

Salvia News

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Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc

www.salvias.org.au

Spring 2026

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP inc

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

www.salvias.org

Find us on  **Salvia Study Group Vic**

THE AIMS OF THE SALVIA STUDY GROUP ARE:

1. To grow and collect Salvias for the purpose of enjoyment and study.
2. To promote and encourage the growing of Salvias.
3. To correctly name existing and new Salvias.
4. To maintain our Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park for the Group and the general public.

The Group is a Not for Profit Organisation. Any monies received are used to run the Group's activities and for the planting and maintenance of our Plant Trust registered garden collection.

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR	Lyndi Garnett lgarnett844@gmail.com	03 9803 4534
SECRETARY	Heather Lucas	0417 056 179
TREASURER	Denise Catchlove dencatch@pac.com.au	0412 444 169
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	Laurie Norman laurienorman@bigpond.com	0419 509 592
EMAIL NOTICES	Tine Grimston tinegrimston@gmail.com	0466 285 542
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Norm Winn norm.winn@bigpond.com	0438 733 060
EDITOR'S ASSISTANT & PUBLICITY	Andreina Chinn salvia.newsletter@gmail.com	0404 429 327
SEEDS OFFICER	Lyndi Garnett lgarnett844@gmail.com	03 9803 4534
FACEBOOK	Julie Kavanagh jules.kavanagh@gmail.com	0408 122 780
PLANT SALES & ENQUIRIES	Lyndi Garnett	03 9803 4534

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

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Hello and welcome to our Spring edition.

This year has seen a significant increase in our membership, and, on Sunday August 17th, we were very pleased to enjoy lunch with ten of these new members at our annual Welcome to New Members Lunch. We decided not to chance the weather this year, so the lunch was held at The Hub, Emerald, a new community venue, standing proud on the corner of the Main Street roundabout you turn at to reach the Nobelius Heritage Park. After lunch, most of the group continued onto Nobelius for a tour of our Display Garden, where, to paraphrase Lyndi, the visitors could see what happens when some salvias are left to their own devices for too long, to become big, sprawling and generally untidy. If you want to avoid a similar problem with your own large salvias, Lyndi's article, 'What Should Be happening in the Garden', provides sound advice.

Daryl Lyons, our correspondent from South West Victoria, has a farmer's take on pruning – power trimmers and a chainsaw are among his tools of choice for dealing with those large salvias. I can't imagine the amount of dedication and effort it must require to run a farm, Tea Rooms and to manage a large garden

as Daryl and his wife, Janine, do. Yet, he still takes the time to write articles for us, keeping us abreast of what's happening at *Ashford Park*.

We are lucky to have **two** Perennial Poppies providing us with contributions for this edition: Sanda Nanka's article on *S. apiana* and Lynda O'Connor's description of her lovely Stockleigh Cottage Garden. Different topics but beautiful imagery in both. Heather Lucas's report on the Notting Hill garden visit in May made me even more regretful that I was unable to attend. As usual, Heather paints word pictures that bring the gardens she describes to life, and which are complemented by the great photos she takes. Maureen Scoble's wise words in her 'Recharge Your Batteries' article certainly strike a chord. The global benefits of gardening, described so aptly by Maureen, cannot be underestimated. Finally, we have a short bio of our Membership Officer, Laurie Norman, whose life experiences range from studies in agricultural science, working in soil conservation, consultancy, and then to the practical application of all that knowledge – farming. Now add Membership Officer duties to the list. Impressive!

Happy Spring Gardening,
Andreina

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

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

Cover Photo is *Salvia pratensis* 'Skydance'. Photo 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 in Spring on page 16.

SEPTEMBER SUN 27TH | Visit Ailsa Hemphill's Gorgeous Flower Garden |

201 Tucks Rd, Main Ridge – 11.30am

With beautiful views over the Bay and a sunny garden path leading to loftier shady trees filled areas. Bring a plate to share for lunch. Tea/ coffee provided. Phone Lyndi if coming Ph 03 9803 4534.

SEPTEMBER WED 30TH | Gardening Day | Salvia Garden, Nobelius Heritage Park, Crichton Rd, Emerald – 10am-3pm

All welcome, to come and learn how to grow and identify Salvias. What to bring: secateurs, gloves, a tarp, plastic bag for cuttings, a hat and a plate to share for lunch and appropriate clothing for the day.

Tea/ coffee will be provided. Please phone Lyndi if coming. Ph 9803 4534 or email lgarnett844@gmail.com.

OCTOBER SAT 3RD & SUN 4TH | Bolobek Garden Fair | 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon – 10am-4pm

Come and see our Spring Collection of Salvias. Wonderful colours for the summer. Tough hardy plants for the winter cold, frost tolerant and hardy for the summer 's hot season. Have a wonderful time selecting your Salvias. Those Salvias that you've been wanting, to add colour to your garden, to contrast or blend with your Roses and other perennials in your garden. Enjoy yourselves with all sorts of colours. Have a ball with selecting plants – take them all if you like.

OCTOBER SUN 18TH | Visit Anita Day's wonderful garden | 130 Stoll Rd, Jindivick – 11am

Anita's winter garden. A gorgeous garden with seasonal overtones and magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Browse through this garden with a cuppa. Tea and coffee will be provided. Bring a lunch to share with others. Bring your camera and your knowledge of plants, we may need it with the huge array of plants.

Please phone Lyndi if coming, Ph 9803 4534, only a small courtesy for our hostess.

OCTOBER SAT 24TH & SUN 25TH | Cactus and Succulent Spring Show | Dogs

Victoria , KCC Park Boxhall Pavilion, 655 Western Port Highway, Skye – 10am-4pm

We will have our Spring Collection with lots of variety and lots of colour. Salvia books for sale, including Meg's Revised Edition. Place orders early. Don't miss out. Email your wish list. Pick up on the day. Bring flowers and plants to be identified. Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com. Phone Lyndi Ph 9803 4534.

