

Salvia News

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Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Autumn 2025

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP inc

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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.).

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Welcome to the 2025 Autumn edition of Salvia News.

Heather Lucas' report on our November visit to Jane Morton's garden provides some very good ideas on how to personalize a garden so it takes on an identity that is unique to its owner. I agree with Heather and Courtney that Opportunity Shops are fertile grounds for finding great bargains, especially those quirky pots or interesting garden ornaments that add so much to a garden's personality.

In Helen Smith's update on what's happening in her patch of the woods, she describes how she has successfully trialed three, older style salvias outside her rabbit proof fence with no sign, to date, of any damage from those munching marauders. A tip for members who have similar wild life problems?

Our first garden visit for 2025 will be to Fiona Williams' garden in Warrandyte North. As well as having the opportunity to wander through an extensive garden filled with wonderful garden beds, visitors will be able to inspect the Group's large Greggii and Microphylla collection which Fiona now holds, having taken up the flag from Pat Anderson, the original developer and keeper of the collection.

Happy reading and happy autumn gardening,

Andreina



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

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

Cover Photo is *Salvia* 'Heatwave Glitter'. 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 Autumn on page 16.

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.

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

Come and see the new season's collection of Salvias, all bright and beautiful, some new and some good oldies that need replacing, plenty to add to your Salvia collection. 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.

Email Lyndi: lgarnett844@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

This is a large collection. There is such a huge range of colour, sizes and growth habits -in other words a Rainbow of colour. This is your chance to study each Salvia, to compare the colours, the growth habits and their differences.

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.

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

APRIL SAT 5TH | Jindivick Rare Plant Fair | 125 Palmers Rd, Jindivick (the Garden at Boughton Hall) – 9am-4pm | Entry: \$25.00 – Admission to garden and fair

End of Summer, beginning of Autumn, still loads of colour, come and see the start of the Autumn Salvias. A good variety of full sun, frost hardy and shade loving Salvias available.

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

APRIL SAT 12TH & SUN 13TH | Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair | 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 9am-4pm

Come and see the great array of colours available, from every shade of pink, red, yellow and orange, from all the different blues and purples, all the Salvias for lovely sunny spots, shady nooks, those tough and hardy Salvia for frosty areas. All the tall and small Salvias and those in between, we have them all. Our Autumn and Winter Salvias are just coming into flower, with those stunning "in your face" flowers, so grab them quickly before they walk off the tables.

For orders, email Lyndi: lgarnett844@gmail.com

MAY SUN 18TH | Elaine Brown's Garden Visit | 32 Jackson's Way, Dromana – 11am

A beautiful seaside garden overlooking the bay. A rose and perennial garden filled with so many delights. A small orchard, beehives, a garden beautifully landscaped, including the adjoining Council Reserve. Tea and Coffee will be provided. Bring a plate to share for lunch and wander around this gorgeous garden, created with loving care.

Phone Lyndi if coming Ph 9803 4534

JUNE SAT 14TH | Gardener's Day Out | Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Hwy, Burwood – 9.30am

Wonderful winter Salvias, all in flower. Those for shade, tall background Salvias for screening, small dainty Salvias for the front borders and plenty of fillers, all in fabulous colours, just waiting to be picked up and taken home.

For orders, email Lyndi: lgarnett844@gmail.com

JUNE SUN 22ND | Propagating and Potting up Day | Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald (Crighton Rd, beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line – in front of the Emerald Museum) – 1pm-3pm

On the lawn in front of the Museum

- Learn how to take cuttings and when to propagate Salvias.
- Learn how and when to pot up those cuttings or repot plants.
- Take home pots of cuttings and repotted plants

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

Notes from Gruyere

Text and Photos by Meg Bentley

The heat of Summer has been rather stress-full, not only for the garden but the gardener as well. I think many will be pleased to welcome Autumn when it arrives.

In the previous *Salvia News* No.97, I spoke about the hard pruning of *Salvia karwinskii* and the roots that were removed and potted up. Wondering of course whether they would come to anything or die off, because of the drastic measure I had under-taken with such an extreme pruning job.

I am happy to report that after several months, this was very successful, as you can see in the photo. The only thing I need to be concerned about now is the fact that it will have a vigorous root system and will either have to be planted out or potted up into a larger container.

This Summer has been a trying time in the garden, watering only the main pots and containers and of course the newer plantings. Salvias growing in the gardens have had to manage without the luxury of constant watering. So many of the shade lovers, those with the larger leaves, have succumbed to the sunburnt, shrivelled 'dried-leaf' arrangement, not quite dead but brown and hanging down the stems. I have learned over the years to leave them alone. No amount of watering will actually bring them back up and certainly never prune off this brown matter, as it actually gives a small amount of protection to the plant lower down. If you remove this burnt, dried foliage too soon, it will expose any limp growth underneath and this in turn will burn off and the plant could die through too much stress. I have to turn a 'blind-eye' to the heat ravaged salvias over the hot months and await the coolness of Autumn, just as the plant does. The change in atmosphere is the best uplifting tonic to the gardens and plants in general, including the gardener.

I have found that salvia cultivars with either *S. guaranitica* or *S. splendens* in their breeding are usually the worst for coping in my hot garden. These I usually

refrain from planting out in the garden but even container grown cultivars suffer in the extreme heat, especially the newer hybrid releases.

Salvias with grey-leaves and the small leaved salvias cope very well, as do the South African species and have never been a problem in my garden. They can all take the hot, dry conditions that my garden offers, and have never been dependant on water. Sometimes I think that with the larger leaved, cooler climate salvia species, the more water you give, the more they become dependent on it and being on tank water only, I have to encourage plants to be hardy and more self-reliant on little moisture, plenty of mulch and some protection from the hot afternoon sun.

