

Salvia News

NUMBER 65



Official Newsletter of the
Victorian Salvia Study Group

Spring 2016

THE VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP

A BRANCH OF THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

THE AIMS OF THE SALVIA STUDY GROUP ARE:

1. To grow and collect Salvias for the purpose of enjoyment and study
2. Promote and encourage the growing of Salvias
3. Correctly name existing and new Salvias.

The group is a not for profit organization. Any monies received are used to run the Group's activities and for the planting and maintenance of our GPCAA registered garden collection.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE; www.salvias.org.au

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------|
| GROUP CO-ORDINATOR | Lyndi Garnett 844 Highbury Road Glen Waverley, 3150 Email:lgarnett844@gmail.com | 9803 4534 |
| SECRETARY | Heather Lucas | 9879 5365 |
| TREASURER | Gordon Donaldson | 0411 111 979 |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS | Meg Gadd Email:gm1214.gadd@gmail.com | 9584 8005 |
| EDITOR | Beth Clisby | 0448 940 070 |
| ASSISTANT EDITOR & DISPLAY CO-ORDINATOR | Jillian Barkell | 9756 6361 |
| PHOTOGRAPHER, PR & PUBLICITY | Patrick Hogan | 9758 0871 |
| SEED SUPPLIER | Lyndi Garnett | 9803 4534 |
| PLANT SALES & ENQUIRIES | Jillian Barkell Lyndi Garnett | 9756 6361 9803 4534 |

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SALVIA NEWS SUBMISSIONS

All copy must be received on or preferably prior to copy deadline.
Copy Deadline for the next edition is on or before 15 October 2016

Please post your copy to:

or email:

Beth Clisby - Editor VSSG
3 Creekbank View, Pakenham. Vic 3810
beth.c@bigpond.com
Don't forget the dot between beth and 'c'.



SALVIA NEWS

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP

Website: www.salvias.org.au

Welcome to the latest edition of *Salvia News*. Victoria has endured a very cold and wet winter. In Pakenham we have even had sleet. It rained enough that the damage was minimal to the garden. It made some lovely photos but oh so cold. Other areas like much of Queensland are experiencing even drier conditions than usual. Of course this is their dry season but the wet season never happened and some areas are excessively dry. We are experiencing such drastic changes to our weather. How lucky we are to be *Salvia* enthusiasts because most of them manage very well in dry conditions once established. Some seem to disappear in the cold, just remember not to cut back too hard too early or dig up what you think may have been lost. Pat Anderson has covered the subject in an article on page 12.

Speaking of Pat, what wonderful news to hear of her being recognised in the latest *Queens Birthday* awards, page 5.

In Victoria we have said good bye to founding member and editor of *Salvia News* as Trudi Fry has moved to sunny Queensland, page 13.

Another founding member, has reached a massive milestone, Happy 100th Birthday Bill, Page 16.

Because of a reprint, Meg Bentley's 'A Manual for *Salvia* Growers' is once again available for purchase either from one of the venues advertised in the *Calendar of Events*, or through the post. I understand that some people are waiting until her next edition before purchasing. There is no completion date for this at present. It's a long and time consuming process and although Meg's collection of material is ongoing, it won't be completed in the foreseeable future. This *Manual* is the only *Salvia* book written in Australia for Australian conditions. Whether for personal use or a gift, at only \$30 (plus postage) it's well worth adding to your gardening library. An order form is available inside back cover of *Salvia News* or on the website.

Don't forget to check *Calendar of Events*. Garden visit, *Propagating Day*, *Annual Salvia Sale* and more. Don't forget to book your attendance.

These are only a taste of what's inside. Hope you enjoy. Would love to hear your views on this issue. Now sit back and enjoy your read. Until next time... Happy Gardening, Beth

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**Copy Deadline for next edition
Salvia News
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Remember to check the website regularly for any changes and additional information www.salvias.org.au
Take your plant lists to events or email your list to Lyndi prior to the event to ensure you don't miss out.
Should you have any queries phone Lyndi Garnett, VSSG co-ordinator on 9803 4534 or email
lgarnett844@gmail.com*

Sep Sat 17 & Sun 18 – 10am-4pm

MACEDON'S GARDEN LOVERS FAIR

**Bolobek: 370 Mt Macedon Road,
Macedon. Vic 3440**

Fair and Garden \$10, children free
Wonderful selection of plant and garden treasures.
Bolobek is on the Victorian Heritage Register and is noted for its magnificent garden.
Salvia plants, books and seed for sale.
Don't forget your list, plants for identification.
lgarnett844@gmail.com

Sep Sun 25 – 11am

VAL JACKSON'S GARDEN 'THE NOOK'

**5 Tavistock Road, Monbulk.
Mel: 122 F12**

Visit this beautiful, formal garden filled with trees, bulbs, roses etc. Often seen in the Open Garden Scheme last opened in April.
Bring a plate to share and a chair. Tea and coffee will be provided. September weather can be fickle, so come prepared.
Phone Val Jackson if attending – 9756 6562