NOVEMBER SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH | Yarra Valley Spring Spring Show |

125 Quayle Rd, Wandin – 9am-4pm

We have our Spring and Summer collections of Salvias ready for you to select. Lyndi to conduct a Propagation Workshop at 2pm on both days. Book online or on the day. Salvia books for sale. Place orders early. Don't miss out. Email: lgarnett844@gmail.com. Phone Lyndi Ph 9803 4534.

NOVEMBER SUN 15TH | Annual Salvias at Nobelius | Salvia Display Garden, Nobelius Heritage Garden, Emerald (Under the Packing Shed, by the Puffing Billy Line) – 10am sharp

Annual Salvia Sale. Great Bargains to be had until sold out.

NOVEMBER SUN 29TH | Propagating with Meg Bentley | 3 Fords Rd, Gruyere – 11am

Visit Meg's garden and find out how Meg propagates Salvias and other perennials.

DECEMBER SUN 6TH | Christmas Lunch and AGM | 749 Orrong Rd, Toorak –

Janice Peeler's beautiful Garden – 11am, AGM at 12 noon

Have a cuppa and wander around Janice's beautiful garden. Take in the splendor of the house and garden before beginning our AGM at 12 noon. After the AGM we can indulge in our Christmas feast and wander around the garden again, thanking Janice for her kind hospitality. Contact Janice Peeler (0419 568 604) or Lyndi (09 9803 4534) if coming.

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

Just One Salvia – White Sage

Text by Sandra Nanka, photos by Sandra Nanka and Lyndi Garnett

I love white sage (*Salvia apiana*) mostly for its cleansing aroma. The grey-green to silvery-white leaves are soft to touch with a slight furry sensation and the aroma is strong, cleansing, earthy, with hints of camphor, balsamic and smoky eucalyptus.

It flowers in summer on tall stems; flowers are white to pale lavender. It is native to California and Baja California so it loves dry, sunny weather, good airflow and excellent drainage. Yes, it can be temperamental in our climate, especially with our high humidity.

Traditionally it was used for colds, as a calming herb and a diuretic, but it is strong medicine and needs to be used with caution.

A water infusion makes an invigorating hair rinse. Infusing it in vinegar makes a great cleaning spray for benches and bathrooms, or to add to the mop bucket.

Smudge sticks – The leaves are dried, bundled and burned for their cleansing aroma and used to symbolically cleanse homes and spaces. This is closely linked to indigenous North American traditions. Unfortunately, it has become a popular practice, and many natural stands of white sage have been harvested to near extinction. If you buy smudge sticks, please buy Australian-grown or ethically sourced and cultivated white sage smudge sticks.



Salvia 'Mayzie'



Salvia apiana

News From The Perennial Poppies Southeast Queensland

Text and photos by Lynda O'Connor

Winter Delights in a Stockleigh Cottage Garden



There is something rather magical about a Queensland winter. While many gardens slow to a standstill, mine at Stockleigh,

just south of Brisbane, seems to come alive. This year has been especially rewarding, with unexpected—but very welcome—winter rain transforming what is usually our driest season into one of remarkable growth. After years of becoming accustomed to crisp, frosty mornings and parched soil, it has been a delight to watch the garden respond with such enthusiasm.

The first rays of morning sunshine reveal a garden brimming with life. Every stroll uncovers another surprise, another flower opening, another seedling quietly staking its claim. Although my cottage garden is filled with old-fashioned favourites, it is the salvias that provide the backbone of the winter display, weaving colour and movement through almost every border.



The S. Wish Series has responded magnificently to its winter prune, sending up an abundance of plump, arching flower spikes. *S. guaranitica* 'Costa Rican Blue' towers above the surrounding

plants, reaching for the winter sky with flowers far too beautiful to justify cutting back just yet. Meanwhile, 'Amistad' and 'Amante' continue their seemingly endless flowering display, demanding only the occasional trim to keep

them neat and productive. 'Amante' has proved particularly rewarding this season, with both a delicate pink form and a rich magenta selection appearing in the garden—both absolute treasures. The gorgeous winter flowering *S. 'Turkestanica'* is also quite the show off with its lovely flower colour apricot orange and the day red magenta calyx.



One of the greatest pleasures of gardening is the unexpected, and the self-seeding of various plants. *S. splendens* never disappoints. Each season they produce delightful new colour combinations, from soft blends of white

and pink or white and lavender to the classic vibrant scarlet forms. Rather than confining them to one area, I scatter seedlings throughout the garden, where their generous displays never fail to lift both the landscape and my spirits.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery this winter is a seedling that appears to be a natural cross between *Salvia* 'Meigan's Magic' and 'Amante'. It has inherited the dark calyces and robust foliage of 'Amante', while its rich magenta flowers possess the soft, velvety texture so characteristic of 'Meigan's Magic'. It is already covered in swelling buds, and I eagerly await its first full display. Every gardener dreams of discovering something special, and perhaps this seedling will prove to be exactly that.

Winter is also my favourite time for reshaping the garden. Several large shrubs have received a substantial prune, opening sunny pockets for the hundreds of seedlings that inevitably accumulate each year. Raising plants from seed has become something of an obsession. Fortunately, with several acres to play with, there always seems to be room for just one more tray of seedlings.