Roll on Autumn and happy gardening.



Salvia Karwinskii seedling after a few month's growth

Frank's Salvias

Text and Photos by Lyndi Garnett

When I was in Germany last year, I had the opportunity of visiting Frank's Nursery and finally meeting Frank. The nursery is on a couple of acres on the outskirts of Freiburg. A neat, small and compact nursery where he grows his Salvias as well as lots of Basil, Thyme, mints and other favourite plants, mainly in the family Laminace.

When not working in the nursery (he was spraying plants when we arrived), he is in his outside room giving lectures to Groups about botany, Salvias and their structure and differences, an extremely interesting study room, holding all sorts of collections, drawings (his own), and a brand-new coffee machine!

Frank has spent a lot of time with Rolando (Argentina) discussing Salvias and goes to the USA regularly for conferences and symposiums. It was he who with other botanists looked into the DNA of Rosmary and Pervoskia and decided they needed to be included in Salvia family. Of course, you all know that some professionals and Nurseries may have taken up the change in names but have since reverted back with Rosemary being Rosemary and Pervoskia being Russian Sage. Thinking that as the name change is only part of their DNA makeup, then leave the changes in the DNA and not in the nurseries. The public have also had a major pushback for these name changes, wanting the names to be left alone.

Walking through his nursery, the first plants I noticed were quite a few plants of the annual *S. tilifolia*, which we no longer have, approx. 40-60cmH, and is virtually a smaller form of our *S. personata*, 80cm-1mH, both of which are quite attractive and self-seed easily.

Along his back wall, were a number of bushy Salvias, mostly from Sth America. This must be a nicely sheltered area to be able to grow these types of Salvias and keep them growing in the German winter. Most of the plants I recognised including *S. chiapensis*, *guaranitica*, 'Amistad', *omeriana*, 'Black knight' and some coccinea plants, but he did have one or two that were not familiar and the names new to me. I can't find my notes that I took with these interesting names and I'm waiting for photos to be identified.

On the other side of a path was where people could wander and look at how he had landscaped such a large area with Salvias from all walks of life – some around a pond and bog area, some low growing, spp growing on what looked like a scree area, others Mediterranean spp were grouped around a sitting area. It really was a wonderland of what could be found where, especially if you were "in the know" and looking for Salvias.

The area right down the back was my favourite place. This was mounded and looked a neglected area. The soil looked like rubbish,

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Frank and Lyndi at his nursery in Freiburg Germany Sept 2024



Frank's glasshouses



Frank's classroom

full of grit, rubble, gravel and all sorts of fill but the drainage was perfect. Just right for all those hard to keep, Mediterranean, Turkish clumping and herbaceous Salvias. There were so many, I couldn't identify them all as I'd never really seen them growing properly. There they were, producing large leaves, masses of flowers and seed heads with copious amounts of seed – must have had a good bee season.

As summer had just passed, September being the beginning of Autumn, most plants had already flowered and had produced masses of seed heads – how I wished I could have taken some back with me!!! It really was an ideal wonderland for growing all those difficult species of Salvias – living on top of what looked like a rubbish tip, but worked beautifully for them. It was one area Frank had yet to get into, but was hoping to sort it out in a few weeks when the nursery trade died down, he was hoping that there might be a few crosses among those herbaceous plantings.

As Frank constantly had new customers, we really didn't have a lot of time to chat or discuss Salvias, which was a pity as there was so much to talk about, but we parted with me giving him a gift of a couple pkts of Salvia seed (both of

which he hadn't got in his collection) and hoping that he can send us some of his seed. He did mention that it is getting harder and harder to exchange seed because of our Quarantine regulations, but is hoping some seed will eventually be able to be exchanged.



Section of Frank's garden, hardy plants



Frank's Omiana



Frank's Nytländer



Frank's herbal nursery



Frank's Tillifolia



Frank's Azurea



Frank's Guarinitica

Garden Update

Text and Photos by Helen Smith

Helen's garden was featured in our Summer 2024 edition. She provided this update in mid-December. Note the hint for members who may have a rabbit problem!

"We got back from our trip to the USA on November 12th and I've been catching up in the garden ever since. Being away for five weeks of peak growth meant it had gone ballistic!

I purchased two new salvias the day Lyndi spoke at our garden club.

Salvia aurita var *aurita* and *S. namaensis*. They are both doing well. I've found *aurita* easy to strike and I have three new rooted cuttings to plant when the weather cools. My newest salvia is *S. sclarea* from Lambley Nursery (a regular haunt!). It is loving our climate and flowering its head off! All three varieties have been planted in a new area, outside our rabbit-proof fence. So far, they've received no damage so I hope that continues!"



Salvia sclarea

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Fingers Crossed For This One

Text and Photos by Geoff Crowhurst

In mid-December, I obtained a plant of *Salvia pinnata* at an Olinda plant swap event, but I don't know who donated this salvia. It is not mentioned in the written sources I have – Meg Bentley, Betsy Clebsch and John Whittlesey, and there is little available on the internet. *Salvia pinnata* comes from places near or in the Middle East – Bulgaria, Cyprus, Turkey and Palestine, where it grows in rather inhospitable conditions: described in Bulgaria as growing in open, dry, grassy fields and on road-sides, growing to 18-24 inches high. It is a bee attracting plant.