Oct Sat 8 – 2-4pm

PRUNING SALVIAS

**Held at the Salvia Display Garden
Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald.
Crichton Ave below the Puffing Billy Line
Mel: 127 G4**

Watch *how* to prune Salvias, hear *when* to prune Salvias.
Tea and coffee provided. Call Lyndi 9803 4534 or email lgarnett844@gmail.com if attending.
Go home with renewed enthusiasm for pruning your own Salvias and lots of cuttings to take with you

Oct Sun 9 – 11am

SUE STEVENS GARDEN VISIT

**11 Forge Road, Mt Evelyn
Mel: 118 C11**

Visit Sue's beautiful garden full of roses, Spring perennials and gorgeous trees. Don't miss this lovely garden. Bring a plate to share and a chair.
If attending please phone Sue after hours
0452 667 173.

Oct Sat/Sun 22/23

BOTANIC & RARE PLANT Fair

**Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria –
Melbourne Gardens, Birdwood Ave,
Melbourne Enquiries 03 9252 2387**

Free entry. Talks, demonstrations and tours. Plant stall holders.
Salvia plants, books and seed for sale.
Bring your list, plants for identification.
lgarnett844@gmail.com

Oct Sun 23 – 12-4pm

IVANHOE GARDEN CLUB FESTA

**Bellfield Community Centre,
Cnr Oriel Rd & Bell St, Ivanhoe
Mel: 31 E2**

Wonderful flower and plant display, community vegetable garden and so much more. Salvia plants, books and seeds for sale. Bring your list, plants to be identified. Email your list to avoid disappointment.
lgarnett844@gmail.com

Nov 6 & 7 – Sat 1pm, Sun 9am

ANNUAL ROSE SHOW

**Mt Waverley Community Centre,
Millers Rd, opposite the train station
Mel: 70 E1**

Salvia plants, books and seed will be for sale. Bring your list and plants to be identified. Email your list in advance to avoid your disappointment.
lgarnett844@gmail.com

Nov Sun 20

ANNUAL SALVIA PLANT SALE

**Nobelius Heritage Park,
Crichton Road, Emerald
Mel: 127 G4**

More details next newsletter, or keep checking the website for updates.

Dec

VSSG Christmas Lunch

To Be Advised

Congratulations Pat Anderson OAM

Pat Anderson was recognised in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours and has been awarded an OAM - Medal of the Order of Australia for her services to the community. How wonderful is that?

Readers of Salvia News will have read some of her many salvia articles. At times we have also made mention of some of her ongoing community work including fundraising over many, many years.

Congratulations Pat and best wishes from us all, we know it is well deserved!

**Photo submitted by
John Anderson**



The Gardener's Rule.....

Pat and John Anderson have a book by Richard Briers of "The Good Life" fame. It's called, "A Little Light Weeding". In the first short chapter, "Advice", he quotes the Victorian actor and dramatist, H. J. Byron, as saying

**The Gardener's rule applies to youth and age;
When young 'sow wild oats', but when old, grow sage.**

News from Moree, NSW

Gay Burling - The Perennial Poppies Group Inc.

As I wander around my garden on this very cold day in late June I'm amazed at the plants still flowering, particularly the salvias. I live west of Moree in North Western NSW and I think last summer and autumn was the longest and hottest I can remember for a long time, so maybe the plants have also just recuperated and enjoying the cooler conditions along with us gardeners!

As I step out my back door *Salvia iodantha* draws my eyes. She is a beautiful purple/pink and I need to enjoy her now before the frosts come and cut her down. At the base is *Salvia semiatrata* which still has a few flowers. I love the lavender flowers with dark violet lower lip and dusky calyxes. It doesn't grow much more than a metre for me but works well with the taller growing *S. iodantha*. Around the corner and here is *Salvia* 'Amistad' tucked between a bottlebrush and a tall shrub rose and looking magnificent. I find it's a very giving salvia – flowering most of the year with large purple flowers and blue/black calyxes until the frosts come. Along from *Salvia* 'Amistad' is *Salvia* 'Meigans Magic' – another eye catching salvia which flowers much better in the cooler weather. The same can be said of the 3 wishes – *Salvia* 'Wendy's Wish', *Salvia* 'Embers Wish' and *Salvia* 'Love and Wishes'. I do love the flower colours of magenta 'Wendy' and purple 'Love and Wishes'.

As I wander along the eastern beds I admire *Salvia* 'Marine Blue'. The deep blue colour is so intense in the cooler weather which is complimented with grey leaves – it's just beautiful and next to it is *Salvia* 'Hot Lips' flowering its head off.