Among my greatest passions are poppies, and each year I eagerly sow a wide assortment. This season they germinated unusually early and are already well advanced. Normally I expect the first flowers towards the end of August, but I suspect this year's display will begin in early August. Their silky blooms are irresistible, not only to me but also to the countless bees that descend upon each newly opened flower in search of fresh nectar. Elsewhere, the cottage garden is gathering momentum. Larkspur are stretching skywards, along with their taller companions the Hollyhock, while surplus delphiniums from a local flower farm promise towering spires of colour in the weeks ahead. The Livingstone daisies are plumping up beautifully, their succulent foliage sparkling in the winter sunshine, hinting at the dazzling carpet of colour to come. The paper daisies, too, are racing away. Although pinching out the growing tips feels rather cruel, experience has taught me that the reward will be an abundance of perfectly formed papery blooms.

Not every visitor to the garden shares my appreciation for restraint. The local kangaroos have developed a particular fondness for my Shirley poppies, Chocolate Lace, Queen Anne's lace and Bishop's Cap seedlings. Gardening is always an exercise in optimism, and I remain hopeful that enough plants will escape their attention to provide a colourful spring display.



Nicotiana continue to seed themselves with cheerful abandon throughout the garden. One especially lovely pink form has established itself beside a pathway, where it has become impossible to remove. Instead, I simply mow around it and enjoy its unexpected

contribution to the border. Sometimes the best garden design is nature's own. As evening falls, another part of the garden takes centre stage.

The brugmansias are dripping with enormous trumpets, the apricot form and the double yellow 'My Clementine' perfume the cool evening air with their intoxicating fragrance. It is one of winter's simplest pleasures to wander outside at dusk and enjoy their scent.



The *Dombeya* species are equally spectacular at this time of year. The climbing *D. ianthotricha* is clothed in glowing orange-red flowers delicately edged with yellow, while *D. wallichii* carries long pendulous clusters of soft pink blooms that resemble upside-down lollipops. Their sweet honey fragrance attracts a constant procession of bees, as does the pristine white *D. burgessiae*, which flowers just as generously. Winter may not be the season most people associate with abundance, but here in my Stockleigh garden it is one of quiet richness. Each day brings fresh discoveries, new seedlings to admire and flowers that seem all the more precious for appearing in the cooler months. Now, as the days slowly lengthen and spring edges ever closer, the anticipation begins to build. If the generous winter rain continues and Mother Nature remains kind—while persuading the resident kangaroos to leave a few flowers for me—I have every reason to believe this will be one of the most spectacular Spring displays the garden has ever produced. Happy gardening!!!

Who am I?

Text and photos by Laurie Norman

Sometimes it is important, if not valuable, to let people in an organisation like the Salvia Study Group know the background of Committee Members. As a consequence, I thought I would let you know some of my background.

I have a Diploma of Ag. Science from Dookie College and a B.Ag.Sc. from Latrobe University. In the past 50 years, I have been employed by the Soil Conservation Authority, Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the same organisation with many name changes. I then resigned and started my own Consultancy named FARM Advisory Service (hence one of the email addresses that I have kept).

In 2000, myself and my wife purchased 33ha at Learmonth, 22 kms from Ballarat. Unfortunately, my wife died in 2015, so I have been trying to maintain the garden that she set up to the best of my ability. We were told that the house on the property was built around 1834 from granite stone located on the property. It was built for the shepherd of Ercildoune Station – one of three large stations settled north of Ballarat.

I hope this finds you well. Enjoy your Membership of the Salvia Study Group.

My name is Laurie Norman. I am the Membership Officer of the Victorian Salvia Study Group. This is how I fill in the day after Salvia commitments?



I have two fantastic Lagotto dogs that are great company



I run 20 Angus cows and calves, selling cows and ale calves in February each year



I also run Dorper and Wiltshire Horn sheep



Some orphan lambs require feeding, which can take up to 5 weeks twice a day



Sometimes the Wiltshire Horn Rams get themselves into some bother and I have to sort them out before they damage themselves or ME



Fires can get very close and become a bit of a worry



Chooks keep me and my grandson in eggs, and the dogs entertained



I also have a famous brother – Peter Norman. He won the silver medal in the 200m at the Mexico Olympics!



Last of all: I try to keep the garden the way that my wife, Jill, would have wanted it

New Membership Fees

You may be aware that at the AGM held in December 2025 a Motion was moved that, starting from 2026/2027, Membership Fees be increased to \$40 for members receiving a printed copy of the Salvia News and \$30 for members receiving an online copy.

This motion was moved as the costs involved in running the Group had increased to above the Membership Fee level, which had not changed for a number of years. The annual cost for printing and posting the Salvia News alone is above the proposed \$40 new fee. In addition, we have had increases in costs for Insurance, Consumer Affairs fees, printing of brochures, plants and mulching, etc. This does not cover any unpaid volunteer costs that are quite substantial.

As a result of the AGM Motion, an Amendment to the Motion was passed that Salvia Study Group members be surveyed to collect their response to the proposed increase in Membership Fees. This survey was conducted with the result that 100% of responses agreed with the increase in Membership Fees.

As required in the Amended Motion, an Extraordinary Meeting was held on the 27th May, 2026 to ratify the Membership Fee increase in response to the Member survey.

The Extraordinary Meeting unanimously endorsed the increase in Membership Fees.

I am writing to advise all Salvia Study Group Members that Membership Fees beginning from the 2026/2027 Membership Year will increase to \$40 for hard copy and \$30 for an online copy of the Salvia News. This increase in fees is current from now for the future rounds of Membership.

Please note that the membership year begins on 1st September each year. You will receive a reminder note in August as is the normal procedure. Thank you for your continued Membership despite the unfortunate increase in fees.



