

# Salvia News

NUMBER 72



Official Newsletter of the  
**Victorian Salvia Study Group**

[www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au)

Winter 2018

# **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
4. Maintain our Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park for the Group and the general public
5. Manage our website and Facebook page

The Group is a Not for Profit Organisation. Any monies received are used to run the Group's activities and for the planting and maintenance of our GPCAA (Garden Plants Conservation Association of Australia) registered garden collection. ('Plants Trust' has been a shortened, more comprehensive name for the GPCAAA and has been used for quite a while now).

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR	Lyndi Garnett 844 Highbury Road Glen Waverley. 3150 lgarnett844@gmail.com	03 9803 3534
SECRETARY	Heather Lucas	03 9879 5365
TREASURER	Gordon Donaldson	0411 111 979
SUBSCRIPTIONS	Meg Gadd gm1214.gadd@gmail.com	03 9584 8005
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Norm Winn Andreina Chinn	0438 733 060 03 9897 3031
EDITOR	Beth Gilchrist editor.salvianews@gmail.com	0448 940 070
SUB EDITOR & DISPLAY CO-ORDINATOR	Jillian Barkell	03 9756 6361
ASSISTANT DISPLAY CO-ORDINATOR	Vivienne Smith	03 8201 0220
PR & PUBLICITY	Fiona Williams	0417 323 785
FACEBOOK	Patrick Hogan patrick.hogan@optusnet.com	
SEED SUPPLIER	Lyndi Garnett	03 9803 4534
PLANT SALES & ENQUIRIES	Jillian Barkell Lyndi Garnett	03 9756 6361 03 9803 4534

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### **SALVIA NEWS SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT EDITION**

ALL copy must be received on or preferably prior to copy deadline.

**Copy deadline for the next edition is on or before 17 July 2018**

***Please post your copy to:***

Beth Gilchrist - Editor 'Salvia News'  
13 Williams Street, Temora NSW 2666

***email:***

**editor.salvianews@gmail.com**  
(don't forget the dot between editor & salvia)



# SALVIA NEWS

VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP

Website: [www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au)

**W**elcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of Salvia News. Hope by the time you are reading this, all those waiting for the Autumn rains to fall are waiting no longer. As this Autumn Newsletter is about to go to print, in this region we are still waiting. Many farmers are waiting to plant their next crop, others have already commenced planting in the dry and we see the red dust flying for miles.

Not only is it hot and dry in late April but the 'Hairy Panic' has had a field day this season. Its our first season to see it like this. I have written about it with a photo of the garden of the President of the local garden club, if you can find it. Take a read on page 17.

Our old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel has thyroid cancer. To give him another lease of life, the Vet suggest a puppy and we now have a Beaglier. Mischief lives up to her name and Oscar adores her except when she bites him or bounces on him usually when ignored like when he is sleeping. When awake, they are together, his tail rarely stops wagging, and it's a delight to see her copyng him. Like all puppies she is lively and into everything. We are keeping her as busy as possible to save the garden, furniture and our fingers! Pre puppy school is a help as she loves the other puppies but its only one evening a week. Oh well she has us well trained in just a couple of weeks so guess we will all survive. They have been barking and chasing each other up and down the hallway. Now they are both asleep at my feet while I write at the computer. Peace but not for too long I am sure. Too late to send her back, she has won us.'

*Will Salvias Stay United, Continued by Pat Anderson.*

*This is a must read article especially if you read her earlier reviews on this matter. It certainly explains a lot about plant names, including Salvias. Page 9*

*This month's Salvia article from SE Queensland is by a commercial Salvia Grower originally from Victoria and now living in the hinterlands of SE Queensland. She tells of some of her favourites today and compares the difference of growing Salvias in different areas—commencing page 7.*

*Notes from Gruyere by Meg Bentley is always a favourite and this issue can be found in the centre pages 10/11. She tells about a dry Autumn and how she still manages to propagate when everything is so dry.*

*I have received two different articles regarding the recent visit to Pat and John Anderson's garden in Warrandyte. The day even included a talk and demonstration on collecting Salvia seed and planting. After reading, you like me will probably be disappointed that you weren't able to be part of that group. The Seedy Side of Salvias page 13 and Letter page 14.*

