

Salvia News

NUMBER 102



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Autumn 2026

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 Plant Trust registered garden collection.

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Welcome to our first edition for 2026.

Thanks to Lyndi, The Perennial Poppies and the return of some old faces, we again have a magazine full of interesting and informative articles. Pat Anderson's account of her adventures in establishing a new garden will, I'm sure, ring many bells with likewise downsizers, and Daryl Lyon's new, yet old-world, 'Tea Rooms' will offer tasty treats to Ashford Park callers when they next visit.

Looking back slightly, the Group's AGM and Christmas lunch last December was held at the beautiful, Federation-style home of Jane Crone, a warm and welcoming hostess, whose concert room was the ideal location for the meeting part of the day. Then, along the passage, through the kitchen, and into the lovely, timbered dining room was the anticipated Christmas feast. No disappointment there! Nor in the delightful garden, which features

the many unusual plants that Jane finds on her frequent nursery visits with her friend, Robyn.

The annual Financial Statements (page 15) are worth a look. This bird's-eye view of the Group's financial incomings and outgoings presents a picture of a busy and successful year, the result of all the hard work put in by the volunteers who participate in the Group's many activities – selling events, working bees, Committee of Management, and so on.

Finally, before the year gets too busy and calendars too full, could members make a late New Year's Resolution – **to write something for the *Salvia News***? Something short (a favourite salvia), something longer (description of a garden visit), or anything in between. Over to you!

Happy Autumn Gardening,

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**Copy deadline for the next edition of Salvia News is
1st May 2026**

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

Cover Photo is *Salvia curviflora*. Photo from VSSG website.

Please check website for dates and times for any event
in case of errors or a cancellation.

www.salvias.org.au

Read more of what's happening next year on page 16.

MARCH SUN 22ND | Garden Visit to Lyn Cannard's garden | 620 Dickens Rd, Freshwater Creek, Geelong – 11am

Lyn's beautiful cut flower paddock and her Dahlias are a must to see, as well as a garden full of Salvias and perennials. Tear yourself away to have lunch at the nearby Cottage Farm Perennial Nursery.

MARCH SUN 22ND | Cottage Farm Perennials | 1985 Barrabool Rd, Gnarwarre – Geelong – 1.30pm

Bring a plate to share. Enjoy Chris's garden, with so many interesting plants to find and identify. Visit her nursery and purchase that special plant you've been wanting. Enquiries: Lyndi Garnett Ph 9803 4534.

APRIL SAT 11TH | Jindivick Rare Plant Fair | Broughton Hall, 125 Palmer Rd, Jindivick – 9am - 4pm

Come and find all the Autumn and Winter flowering Salvias to brighten up those dull cold months, not forgetting the small constantly flowering bright Salvias for those small areas..

Place your orders early, don't miss out on these wonderful plants. Orders and queries. Lyndi Garnett Ph 9803 4534
Email orders: lgarnett844@gmail.com

APRIL SAT 18TH & SUN 19TH | Ferny Creek Collectors and Rare Plant Sale & Autumn Flower Show | 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafras – 10am-4pm

Ferny Creek's Plant Collector's Expo has been changed to April for a safer and cooler month without the possibility of cancellation due to fires or extreme weather conditions.

This is being coupled with their Autumn Flower Show. This should be an exciting and spectacular event, something for everyone, children and animals alike.

Come and see the new season's Salvias. All bright new colours to match and contrast everything growing in your garden.

MAY SUN 24TH | Visit Vicki and Peter Boileau's Garden | 4 Wooral Crt, Notting Hill – 11am

A lovely suburban garden nestled into a leafy area with many unusual and rare shrubs and trees.

The front garden shows an interesting array of native plants, while the rear and sides contain a wonderful collection of unusual and rare exotics. So restful and intriguing and inviting.

JUNE SUN 7TH | Propagating and Potting Up Day | Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald (Crichton Rd, beneath the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy Train Line – in front of the Emerald Museum) – 1pm-3pm

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

Bookings essential. Email or phone Lyndi if coming – 9803 4534, lgarnett844@gmail.com.
Tea/coffee provided.

JUNE SAT 13TH | A Gardener's Day Out | Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Hwy, Burwood – from 9.30am

Come and see our Winter flowering Salvias, so full of colour and diversity.

Place orders now, don't miss out. Email orders lgarnett844@gmail.com. Ph 9803 4534 for any queries.

Erratum: In the *Salvia News* Summer 2025 edition, the article "News from The Perennial Poppies Southeast Queensland" on page 15 was misattributed to Carol Kerkin, who has drawn our attention to the mistake. The correct author is **Ann-Maree Eames**. We apologize to Ann-Maree and thank Carol for the correction.

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

Growing ‘Hot Lips’ and ‘Hadspen’ in an English Garden

Text and photos by Dr Alison Foster

(Lyndi received this email from an English visitor, Dr Alison Foster, who attended one of our Working Bees at Nobelius.)