My garden beds on the northern side in full sun are filled with microphyllas and greggiis in between the roses along with other perennials. Still flowering now are *Salvia* 'Crimson and Black', *Salvia ritambelle*, *Salvia* 'Playa Rosa', *Salvia* 'Mrs Bucket', *Salvia* Sierra Pink, *Salvia* 'Angel Wings', *Salvia* 'Heatwave Sparkle', *Salvia* 'Snow White', *Salvia* 'Heatwave Brilliance' and *Salvia* 'Easter Bonnet' to name a few. These are the backbone of my garden – I have them planted everywhere – if I can see a space which gets some sun I put another in. They are so tough and come in so many colours. Also *Salvia leucantha* 'Purple', 'White' and 'Pink' have new growth and flowers due to the warmer weather until now but will all be lost in the colder weather.



Salvia 'Celestial Blue'

One of my favourite salvias is just starting to bloom – *Salvia* 'Celestial Blue'. I love the shape of the mauve/blue flower whorls and scent of the leaves. It's one of the few that flowers in winter and takes the frost with ease. Another favourite next to it is *Salvia discolor*. The purple/black flowers with sticky stems and silvery leaves make this a very interesting plant. One of the longest flowering salvias is *Salvia involucrata* 'Joan'. She is brilliant and I think everyone should have a Joan or two! I also have one called 'Warwick Joan' which is more salmon pink but from a distance is hard to distinguish.



Salvia Van Houttii

..Continued on page 7

News from Moree, NSW

Gay Burling / The Perennial Poppies Group Inc.

... continued from page 6

In the dappled sun under the trees there is good old *Salvia* 'Waverley' with dark calyces and white/mauve flowers – such a tough salvia which nearly always has flowers. Also I have *Salvia* 'Phyllis Fancy' with a few flowers in another part of the garden. Along from *Salvia* 'Waverley', there is the beautiful deep maroon flowering *Salvia splendens* 'Van Houttii' which is outstanding – another very generous flowerer. Also still going is *Salvia* 'Costa Rican Blue' with large gorgeous violet blue flowers with almost black calyces – very striking.

Salvia 'Timboon' is looking glorious at the moment covered in dark burgundy pink flowers with wine coloured calyces. This struggles in the summer here

as it faces the west and gets all the afternoon sun. Shame it doesn't flower in summer.

I find the larger leaf varieties battle with the heat and I need to water them more often. I often think when I see them all droopy with the heat that I should replace them but then autumn arrives and they bounce back.

Winter is a great time in the garden. I love trimming all the shrubs back and renovating the beds which is a never ending job but it also a time take a good look at what has or hasn't done well during summer then you can decide to either move to another part or remove completely. It's forever changing.



Salvia patens, *Salvia roemeriana*, *Salvia microphylla* var *neurepia*,
Salvia gesneraeflora 'Tequila', *Salvia leucantha*

SALVIA CARDS by Meg Bentley

only **\$10** pack
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Available at all VSSG functions and stalls.
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Glen Waverley Vic 3150

MEG'S SALVIA CARDS ORDER FORM (please print)

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..... Post code

Day time contact no

Email

packs Assorted

or Single Flower packs -
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..... *Salvia microphylla* var *neurepia*
..... *Salvia gesneraeflora* 'Tequila'
..... *Salvia leucantha*

..... Total packs @ \$10 per pack \$
..... **Plus** \$2.50 per pack posted \$
..... **Total cost of order:** \$

HISTORY OF VSSG SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN AT NOBELIUS HERITAGE PARK EMERALD

Beth Clisby, Pakenham Vic

Photography – Patrick Hogan, Ferntree Gully

NOBELIUS HERITAGE PARK, EMERALD

Migrating from Sweden, Carl Axel Nobelius arrived in Melbourne in 1872 as a trained gardener. He settled in South Yarra where he worked a nurseryman and landscaper. Some 14 years later, he purchased 25 hectares of heavily timbered land north east of the present Emerald township to start his own nursery and orchards. Each weekend he would travel to Emerald to clear and prepare for cultivation and it was well enough established to move to Emerald with his family in 1892.

Nobelius registered his nursery as ‘Gembrook Nurseries’ because of its location to the Parish of Gembrook, he was well renowned for his fruit trees and grew a market for ornamental trees too. As local councils throughout the country provided jobs in parks, gardens and street plantings, it flourished during the 1890’s depression. Expansion was rapid and it was at its peak before World War 1 employing more than 80 workers, cultivating, propagating, and lifting and packing the young trees. At its peak it was the largest nursery in the southern hemisphere covering 200 acres, with 2.5 million trees for sale.

Nobelius lobbied for the construction of the narrow gauge railway from Ferntree Gully through to Emerald and Gembrook, to overcome the transport problem to the area. This was completed in 1900. In 1904 Nobelius was given permission to build a packing shed on railway land where catalogues and trees were sent Australia wide and to 5 continents. Nobelius was also the founding member of the Nursery and Seedsmen’s Association of Victoria.