Membership Officer
Salvia Study Group
Phone: 0419 509 592
Email: laurienorman@bigpond.com

Benefits of being a Member of the Victorian Salvia Study Group

Being a member gives you:



- Discounted pot prices
- Discounted book prices
- Discounted seeds – 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
- Opportunity to purchase rare and unusual Salvias
- Quarterly *Salvia News* Magazine
- 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

Community Bank
Dandenong Ranges

Upwey & District
Emerald & District

 **Bendigo Bank**

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

What Should Be Happening in the Garden

Text by Lyndi Garnett

This is what I would be doing during September and October. This time period would depend if you are in a cold area or in the suburbs or by the sea. Many of these tasks could have been completed in July and August, but if you are in cold areas, wait until frosts are done.

I would be hard pruning - cutting old shoots/canes to the ground. Most of these are those *Salvias* with perennial growth, that will be showing new growth at the base of the stems or just coming up through the clump, such as: 'Joan', 'Amistad', Bog Sage, many of the *leucantha* varieties that are past their best, 'Red Envy', 'Amante', 'Anthony Parker' and 'Meigan's Magic', *polystachya* and 'Phyllis fancy' and others that have that same growth habit.

All the herbaceous *Salvias* should have already been cut down by half, these should now be showing signs of life and old stems can be cut down further, BUT make sure you have a marker, so you don't accidentally tread on them or dig them up.

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It's time to clean out all the small *microphylla*/*greggii* shrubs, cutting back to a good green bud; most will be producing new growth at the base of the stems, so they show you where to cut. Clean out all those little twiggy stems and any dead wood – clean out as you would a rose bush. If you are in a cold area, then cut back by half to neaten and then cut back again after frosts have passed.

Of the tall Winter flowering *Salvias*: leave them to flower before cutting back. As the Mexican group, 'Black Knight', 'Purple Majesty', 'Mulberry Jam', *S. biserrata*, *macrophylla* group, *S. urica* have finished, then their stems can be cut down, to good green shoots. Again, the new growth will show you where to cut.

By October, the *involucrata* group, *S. wagneriana*, *S. madrensis*, *S. adenophora* will be showing new growth at the base of stems, probably 'Blue Bird', *S. purpurea* and *S. iodantha* will have enough growth along their stems, to take cuttings and cut the tall stems down to a couple of nodes with good new shoots to take over. When cutting down these tall *Salvias*, don't cut down to the ground until new growth appears, leave about 2 nodes, to allow the plant to recover from the shock of being cut down. So many of these tall *Salvias*

die, because they have been cut down to the ground before new growth has appeared. If unsightly, these stubs can be taken out when completely dead. If unsure, as with 'Costa Rican Blue' or *S. gesneriiflora* 'Tequila', as they both become very woody quickly, try and leave some or at least 1 green stem, so the plant doesn't go into shock and die.

There will still be some that should be left until completely finished flowering, such as *S. dorisiana*, 'Timboon' and most of the *S. karwinskii* group.

Many others can have a good trim, back to good new shoots, such as 'Waverly', *S. sagittata*, *S. lasiantha* and *S. semi atrata*, now that they have finished flowering. Clean out *S. lasiantha* and *S. semi atrata* of old twiggy stems, concentrating on good strong stems. *S. chiapensis* can either be cut down, leaving young shoots or just trimmed to neaten, cutting off old flowering stems, the same for *S. cacaliaefolia*, *S. confertiflora*, 'Dark Envy' and *S. somalensis*.

S. corrugata: this is always an odd plant as it can flower at different times during summer and winter, but generally take out any weak twisting young stems around the base and old flowering stems, leaving good strong upright stems. Often, other very vigorous stems need trimming by half, new shoots will help to bush up the plant.

Of course, by now the taller clumping herbaceous *Salvias* will be ready to be cut down to the ground, such as *S. puberula*, 'Hadspen' and 'Bethellii', waiting for their new shoots to appear.

Others, like *S. chamelaeagnea*, would have been cut down already but new shoots need to be checked and dug out where they are not wanted. This is the same for all those *Salvias* that can spread a bit, such as, *S. 'Pink Blush'*, *S. 'Cyclamen'*, 'Christine Yeo', the *leucantha* group, 'Joan', *S. macrophylla*, *S. polystachya* and *S. coahuilensis*.

This is a good time to hedge or trim those Sth African species, before they begin to flower. If they have buds already, then leave the hedging/trimming until after they have flowered, but *S. 'Africana sky'* and *S. africana*, 'Smoothie', should be safe to trim. Others, like 'Boundary Creek', *S. namiensis* and 'Finn Grove', may be already in flower, they can have a light trim as they have such a long flowering time, it won't be

long until they are back in flower. The same can be said for 'Hotlips' – give it a good hard prune by half. It'll be back in flower in about 4 weeks.

There are many that haven't been mentioned, but I'm sure they can be included at this time of needing to be cut down or trimmed.

Now all the hard work has been done, don't forget to **feed** these gorgeous shrubs, so they can get growing again and **mulch** – to keep the root area cool in the coming hot dry summer season.

Recharging your Batteries

Text by Maureen Scoble

I think that many gardeners feel as I do in the garden. We happily garden all year, success and failure follow in our wake. New plants in, old plants out. We go to our local Nursery and behold something different is there! Oh joy! That happened to me a few weeks ago. I bought a plant called Hedgehog Sage. Lyndi told me it wasn't a salvia though. It is actually *Pycnostachys Urticifolia* (*Coleus livingstonei*). Anyway, I bought several. Now of course I must wander around my garden in the vain hope of finding an empty place or two.

I suppose what I am really writing about today is how gardens change all the time. They don't stay static and neither do we. Things grow (or die) and get too big or just fail. Maybe we don't like that plant anymore. Now of course we also have climate change. What I could once grow here at Avondale is no longer possible because of our lower rainfall. Our gardens change whether we like it or not. On top of everything else, my local nursery is going to close in 2 years' time and I am devastated. Poynton's Nursery is on the banks of the Maribyrnong River. If you have never been there do try to visit before it closes. It is a wonderful place. You can have lunch there too so it makes a lovely day trip. It breaks my heart to think it will be pulled down just to make more Townhouses.