“Dear Lyndi,

Many thanks again for being so welcoming last week.

As requested, here’s a few words about what happens to *Salvia* ‘Hot lips’ through the season in the UK.

Soil is neutral, very free-draining, and not super-rich in nutrients. Is in full sun for most of the day and in an open, fairly windy location (prevailing winds from the SW). It started off in flower with significant amounts of red colouration in the two-tone white/red flowers each spring. Every year the pattern would then be the same – flowers gradually lost more and more red through the summer into autumn becoming almost totally white by the autumn. This has happened both to me with a plant in the ground and at a client’s garden where the plants (many) are in large terracotta planters that are fed regularly with high potash feed.

Unfortunately, I’ve never photographed it when it’s all white – I think I deemed it “unworthy”. The scientist in me is appalled! I finally ripped it out of the front garden last year as it just wasn’t performing how I wanted it to.

However, the client will no doubt still have these in pots again this year so I will try and keep a proper photo diary of their flowering for you!

I’ve checked my plant list spreadsheet and the *Salvia involucrata* I have is ‘Hadspen’. Every year it dies back completely through the winter and then reshoots from underground, growing up to approx 1.2m and flowering in the late summer and autumn, through till the frosts

cut it back. I’ve no decent photos of this but will try and get some through the year of this. I had it in a pot for about 3 years then planted it into the ground, close to where ‘Hot Lips’ was. It’s come through all sorts of wet and cold winters as well as milder ones, but never retained any above ground structure from one year to the next.

Hope this is of some use!

Best wishes

Alison”



May 2020 – significant red



July 2020 – still plenty of red, but more white

Chinese Red Root Sage – *Salvia miltiorrhiza*

Text by Clive Larkman, photos by Lyndi Garnett and Meg Bentley

(Reprinted from Hort Journal Article 176, September 25, The Expanding World of Salvias, with the kind permission of the author)

The genus *Salvia* is one of the largest plant genera with over 1000 species. It is a member of the Lamiaceae family which includes most of our aromatic and many of our medicinal herbs. The genus is wide spread with species indigenous to every continent but Australia and Antarctica. It is the largest genus in the mint (Lamiaceae) family and consists of annuals, perennials and evergreen shrubs that grow in full desert sun to moist woodland environments. The majority of the species are native to the North and Central Americas.

It is a large genus and has just had *Rosmarinus* and *Petrovskia* added. The botanists are

constantly reviewing various members of the Lamiaceae family and I suspect it won't be long before they split *Salvia* into several genera. It is large and diverse.

An interesting thing about salvia is the fact that every color is represented in the flowers. Almost all other genera are usually missing the gene of one of the major color groups. There are no true red Lavender, no yellow Rosemary, no blue Rose, nor blue grevillea, no blue Hellebore or true yellow Hebe.

The common name for the genus is sage, and while sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a renowned culinary herb, other species in the genus also

have culinary and medicinal applications. Then there is the species loved by our alternative community; *Salvia divinorum*. This is a plant that has been banned in Australia and parts of the US due to its use as a hallucinogenic drug. Another classic for that community is *Salvia apiana* or White Sage. This is widely used for smoking ceremonies. Sell *Salvia* at any mainstream market and you will get at least one request for these plants.

Over the last twenty or so years they have become very popular as ornamental garden plants. Their colour range, size range and ability to deal with a wide range of soils makes them great for all gardens across most of Australia. They also have wide usage in the culinary ranges of many countries. Common Sage and Common Rosemary are regularly used in western



Salvia miltiorrhiza

recipes. There are also many that have medicinal uses.

One that is widely used in China and Japan is *Salvia miltiorrhiza* or Chinese Red Root Sage. The species name means “red ochre root”. This is a perennial shrub which is highly valued for its roots in traditional Chinese medicine. Native to China and Japan, it grows from 90 to 1,200 m above sea level in grassy fields in the forests on hillsides and along waterways. Like most *Salvia* it requires full sun for at least four to six hours per day to flower well. It prefers well drained soil and is moderately frost tolerant.

It grows to around 60cm tall by 50cm wide producing mauve to lavender flowers on 30cm stems. The flowers stems are covered with sticky hairs and the flowers are quite fragrant. They occur in mid-spring to mid-summer and are attractive to bees due to the purple blue colour and high fragrance. In most temperate environments it is evergreen but in cold climates it is herbaceous and may die down each winter. The foliage is dark green with wavy edges and the occasional mauve tint.

The main part of interest is the large red main root that give the plant its Latin and common names. It is widely sort after in Japan and China for its medicinal properties. It has been a part of Traditional Chinese Medicine and is widely used for improving blood health. The benefits are also being seen in modern Western medicine with work being done on getting extracts registered. Both clinical and anecdotal evidence indicate that the roots are beneficial to a range of blood conditions as well as reducing blood pressure, improving circulation and reducing cholesterol.

