sylvestris. These salvias are new to me as they didn't like the climate and conditions in our previous garden. They fall back in the cold winter here but take off again in the spring. It is a pleasure to see the microphylla salvias thrive amongst the David Austin roses. We are enjoying living in such a wonderful gardening environment as Toowoomba.

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Sheryl's garden

Just one salvia: *Salvia* 'Roman Red'

by Steve Wikman

In late April 2024 our *Salvia* Study Group met at John and Carol Kerkin's garden at Kingsholme. I am a self confessed 'not a *salvia* fan', but I wanted to find out more. Why do many gardeners find pleasure in growing *salvias*? What is their attraction? What environmental conditions do they require and are they waterwise?

Being a frequent customer of 'The Big Green Shed' (Bunnings) I always check out the reduced plant stand where I do find some treasures that I can rehabilitate. In late 2022, I was drawn to the *Salvia* 'Roman Red' label which was attached to a marked down priced pot. This plant was looking sad and unloved, but with care I knew I could give it a better life. As there was limited information on the accompanying label I did some online research. This *salvia* was bred in the Netherlands in 2014 and it was selected for its strength and showiness. I believe it is a hybrid of *Salvia darcyi* x *Salvia splendens* and it is considered to be a half semi woody perennial with stamina. The growth habit is upright to approximately 60cm with light green serrated foliage. The bright red flowers are long, rich in colour with a darker calyx. It is a striking plant with the need for some water when dry, and it is one that handles light frosts.

Features include:

- Strikes easily from cuttings
- Grows in a mounded form in well-drained soil
- Masses of beautiful rich red flowers that rise above the foliage
- Flowers constantly all year round in Buderim southeast Queensland
- Survived high humidity and the prolonged rain events in early 2024

I have also noticed the flowers are regularly visited by honey bees, native bees, various butterflies and nectar feeding birds. Now, I am not sure if I am a *salvia* 'convert' yet, however this little one may have given me some positive insight as to why *salvias* are grown throughout Australia.



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STOP PRESS!!

By Lyndi Garnett

A new Treasurer has been found!

After Tine's last email asking for a new Treasurer, Sarah Bacaller very nicely put her hand for the position and, having her own Company, she certainly knew about keeping her own books in order. The next morning, lo and behold, there was another email for the position. Denise Catchlove had also put up her hand. Denise is a retired bookkeeper and a registered BAS agent. After Gordon had discussed the position with both applicants, we were absolutely thrilled to welcome Denise as our new Treasurer. It was unfortunate that we had to let Sarah go. She was very understanding of the situation and graciously stood aside and I'm hoping that if anything goes wrong at any time in the future that we may still be able to call on Sarah again. I might add that both these members live well outside the metropolitan areas, living in the rural fringes, where it is much quieter and not so hectic. It just goes to show that you don't have to live in the city or suburbs to help out in a committee position for the Society you wish to join.

We would certainly like to thank Gordon for continuing as Treasurer after he had retired from the position. He was elated at finally finding someone to take over from him. He will be assimilating Denise into the position, going over the style of accounting, the programs etc... necessary for the position. Thank you, Gordon, for your tireless efforts over the many years as our Treasurer. We can now give you some peace for you to enjoy your music and more travels.

My Garden

Text and Photos by Helen Smith



Lyndi met Helen at the beginning of August, when Lyndi was presenting a session on Salvias to the Creswick Garden Club. These are excerpts from an email Helen sent to Lyndi after the talk.

"I love salvias for their long-flowering and huge variety. I have New Holland honeyeaters, Eastern spinebills and Red-browed finches (amongst other birds like parrots, rosellas and pesky blackbirds of course) which love to spend time in my garden and the salvias are amongst their favourites!

My garden is barely five years old but between having twelve feet of volcanic topsoil and periods of covid isolation over the past few years, it has developed rather rapidly!

We cop a fair amount of wind, having built on a hill so the garden has to learn to cope! Trees have to be well-staked whilst getting established and it is very challenging to get them to grow up straight. It's a bit like living at the beach but I guess that will be part of the character of the garden! We love watching the sky and get some great sunrises & sunsets so the views are worth the extra work!

I have over 650 different plant varieties in the garden currently and that number is always increasing! I am an avid collector but don't want to fuss over anything TOO much. I just love flowers!

I do not pretend to have any great garden

design skills so I shift things regularly if they're not working.

On the whole, the garden is coming together but I still come away from other people's open gardens in despair sometimes, wishing my garden was more refined!

The hot garden contains all sorts of things – Abutilon, agastache, kniphofia, aquilegia, limonium, miscanthus, gaillardia, monarda, anigozanthus, knautia, echinacea, geum, helichrysum, hemerocallis, iris, santolina, dwarf pomegranates, targetes, schizostylus, geranium, zauschneria, correa, herbaceous agapanthus, dianthus, etc., with a background hedge of Escallonia Crimson Spire.