My little plant, which I have put into a larger pot, has almost oval, crinkly leaves, and darkish and hairy stems. It looks as if it should bush out in time. Considering where it comes from, I probably shouldn't over-water it or give it too much TLC. Some years ago, I had a most enjoyable walking and botanising trip to Bulgaria, although I was the only one really interested in the plants, as the others were very keen walkers or, as they are called in England, rambles.

Going through my photos of the trip, I have one of what could well be *Salvia pinnata*, although the photo doesn't show the leaves. My group walked through many wildflower meadows, lush with the growth of all sorts of plants, though particularly orchids. I will attach the salvia photo, although only time will tell if the photo and my pot plant are a match.



Salvia pinnata



Bulgarian wildflower meadow

News from The Perennial Poppies Southeast Queensland

Text and Photos by Barb Wickes

It is now four years since we left our acreage property in Buderim and moved to a 500 m² block in the over 50s lifestyle resort B by Halcyon, Buderim. It was certainly a challenge and in hindsight it was the right thing to do at the time as the property in Roms Court was labour intensive. Over the four years, I have discovered what grows best and where. Although the main garden faces north it is protected by the wall of the neighbouring house and thus, in winter, there is a lot more shade in this area. Many plants have been moved and mostly to the Community Garden flower and rose garden. With five other houses bordering the property, there was concern as to how we would cope! There are limitations on how high shrubs can grow and it has been a continual task to keep the tops out of them, as many are now well established. The *Phalaris clerodendrum* that was a seedling from Roms Court is now a well-established tree that has had its head cut off! The flowers that appear on the trunks at the time of rain are still enjoyed but it will be an ongoing task to keep it to the required height. The weeping tropical birch looks wonderful at this time of year and shades an assortment of plants. *Magnolia* 'White Caviar' is stunning when in flower and creates a lush background for perennial plantings.

Many salvias have been relocated to the Community Garden as they were not getting enough sun or air movement, resulting in mealy bug infestations. Those that are enjoying the space are thriving. The Fashion series varieties do well for me. These were bred in the US and are a compact form of the Wishes series, suitable for the smaller garden and supposedly growing to 60cm in height. They are *Splendens x buchananii* hybrids as are the Wishes but I am not sure about the height as mine get to 1m and then I give them a good prune. During the hot



humid time of year, I am cautious doing this as it can kill them. Microphylla varieties especially, need to be pruned with care in the summer by taking a little at the base of the plant and waiting for fresh shoots to appear before completing the pruning.

Salvia 'Ostentatious', one of the Fisher series, does well for me and remains quite compact at about 70cm. The history of this collection of plants is interesting as John Fisher was employed by the NSW Dept of Primary Industries and following his retirement, he devoted his time to plant breeding. His most notable achievement is Love and Wishes, part of the Wishes series.

The Lake series is being grown by many of our members but

has been noticed that with the guaranítica background, some have become invasive. They are striking plants but in the subtropics we need to be aware of the growth habit.

In our last garden, *Salvia chiapensis* grew quite well in full sun, however in the semi-shade of our neighbour's house it is thriving! It is rarely without a flower. We have beautiful little honeyeaters that frequent our garden and remind me of the American hummingbird as they hover around the salvias dipping their beaks in, such a joy to watch and a wonderful addition to our garden. The other plant they love is the purple firespike, *Odontonema callistachyum*. The honeyeaters are constant visitors to the plant outside our office window.

At our last salvia day in October, members commented on the fact that there are so many salvias appearing on the market it becomes extremely confusing and many in our group feel we should stick to the good old varieties. Microphylla seedlings pop up in our gardens and some have been found to be real treasures. I will add a photo of one that is yet to be named.

Jane Morton's Garden Visit, Ivanhoe East

Text and Photos by Heather Lucas

Okay, so we all love our garden visit days and I personally was really looking forward to this one, as I did go and visit the garden with Lyndi prior to the day and loved the difference in this garden to others we have been too. Now that's not to say that I didn't love all the other gardens, but I believe that to have all different types of gardens is just wonderful and you can take home ideas from every garden and implement them in your garden.

So on Sunday, 24th November, Lyndi and I set off once again to Jane's on a day that was forecast to reach 21 degrees and have light showers. It did rain lightly for the first hour or two, but nothing umbrellas and very keen and avid gardeners would be put off by.

Firstly, may I say that Jane had the most wonderful Christmas tree in her back room next to the kitchen, which looks out of large glass windows onto the back garden – quite glorious. You could either go out to the back garden through a door out of the kitchen area or huge French glass doors that open up out of an area that has a dining table and chairs, such a wonderful vista.

I loved, loved, loved this garden, full of wonderful eclectic artwork, mosaics, very colourful china frogs and pots, bromeliads and heaps of potted plants, trees, plus of course lots of plants in the garden. I'm not sure if I have seen a garden with more plants in pots, really fabulous and lots of plant stands with potted plants on them (18 to 20 plants on each stand). Even the front porch had lots of pots (all shapes and sizes) with plants and also one large upright pot and one oval pot with water and plants in them.