Like most *salvias* Chinese Red Root Sage or Dan Shen is a true edimental being both a useful herb and an attractive flowering shrub for the cottage garden. Relatively new to cultivation the plants are starting to appear in many online catalogues and the occasional retail nursery.



Salvia miltiorrhiza



Ferny Creek Rare Plant Collectors Expo Date Change

Date of the Ferny Creek Rare Plant Collectors Expo has been changed to April Sat 18th/ Sun 19th in conjunction with their Autumn Flower Show. This change was a safer option than having the chance the event might be cancelled due to fires or extreme weather conditions in early March. All else remains the same: 10am - 4pm with carparking on the oval and an entry fee of \$9.00

Nobelius During This Hot Summer

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

Our Salvia Display garden is coping very well this Summer considering the extremely hot days we've had recently. Although looking a bit dry at the bottom of the beds, the rest is doing very well, especially as we don't water up there except when newly planted; there are no dead or dying plants or wilting yet, which is promising. I think that particular spot must receive an early morning dew, and the general leaf coverage, shading the soil and the mulch, allows the

various Salvias to stay looking good, but each one is waiting for some rain.

With still plenty to do, our small band of helpers gets stuck into jobs that need doing. Always something to do, as with any garden.

If you would like to help for a few hours once a month, to join our group of helpers, please contact Lyndi by phoning 9803 4534 or emailing lgarnett844@gmail.com.

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**Benefits of being
a Member of the
Victorian Salvia
Study Group**



Being a member gives you:

- Discounted pot prices
- Discounted book prices
- Discounted Seed – buy 2 pkts, get 1 free
- Exclusive access to visiting private gardens
- Exclusive access to the Group's Salvia Library
- Exclusive access to Living Salvia Collections

Bendigo Bank Sponsorship

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

Anna Boland has been very clever in being able to ask the Bendigo Bank to sponsor the Group in helping to maintain the Salvia Display Garden.

We were given \$600.00 for Mulch and Fertiliser and other materials for the year, which is really handy when having to purchase so much mulch, etc.

Although we asked for the cost of replacing tools and a little for the transport to get up there, this

amount of \$600.00, although relatively small, will tide us over until we can try for another sponsorship. They are no longer grants but sponsorships – get it right!

We have placed a sign of the sponsorship at the bottom of our large green Plant Trust sign at the top of the path, which is easily seen.



The Victorian Salvia Study Group is very grateful to the Bendigo Bank for its sponsorship of our Salvia Display Garden



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Some of our helpers at Nobelius – Annabel, Maureen and Pat Davies, and a ring-in to attach the sign, Mike Peck

- Opportunity to purchase rare and unusual Salvias
- Receive the *Salvia News* Magazine
- Great resource of information on How to Grow Salvias
- Identification of Salvias
- Notification of sale days and garden festivals

- Opportunity to maintain the Salvia garden to learn how Salvias grow.

Join up to receive these exclusive benefits

Salvia Successes in a New Garden

Text and photos by Pat Anderson

After 52 years in our North Warrandyte Garden, we downsized in 2024 to a smaller property in Warrandyte. While the new garden area is much more manageable, it has provided a few challenges as well as many rewards.

Among the challenges were weeds like Oxalis and Acanthus that didn't manifest themselves through the mulch initially, several enormous patches of Agapanthus and also a large suckering Elm tree and at least 15 large Photinias and Pittosporums. The latter were easily annihilated, but the Elm suckers and the perennial weeds are an ongoing challenge. However, I am getting there and I am determined!

The rewards certainly outweigh the challenges. This garden has better soil than the former garden, fewer gum trees with their inevitable shade and roots, also gently sloping ground, together making for better growth and much better drainage. Also, after having the Elm and

the monster shrubs removed, I had a relatively clean slate on which to commence a new garden.

I was determined to grow vegetables, more natives and Salvias, of course. I had brought maybe 200 potted plants (mostly Salvias) with me, but the first winter proved that this new garden had a similar dose of frost to that of the old one. So several of these potted Salvias didn't survive. Some of these species would have survived if they had been well-established in the ground, but potted plants are more vulnerable to the elements. However, that helped me come to terms with no longer trying to keep one of every available Salvia anymore. Was I finally cured of the addiction? Quite a blessing really. There are so many other lovely plants that I can look for and grow.

I made beds in areas with different microclimates, which is great. But, best of all, I've discovered a sunny bed with very gravelly



Salvia pinnata



Salvia recognita

soil (maybe a former pile of gravel?). This has proved to be wonderful for growing Middle Eastern, Californian and some African Salvias. It's also wonderful for some natives and clearly it won't be big enough to satisfy my salvia greed.

At this stage, the Salvias that thrive in it include:

from the Middle East – *Salvia fruticosa*, *tingitana*, *desoleana*, *dominica*, *canescens*, *pinnata*, *blancoana*, *lavandulifolia* and all forms of *S. officinalis*;

from California – *Salvia apiana*, *clevelandii*, *mellifera*, *munzii*, and the hybrid 'Celestial Blue';

and from the African area – *Salvia schlechteri*, *taraxacifolia*, *canariensis*, *aethiopis* and *dentata*.