*These and many more items are inside for your reading pleasure.*

*Before closing I must apologise for a mistake on Page 2 of Salvia News as I had left out the dot between names in Patrick Hogan's email address. Its was correct in the 'Like us on Facebook' notation. Thankyou to the lady who brought to my attention, no one had picked it up.*

*Until next time, happy gardening  
Beth Gilchrist*

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**COPY DEADLINE** Salvia News No 73 Spring

**17 July 2018**

# Calendar of Events

**Remember to check the website regularly for any changes and additional information.**  
[www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au)

*Remember too to 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 03 9803 4534 or email [lgarnett844@gmail.com](mailto:lgarnett844@gmail.com)  
Also don't forget to let Lyndi know if you are attending events.*

**In addition to events** open to the public, on the website under **Calendar of Events**, you will find **Garden Clubs where Lyndi Garnett is speaking** and a contact number for further information.

*Please note that there have been a couple of garden visit cancellations due to severe damage from recent storms. Luckily all are safe but these gardens won't be ready for visitors this year.*

## **June 16 Sat**

### **RHSV GARDENER'S DAY OUT**

Deakin University, Burwood Campus,  
Burwood Hwy, Burwood. **Mel: 61, B5**

Great speakers and presentations throughout the day  
Salvia plants, books and seed will be on sale. Many other stalls too. As always email your list of Salvias wanted to ensure you don't miss out;  
[lgarnett844@gmail.com](mailto:lgarnett844@gmail.com)

If you haven't attended this event before, it's a great day out for all gardeners.  
Book early, not to be missed.

**<http://www.rhsv.org.au>** for more information or  
Contact The RHSV Secretary on 03 5367 6363 or at [plantzia@bigpond.com](mailto:plantzia@bigpond.com)

## **August 26 Sun 11am**

### **DAYLESFORD WOMBAT HILL (Baron Von Mueller), MONASTERY & TEA ROOMS**

7 Daly Street

Come and see a fine display of Begonias and beautiful surrounds.  
Meet at the Monastery for lunch. Bookings essential.  
Queries, please telephone Lyndi (03) 9803 4534

## **Oct 6/7 Sat/Sun 10am to 4pm**

### **GARDEN LOVERS FAIR BOLOBEK GARDENS, MACEDON**

Macedon Road, Macedon

Loads of rare plant stalls and artifacts and the possibility of walking through the beautiful Bolobek gardens.

Salvia plants, books and seed will be available. To ensure you don't miss out, email your wish list to Lyndi [lgarnett844@gmail.com](mailto:lgarnett844@gmail.com)

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

**THE BOTANIC GARDENS RARE PLANT SALE**  
**WILL NOT be continuing this year**

# Calendar of Events

**Oct 21 Sun - Noon—4pm**

## **IVANHOE GARDEN CLUB FESTA**

Bellfield Community Centre  
Cnr Oriel Road & Banksia St, Ivanhoe

Displays and demonstrations from a huge range of garden groups and societies.  
Plants, Collector's table, Children's activities and lots more.

Salvia plants, books and seed will be for sale. Email your wish list to Lyndi prior to the event so you don't miss out.

Don't forget to take your plants along to the VSSG stall to be identified.

**Oct 28 Sun - 11am**

## **GARDEN VISIT- PROF JOHN RAYNOR,**

12 Charman Avenue Emerald **Mel: 127.F3**

Prof John Raynor is a senior lecturer in Horticulture at Melbourne Uni's Burnley campus. A VSSG subscriber shares...

*John Raynor's 2 acre garden, Brookdale Farm at Emerald is a burst of tingles and surprises. Most of the garden plants are structured around form and texture, low maintenance and no irrigation. He has a scientific approach to design using the right plant in the right place. He advocates dividing and massing (for spectacular effect and to save money). His edible garden includes espaliered fruit trees and imaginative approaches to old ideas. This is a rare treat to learn about John's own garden. ...Sounds like a garden not to be missed!*

Magnificent with interesting landscaping of different floras.

Come and see how to create a garden with, and unusual plant selections.

Bring a plate to share and a chair.

Must phone Lyndi to advise if attending, and for any queries. (03) 9803 4534

**Nov 10/11 Sat/Sun Sat 1pm - 4pm; Sun 9am - 4pm**

Rose Society of Victoria

## **SPRING ROSE SHOW**

Mt Waverley Community Centre  
Millers Road, opposite Railway Station.