The war meant that overseas markets were lost and the nursery never recovered. After Carl Nobelius’ death in 1921, the nursery was sold. One syndicate purchased land to establish the Emerald Country Club, the other purchased land that is now Emerald Lake Park. Nobelius’ two sons managed the nursery on a much smaller scale until 1955 when it was again sold. In 1983 a remnant of the former nursery, 12 acres adjoining Emerald Lake Park and the narrow gauge was acquired by the local council. It is this area that is today known as Nobelius Heritage Park with its wonderful specimens of trees from the former nursery that have been established to form a wonderful memorial. It is below the old Packing Shed that the Victorian Salvia Study Group has their Display garden.

References:

‘Pages from the Past’, Published by the Casey Cardinia Branch of the National Trust

VSSG DISPLAY GARDEN

At a meeting of VSSG on 1 May 2002, the ‘Policy and Aims’ of the Group were discussed, refined and revised as follows:

AIMS

1. To assist with and maintain the planning and planting of the HSOV registered collection
2. To encourage members to grow and study salvias in their own garden
3. To implement the correct naming of all existing plants in collections and nurseries
4. To compare and research salvias in order to standardise correct identification
5. To collect and propagate plants for private and registered collections
6. To gather and exchange cuttings, seeds and information with other members
7. To freely exchange information with other similar groups worldwide.

After the VSSG was formed and the Group started collecting salvias from the Herb Society of Victoria members and from a similar group in Adelaide who already had a small collection, VSSG needed to be able to register the collection. Before the collection could be registered, there needed to be a research/display garden.

One of the Herb Society of Victoria member’s, Mark Dimiotus, offered part of his garden as a salvia research garden at Hampton with a light sandy soil and a more Mediterranean climate. He would open his garden to the public and the interest taken by all those who visited led the Group to look further afield for another Research/display garden.

HISTORY OF VSSG SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN AT NOBELIUS HERITAGE PARK EMERALD ... continued from page 8

Late 1999 Ray Boatman spoke with a friend, Fred Helriegel of the Emerald Museum Committee, who offered a small section of garden area for a research garden at Nobelius Heritage Park at Emerald which was fully fenced. It had rich volcanic soil with cold winters including the very occasional light snow fall, very different to Hampton.

With salvias already being collected by VSSG members, other HSV members and from Adelaide where they already had quite a good collection, two Salvia Research Gardens had now been constructed with exactly the same planted in both gardens and detailed information taken on both. Very quickly both gardens had about 50 plants, both planted in very different climatic and soil regions. Mark Dimiotus looked after his garden and Ray Boatman looked after the plot at Nobelius. As more plants were added, Jillian Barkell, Trudi Fry and Lyndi Garnett helped regularly, but the majority of design, preparation and upkeep was made by Ray. Detailed information was collected on the garden.

Very quickly this 'research plot' at Nobelius soon ran out of space.

By June 2005 letters were sent to the Ranger and President of Nobelius Heritage Park Committee of Management to ascertain any future plans for area of the Salvia Display Garden with a view of increasing the area of the garden. A Working Committee for the garden for people within a reasonable distance was developed – although many assisted at times, it was mainly Jillian Barkell, Trudi Fry and Lyndi Garnett.

In November 2005 Ray Boatman reported meetings with the Park Committee of Management, the Park Curator where he presented a plan for extensions to the plot which was approved. A Cardinia Shire Parks and Gardens representative was in attendance and viewed the plans and its extensions and reported it as a valuable addition to the Park.

Discussions were held concerning the future of the plot as an OPCCA Open Garden.

Ongoing importation of seed to Australia was becoming more difficult and for some time, it was feared it may possibly be terminated.

It wasn't until February 2007 that Ray reported having received a letter from the Park Committee of Management giving permission for a new plot with

stipulations including no permanent structures, rabbit proof fence permitted only while new plants are being established.

February 2007 saw arrangements for the excavation of paths (Light Track Bobcat); a supply of mulch and compost were also arranged; the rotary hoeing of beds was organised, timber edging was sought from Mitre 10 and the toppings for paths ordered. May of the same year saw killing of weeds, measuring for pathways, drainage etc. The new Nobelius garden was being prepared and by September 2007, this new garden was ready for planting.

Sadly, the Salvia Garden at Hampton eventually disappeared. It became too big a job for only a couple of people, and what help could be found went into the Salvia Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park in Emerald. With health and ageing, other commitments, movement from the area, this garden's ongoing maintenance has mostly been the work of Jillian Barkell and Lyndi Garnett who attend on a fortnightly basis, with several workshops held both midweek and on a weekend during the year. There is always a request for ongoing assistance with maintenance of the garden and anyone interested in even giving a couple of hours is asked to contact Lyndi Garnett on 03 9803 4534.