A couple of Grevilleas in the bed look very unhappy – possibly a bit too limy for them – and might have to be moved elsewhere, along with

a few other things, to make way for more of the special Middle Eastern and Californian Salvias that are among my favourites and that I sometimes had in the old garden, such as *Salvia pachyphylla*, *interrupta*, *eremostachya*, *recognita*, *potentillifolia*, *carduacea*, *ringens*, *mohavensis* and *candelabrum*. This depends on whether or not I can get hold of them again. It is so much harder to get seed from overseas now.

Salvia pinnata (common name Cut Leaf Sage or Featherleaf Sage) is not very common so I will describe it in more detail. I acquired this plant some years ago from seed brought into Australia by Gay Walsh from Casterton. It was actually named *Salvia euphratica* but when it grew, it was identified as *Salvia pinnata*.



Salvia pinnata

It is a perennial sub-shrub, a bit like *S. recognita*, in that it is pink, but the corolla tube is much chunkier and the bottom lip is longer and wider, and doesn't curl upwards but the calyx on both plants is also chunky, veined and densely covered in glandular hairs. The leaves are pinnate and so different from those of *S. recognita*, and with simple hairs. Clearly, *Salvia pinnata* enjoys sun and good drainage and long may it thrive here! I hope it doesn't prove to be a sudden-drop-dead plant like *Salvia interrupta* can be.

Salvia pinnata sets seed and can be propagated relatively easily from cuttings, although I haven't had much success with that here yet, having not developed an area where conditions are ideal. But I will persevere.

South West Victoria Report from Ashford Park – January 2026

Text and photos by Daryl Lyons

What a wonderful Spring and early Summer it has been down in our coastal area of the South West. Grass, grass and more grass for us farmers, high stock selling prices and milk not too bad either. And another premiership for our local footy side – Nirranda Blues, of which I am the Treasurer!

At the time of writing this article in early January, it is still nice and green in the paddocks and no scorched to this point. Coming off a drought that didn't really break until June, the growth has been phenomenal and this has also been the case in our garden as well. While we have had plenty of rain, the garden has lapped it up and not got too wet to impact on the survival of plants, as it can some years. Accordingly, the garden was a blaze of colour from early November, somewhat of a rarity.

From the moment that football finals were over, and, for a Geelong supporter, that was the usual late September!, a new project commenced – the building of the “Golden Shovel”. Janine had talked about a Tea Room for a number of years, but hadn't been able to get me to turn the first sod. So, it must have been at a weaker moment in early October that I measured it up, got approval from “the boss” for the dimensions,

and then attacked the stumps. Several visits to Janine's father's sawmill and we had the cypress for the building. Second-hand corrugated iron is not a problem on farm, then it was a trip up country for second-hand sliding doors. With the basics in place, and many a trip to Bunnings we put on our builders' hats again, and the end result come mid-December was a completed Tea Rooms. Fully lined inside, insulated, power and water connected, with a 3m deck and veranda. As I went back to focusing on the garden, Janine completed the painter and decorator role, and in went the second-hand dressers filled with items from the dozens of Op Shops she visited. An exhaustive search it was for the important pieces to kit out the room.

Of course, to find room for a new building, out in the paddock we went again – sorry horses and sheep, a bit less grazing area. And after joining it to the existing garden with a red brick path and building a post-and-rail fence around it – yes, in went the salvias in the new garden area around it. Not a lot of new ones, but some of my favourites, larger growers to reduce the corrugated iron seen (*Salvia puberula*, *S. myriantha*, *S. timboon*, *S. roscida*, *S. longistyla* and *S. gesneriiflora* ‘Tequila’), smaller leaf

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Salvia 'Titicaca'



Salvia sclarea 'Vatican White'

varieties to show off the range of colours when entering the veranda of the building (S. 'Meza Azure', S. 'Happy Pink', S. 'Tutti Frutti', S. 'Iced Lemon', S. 'Hot Crush', S. 'SoCool Purple', S. *chamaedryoides* and S. x 'Sally Greenwood'). And a few other mid-size ones around the building as well. There really is a salvia for every position, big or small, sunny or shaded.

The Tea Rooms are already in use, having been used for my recent birthday lunch, and we are undertaking our first High Tea for a group of our gardening friends later in January.

Garden wise, our vegies and berries are currently at the forefront at the moment, with the rest of the garden now in maintenance mode – bit of a summer trim is nearing for many of the small leaf salvias, the odd weed to pull, trickle spraying lawn edges to keep the kikuyu away from garden beds, the application of pelletised manure and dare I say it, watering will start soon. Also, with a range of sizes of plants, we need to be always on the lookout for smaller salvias getting smothered by other plants.

Bon Appetit and happy gardening.