Wonderful array of Roses.

Roses for sale and other stalls to be browsed

Salvia plants, books and seed will be available for sale. Don't forget to email Lyndi your wish list prior to the event so you don't miss out. Take along plants to be identified.

**Nov 18 Sun 11.30-3pm**

## **ANNUAL SALVIA PLANT SALE AT NOBELIUS, EMERALD**

Nobelius Heritage Park, Crighton Road, Emerald

- under the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy line **Mel: 127.G4**

Annual Event NOT to be missed. Wander the gardens and see how the Salvias grow.  
Great bargains to be had.

Don't forget to take along your list of Salvias you have been seeking all year.

Take along your plants to be identified

**Dec 2 Sun SALVIA CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Details to be advised, diarise now so you can join in the fun





## MAIL ORDER SHOPPING

(postage prices within Australia)

### A Manual for Salvia Growers

By Meg Bentley

**\$30** per copy Plus \$10 per copy posted

Order form for this item is one page 20

### Salvia Cards - Meg Bentley



**\$10** per pack (5 single flower or 5 assorted)  
Plus \$2.50 per pack posted

..... Assorted packs  
or Single Flower packs -  
..... *Salvia patens*  
..... *Salvia roemeriana*  
..... *Salvia microphylla* var *neurepia*  
..... *Salvia gesneraeflora* 'Tequila'  
..... *Salvia leucantha*  
..... **Total packs @ \$10 per pack \$ .....**

Plus \$2.50 per pack posted \$ .....



### The New Book of Salvias

by Betty Clebsch

**\$15** per copy Plus \$10 per copy posted  
..... copies @ \$15 per copy \$ .....

..... Plus \$10 per copy posted \$ .....

**TOTAL COST OF ORDER** \$ .....

Please make cheques payable to HSOV Salvia Study Group and send remittance together with completed form to:

Salvia Study Group  
844 Highbury Road,  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150

Enquiries to Lyndi Garnett (03) 9803 4534

PLEASE PRINT

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... State: ..... Post code: ..... Phone: .....

Email: .....

# COMMERCIAL SALVIA GROWER IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND SHARES HER FAVOURITE SALVIAS

*Melanie White, Tamborine Mountain, QLD*

I currently live on Tamborine Mountain (Gold Coast Hinterland) but until 15 years ago was from country Victoria (Waaia, north of Shepparton) where all my family still live and I visit regularly. I recently returned from a lovely adventure to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. Seeing all the beautiful plants on display there made me miss those gorgeous cooler climate plants that I used to see growing in mum and dad's garden.

My love of salvias has developed since moving to Queensland. I often ring my parents to ask if they know this plant or that as I have been introduced to a new world of plants here. I now know how many salvia species can be grown in Victoria. My parents only ever grew the annual salvias and I was unaware of other species.

I have a production nursery (wholesale) and supply nurseries in south east Queensland. As there are so many salvias, and I can't expect the retail nurseries to know all of them, I have 'trained' the nurseries to ask for size and colour and I then supply relevant salvias for the particular areas. I am aware that not all salvias appreciate frosty winters or humidity so I supply suitable salvias to ensure the nurseries' customers will be happy with the performance of the salvias, in their gardens.

As I grow salvias commercially, I have a different view on salvias that will perform and present well for retail. There are many salvias I will not grow for retailers as presentation is so important. Given the lack of knowledge due to sheer number of salvias, I find a large part of my job is explaining why a salvia would or wouldn't work for their customers. I also grow for other garden events such as Queensland Garden Expo

and like events and this enables me to grow the salvias that salvia lovers and collectors desire.



*The first salvia  
I came across  
in a garden  
here on Mt  
Tamborine was  
Salvia  
semiatrata*

The first salvia I came across in a garden here on Mt Tamborine was *Salvia semiatrata*. I didn't know it was a salvia at first but I could smell the sage fragrance and worked it out. I was fascinated with its exquisite colours of purple, mauve and magenta. To this day I am in love with this salvia and it will always be one of my favourites. *Semiatrata* originates from the mountains in

Mexico. It stands out as being quite different to others with its ability to form a tight shrub. I would like to plant it out as a hedge at some stage to see how dense it will become. When I first saw this salvia, it had been left to its own devices and was quite woody underneath and approximately 1.5 metres. I felt it needed to be

pruned to freshen up the dense growth. This salvia does grow particularly well on the mountain. I find it is not the easiest salvia to grow commercially for a number of reasons and this includes ensuring

*..continued on page*

# COMMERCIAL SALVIA GROWER IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND SHARES HER FAVOURITE SALVIAS

*Melanie White, Tamborine Mountain, QLD*

*..continued from page*

it looks neat and tidy for retail presentation and it does have a habit of wanting to grow in all directions when it is young. I tend to grow it more for garden expos and events for salvia collectors.