Change is unavoidable though and sometimes we need to stop gardening in our own plot and look elsewhere. Go see what other people are doing. Recharge your batteries. Other people's gardens

are a mine of information. You might find old friends grown in a different way. Or even different plants that you have never grown. Perhaps they might let you take a cutting? Our gardens can perhaps become a bit stale if we leave things forever the same. For example, I put up with an Australian lawn for many years when I really only wanted English Velvet. After I had visited Beth Chatto's garden in England, I took all my lawn out and planted into gravel. It gave new life to a tired garden. I have 9 Dwarf Pomegranates on this suburban block. They grow to about 2 metres and are always happy, summer water or not. Beautiful orange fruit beloved by native birds. They give permanent structure to this garden. I got that idea from a country garden I visited many years ago. I guess I rely on other people's good ideas because I don't have much imagination myself. Some time ago, I visited another friend who doesn't have a proper garden at all now. My friend gardens in pots on her balcony. What a beautiful balcony it is. Her begonias are stunning so I copied that idea too. Wonderful plants. Thank you, Jan.

Seeing all the different Salvias at Nobelius is good. That recharges my batteries. So many different ones all together. It makes me think about where I could fit new favourites into my own garden. Getting together with the Salvia group is lovely. We all gather for lunch under the trees and discuss anything and everything. We have pretty much "Saved the World" several times but you might have some new ideas to add? Come join us. We would love to get to know you.

Plants or Cuttings Wanted

Salvia 'Holly' Salvia 'Grace' Salvia 'Lara' Salvia 'Algreia'

Please email (lgarnett844@gmail.com) or ring (03 9803 4534) Lyndi if you can help out.



Involucrata and Karwinskii Hybrids (Part 1)

Text and photos by Lyndi Garnett

Involucrata & Karwinskii Type Salvias

This is a listing and documenting of the species and forms of *S. involucrata* and *karwinskii* that we are aware of, including the many crosses.

Similar species to be included are *S. puberula* and *S. wagneriana*. Both *S. puberula* and *S. wagneriana* are not included under the *involucrata* name as these were probably named by a different person at a different time, but are often mistaken for a type of *S. involucrata*.

S. involucrata and *S. karwinskii* are the parents of the majority of the crosses.



Both *S. involucrata* and *S. karwinskii* are tall growing Salvias from South America, both growing extremely well here in Melbourne.

***Salvia involucrata* species** – a very tall shrub up to 4mH, winter flowering, arching branches with a very long inflorescence (up to 30cm).



***Salvia involucrata*:**

- This begins to flower in late Autumn, and lasts until early Spring.
- **Flowers** are cerise, tubular and in dense whorls along the flowering stem. Whilst it has a very large terminal knob (which is a lot of bracts holding more flowers), towards end of its flowering, this becomes quite small as more flowers open.
- The inflorescence consists of a lot of whorls of 6 flowers crowded together. Whilst beginning quite small, the inflorescence can expand to a length of 20 cm, approx. 10 inch long, with all flowers facing upwards on one side of the stem.
- **Calyces** are a lovely rich pink, all lobes are ribbed with pointed tips.
- **Leaves** are a cordate shape, dark green, smooth, little veinage and quite pointed at the apex. The leaf stems (petioles) are often pink.
- *S. involucrata* prefers a sheltered position from frost and drying winds to grow well. Whilst it will grow in a sunny position, it grows better if given a shady, sheltered position.

It is usually both winter and summer hardy, appreciating a good soak during the hottest months of summer.

- Cut back the old canes in Spring/Summer, when flowering has finished and when new growth appears. Mulch well to keep the roots cool in summer and warm in the winter cold.
- Feed regularly when new growth appears, before and during flowering, to keep the plant looking good.

Salvia involucrata hybrids:

All are natural hybrids.

- S. 'Pink Icicles' - a very pale pink colour
- S. 'Bethellii' - (Dwarf) see dwarf hybrids
- S. 'Joan' - (Dwarf) see dwarf hybrids
- S. 'Mulberry Jam' - (Dwarf) see dwarf hybrids
- S. 'Hadsphen' - Herbaceous - see dwarf hybrids.
- S. 'Pink Gruyere' = S. Kingsholme'. 'Pink Gruyere' was found in Meg's property and 'Kingsholme' was found in Qld, both have the same flowers, leaves and height and flowering time.
- S. 'Coconut Ice' - a very attractive pink hybrid found in Qld.

Salvia involucrata and Salvia karwinskii crosses:

- S. 'Romantic Rose' - a very early hybrid cross that has been around for the past 20 yrs
- S. 'Timboon' - a plant that was found by Meg in the town of Timboon many years ago.

Salvia 'Pink Icicles'

Salvia 'Pink Icicles' is a very pale form with just a possibility that a gene from *S. wagneriana* may have something to do with the pale colouring.

- **Flowers** are a lovely pale, pale pink, with an almost white hood and lower lobes. It has a large knob which elongates as it grows, producing more flowers as the bracts fall off. The inflorescence may elongate to 15-20cm long.
- **Calyces** are a pale pink and face upright all in one direction along the flower stem as the stem begins to arch.
- **Leaves** are a cordate shape, smooth, dark green with an elongated pointed tip.



- S. 'Pink Icicles' prefers a sheltered position from frost and drying winds to grow well. Whilst it will grow in a sunny position, it grows better if given a shady, sheltered position. It is usually both winter and summer hardy, appreciating a good soak during the hottest months of summer.
- Cut back the old canes in Spring/ Summer, when flowering has finished and when new growth appears. Mulch well to keep the roots cool in summer and warm in the winter cold.
- Feed regularly when new growth appears, before and during flowering, to keep the plant looking good.
- Makes a wonderful splash of soft pink in the late Autumn / Winter months.