Salvia 'Tutti Frutti'



Tea Rooms

The Amazing Garden of Helen Smith

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

Helen Smith's garden was just outside Ballarat, just 1 hour's drive from the huge city of Melbourne. What a pity more members didn't come to visit - you really missed out, but we had some very interested die-hard gardening members who made the journey. In fact, the group was just right for a garden tour, without being overcrowded and tripping over each other.

Helen's garden was amazing! Her secret was volcanic soil and water!! Helen's house and garden are on the top of a rise, overlooking wonderful paddocks of green wheat, gently swaying in the wind – beautiful, and then the eye continues to the obligatory windfarm – what a blight on the horizon. They weren't working because it was toooo windy, they might get damaged!!!

Everything in her garden was so much bigger than any of ours in our gardens. Her Heucheras were huge, in every colour, in full sun but in a protected courtyard, and mine are so puny in part shade! Because of the windy conditions, many of the plants are regularly trimmed to prevent damage. Lovely mounds of plants spilling into one another, including *Geraniums* (Cranesbills), blue mounds of *Sisyrinchium* alongside a bush of *Linum* – the blue area, which was very striking as it's hard to find nice, hardy blue-flowered plants. Then there were the clipped shrubs of *Salvia chamaedryoides*. I had to have a second look as I thought they were shrubs of 'Marine Blue', but no, they were indeed *S. chamaedryoides*, that had been given water and

some TLC – mine grow as a ground cover in full clay in a north/ west position, receiving very little water. Almost two different plants, except for the leaves – the giveaway silver grey colour and elliptical shape with entire edges and very few visible veins. Her 'Pumpkin' just glowed with reddish stems and calyces, but in another position on the other side of the house, it looked its normal self with more greenish stems.

Punctuated through all these mounds and low shrubs were clumps of extremely dark midnight coloured Iris, a wonderful contrast to the nearby yellow *Ranunculus*, the white and pale pink of the *Geraniums*, and the green of a hedge of *Rosemary*.

Further down was a dark hedge of *Hebe* – a very useful plant to use as a boundary hedge, with Pear trees at regular intervals, all to add interest and break the view of the wheat fields. Along another boundary were tall pillars of *Escallonia rubra*, soon to join up to provide such a colourful hedge and backdrop, and a good windbreak. Even outside her fence, there was a wonderful planting of tough, hardy plants, full of colour, all of which were growing extremely well in those conditions.





Yes, it proved to be a wet day, but no matter, we were gardeners and wanted to look at the garden, and after the rain showers scudded over and away, we came out to wander again to see what was around the corner or Helen's Salvias in another courtyard. Here were most of her greggii/ microphylla Salvias, a great variety, all looking magnificent in flower or in bud, including a very good clump of *S. interrupta* – I was lucky, I was given some cuttings.

After we all had been given a piece of that and this to take home, we had our very tasty lunch and a well-earned cuppa. Once inside, we were treated to a glorious sight of a miniature

railway town in Victoria. Such detail, we were spellbound as we looked and looked at everything that had been handmade by Helen's husband. It really was a work of art, and I cannot help but admire the dedication and time given to such a hobby. Both he and Helen were extremely pleased when it was complete.

As I mentioned at the beginning, those who didn't come on this garden tour really missed out, but for those who made the journey, we had a magnificent day, going home full of ideas of what we can plant in our own gardens – if we can find the room.

Salvia News from The Perennial Poppies, Southeast Queensland

Text and photos by Glenda Sellenger

The beginning of another gardening year but as at the time of writing it has been a very dry December/January for us, my rain charts definitely say it's the driest start to summer in the 5 years since we've been back in Queensland, we would love some of the rain that they are receiving in the north of the state but as the saying goes be careful what you wish for.

So what's happening in my garden since I last wrote? The garden is certainly not where I want it just yet, so have to tell my plants not to unpack their suitcases in case they need to move. One positive thing about the dry I haven't lost any of the greggii/microphyllas but guess there's still time for that. I have taken out some of the large winter-flowering salvias that always seem to swamp everything around them with their rampant growth. I much prefer the neat look and they certainly don't fit into that category, so have replaced them with "neat growing" shrubs. I am giving a lot of the salvias a light prune now so that they will be back in flower by autumn, my favourite season in the garden, mind you pruning duties are strictly early morning and late afternoon, whilst we aren't having much rain it is still very hot and humid.

A revisit to the new salvias is probably overdue so here is a brief summary of how they are performing for me.

The Fashion Series, Rose, Cherry, Orange and Burgundy

are all doing well but seem to prefer part shade and some water in the dry times, they certainly don't grow as big as the Wishes series making them suitable for smaller gardens.

The Fisher Series which includes Ocean Blue, Vivacious, Ostentatious, Serendipity, Lavish, Glamorous and Elegance are all doing well but need regular pruning to keep them in a good shape.

Really loving the Lake Series, Strawberry Lake, Lake Baikal, Lake Titicaca, Lake McKenzie, Lake Victoria, Lake Tahoe and Lake Garda. The jury is still out on Lake Spencer. I think there are better purple salvias than this one; it hasn't gone yet but teetering on the edge.