As much as I adore the small microphylla and greggii salvias ('Angel Wings' is my favourite of the smaller varieties) I tend to get quite passionate over South African sages. I find them unusual and interesting. *Salvia africana-lutea* (syn. *Salvia aurea*) and *S. lanceolata* are two of my favourite South African species. Where do you find coppery brown flowers on a grey shrub like aurea? I do sell many *Africana-lutea* salvias because I passionately promote how amazing they are. It is a salvia that requires less maintenance than many others and even when it's not flowering the foliage is striking. Propagation has to be timed just right. I have over the years lost 60-80% of cuttings if the timing was wrong.

*S. lanceolata* is another South African sage I adore. It is a smaller, finer salvia than *S. africana-lutea* and the flowers are a coppery pink colour. It is quite popular with nurseries and gardeners. I can never grow enough of these but they can be a challenge to propagate at times. The South African sages will grow on Mt Tamborine which is a cooler climate. I feel in the home garden generally, they grow better where the summers and winters are warmer. I have lived at Tamborine Village (western side of the mountain. The rainfall is 10mm a year, well that's a slight exaggeration but you understand what I mean and the soil is very sandy, yet the *S. africana-lutea* I planted next to a concrete tank, in the full sun and never watered, excelled!

Last year during our annual major open garden event, **Springtime on the Mountain**, I was delighted to view a garden that was designed by a well known landscape designer and there were mass plantings of *lanceolata*. It was stunning, teamed with grey/silver sedums and dry climate plants. I find it exciting seeing some very well-known designers and architects using salvias in their designs. To me it's a real sense of home seeing salvias in these garden designs.

Ask me for a colour and size plant you want and tell me about the position/location you want to fill, and I can give you a salvia that will fit your requirements. They are such a wonderful range of plants with every colour of the rainbow available. Many of these amazing plants will perform in Australia's diverse climates. Salvias are addictive.....

Enquiries Melanie White on Mobile 0408 197 775

[Melainiewhite@bigpond.com](mailto:Melainiewhite@bigpond.com)

[Pottedpleasure@hotmail.com](mailto:Pottedpleasure@hotmail.com)

## **CONTACT DETAILS UPDATE 2018**

**Have you recently changed your email address,  
your landline or mobile phone numbers?  
Or are all your details the same?**

**If you have changed your details, can you please advise Meg Gadd  
or Fiona Williams of VSSG so we can update our database.**

**Meg Gadd: Ph 95848005 email: [gm1214.gadd@gmail.com](mailto:gm1214.gadd@gmail.com)  
Fiona Williams: Ph 98440623 email: [diuris@bigpond.net.au](mailto:diuris@bigpond.net.au)**



# Will *Salvia* stay united.....? Continued

Pat Anderson, Warrandyte, Vic – April 2018

In the last issue of *Salvia News* (Autumn 2018, no 71), I summarised an article by Drew et al (2017) that appeared in the scientific journal called '*Taxon*', the journal of the International Association of Taxonomy (classification). The essence of this article was that the huge genus of *Salvia*, albeit with 900 species, should be retained as such, and not divided into six separate genera, as had been suggested by a group of scientists in Germany earlier in the year (Will & Classen-Bockoff, 2017). The article by Drew et al also set out reasons to include an additional fifteen species from five other genera, including *Rosemarinus* and *Perovskia*.

The article was also significant because it included detailed nomenclature revisions (botanical descriptions) for all these additional species that the authors proposed to include within *Salvia*. In this way, they said the transfer would be formalised.

When I read that, my first reaction was, "No. Such changes have to go before the International Botanical Congress before they can be formally accepted". And then we were aware that at least one nursery, Flowers by the Sea in California, had embraced this change and was offering for sale a brand new *salvia* in 2018, namely *Salvia rosmarinus*.