Salvia 'Pink Gruyere'

Salvia 'Pink Gruyere' was found in Meg's garden growing 4m high with thick stems like bamboo. A very strong grower. Taller and robust about 3-4m.

- **Flowers** are a cerise pink, the corollas are tubular with a white throat, the lower lip small and curled beneath, and compressed laterally.
- Flowers are in whorls of 6 flowers, densely packed along the flower stem, in groups of 3 rows, so when the bottom flower has finished another begins to open and a bud is still waiting to open, this way, the flowering period is prolonged.



S. 'Pink Gruyere'



S. involucrata 'Coconut Ice'

- **Calyces** are completely green. Each lobe is ribbed with a dull pointed tip.
- **Leaves** are a broad cordate shape with an elongated tip, a bright mid green but with indented veins.
- *S. 'Pink Gruyere'* prefers a sheltered position from frost and drying winds to grow well. Whilst it will grow in a sunny position, it grows better if given a shady, sheltered position. It is usually both winter and summer hardy, appreciating a good soak during the hottest months of summer.
- Cut back the old canes in Spring/ Summer, when flowering has finished and when new growth appears. Mulch well to keep the roots cool in summer and warm in the winter cold.
- Feed regularly when new growth appears, before and during flowering, to keep the plant looking good.
- The group decided that 'Gruyere' was an appropriate name as it was found in Meg's garden.

Salvia 'Coconut Ice'

Salvia 'Coconut Ice' is another tall hybrid, found in Qld. Growing to 4mH, with open arching branches, like many of the others.

- **Flowers** have a bright pink tube with a white hood and lower lobes. A pink patch can be seen on the lower part of the middle lobe; this is acting as a beeline for birds to insert their beaks to try and find that nectar.

- Each flower head has a large knob (which is filled with more flowers as the bracts fall away), Although the finished flower stem isn't as large as its parent, the inflorescence is about 15-20cm long.
- **Calyces** are almost the same pink as the corolla. Each lobe is finely ribbed and pointed. These will fall off once the flowers have finished.
- **Leaves** are similar to the parent, being a mid-green colour, a broad cordate shape with an elongated tip. The surface is smooth, but the veins are indented.
- *S. 'Coconut Ice'* prefers a sheltered position from frost and drying winds to grow well. Whilst it will grow in a sunny position, it grows better if given a shady, sheltered position. It is usually both winter and summer hardy, appreciating a good soak during the hottest months of summer.
- Cut back the old canes in Spring/ Summer, when flowering has finished and when new growth appears. Mulch well to keep the roots cool in summer and warm in the winter cold.
- Feed regularly when new growth appears, and during flowering, to keep the plant looking good.

**LOOK OUT FOR PART 2 IN THE
SUMMER EDITION WHICH WILL
COVER DWARF TYPES**

Vicki and Peter Boileau's Garden, Notting Hill

Text and photos by Heather Lucas

I think that we are rather blessed to have our Coordinator, Lyndi Garnett, as she finds the most wonderful and different gardens for us to visit during the year. This garden was no exception, as it is a garden of a very avid plant collector.

Sunday, 24th May, 2026 I set off to see this garden, knowing that it was going to be a very different experience to other garden visits, but only because of the array of different plants that I was going to see, that are certainly not in most gardens. Peter and his wife Vicki have made a garden that is crammed full of lots of rare, exotic and different plants.

The front garden is full of native plants and trees, with a gravel path around the outer rim of the garden, but as the trees are large and lush you couldn't see the path from the road. There were lots of lovely items in the front garden, amongst them a lovely ornamental bird placed in an Elk Horn Tree Fern in a branch of one of the trees, a light blue glazed ceramic bird bath, plants in hanging baskets placed in the trees branches and lots of beautiful pots of rare native plants. The driveway is down one side of the front garden with a small garden bed along the boundary side and an open wooden trellis structure with strings placed from top to bottom with climbing plants on them on the other side. There is also a wonderful specimen in a terracotta plant on one of the strings of a Sturt's Desert Pea (*Swainsona Formosa*) plant, which has flowers with deep red wings and black/dark red centres with stems of up to 2 metres.

The rear garden had an area that had paving/concrete with a pergola over it that came off the back of the house, which had a large number of plants in pots hanging from the pergola and many potted plants on the paving. There was a grassed area that Peter and Vicki had placed seats to sit on and garden beds around the perimeter which had lots of large shrubs and trees. There were also several lovely climbing plants in pots in the rear garden, amongst them Pink *Thunbergia Elata*, one pink and one yellow *Mandevilla*, a red *Passiflora Racemosa* and *Canarina canariensis* (a beautiful plant with arrow-shaped, jagged-edged leaves and glossy, orangey-red tubular flowers). Then just when you think you have seen all of the garden there is this narrow opening to the one side of the back of the house with a narrow gravel pathway with square concrete pavers that opens out onto another garden area that is absolutely chock-a-block full of trees, shrubs and plants, with a pond and large garden shed at the end of this area. There were lots of exotic and rare plants, but as I was talking so much, I forgot to write the names of them down! However to name a few plants, there was an orange *Abutilon*, red flowered *Odontonema Tuberaeforme*, *Justicia brandegeana* (shrimp plant) and pink and white *Justicia*'s. There was also a wonderful *hoya* plant in a hanging basket that had been hung on the branch of a tree and was trailing down for at least two foot. Lastly there were indeed several *salvia* plants, to name a few – *Salvia bullulata*, *Salvia oxyphora* and *Salvia involucrata*.