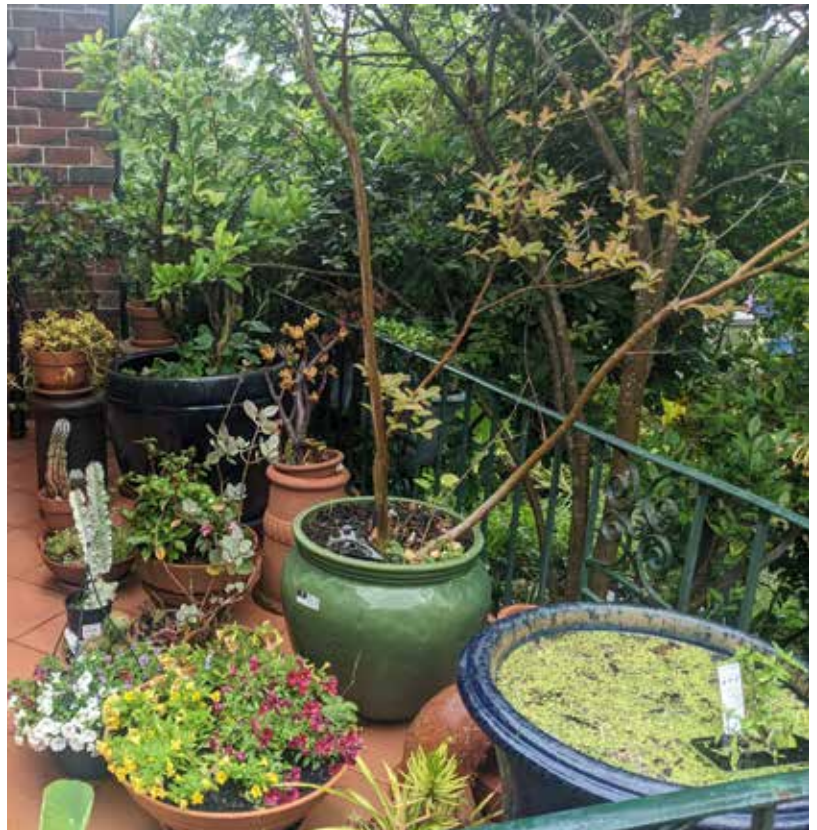
Mosaics, well let's see, a rooster, chicken, tortoise, plaque/picture with bird bath and birds on it, mosaic table, mosaic pots and mosaic square tiles along a pathway.

Now I too am guilty of having heaps of pots of plants, but the difference between me and Jane is that mine are still in the black plastic pots, bought from the nursery and Jane's are in many, many different proper glazed and colourful china pots. So I now am truly motivated to put my plants into all sorts of glazed, terracotta, colourful china and every other sort of pot that I can find. I truly now believe that you cannot have enough pots, after visiting Jane's garden.

Of course there was the most sumptuous lunch, which truly this time was a gourmet choice of sandwiches, sweets and pastries, all enjoyed by around 10 people who came for the garden visit.

On a light hearted note, I went out with my daughter, Courtney, who is an Op Shopaholic and bought the most colourful china painted pot that I could find to put in my garden, as I was so inspired by the colour, pots and mosaics in this garden and now I love looking at this pot in my garden as it reminds me of this garden visit day.

Thank you Jane for a wonderful day and garden.





Propagating Salvias

From the VSSG Website (www.salvias.org.au)

This is an abridged version of the more detailed website article.

CUTTINGS

Salvias are reasonably easy to propagate and taking cuttings is by far the best and quickest way to obtain multiple plants; it also ensures that the species you are dealing with come true to form.

Best times are generally Spring, Autumn and Winter for large leaf varieties (they don't transpire as much moisture when it's cool).

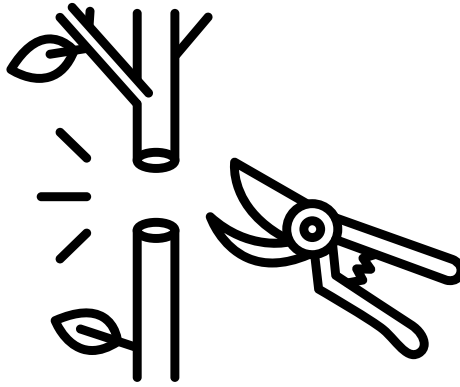
Spring for most other varieties, especially the herbaceous Salvias (before they run up to flower).

Small leaved Salvias are best taken in Spring and Summer or when the sap is "running". If taken in the cooler months, without the correct bottom heat or perlite mix, these small leaf varieties just sit and sulk, so the warmer months are more suitable for these types of Salvias

Tip Cuttings: Tip Cuttings are the young new growth, where stems have not hardened too much (stem flexible without snapping).

Take a cutting approximately 10-12cm from the tip, strip the bottom leaves, remove any flower buds and remove the growing tip. This will encourage new shoots, encouraging the plant to become bushy. On large leaf varieties, cut the leaf in half (again so they don't transpire too much).

Cut through or immediately below the node. This is where you'll find the growing cells. This is very important in all of the larger growing Salvias as they



have hollow stems. If taken internodally, they won't strike. If the Salvia has long spaces between the nodes, then you'll need a deeper pot. Some of the small leaved varieties can be cut between the nodes as their stems are still green enough at this stage.

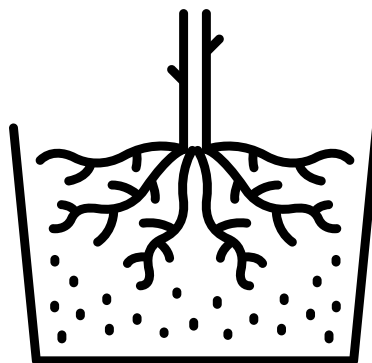
Once you've taken your cuttings, put them in water while you finish preparing all your cuttings (this keeps them fresh). When ready, dip the cutting into cutting gel/powder which helps to promote new root growth.

We're finding that the potting mix for cuttings should be a mix of perlite/vermiculite and potting soil approximately a ratio of 70/30. This will be a dirty mix. The perlite helps to keep the mix aerated. This is really important in the cooler months when cuttings can easily rot. Most cuttings root a lot easier and a lot faster.