As promised, I have pursued this matter. First of all I wrote to the authors who explained that because they have published detailed nomenclatural changes for the additional fifteen species within *Salvia*, this nomenclature is now valid. However, they added that it doesn't follow that other scientists will use this new nomenclature.

I then consulted some botanists at La Trobe and Melbourne Universities who corroborated the above. There is in fact NO general requirement for most name changes to be formally ratified at the international Botanical Congress. That only applies where the accepted rules of the code of nomenclature are being broken or bent. An example of that occurred a few years ago when it was deemed that the *Acacia* species in Australia were so different from those in South Africa that the genus should be split. The dilemma was that the genus was first named in South Africa, which meant that, by the terms of the Code of Nomenclature, the name *Acacia* should be retained for the South African species. However, because Australia has many times more species than South Africa, it was deemed sensible (practical) to retain the name *Acacia* for the Australian species. So this change had to be agreed on at an international level, and this actually happened.

Back to our *Salvia*/Rosemary dilemma. There is no ultimate arbiter of correct names and it basically is up to users to decide which names to use. It's possible that both systems of naming will exist side by side for some years. To quote Dr. Mike Bayly from Melbourne University Botany Department,... "basically, anarchy rules".

So there you have it. Flowers by the Sea nursery has jumped on the bandwagon where Rosemary is concerned, although I have no idea what they are doing with *Perovskia* or the other three genera. I would expect, however, that most nurseries would prefer to stick with the status quo, especially if they have invested in piles of printed labels. Only time will tell but it probably doesn't really affect us as a *Salvia* Group. We can decide what we study.

It's interesting to note that below the *Salvia* Display Garden at Nobelius is a garden that is almost a continuation of the central path of the *Salvia* Garden, flanked on either side by beds of Rosemary! Perhaps the Shire of Yarra Ranges knew what was coming?

## References

- Drew, T. D., Gonz  les-Gallegos, J. G., Xiang, C-L., Kriebel, R., Drummond, C. P., Walker, J. B., Sytsma, K.J., 2017. *Taxon* 66 (1) pp 133-145. "*Salvia* united: The greatest good for the greatest number"
- Will, M. and Classen-Bockoff, R., 2017. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 109 pp 33 -58. "Time to split *Salvia* s.l. (Lamiaceae) – New insights from Old World *Salvia* phylogeny"

# Notes from Gruyere - Autumn/Winter 2018

Meg Bentley, Gruyere, Vic

It has been so dry these past 3 months for us in Gruyere, so dry that it brought back memories of drought times and reminded me about stories of old and the early pioneers especially in the outback when the lady of the home saved every drop of water for drinking, cooking and the weekly wash. Anything left over... even 1 cup or so was given lovingly to a treasured plant, just to keep it alive until the next rains came.

Well, with 300 or so 'treasured plants', the watering here certainly has been measured out, especially in pots and containers. Salvias throughout the gardens have to hold on until the rains come! Our Autumn seems to have turned into the last of Summer and we will most likely go into Winter mode without the autumnal colouring of leaves, they too have suffered and dropped their foliage.

I won't be pruning any sad or 'dead' looking salvias until a real change in the weather comes. Any pruning done at this stage will only open up the plants to extra sunburn and any new growth or shoots lower down will only get scorched. Fortunately I do know they will recover even if it is lower down the plant, this I have seen in times of drought before.

Autumn is usually a good time to propagate plants which can still be done into winter. Select the material that is not too stressed to propagate and leave it in a tray of diluted seasol or maxicrop to 'freshen up' for an hour or two or leave it overnight. Remove the necessary foliage on stems either one or two nodes up the stem and place the cuttings into a mix of soil and perlite, use fine gravel as well if you want to strike grey foliage plants. Place pots into a tray and gently water overhead with diluted seaweed mixture then place the tray in a shaded, cool spot overnight. I usually leave the pots standing in the tray to re-absorb the seaweed solution. I have just put in a tray of mixed salvia cuttings which included *Salvia dorisiana* which can suffer over a hot summer but I have placed the cuttings in a cool, shady spot and in keeping up the moisture, they haven't looked back. Other salvia cuttings have been *S. dolomitica*, *S. chionophylla*, *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'* and *Salvia 'Annie B'* and they are all holding up well.