For quite some years, except when new specimens are planted, the garden is never watered. At the time of planting water gel crystals are used in the planting hole and the new plant watered in well, it then relies solely on rainwater. Although this means that during excessive dry times, sometimes it doesn't give the display of flowers that one would like, it does assist in showing the best plants for use in an ever-changing climate. When the rains come, it celebrates with a burst of new growth and within a few weeks, an absolutely glorious show for all those who visit. For those who wish to see what happens to Salvias that do receive regular watering, there is a garden on the other side of the Packing Shed that has nothing to do with VSSG but is maintained by Patrick Hogan, VSSG photographer and Salvia enthusiast, which is a sight for sore eyes. We have to remember that VSSG is a study group that the Display Garden is part of the study and research of salvias to ensure that Salvia growing will become more widespread, not just today, but tomorrow and always and that climate change will not prevent people from giving them a go, whether it's in pots, or in small or large gardens.

Photos pages 10 & 11

SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN HISTORY IN PICTURES

Photography by Patrick Hogan



Original Salvia Beds



November 2003



Just Beginning Feb 2007



End of the day Feb 2007



April 2007



26 December 2007

SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN HISTORY IN PICTURES



Christmas 2010



1 January 2015



17 April 2016

COMING EVENTS AT THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN

Check the Calendar of Events on page 4 of this issue of SN for special events to be held at the Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park.

8 Oct Pruning Salvias

20 Nov Annual Salvia Plant Sale

Any queries or bookings please contact Lyndi Garnett on telephone 03 9803 4534

The New Book of SALVIAS

by Betsy Clebsch

Book @ \$15 each x copies \$

Plus P&H \$10 per copy \$

Total \$

Please make **cheques** payable to **H.S.O.V. Salvia Study Group**

Send remittance and completed form to:

Salvia Study Group

844 Highbury Road,

Glen Waverley. Vic 3150

Enquiries phone VSSG Lyndi Garnett 9803 4534

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(RRP\$29.95)

Where did those Salvias go?

Pat Anderson OAM – Warrandyte Vic

Three years ago I wrote a cautionary article about Salvias that either disappear underground during the winter or lose their leaves. Both forms of dormancy are ways for plants to get through the coldest parts of winter without dying. So it is important to know that these plants will (hopefully) re-shoot in the spring, and to not be fooled into pulling them out or planting something in their place.

As we are in the depths of winter right now, I thought I would remind everyone to go steady with the spade where Salvias appear to have died, with a brief summary of that article. I should add that the information below refers to this garden (a frost hollow in Warrandyte), where winters appear to be much tougher than in many part of Melbourne.

The deciduous Salvias I have are *S. regla*, *S. cuspidata* subsp *gilliesii* and *S. lemmonii* (syn *S. microphylla* var *wislizenii*). To this list I could add *S. sessei*. Sue Templeton has just reported that her plant has flowered well this year into late autumn, but mine, even in the greenhouse, has lost all its leaves, but is thankfully showing signs of new shoots. Phew – because it is so lovely, if tender!

For me, the **winter-dormant ones (i.e. dormant underground)** include:

From Asia: *S. castanea*, *S. nipponica* (including eg *S. 'Fuji Snow'*). *S. glabrescens*, *S. plectranthoides*, *S. trijuga* (although I think mine actually died before the winter), *S. miltiorrhiza* and *S. przewalskii*.

From Europe: *S. nemerosa* and *superba* crosses, like 'East Friesland', *S. jurisicii*, *S. nutans*, *S. kuznetsovii*, *S. deserti* and *S. sclareoides*, while *S. eigii* and *S. hierosolymitana* are often dormant in the height of summer, but have emerged now (July), ready to flower.

From S. Africa: *S. schlechteri*

From the Americas: *S. atrocyanea*, *s. azurea*, *S. cardiophylla*, *S. clinopodioides*, *S. darcyi*, *S. forreri*, *S. longistyla*, *S. patens*, *S. reptans*, *S. prunelloides*, *S. puberula*, *S. rhinosina* (syn *meyeri*), *S. sp* from

Guatemala, *S. sp* from Catamarca, *S. stachydifolia*, *S. stolonifera*, *S. texana*, *S. vitifolia*, *S. 'Blue Chiquita'* (syn 'El Cielo Blue')

So, watch out for these species as they begin to re-emerge. In particular watch out for snail attacks on *S. nutans* (if you are lucky enough to have it), *S. eigii* and *S. patens*. For some reason, these species appear to be really tasty and you could lose them entirely to snails. Also, be prepared for some species to take a long time to re-emerge, like *S. cardiophylla* and *S. clinopodioides*. And, the latter sometimes re-emerges some distance from the original plant.

Also, if your garden gets hit by frost, there will be plants that turn black overnight and appear to be dead. But don't give up. If they have a big enough root ball underground, they will re-shoot again in the spring, with a bit of luck. You could further protect these roots by adding a pile of straw.