You can place one cutting in a small pot or multiple cuttings in a wider squat pot if you don't have the room for multiple pots. By cramming lots of cuttings into one pot, they seem to create a micro climate which helps and protects each other.

Place pots in a sheltered position out of the wind and direct sun – this allows them to settle. After

a few days, place the small leaved varieties in a sunny position and keep the large leaved varieties in the shade. If possible, place them all on to some soil or place some soil in the base of the tray – this seems to help pull the roots down to the bottom of the pot. When roots are showing out of the pot,



then it's time to pot up the plants. Gently tape them out, so you can tease the roots apart gently and carefully. Use a good aerated potting mix which will hold the water in summer but not drown the plant in winter.

The cutting mix can be reused time and time again without any contamination or problems to the cuttings.

Side Shoots: Small side shoots and young growth from the base of the plant can also be taken; this applies to all bushy, herbaceous and tall shrubby species. Often these are best taken with a heal – this is when you carefully break the shoot off the main stem, a small piece of the stem will stay with the shoot.

DIVISION

This is done with herbaceous plants that have basal clumps. These can be divided after Winter and all frosts are over, when the new shoots start to appear. Dig up or tap out the clump from a pot; using a sharp knife or spade, slice the clumps either in half or quarters, depending on size, making sure there are enough shoots and roots to each clump you want to divide and a good quantity of new shoots.

Clean away any dead stems, shoots and roots. Dust the cut area with rooting powder, place in the new position or pot, fill with soil, firm down and water in thoroughly, so now you should have 2-4 new plants.

LAYERING

This is an easy way to increase your plants with those Salvias that are naturally procumbent along the ground, or those plants that produce long shoots that can be carefully bent down to the ground.

Some people like to “nick/wound” the stem, which helps to promote roots at this point, while others just cover a section of stem and wait for it to root, or bury nodes (or elbows) – these nodes naturally form roots when they touch the ground.

When the stem is well rooted, then the stem can be cut and potted up or planted in the garden.

SEEDS

While this method may be a good way to increase your stock en masse, it is not always the best method if you are wanting a plant variety to come ‘true’. As with all seed, there is always a chance of cross pollination.

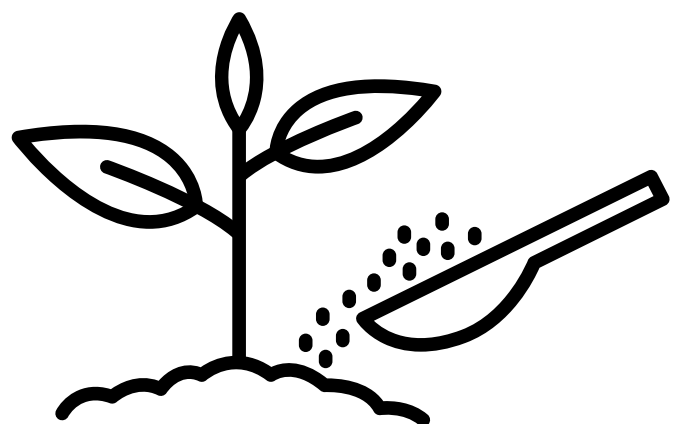
Cross pollination can lead to many varied cultivars and hybrids. Not all Salvias cross, there are many species that do come true from seed.

Sow seed in Spring to Autumn, in friable soil, sow seed into pots with a very good seed raising mix. Sow seed directly on top of soil, DON'T cover with soil, Salvias need light to germinate. Cover pot with fly wire to protect germinating seed from the ‘Midnight Munches’.

Water with a dose of Epsom Salts – 1tsp in a 1litre spray bottle, allow the mixture to dissolve, then spray immediately after sowing, then again

once or twice before they germinate. The magnesium helps to overcome the dormancy.

Smokey water is also used to help germination – used in the diluted form Regen 2000 Smoke Master solution from TREEMAX. This is often used by nurseries and the Botanic gardens to overcome dormancy in difficult species.



Tips for pruning Salvias in the Summer, late Autumn

Text by Lyndi Garnett

With all this heat, hot weather and the dry summer season, most gardens might be looking a bit scrappy, weather beaten, leaves burnt or insect ravaged, dull and generally uninteresting, even though water and mulch have been applied, some plants still look a bit tired.

As those people who have herbaceous Salvias e.g. nemerosa 'Caradonna', 'East Friesland' will have read the article from David Glenn at Lambley Nursery, which suggests that all the flowering stems be cut right back to encourage another flush of growth and more flowers, to take those plants through to Autumn or before they begin to go down for the winter months.

Those with small shrubby Salvias, of the microphylla/greggii types can at this time of year, give them a summer trim, by cutting off all the flowers and trimming the plant for shape. Feed and top up the mulch to keep the root area cool, check any watering system is working properly. This trim takes off some of the tired looking leaves, and encourages new growth and a new flush of flowers, generally within 4-5 weeks. It certainly works for 'Hotlips' which can be slashed back by half at least 2-3 times a year and trimmed to shape.

Most of the tough Sth African and Mediterranean species just need a bit of tidying up, dead heading spent flower stems, removing old leaves around the base of the plant, again toping up the mulch, weather organic or gravel.

For the taller species, Spring and Summer is the time to cut those big Salvias down, leaving any young new stems and encouraging new growth. If there is new growth emerging, check where that is appearing on the old stems, but most old stems can be cut down generally to 1 or 2 nodes. If there is enough new growth appearing, then these old stems can be taken right down to the ground – using a pruning saw, which is easier to get into small spaces than long handled loppers. If the plant only has 1 stem or even 2 stems, then take down to 2-3 nodes above the ground, this should encourage new growth. Taking it down to 1 node above

the ground, doesn't always work and it may not reshoot at all. Some of these taller species have an arching habit. This is a good time to look to staking or finding a large metal support of various heights that are available at stalls at the many garden events coming up during the year.