My salvia courtyard has over thirty varieties of salvia with other things mixed in for variety of form and colour, e.g. Sysirinchium striatum, Iris unguicularis, Thymus serpyllum Magic Carpet as a ground cover, Francoa, Persicaria, Verbena bonariensis, Lepechinia, Libertia and Allium.

In spite of living on 35 acres, my husband says the (rabbit-proof) garden fence will not be shifted! It's probably just as well as I have to be realistic about how much I can manage (though I have started planting outside the fence). At times I fear I am making a lot of work for myself but the garden brings me much joy and flowers make me happy!"

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Salvia leucantha





My Garden (cont..)

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One Out of the Box

Text and Photo by Geoff Crowhurst

This is another salvia that I don't know where I obtained it from, and it grows in an odd place. It is more or less on the edge of my triangular shaped nature-strip that I have owing to the right-angle parking bay next to it. I have no idea how it came to be where it is, but it is now quite a picture being covered with its two-toned flowers. These can vary according to the clone, and more so if grown from seed rather than cuttings. Not far away is another South African salvia, *S. mairii*, with both being very easy to grow and look after, and never need watering once established.

S. chamelaeagnea seems to be quite widely grown around the world and under quite different conditions. It is in the Beth Chatto Gardens and in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK), in the Medicinal Gardens, Amsterdam, the Jerusalem Botanic Gardens, of course in the Table Mountain National Park, South Africa, and in California. A number of plant nurseries list it as being available in New Zealand. In its native habitat in S-W Africa it is part of the 'fynbos': made of tough shrubby ground cover plants that recover well from bushfire. Local native people found medicinal uses for the plant and could make a tea from either fresh or dried leaves. As a garden plant, this salvia requires a minimum of attention, a light pruning after flowering and the removal of old and dead wood. Plants can grow up to a metre or so or can be pruned lower. They should not be too hard to obtain here. The wholesale Larkman Nursery lists it as what they call 'Blue Haze'.



Salvia chamelaeagnea (Rough Blue Sage)

A Call Out to Members

PLEASE HEED THIS CALL. WE NEED YOU TO HELP KEEP OUR MAGAZINE ALIVE.

Salvia News is fortunate to have several correspondents who, regularly or occasionally, contribute reports and articles ranging from descriptions of members' gardens to valuable information on technical and practical matters.

To help maintain the magazine's dynamic and interesting content, we are putting out an URGENT call for more members to join this group. Contributions about your garden, your successes or failures, hints and tips, accounts of garden visits, etc. will be most welcome. Other salvia related snippets, for example, recipes, quotes from historical sources about how salvias were used way back when, a poem (original or not) are some other suggestions as to what might provide our readers with additional items of interest. Whether brief or detailed, regular or occasional, your inputs will be most appreciated. Photos, although not essential, are also encouraged.

SO DO BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR AND HELP KEEP SALVIA NEWS VIABLE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER

24/25

We begin the season with the **AGM and Christmas lunch.**

DECEMBER – SUN 1ST

AGM & Christmas Lunch – Jane Crone's Garden, 36-38 The Eryie, Eaglemont – 11.00am

Jane Crone's beautiful garden, is a historical home with beautiful views across Melbourne and a lovely garden to match.

Come and wander around a gorgeous garden with lots of old fashioned plants.

Have a cuppa before the AGM at 12 noon and then on to a yummy Christmas lunch.

Keep looking for more surprises.

AGM at 12noon.

Bring a sumptuous Christmas plate to share.

Tea/ coffee available. Christmas drinks available on request.

Chance to pick up a treasure or two from our plant exchange table.

Chance to meet old friends, meet new members and enjoy the view of Melbourne as you wander.

Phone Jane if coming Ph 0409571675

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



16



Jane's house



CONTACT LYNDI

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

WELCOME TO 2025

Welcome to another fantastic year for growing Salvias.

As always we have the major Gardening Events, lovely private gardens and other interesting places to visit. So please come and join us on our journey throughout 2025.

Place your orders early and enjoy the colour and the wonder of Salvias within your garden.

If anyone has Salvias in their garden, or their neighbour's, they don't know the name of, please take a photo and email it to Lyndi at lgarnett844@gmail.com. Let us help you with identifying those plants.



What's coming in 2025

We start the year with a weekend of absolute garden pleasure, with the Ferny Creek's Rare Plant Collector's Expo.

Come and see the magnificent array of colours, the range of plants for all sorts of positions within the garden and all those new seasonal plants, just waiting to be snapped up.



(continued over...)

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

MARCH – SAT 8TH & SUN 9TH

Ferny Creek's Annual Plant Collector's Expo – 100 Hillton Rd, Sassafras – 9am- 4pm

Loads of colour, a great selection of plants for sun, shade and in between, for screening, groundcovers, hedges and those pops of colour to brighten up that dull corner.

Place your orders early, Email Lyndi: lgarnett844@gmail.com up on the day, don't miss out.

Any queries phone Ph 9803 4534. See you all there.