**Salvia chinensis**



**Salvia koyamae**

The one garden area that has been constantly well attended to is the Asian Salvia Bed. These salvias have grown well and many are flowering and may continue blooming into Autumn, especially *Salvia chinensis* and *S. koyamae*. Others just starting to flower are *S. glabrescens*, *S. nipponica* var. *trisecta*, *S. nipponica* 'Crug Cream' and *S. bowleyana*.

# Notes from Gruyere Autumn/Winter 2018

*..continued from page 8*

These have needed overhead protection from the hot sun, so rather than cover them I have utilized pots of shrubby plants and trees placed near the salvias to give some shade and root protection. Keeping up the moisture for these plants has been vital since they are growing in hydrophobic, sandy soil, with roots from a nearby oak on one side and a cypress on the other.



**Asian Salvia Bed**



**Salvia nipponica var trisecta**

I am always on the lookout for any 'new' Asian salvia species or cultivars to add to this collection and because they are generally smaller plants, they are much easier to manage...in any climate. These salvias are also ideal as potted or container plants, especially the *Salvia nipponica* var *trisecta* which I have also successfully grown in a bonsai pot.

I should hope by the time this article is read we will have had some lovely rain to rejuvenate the gardens and to lift our spirits as well . So happy gardening to all!

## ***LIKE US ON FACEBOOK .....***

Check out the Salvia Study Group on Facebook.  
Thanks to Patrick Hogan, VSSG is now on Facebook.  
Any queries Patrick can be contacted by emailing;  
**patrick.hogan@optusnet.com**



# APOLOGY

On page 2 of Salvia News in the list of contacts for the VSSG, I had omitted the dot between 'patrick' and 'hogan' in Patrick Hogan's email address. It should have read;

**patrick.hogan@optusnet.com**

The email address on the 'Like us on Facebook' notice is correct.

If it hadn't been for someone seeking Patrick through his email and finding the email incorrect, so contacted me, then the mistake may not have been picked up.  
Your contact for any reason is always appreciated. Thankyou.

My sincere apologies to Patrick Hogan; My apology also to anyone who may have tried unsuccessfully to contact him without success. Please try again. I apologise for the inconvenience.

Sincerely,  
Beth Gilchrist - Editor / Salvia News



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

## SALVIA CARDS by Meg Bentley

only **\$10** pack  
(5 single flower or 5 assorted)  
**plus \$2.50** per pack posted

Postage rates given is for within Australia

Available at all VSSG functions and stalls.  
Mail orders phone Lyndi 9803 4534 or send to

VSSG  
844 Highbury Road,  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150

### MEG'S SALVIA CARDS ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Name .....

Address .....

..... Post code .....

Day time contact no .....

Email: .....

..... Assorted packs  
..... **or** Single Flower packs -  
..... *Salvia patens*  
..... *Salvia roemeriana*  
..... *Salvia microphylla var neurepia*  
..... *Salvia gesneraeflora 'Tequila'*  
..... *Salvia leucantha*  
..... Total packs @ \$10 per pack \$.....  
..... **Plus** \$2.50 per pack posted \$.....  
..... **Total Cost of Order** \$.....

# The seedy side of Salvias

*Vivienne Smith, Croydon Nth, Victoria*

I really enjoyed the visit to Pat Anderson's garden Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March. She has a lovely garden laid out in a beautiful bushland setting in Warrandyte. After a walk around the garden and a very nice lunch, we finished the afternoon with a talk and demonstration by Pat on how to collect and grow salvia seed. Pat had some good advice on using a good quality seed raising mix combined with perlite. She also advised that she had better success planting the seed in 6 inch (152 mm) pots and then sitting those pots in a tray and watering the seed by just putting water in the tray not directly on the potting medium. The seed is sprinkled on top of a nearly full pot. There seems to be a bit of a debate as to whether the seed should be covered or not because salvia seed apparently needs light to germinate. Someone mentioned that they use a light covering of vermiculite. It is also very important to label your seed straight away. We then ended the session with the opportunity to plant some salvia seed that Pat very generously supplied along with the pots and the potting medium.



I've only had one very unsuccessful attempt at growing salvias from seed. From Pat's seed I planted *S. taraxacifolia* a small growing perennial salvia with pink flowers. *S. columbariae* a small growing, blue flowering annual salvia. *S. texana* a smallish perennial purplish blue flowering salvia. *S. nanchuanensis* from china and a white form of *S. forskahlei*. The only salvia seed of my own that I have collected and planted so far is a clumping salvia with blue flowers. *S. cadmica*.