The new *guaranitica* series, Smokey Jazz, Rhythm and Blues and Honeyeater (originally Hummingbird) Falls are a bit of a mixed bag. Smokey Jazz has come and gone, just another purple salvia, love the blue flowers of Rhythm

and Blues but it suckers madly and Honeyeater Falls suckers but only small growing and manageable. I have recently acquired *guaranitica* Plum Crazy so will have to wait for the result.

I find Blue Chill and Unplugged Pink, which are relatively new, are both very garden worthy.

Wishing everyone a happy gardening year ahead.



Shown below are the Financial Statements that were presented by the VSSG Treasurer, Denise Catchlove, to the VSSG AGM held on December 7th 2025.

**VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

INCOME	2025	2024
Investments – Interest	0.00	305.01
Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	5.00
Plant Sales	15,392.73	15,215.01
Postage Paid	15.00	0.00
Printed Card Sales	10.00	7.50
Salvia Group Membership Dues	6,887.43	5,650.11
Salvia Manual Sales	30.00	162.00
Seed Sales	86.00	223.00
Term Deposit Closure	0.00	5,000.00
Uncategorized Income	0.00	5.00
Total Income (Gross Profit)	\$22,421.16	\$26,572.63

OPERATING EXPENSES	2025	2024
Design Brochure	0.00	352.00
Donation Made	0.00	100.00
Flowers (Gift)	144.85	90.00
General Expenses	30.00	0.00
Gift	303.37	0.00
Insurance – Public Liability	740.00	640.00
Lodgement of Annual Statement	0.00	47.70
Memberships of other organisations	80.00	0.00
Name Badges	221.91	72.60
New Website	5,390.00	0.00
Nobelius Path Maintenance	75.00	206.24
Petrol Reimbursement	0.00	100.00
Plant Fairs & markets	1,822.00	0.00
Plastic Bags	192.39	84.79
Postage other	15.00	27.00
Printing Salvia Brochure	0.00	1,177.00
Printing other	131.20	321.95
Purchase Pots	420.00	0.00
Purchase Wire Netting	0.00	83.58
Purchase of Books	100.00	0.00
Purchase of Clothing	205.92	0.00
Purchase of Garden Stakes	0.00	15.33
Purchase of Plants	4,189.06	7,511.29

Purchase of Potting Mix, Mulch etc.	386.19	89.22
Rental of Space, Marquees Etc	0.00	1,369.00
SIM card Payment	0.00	150.00
Salvia News Design	1,760.00	1,842.50
Salvia News Postage & Delivery	0.00	819.30
Salvia News Printing	3,140.36	3,052.77
Salvia News Produce	0.00	701.25
Stationery Supplies	179.80	0.00
Telephone – Wireless	180.00	0.00
Water	500.00	0.00
Website Maintenance	932.62	1,320.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$21,139.67	\$20,173.52
Net Profit	\$1,281.49	\$6,399.11
As a percentage of Total Income	5.72%	24.08%

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

ASSETS		
Cash and Bank		
	Bendigo Bank	\$14,701.20
	Bendigo Debit Card	\$970.00
	Total Cash and Bank	\$15,671.20
	Total Long-term Assets	\$0.00
Total Assets		\$15,671.20
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Long-term Liabilities	Total Long-term Liabilities	\$0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$0.00
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		
	Profit for all prior years	\$4,088.66
	Profit between Jul 1, 2024 and Jun 30, 2025	\$1,281.49
	Total Retained Earnings	\$5,370.15
Total Equity		\$5,370.15

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS AUTUMN

2026

MARCH – SUN 22ND

Garden Visit to Lyn Cannard's Garden – 620 Dickens Rd, Freshwater Creek, Geelong – 11am

Lyn's beautiful cut flower paddock is a must to see, as well as her extensive Dahlia collection, not forgetting her garden full of Salvias and perennials.

If you can tear yourself away, we can go to the nearby Cottage Farm Perennial Nursery for lunch.



MARCH – SUN 22ND

Lunch at Cottage Farm Perennials – 1985 Barrabool Rd, Gnarwarre, Geelong – 1.30pm

Bring a plate to share. Wander around Chris Tournier's nursery and garden.

Enjoy Chris's garden, where you will find so many interesting plants to identify.

Visit her nursery and purchase that special plant you've been wanting.

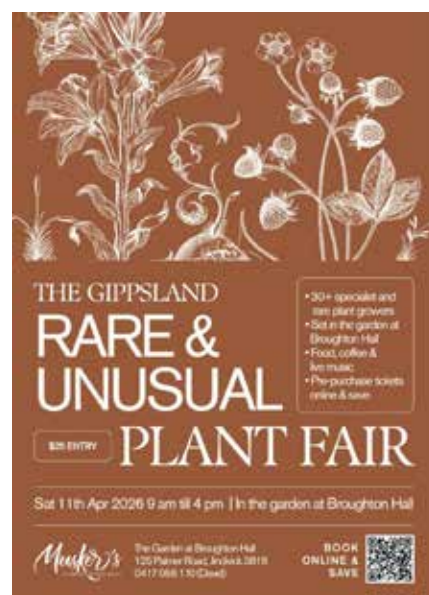
APRIL – SAT 11TH

Jindivick Rare Plant Fair – Broughton Hall, 125 Palmer Rd, Jindivick – 9am-4pm

Come and find all the Autumn and Winter flowering Salvias to brighten up those dull cold months not forgetting the small constantly flowering bright Salvias for those small areas.