This prune will allow you to check out how your plants are growing (don't forget to feed and mulch), take the opportunity to reorganise the bed, even introduce some new plants that will brighten up the garden until those trimmed Salvias, produce new growth, to fill those beds and begin to flower once again. These enjoyable small tasks should take your rejuvenated garden into the colder winter months when the taller Salvias will be beginning to flower, the herbaceous Salvias will be going to sleep and the shrubby microphylla/greggii plants will need a good winter prune, to cut down to a good green bud and clean out, ready for the new Spring growth.



Annual Report 2024

Text by Lyndi Garnett

Welcome everyone to our AGM and Christmas Luncheon.

I'd like to thank Jane for her hospitality in allowing us to enjoy her home and this special room for our AGM today.

The Salvia Group has had a very successful year for 2024. The reason why the Victorian Salvia Study Group has been so successful is due to member participation on so many levels. Without that member participation, we wouldn't have a Group that organises and is involved in so many garden activities throughout the year.

From the work of the small band of helpers at our Working Bees at Nobelius on the last Wednesday of the month and the first Thursday of the month we are really seeing the results of our labour, of the regular cutting back, fertilising and mulching as all the Salvias are thriving and the Garden is looking full and colourful with so much in flower. Although we didn't go up in September, October and now November, the weeds have taken the opportunity to thrive and take over! But as of last Wednesday, (our last working Bee of the year), we had a big clean up, so it's all looking respectable again. I also want to thank the unknown person who regularly cleans our pathway. It always looks clean and inviting.

To those who help on Propagation Day, providing tables, propagating mix, pots, cutting material, tea & coffee (to help the day along) etc... to show how to take cuttings and what to use as cuttings. This is a service we offer that is really appreciated by those who come.

Same can be said about the New Members Lunch, where the Committee provides the lunch; to welcome and say Thank You for their support in joining the Salvia Group. This makes those new members feel special, that they are not just a number or a name on a piece of paper, that they matter. Each new member appreciates this courtesy especially when taken through the Display Garden, showing them, how many Salvias grow, this helps to continue their interest in our Salvia Group with the hope that they'll participate at some of our events.

Don't forget the Garden Visits we organise throughout the year, where members enjoy the

day wandering through and admiring someone else's garden, picking up ideas for their own garden and if lucky a few cuttings and bits and pieces to make the day memorable. Most member really like this small service we offer. As Melbourne is so vast, we try to select gardens in different areas to cater for those members from those regions.

Then of course are the wonderful band of helpers who participate at the Autumn and Spring Garden Fairs, who might help to set up on the Friday and those who come on the Saturday or Sunday to help on the stall, running around trying to find those elusive plants that we've just run out of. Although exhausting, these days are a lot of fun, helping the public and their dogs to find that special Salvia. A special thankyou must go to those who man the Cashier table, where at least 2 members stay the whole day (until relieved), often this is Norm, Gordon, Andreina, Heather or Mike Peck (not a member, but helps out where needed). But this position is made bearable by the interaction with the public. They have a lot of laughs and fun chatting with the public – it makes their day!

Not forgetting that special band of helpers who remain until the end and help to pack up the marquee, the tables, plants etc... No one stands around, everyone chips in to help and, in no time, it's all packed up, everyone ready to go home after a great day selling Salvias. It's this participation that I really appreciate, people giving up their time, their effort to make the event go smoothly.

A very important service we provide, one that everyone admires and enjoys reading and looking at, is the production of the Salvia News each quarter. Andreina does a wonderful job, collecting, collating and checking articles coming in from various parts of Australia, before sending off the finished issue to Sharon Westin, who produces the magazine, making those photos and text come to life, making the magazine interesting and a worthwhile production. Most members look forward to receiving their magazine each quarter, either on line or as a hardcopy.

It doesn't finish there, Tine has to upload the magazine online and those physical hard copies need to be collected from the printer and posted out by Norm. Another little band of helpers quietly working in the background.

There are a lot of members who help in the background, not all on the Committee, but help in their special way. Such as Wayne, our seed officer, who collects and sends *Salvia* seed all over Australia, and Russell Cheal, who produces beautiful plants for each selling event, helps with setting up the marquee, making sure it doesn't blow away and others who regularly donate plants to our selling days, they all help. Not forgetting Tine who sends all the emails and who doesn't enjoy those chatty messages, keeping the members up to date with what's happening, she also sends out Meg's manuals. And what would we do without Julie Kavanagh, our Facebook Lady, who keeps everyone informed about events, and 'What's flowering now' and other queries about the Group.

And of course, the Website, which provides so much information about the vast genre of different *Salvias*, helping those who have little idea about 'The World of *Salvias*'

All of the above is from participation of members helping the *Salvia* Group to run smoothly. For all those here today, there is always room for another to help with the many small tasks, just by putting up your hand, saying 'I can help out', 'I can do that' by phoning up or emailing offering your service to help the Group, just like Laurie Norman did, when we needed to fill the position

for a new Membership Officer. Laurie, doesn't live in the suburbs of Melbourne but near Ballarat where he fulfills his job very well, with the help of the internet and a phone.