MARCH – SUN 16TH

Fiona Williams – A Rainbow of Colour – 65 Glynn's Rd, North Warrandyte – 11.30am

Fiona is showing The Group's collection of greggii and microphylla hybrids. This is a large collection, gathered over many years by Pat Anderson, and now given to Fiona to look after. At this time of year, they should be in full bloom.

As there is such a huge range of colour, sizes and growth habits, all these plants will be shown graduating from one colour to the next – in other words a Rainbow of Colour.

Phone or email Fiona if coming: 0417 323 785 – diuris@bigpond.net.au

Tea & Coffee will be available. Bring a plate to share for lunch while you wander around Fiona's garden. Bring secateurs and plastic bags to collect cuttings as you wander.

Bring any Salvias you want identified. The property has a long driveway with plenty of parking at the end.



This collection is only part of the range of plants available in Fiona's garden. She also has a large collection of Salvias within garden beds, plus collections of hybrid Pelargoniums, Begonias, Hoyas, Primula and lots of native and other tough ornamentals.

Salvia Cards Order Form

Created by Meg Bentley



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 | | |

| 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 Laurie Norman – 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

Laurie Norman, Membership Officer

Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

185 Findlays Rd,

Learmonth Vic. 3352

Ph. (03) 0419 509 592 Email: laurienorman@bigpond.com

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

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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

Surname & Initial (admin purposes only) please

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

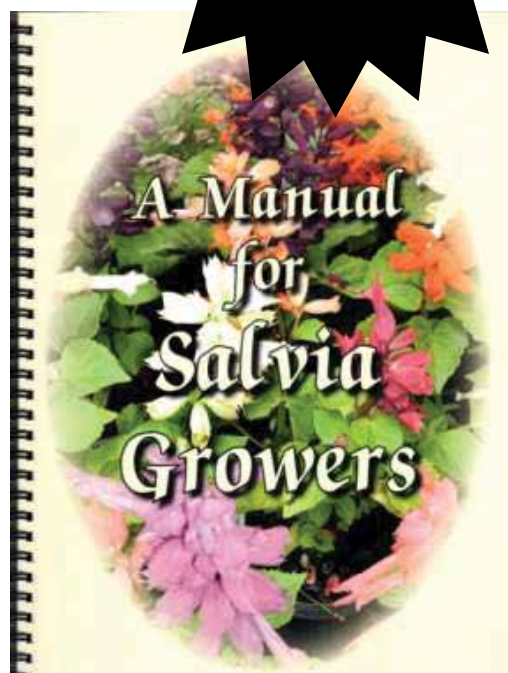
A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

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) | |

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- PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/au/webapps/mpp/send-money-online> (pay to: vssginc1@tpg.com.au)

Name: _____

Address: _____

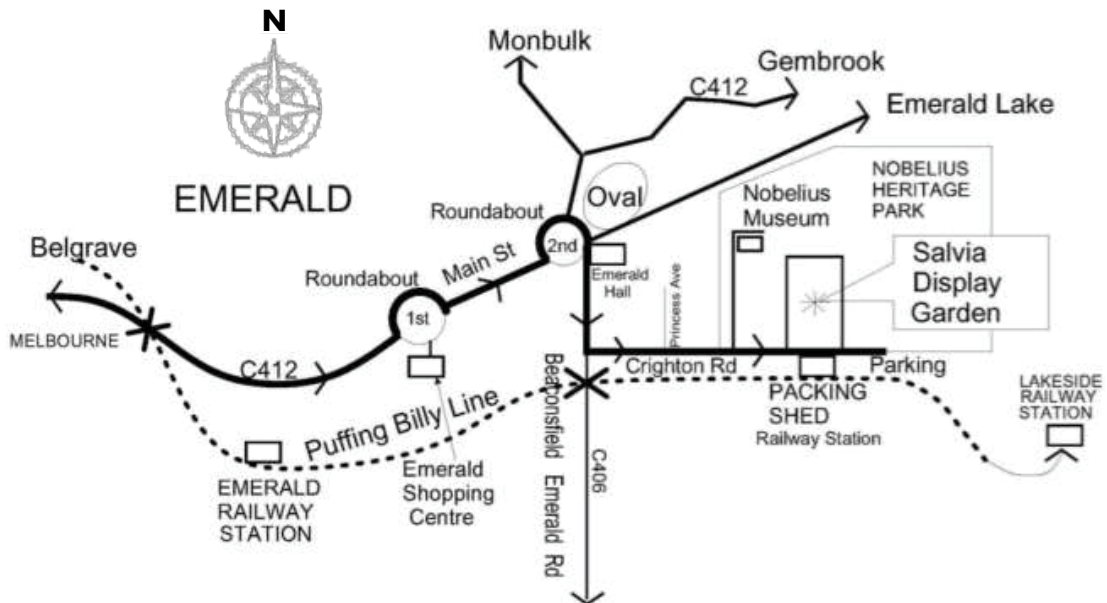
Suburb/Town: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

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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