Finally, if you are a collector like me, the only way of being certain not to lose a Salvia over winter is to keep a back-up in a warm spot, like a glasshouse. But again, these back-ups will need to be propagated early in the growing season so that they have big enough roots to help them get through the following winter. Furthermore, there is a lot to be said for propagating and replacing plants for renewed vigour. Not only do some of the bigger ones, like the mexicanas, get very woody at the base after some years, but I recently saw in Robin Middleton's garden in England, how much better were the new plants of *S. patens* grown in spring from seed than those that had been dormant underground over winter. So, keep warm until spring and spend your time indoors reading about Salvia.



Salbei

Pat Anderson has recently made a visit to Germany and sent this pic taken on her phone. It is a packet of cough lollies she bought in Germany and said, "It is interesting that they value Salbei (German for Salvia) over there as well as Eucalyptus".

FAREWELL TRUDI

Beth Clisby, Pakenham Vic

Trudi Fry now in her 80s, is one of the founding members of the Victorian Salvia Study Group, and the founder of its newsletter Salvia News, of which she continued as editor for more than a decade. She is leaving Victoria downsizing her home and moving closer to family. In fact by the time you read this she will hopefully be settled in her new home in Queensland where she has family and friends close by. As many of you are aware, she has struggled with poor health in latter years, has minimal mobility but is fiercely independent.



Over a period of a couple of months Trudi had many visitors to wish her well for the next journey of her life. I was unable to partake of such a gathering with friends from the 'Group' where Lyndi Garnett presented her with a Life Membership, but did enjoy a lovely lunch and tour of her garden with Meg and Garry Bentley. Meg, Garry and Trudi are close friends of many years and Meg presented Trudi with a photo book of some of the many salvia displays and events they had partaken together, even the first salvia display at a Herb Society of Victoria event. Each photo had its own story and it was quite emotional as Trudi recalled some special times. As always, everyone from both events went home with cuttings from her wonderful garden.

Lyndi Garnett presenting Trudi her Life Membership
Photo by Patrick Hogan

Trudi has lived in the Dandenong Ranges for many decades, and she and her husband were known as 'the artists in the orange combi' for many years. She is a great story teller and for anyone lucky enough to have spent some time with her, time disappears as she shares some of her special memories.

After lunch Trudi gave us a garden tour for the last time of her very large garden nestled in the bush. At the back of her home there is an expanse of windows which are the full width with a verandah where she tells of watching storms and the change of weather approaching across the valley. It was just glorious and allows one visual access from either inside or on the verandah to much of the garden and pool from above, a blessing for latter years, less mobility and poor weather so the garden could always be enjoyed.



Although this visit was in May on a cold and windy day with most of the many salvias finished flowering for the warmer seasons, there was still plenty of colour and interest. Both home and garden were built on a hill with lots of winding paths and terraces. There was still some late Autumn colour, together with Winter blooms budding including many salvias. Trudi uses a lot of silver leaved plants including salvias which in such a large garden, were like lights beckoning one to come closer. With both Trudi and her late husband being sculptors, there were many pieces throughout the garden to add even more interest. Paths were a plenty and many nooks and crannies to explore. The once tennis court is now a large lawn area with a number of paths leading to many places of interest. There are no straight lines in this garden, loads of trees both deciduous and evergreen, native and exotic, many

FAREWELL TRUDI

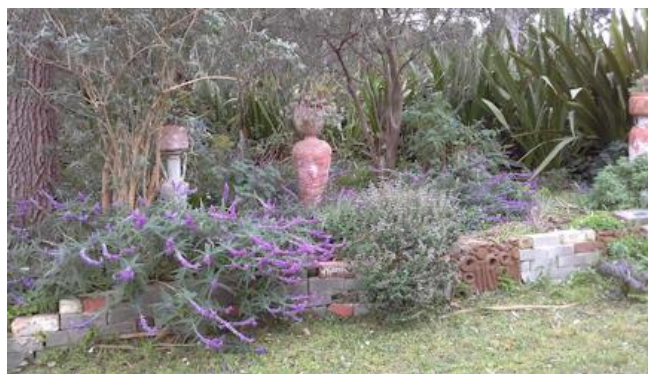
... continued from page 13

shrubs, succulents and bulbs, and hundreds of salvias too. There is still the remnants of a large vege patch below her verandah and many fruit trees.



Trudi's Potted Salvias – Photo Meg Bentley

Trudi has been growing salvias in her own pots for the garden, for both home and special events since the beginning of her interest in salvias. A lovely bunch of salvias in a vase is a great way to enjoy them inside and there was such a vase on the day of our visit.