One way this can be done is if everyone here today could take 6, 8 or 1doz cuttings from their *Salvias* in their garden, something you're comfortable with, e.g. 'Hotlips', 'Anthony Parker', Meigan's Magic', Pineapple Sage or any plants or pieces that need digging out, that may be creeping where they are not wanted. If these could be potted up, and cuttings taken, they would certainly help with the variety and stock numbers through out the year, this would be wonderful and greatly appreciated, if plants were either dropped off or taken to an event.

Now, before I end, I need to thank our hard working Committee and those who haven't been mentioned, such as Heather our Secretary, the holder of the Group's Tables until we can find a more convenient home for them, and Gordon our long serving Treasurer, who has kept us afloat at all times, and now after 10 years can finally retire and enjoy his music and dancing, by handing over to our new treasurer, Denise Catchlove, a very capable person, who thankfully put up her hand to take over the reins, who I hope will stay for a while – a small presentation to Gordon for his good service.

To wrap this up, I want to thank all the members, each and everyone of you for your support throughout the year and your participation to make our year a success.

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!

Shown below are the Financial Statements that were presented by the retiring VSSG Treasurer, Gordon Donaldson, to the VSSG AGM held on December 1st 2024.

**VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE**

INCOME	2024	2023	2022
Donation	-	5	135
Plant Sales	15215	14017	11293
Term Deposit Close	5305		
Card Sales	8	0	0
Membership	5650	5298	4094
Salvia Manual	167	185	300
Seed Sales	223	183	50
Miscellaneous Income	5		
	\$26,573	\$19,687	\$15,872

EXPENDITURE			
Annual Statement Lodgement	48	61	60
Donation made	100	-	-
Flowers (Gift)	90	129	-
Hire of Sites & Equipment	1369	2173	1533
Insurance - Public Liability	640	540	485
Membership of other organisations	-	45	45
Hire of Trench Digger	-	310	-
Root Barrier Components	-	973	-
Nobelius Path Maintenance	206	-	-
Name Badges	73	36	-
Petrol Reimbursement	100	266	-
Photocopying	-	80	54
Postage - other	27	33	23
Printing Bookmark	-	303	-
Design Brochure	352	-	-
Print Brochure	1177	-	-
SIM card payment	150	-	-
Produce Salvia News	701	-	-
Design Salvia News	1843	1760	1788
Printing Salvia News	3052	3541	2021
Postage - Salvia News	819	1549	1780
Printing Salvia Manual	-	250	829
Printing - other	322	208	215
Plant Labels	-	225	477

Place Mats	-	100	-
Purchase Carry Case	-	47	-
Purchase Plants	7511	4979	4190
Purchase Potting Mix etc.	188	356	505
Purchase Marquee / Banner	-	-	200
Purchase Plastic Bags	85	-	-
Purchase Clothing	-	340	527
Purchase Cash Box	-	60	-
Stationery Supplies	-	-	212
Website Maintenance	1320	1270	440
	\$20,174	\$19,636	\$15,384

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			
Balance at beginning of financial year 1 July	\$7,991	\$7,940	\$7,452
Balance at end of financial year 30 June	\$14,390	\$7,991	\$7,940

Balance Sheet as at 30 June

	2024	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank	\$14,390	\$7,991	\$7,940
Term Deposit	0	\$5,193	\$5,152
	\$14,390	\$13,184	\$13,092
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-	-
MEMBERS FUNDS	\$14,390	\$13,184	\$13,092

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS AUTUMN

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.

MARCH – SAT 8TH & SUNDAY 9TH

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

Come and see the new season's collection of Salvias, all bright and beautiful, some new and some good oldies that need replacing, plenty to add to your Salvia collection.

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.

Salvia books and cards will be for sale. See all the fabulous flowers. Place your orders early, don't miss out. Email your wish list, these can be put away and picked up on the day. Bring flowers and plants to be identified

Contact Lyndi if coming.



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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. This is your chance to study each Salvia, to compare the colours, the growth habits and their differences.

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.

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.

Phone Fiona if coming: 0417 323 785

The property has a long driveway with plenty of parking at the end.



CONTACT LYNDI

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

APRIL – SAT 5TH

Jindivick Rare Plant Fair – 125 Palmers Rd, Jindivick, the Garden at Boughton Hall – 9am- 4pm – \$25.00 Admission to garden and fair

End of Summer, beginning of Autumn, still loads of colour, come and see the start of the Autumn Salvias.

A good variety of full sun, frost hardy and shade loving Salvias available. Salvia books and cards will be for sale.

Place your orders early, don't miss out. Email your wish list, these can be put away and picked up on the day. Bring Salvia flowers and plants to be identified.

Contact Lyndi



APRIL – SAT 12TH & SUN 13TH

Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair – 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 9am- 4pm

Come and see the great array of colours available, from every shade of pink, red, yellow and orange, from all the different blues and purples, all the Salvias for lovely sunny spots, shady nooks, those tough and hardy Salvia for frosty areas. All the tall and small Salvias and those in between, we have them all.

Our Autumn and Winter Salvias are just coming into flower, with those stunning “in your face” flowers, so grab them quickly before they walk off the tables.

Salvia books and cards will be for sale. Place your orders early, don't miss out. Email your wish list, these can be put away and picked up on the day. Bring Salvia flowers and plants to be identified.