Place your orders early, don't miss out on these wonderful plants.

Orders and queries:
Lyndi Garnett Ph 9803
4534. Email orders:
lgarnett844@gmail.com



CONTACT LYNDI

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



APRIL – SAT 18TH & SUN 19TH

Ferny Creek Collectors and Rare Plant Sale & Autumn Flower Show – 100 Hilton Rd, Sassafras – 10am-4pm

Ferny Creek's Plant Collector's Expo has been changed to April for a safer and cooler month without the possibility of cancellation due to fires or extreme weather conditions.

This is being coupled with their Autumn Flower Show. This should be an exciting and spectacular event, something for everyone, children and animals alike.

Come and see the new season's Salvias. All bright new colours to match and contrast everything growing in your garden.



MAY – SUN 24TH

Visit Vicki and Peter Boileau's Garden – 4 Wooral Crt, Notting Hill – 11am

A lovely suburban garden nestled into a leafy area with many unusual and rare shrubs and trees. The front garden shows an interesting array of native plants, while the rear and sides contain a wonderful collection of unusual and rare exotics. So restful and intriguing and inviting. A lovely garden to visit any time of the year, always some interesting plant to find.

JUNE – SUN 7TH

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

Tea & Coffee provided. Bookings essential. Email Lyndi if coming.



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JUNE – SAT 13TH

A Gardener's Day out – Rusden Theatre, Deakin University, Burwood Hwy, Burwood – from 9.30am

Come and see our Winter flowering Salvias, so full of colour and diversity.

Place orders now, don't miss out.

Email orders lgarnett844@gmail.com

Ph 98034534 for any queries

Some Names Can Be Tricky

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

Some names like *Salvia lavandulifolia* (Spanish Sage) and *S. lavanduloides* (Lavender Leaf Sage) can be a bit tricky to remember which one is which, so I hope I can help you to sort them out and remember which is what.

Firstly, *S. lavandulifolia* is a small clumping bushy perennial, about 30 cm high, from the Mediterranean. Although a sage, it looks like a lavender, even the leaves smell a bit like a lavender, they certainly don't have that typical sagey smell. The leaves are grey (like lavender), elliptical/ lanceolate shaped with a long petiole. The flowers are a pale mauve, but much larger than the typical lavender flower. These are clustered along the stems, looking somewhat like lavender; they are also held well above the foliage, similar to a normal lavender bush. These appear in late spring, continuing over the summer months, similar to a lavender bush.

This *Salvia* is often used as a culinary herb in Spain, having a stronger flavour than our common Sage (*S. officinalis*), often used to flavour various local dishes.

Like so many plants coming from the Mediterranean, this *Salvia* needs full sun and very good drainage to thrive well. Although not really fussy about the soil, it does need to be well-drained if grown in a clay soil. Generally, a hardy plant, and certainly once established, it proves to be a good drought-hardy plant which tolerates frosts well, as most grey leaf plants do.

Maintenance is low, only snipping off any dead stems, dead heading regularly, which produces more flowers, topping up the mulch to keep the roots cool in summer, and the occasional water when things are very dry.

S. lavanduloides is quite a different plant, so should be easier to remember which plant is which. This *Salvia* comes from Central America, from montane forests in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico. A larger plant 80cm – 1mH, with a more upright open habit. Leaves are larger, again lanceolate/ elliptical but a more green grey colour and again smelling of a mixture of lavender and rosemary, not that typical sagey smell. Flowers are quite different, being a lovely deep blue, held at the top of the stem like a Grape hyacinth, the flowers almost hanging downwards. I think their unusual position is to allow the various special pollinators access to the inside of the flower.

Although coming from Central America, this *Salvia* needs full sun to grow well, but again needs to be well-drained and some protection from frosts. Once established, it proves to be a good, hardy plant for the garden or a large pot. Flowering begins in Autumn and continues through the Winter months. By regular dead heading, it encourages a longer flowering period. Maintenance is low, only snipping off any dead stems and topping up the mulch to keep the roots cool in summer, with the occasional watering when things are very dry.

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S lavandulifolia flower



S lavandulifolia plant



S lavanduloides flower



S lavanduloides plant

Can You Tell The Difference?

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

These three *Salvias* all look the same, wouldn't you say? but each one is different, coming from different areas at different times. It goes to show that the same looking flower can pop up at anytime, anywhere, depending on what is growing in the garden nearby.