As a founding member of the VSSG her salvia interest has never waned. She is responsible for some of the salvias available today including Salvia 'Green Ginger' bright orange like its name and discovered in her garden. As the current editor of Salvia News, I am caretaker of her notes and files for the time being and you have already read copies of a few very early articles, printed again in recent times with the writer's permission of course. Although Trudi tells of her struggle at times with computers, she has done nothing less than a magnificent job. She is so generous with sharing her knowledge and findings and it's an honour to carry forward what she started all those years ago. Trudi advises that once settled in her new home she hopes to finally get down to writing her memoirs. Judging from her gardening and salvia expertise, and her colourful artistic past, in addition to bringing up a family and making friends wherever she goes, it will make great reading.

Thankyou Trudi for your ongoing contribution for the growing of Salvias, your generous sharing of knowledge and the many friendships too. We wish you the very best in your move to Queensland, and look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Continued on page 15

Dear Trudi.....

I am sorry that I shall miss the gathering when the Salvia Study Group meets for your send off. John and I will be in Munich prior to a marvellous re-union of friends with whom I graduated with, 50 years ago. This trip has led to excited planning of visits to Lake Garda, Verona, Padua (famous ancient Botanical Gardens etc) various places in Germany and Leipzig for the Bach Festival. Then back to the UK where Robin Middleton is taking me to the largest salvia nursery in the UK. I hope to visit Frank Fisher in Treiburg also. So salvias continue!

Trudi, we wish you well in your retirement to sunny Queensland, where I am sure you will watch many salvias thrive. We will fondly remember the years of knowledge and newsletters you contributed to the group.

With best wishes,

Pat and John

Thank you for a lovely day and sharing it with Beth, and so pleased that she could finally see your garden and all the wonderful ceramics and statues together with your garden of salvias. Part of your lifetime works at Selby.

You certainly have left some wonderful memories in this part of Australia and now going up to warmer climes of Queensland no doubt to create new memories from your new adventure up north. We will look forward to hearing about salvias and gardening in due course. We all wish you well dear Trudi.

Kindest regards and love,

Meg and Garry.

It was through Trudi that I learnt about the Salvia group. I am her neighbour and love to wander through her garden as I go to visit her regularly.

Trudi, we are going to miss you a great deal but know it's time for you to be closer to family. I will certainly keep in touch!

Love Kathie.

It was so good to see Trudi again after so long an absence and to think that it was in that very same room that we sat around her table and voted to begin the collecting of Salvias 26 years ago. Ray Boatman and Bill Whitehead nominated that we collect and study our Salvias, from that meeting we were known as the Victorian Salvia Study Group.

Farewell Trudi, we know that you'll enjoy your friends in Queensland. It's been a pleasure to have known you all these years. Thankyou for your friendship, your generosity and your smile. We all have fond memories.

Lyndi

I remember with thanks that you gave me a long length of bamboo a long time ago and I still use its support for around the house and garden. Wishing you all the very best of lifestyle, gardening and family in sunny Queensland. Keep healthy and many thanks for past assistance with Salvias.

Kind regards, Laurelle Willis.

Mum and I wish you all the best and remember the lovely, friendly and generous person that we met all those years ago. May you make many new friends and have lots of new adventures in Queensland, Trudi.

Love Heather Lucas & Shirley Davies.

Thankyou Trudi for all the time you have given me, sharing Salvia News and the Group history, the different salvia stories, the special visit to your garden and other get togethers. Not only are you great company but a wonderful story teller and I look forward to eventually reading your story. I am sure we all wish you much happiness in your new home. You will be missed by many, no longer being a stone's throw away.

Love and best wishes, Beth Clisby

Happy 100th Birthday Bill!

Lyndi Garnett – VSSG Co-ordinator

Thursday 2nd June, I was invited to attend the Herb Society's Birthday meeting. This was a combined birthday celebration, to celebrate the Herb Society's 68th year, but also a very special celebration for Bill Whitehead's 100 years!! A magnificent achievement.

Bill was brought up to the meeting in Melbourne by a fellow Geelong Herb Society member. They unfortunately got a bit lost in the fog being unfamiliar with the entrance to Burnley, but they finally arrived. The first words from Bill were "where have you all been, we've been looking for you"!

We haven't seen each other for a while but even at this great age, he remembered me immediately and said what a great friend I have been. I reminded him that it is about 27 years since we first got together to form the VSSG.



Bill thoroughly enjoyed himself, enjoying being part of the HSV meeting, giggling and laughing the whole night, he was a joy to watch, keeping every one

constantly laughing and smiling. He was invited to cut the amazing Birthday cake, made by Colline Muir (it took her 2 weeks to make the fruit cake, iced with fondant icing, beautifully decorated with crystallised leaves and flowers, all surrounded by candles set in balls of icing).

Bill enjoyed reading the HSV on the cake, before blowing out all the candles, he hasn't done that for a

while, and cutting the cake. It was obvious that he loved it all.

I gave him a pot of Salvia 'Firecracker', which he was thrilled to be able to take home, a Betsy Clebsch book on Salvias (he already has Meg's manual), this now completes his library on Salvias; and a large card with a magnificent sparkling gold 100 on the front, which he kept looking at all night.