Then of course there was the normal wonderful spread of food to have for lunch and lots of chatting and information on plants shared.

Many, many thanks to Peter and Vicki for a wonderful day and wonderful garden.



South West Victoria Report from Ashford Park, Nullawarre North

Text and photos by Daryl and Janine Lyons

Hello everyone from us down in the South West of the State. At the time of writing, early July, winter has finally hit – cold, wet and windy. Something that we are famous for, but in recent years have seen less of – the winters have been much more settled, milder and a heap drier. This autumn and early winter has seen some big dumps of rain on us and ominously we are on the wet side already, with swamps in paddocks and squelching lawns.

The cut back of the garden is well under way. Every second year, some of the deciduous trees in the garden get a hard cut back with the pole saw, to allow more sunlight into the garden, once again this is their year. The oak and golden elms would otherwise get bigger and wider and eventually the salvias get shaded out. This year they were my starting point as that can't happen!

Then the power trimmers were brought out. As I may have previously advised, the scale of our garden necessitates that everything must be done as efficiently as possible. All pruning of mid-size and larger salvias is done with the power trimmers (petrol not electric, as they are more powerful!). Likewise for the bulk of our raspberries I mow to ground level – yes, it costs us a few raspberries pre-Xmas, but the majority



S. adenophora

of the crop is from new canes that fruit for Feb/ Mar picking. By approaching cutback in this order, I feel good about myself as I make a lot of progress in a small amount of time. Then it all slows down!



S. wagneriana



S. tuerckheimanii



S. elgans 'Pineapple Sage'

The remainder of Salvias that require a cutback/reshape, primarily small leaf varieties, are treated a little more delicately with the hand shears. The only use of hand secateurs in our garden is for the fruit trees and the odd rose that we have (I qualify that by saying that Janine might occasionally be caught with them in hand). There is a lot of shovel work though, stopping spreading varieties such as *S. uliginosa* ('bog sage') suckering everywhere and *S. leucantha* varieties forming wider and wider mounds.

Cleanup starts with the Case tractor – it is surprising how much of a load you can get on the forks of the tractor. Then on goes the bucket for all the smaller prunings. The Ute is a last resort as what goes in the back also has to be unloaded as well! The tractor goes home to the farm and comes back early spring when I move mulch – I don't like mulching until spring because of how wet our ground can get.

I should point out that cutback at this time of year normally gets about 75% of salvias and



Tractor clean up

other plants in the garden. All the late flowering varieties are caught up with as we get into Spring. That is when another of my tools of choice, the chainsaw comes out – for varieties such as the woody *S. gesneriiflora* varieties. Then, there are the salvia varieties that I just leave year on year, that I have found not to be receptive to any action. My general philosophy is that every plant in the garden has its allocated space, and my aim is to keep them to a size that doesn't impact on the plant beside them. Good luck sometimes!!

Specifically, in this July we (and the honeyeaters) are still blessed with an array of Salvias either still in flower or just coming out. From the various *S. involucratas*, *S. iordantha* and *S. purpurea*, *S. adenophora*, *S. gesneriifloras*, *S. 'Blue Bird'*, *S. elegans* to *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'* (which never seems to be not in flower), just to name a few. There really is still plenty to look at, other than the carnage of the cut back.

Wishing you all good gardening.



'Meigan's Magic' pre trimmers



'Meigan's Magic' post trimmers

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SPRING

2026

SEPTEMBER – SUN 27TH

Visit Ailsa Hemphill's gorgeous flower garden – 201 Tucks Rd, Main Ridge – 11.30am

Phone Lyndi if coming – 9803 4534



Beautiful view over the Bay



Sunny garden paths
leading to loftier shady
trees filled areas



A garden path through vibrant perennials
and clipped shrubs, leading to more
surprises

16

SEPTEMBER – SAT 19 & SUN 20TH

Yea Garden Expo – Yea
Saleyards – 9am-3pm



SEPTEMBER – WED 30TH (LAST WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH)

Garden Day – Salvia Garden, Nobelius Heritage Park,
Crichton Rd, Emerald – 10am-3pm

All welcome, to come
and learn how to grow
and identify Salvias.

What to bring:
secateurs, gloves, a
tarp, plastic bag for
cuttings, a hat and
a plate to share for
lunch and appropriate
clothing for the day.

Tea/ coffee will be
provided.

Please phone Lyndi
if coming.

Ph 98034534 or email lgarnett844@gmail.com



Looking up the hill Nobelius

CONTACT LYNDI

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

OCTOBER – SAT 3RD & SUN 4TH

Bolobek Garden Fair – 370 Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon – 10am-4pm

Come and see our Spring Collection of Salvias. Wonderful colours for the summer.

Tough hardy plants for the winter cold, frost tolerant and hardy for the summer 's hot season.

Email your wish list NOW (lgarnett844@gmail.com)

Don't miss out. Pick up on the day.

Bring plants and flowers to be identified.

Have a wonderful time selecting your Salvias.

Those Salvias that you've been wanting, to add colour to your garden, to contrast or blend with your Roses and other perennials in your garden.

Enjoy yourselves with all sorts of colours. Have a ball with selecting plants – take them all if you like.





"Bolobek"

370 Mt Macedon Road Vic

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th

October 2026

Gates open 10am - 4pm

Tickets Adults \$20

For more information & tickets
www.bolobekgardenfair.com.au



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Follow us on:

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OCTOBER – SAT 3RD & SUN 4TH

Visit Anita Day's wonderful garden – 130 Stoll Rd, Jindivick – 11am

Anita's winter garden. A gorgeous garden with seasonal overtones and magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Browse through this garden with a cuppa.

Tea and coffee will be provided. Bring a lunch to share with others.