Contact Lyndi



Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair & Garden Expo
April 12 & 13, 2025
 9AM - 4PM
 125 Quayle Rd, Wandin VIC
www.yarravalleyplantfair.com.au
 Discounted Tickets online

Stephen Ryan MC
 'Climbing the Social Ladder'

GUEST SPEAKER >>> John Arnott - Mr Botanic Gardens 'Gorilla Gardening'

- Rare plant AUCTION Sunday raising funds for the Kids with Cancer Foundation, including New release titles.
- 84 Informers & inspired by passionate horticulturalists.
- 60+ vendors will be offering over 5,000 varieties including: herbs, perennials, roses, rare plants, indoor, seeds, succulents, edible, fruit trees, cuttings & more.
- Landscaping design advice.
- Quality garden tools, art, equipment & furniture.
- Demonstrations.
- Delishious Tea, delicious food - vegan options, local wine and beer.
- Kids Fun Dog Show.
- Dogs on a leash welcome.
- Lucky draw prizes drawn every hour.
- FREE Plant and activities for the kids.

TICKETS
 from \$13 online or \$15 at the gate
 For 30+ tickets contact Clive on 0414 242 710

(continued over...)

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

MAY – SUN 18TH

Visit Elaine Brown's Beautiful Garden – 32 Jackson's Way, Dromana – 11am

A beautiful seaside garden overlooking the bay.

A rose and perennial garden filled with so many delights.

A small orchard, beehives, a garden beautifully landscaped, including the adjoining Council Reserve.

Tea and Coffee will be provided. Bring a plate to share for lunch and wander around this gorgeous garden, created with loving care.

Phone Lyndi if coming



JUNE – SAT 14TH

Gardener's Day Out – Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Hwy, Burwood – 9.30am

Wonderful winter Salvias, all in flower. Plants for shade, tall background Salvias for screening, small dainty Salvias for the front borders and plenty of fillers, all in fabulous colours, just waiting to be picked up and taken home.

Salvia books and cards will be for sale. Place your orders early, don't miss out. Email your wish list, these can be put away and picked up on the day. Bring Salvia flowers and plants to be identified.

Contact Lyndi

JUNE – SUN 22ND

Propagating and Potting up Day – Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald (Crighton Rd, beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line – on the lawn in front of the Emerald Museum) – 1pm-3pm

- Learn how to take cuttings and when to propagate Salvias.
- Learn how and when to pot up those cuttings or re-pot plants.
- Take home pots of cuttings and re-potted plants.
- All materials supplied
- Tea & Coffee available

Bookings essential. Email Lyndi if coming



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.)

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

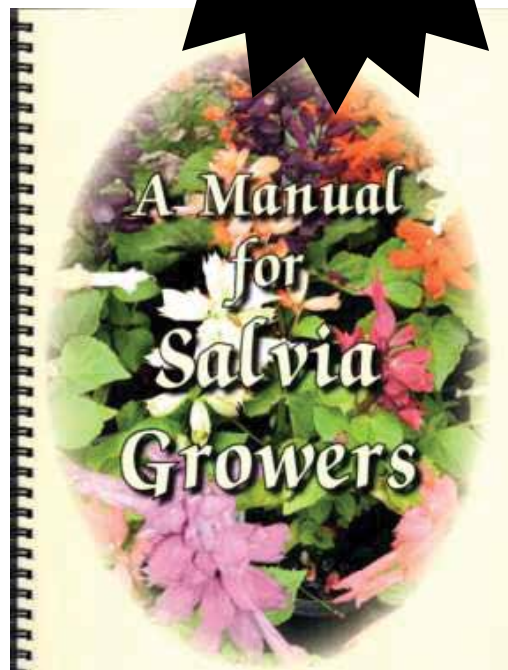
A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

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



\$30

plus postage

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: _____

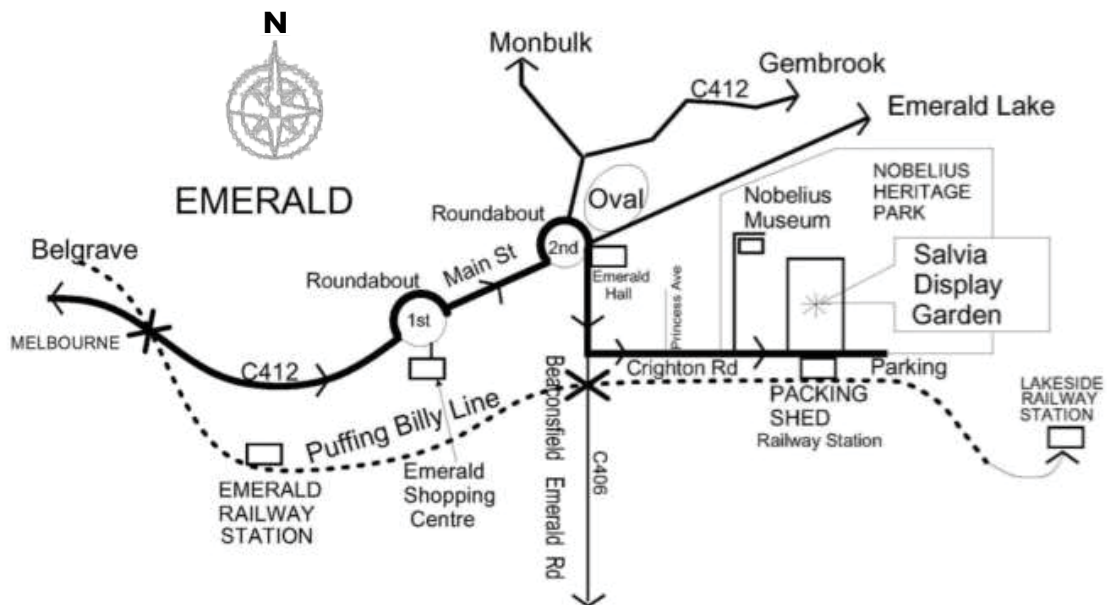
Phone number: _____

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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