Bill really had quite a night with all his Herby friends, so I think he'll have a good night's sleep dreaming of all the highlights of the meeting. The celebrations will continue with a lunch on 28th June (one birthday) and still more celebrations I think on his real birthday 15th July. Hopefully on this day he'll receive his card from the QUEEN. He is only 10 years older than the Queen.

A wonderful old man with a sparkle in his eye, a wicked sense of humour, a love of life, a love of herbs and of course his love of Salvias.

Editor's Note:



Bill Whitehead is a founding member of the Victorian Salvia Study Group which is a branch of the Herb Society of Victoria. He has a salvia named after him, Salvia mexicana 'Bill Whitehead' a medium sized Salvia with magnificent purple tubular flowers and a dark calyx, in full bloom in the cooler months. Happy 100th Bill from all at the Salvia Study Group.

Salvia News

Victorian Salvia Study Group

A branch of the Herb Society of Victoria Inc.

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WEBSITE UPDATE - Lyndi Garnett /VSSG Co-ordinator

The Links and Web Reference Page has finally been completed and updated. This is to help the Search Engine (SEO) find our website more easily.

I've included as many Nurseries Victorian and Interstate, including a few well know overseas connections for seeds, Botanic Gardens and Friends, Gardening Clubs and Societies and other institutions and groups affiliated with our group.

These cross links/ references are very handy for those who are very computer savvy and want to know about a plant, want to know more information about that plant, where to purchase and even where to view that plant being grown as well as other relevant information about that plant - all through cross references and a click of a button!

It has been a very time consuming exercise, as I've had to find all tree forms of contact - phone number to briefly inform them of what I'm doing and get their permission, an email address to notify them of what and why I'm contacting them and of course to check their correct web address. Then wait for them to get back to me - and of course a few slow societies to follow up.

But it's almost complete, so then I can move on to updating the New Salvia Page.

Editor's Note:

There has been much work completed in updating the Victorian Salvia Study Group website with a wealth of information and lots of photos too which is maintained by Lyndi. It is an ongoing and time consuming exercise to continually upload updated and additional information on a regular basis. It just may have the information you are looking for.

The Calendar of Events is updated very regularly with more information available than what can be read in Salvia News, and of course it will show any last minute changes too.

So if you haven't had the time to date to have a look, it is well worth doing so. www.salvias.org.au

Any queries, comments, orders or request, please either send to the editor for forwarding or email Lyndi direct l.garnett844@gmail.com

Social Etiquette –

Lyndi Garnett, VSSG Co-ordinator

In this day and age of social media, we as a society have grown lazy, inattentive, lackadaisical, blase, very laid back, can't be bothered, "She'll be alright mate", forgetting what is polite.

'What is she talking about'?

I'm referring to the matter of not answering emails or written requests.

Patrick does a wonderful job of sending you reminders of upcoming events. These events whether they are selling events, garden visits or other Salvia functions are all in our Calendar in the Salvia News and on our website.

All events quite plainly ask you to phone Lyndi, or your host/hostess (garden visits) or reply to Patrick if YOU ARE ATTENDING. If you regularly attend Salvia functions and cannot come, then put in an apology. If you are attending, then phone or email a reply to say that you will be coming.

Why do we do this?, to inform the hostess/host of the day for numbers attending, so that she/he can cater for those people coming – either for tea/coffee, extra chairs, tables and space etc..

So! Please do the right thing and reply.

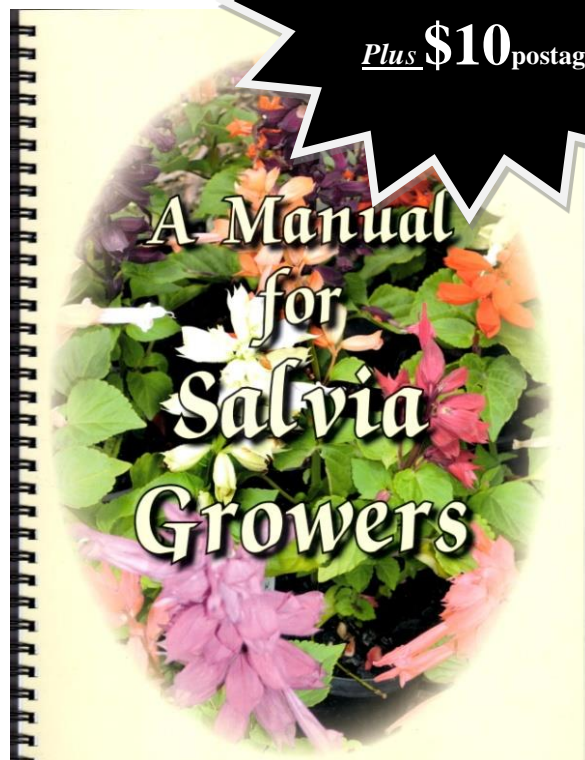
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