These are three varieties that can also be tricky to identify, as they all have whitish lower lobes, pink tubes and pale hoods with pink hairs.

'Pearlescence' has been around for some years, coming down from Queensland. A shrub 60cmH with oblong/oval, mid green leaves, well-veined and a rounded apex. The bottom lobes are almost white, the hood is white at the tip with pink hairs.

'Di's Delight' is a more recent variety coming down from N.S.W., looking extremely like 'Pearlescence'. Growing 40-60cmH. The shape, size and colour are similar. Leaves have a slightly pointed apex. The bottom lobes have a slightly pink, creamy tinge when they first appear, but fading to white as they age. The hood is pinker with a more even coverage of pink hairs.



'Pearlescence'



'Di's Delight'



'Mirage Soft Pink'

'Mirage Soft Pink' is a small compact shrub 40cmH with thinner oval/ oblong, matt, mid green leaves, more like a greggii leaf than the microphylla type leaf of the others. The bottom lobes are whitish with a white hood, covered with pink hairs and a pink tube.

All have coloured calyces which darken in full sun. All are tough and hardy for summer, growing in full sun, and should tolerate a light frost. Again, mulching and growing among other small shrubs help with adverse weather conditions.

Again, the differences are in the detail. I'm afraid for so many of these varieties, "you have to grow them to know them." They make pretty small vases when picked.

See how you go.

Some Maintenance in the Garden

Text by Lyndi Garnett

We all waited for our garden to grow and come into flower during Spring and Summer, and now that all those plants have grown and flowered, some setting seed, it's time to give them a trim.

During the hot summer days, some *Salvias* can look a bit scrappy, especially if they have gone to seed or maybe beginning to fall apart. Now is the time to give them a light trim, cutting off all those seed heads off the microphylla types, trimming for shape. Others that may be falling apart may have to be cut back by half or to the new growth that may be appearing at the base of the stems, allowing these new shoots to grow, taking the place of those old, unsightly stems. There are

others, e.g., *Salvia* 'Greek Skies', that really do need the flowering stems removed at the base, leaving all the new growth to form a nice shape. Then, as it gets colder and many of the small *Salvias* don't put out as many flowers, it's time to cut back properly, to clean out the bush, cutting out any dead or weak stems, cutting back to either new growth that appears at the base of the stems or back to a good green bud. If in doubt, cut back by half or a quarter if the garden is in a cold area, but always cut back to a good green bud.

Don't forget to mulch to keep the roots warm in winter and cool in the hot, dry summer months.

The Victorian Salvia Study Group. Inc

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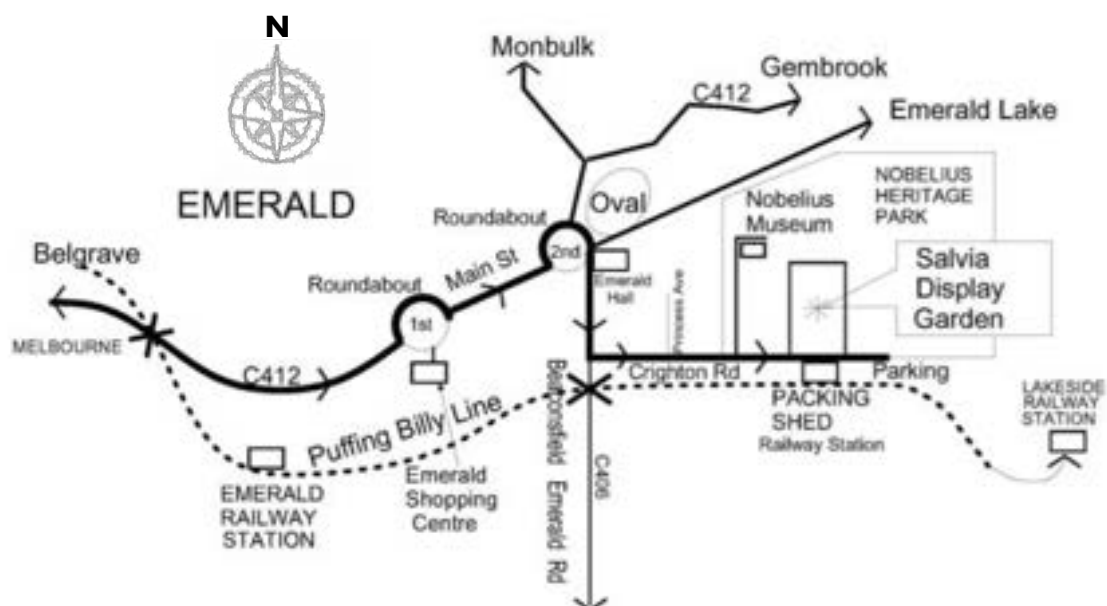
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DIRECTIONS TO THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN



ISSN 2208-1089 (Online)

Salvia News is printed by
Eureka Printing
702 High Street Road, Glen Waverley Vic 3150