Bring your camera and your knowledge of plants, we may need it with the huge array of plants.

Please phone Lyndi if coming, 9803 4534 – only a small courtesy for our hostess.



OCTOBER – SAT 24TH & SUN 25TH

Cactus and Succulent Spring Show – Dogs Victoria, KCC Park Boxhall Pavilion, 655 Western Port Highway, Skye – 10am-4pm

We will have our Spring Collection with lots of variety and lots of colour. Salvia books for sale, including Meg's Revised Edition. Bring flowers and plants to be identified.

Place orders early. Don't miss out. Email your wish list. Pick up on the day.

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



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

NOVEMBER – SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH

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

We have our Spring and Summer collection of Salvias ready for you to select. Tall Salvias for screening, hedging or for shade under trees, plus those little ones to brighten up your garden.

Lyndi to conduct a Propagation Workshop at 2pm on both days.

Salvia books for sale, including Meg's Revised Edition. Place orders early. Don't miss out. Email your wish list. Pick up on the day.

Bring flowers and plants to be identified.

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



NOVEMBER – SUN 15TH

Salvia Display Garden, Nobelius Heritage Garden, Emerald (Under the Packing Shed, by the Puffing Billy Line) – 10am sharp

Annual Salvia Sale. Great Bargains to be had until sold out.

NOVEMBER – SUN 29TH

Propagating with Meg Bentley – 3 Fords Rd, Gruyere – 11am

Visit Meg's garden and find out how Meg propagates Salvias and other perennials.



Janice's secret garden

DECEMBER – SUN 6TH

Christmas Lunch and AGM – 749 Orrong Rd, Toorak – Janice Peeler's beautiful Garden – 11am, AGM at 12 noon

Phone: Janice Peeler – 0419 568 604 if coming.

Have a cuppa and wander around Janice's beautiful garden. Take in the splendor of the house and garden before beginning our AGM at 12noon.

After the AGM we can indulge in our Christmas feast and wander around the garden again, thanking Janice for her kind hospitality.

Bring plants for our Swap table. See what delightful treasures can be found to take home.



Parking may be a problem, so car pool if possible and park in the next street.

Contact Lyndi if coming on 03 9803 4534.



The Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you recently changed your email address, your landline or your mobile phone number.

Are all the details the same? If you have changed your details, please contact Laurie Norman, to update our data base. See details below.

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Address:

Suburb/ Town: State: Postcode:

Phone: Email:

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

☐ Hard copy posted: \$40.00

☐ Online: \$30.00

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

Laurie Norman:
Membership / Subscription Officer
Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc
185 Findlays Rd,
Learmonth, Vic. 3352

Ph. 0419 509 592 Email: laurienorman@bigpond.com

☐ 1. Cheque / Money Order, payable to Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

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Surname & Initial (admin purposes only)

A form must be completed with all types of payment and sent to the membership officer.

The Victorian Salvia Study Group. Inc

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(NOT FOR RENEWALS)

Any queries, phone Laurie Norman – see details below

Name:

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Laurie Norman, Membership Officer

Victorian Salvia Study Group Inc.

185 Findlays Rd,

Learmonth Vic. 3352

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

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REVISED EDITION

by Meg Bentley

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plus postage

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- Leaf Gallery
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- Hardy Salvia and Shade Lovers
- Salvias for Courtyards, Balcony and Small Spaces
- Pruning and Propagation
- Salvia Maintenance
- Birds and Other Pollinators
- Name Changes
- Over 400 Species and Cultivars Listed



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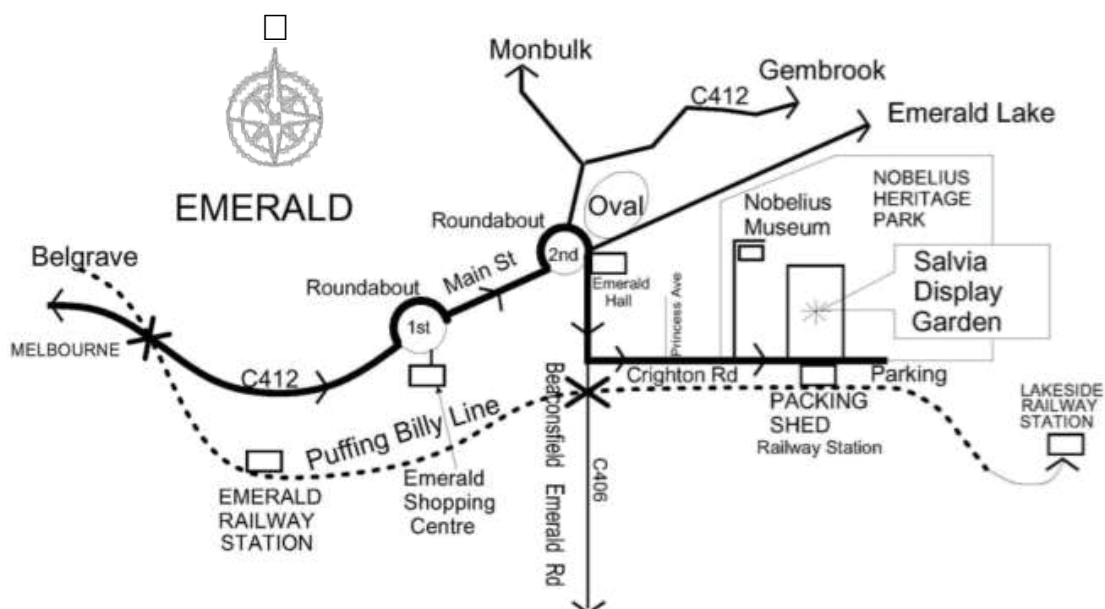
Phone number: _____

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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