I opted to try the light covering of vermiculite and I'm very happy with the results so far. Hopefully I can get some nice plants from this. I have certainly been inspired to try growing more salvias and other plants by seed.



# LETTER

**EDITOR:** *Lee Andre so enjoyed a VSSG Garden Visit to Pat and John Anderson's of Warrandyte that she wanted to share with you her letter of thanks to them and part of the Pat's response.*

## ***IN APPRECIATION OF VSSG VISIT TO PAT AND JOHN ANDERSON'S GARDEN IN WARRANDYTE VIC, SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018***

*Hi Pat and John,*

*Thank you for a wonderful day last Sunday (25<sup>th</sup> March). Your garden always looks loved and well cared for. There were lots of positive chats around the garden.*

*You both are so generous with your knowledge, time and plants. A beautiful combination to offer people. The new guests were beaming and the visit was so worthwhile for them. (Pat spent time answering questions and giving them cuttings).*

*Pat, the seed workshop was so clear to follow. I did what you told us (Glad Wrap over pot and stand in small amount of water). I put mine outside under the shade of a gum tree amongst my other leafy pots. This morning I noticed all three pots had baby salvia leaves popping up (after only one week). I was so surprised it happened so quickly. I have taken Glad Wrap off but still have a little water in tray until they harden up. I am so excited, thank you so much Pat.*

*It is raining here this morning and my large leafed salvias are delighted as they are drooping.*

*Regards  
Lee Andre*

Pat answered my email saying that I should take the pots out of the water once the two cotyledon leaves appear as it is the perfect time for rot to set in if they get too damp. Also a little bit of Thrive fertilizer will help produce the next set of leaves. Pat also said that at this point, keep a look out for signs of snails and slugs (especially with the onset of some rain in Melbourne).

I actually put some self adhesive copper tape around the pots, about three quarters up from the base. Snails and slugs will not cross the tape – it gives them an electric shock, so they cannot reach the precious new leaves.

Pat said the next step is to wait for the actual salvia leaves to appear and harden up before repotting into individual pots.

We had a wonderful day as always connecting with like-minded people, great conversation, lots of excellent food and such a stunning, well-groomed garden to wander around.

Over the years, I have learnt so much from Pat and John and I am positive that they will continue to guide us with their knowledge.

## LETTER

Regularly, Fiona Williams sends out news of coming Salvia events to keep us busy. However, in March when most people were still suffering from hot and very dry conditions Fiona reported that so many of her plants in pots were suffering dreadfully, even though she was watering regularly. It turns out that a clue to the solution came in one of Fiona's sentences. "But at least half of my *microphylla* and *greggii* cuttings were sitting in a spot with no drainage (ie a puddle!) so they are looking much better."

Let me tell you about a very revealing Professional Development session I had when I worked in the Horticulture Department of Holmesglen TAFE. We weighed large potted plants, then watered them in several ways and reweighed them. The pots that took up most water were, wait for it, pots that had been stood in saucers of water.

Unfortunately, if you water a pot from the top, channels form quickly in the mix and the water escapes. If you use a saucer which can hold a reasonable amount of water, leave the pot in the saucer for at least an hour but preferably overnight. If you also have newish mix with slow release fertiliser you, like me, will be astounded at the growth of your plants.

Many saucers from nurseries with a depth of 50 to 100mm are good but in our area people occasionally put old frypans on the nature strip. If you take the handle off these they make great, wide, deep saucers. I hope that helps you to prepare for next summer.

Graham Ellis  
The Herb Society of Victoria  
9830 5186

## SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN

**Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald Vic** *For directions see map on page 20.*

*Photo Patrick Hogan*



# Salvia News

## Victorian Salvia Study Group

A branch of the Herb Society of Victoria Inc.

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## HAIRY PANIC *Beth Gilchrist, Temora NSW*

This season in Temora and its surrounds, it has been particularly hot and dry and very windy. With these type of conditions, *Hairy Panic*, (perhaps you know it as *Tumbleweed*, or *Umbrella Grass*) is particularly rampant. The locals tell me it was brought into Australia because it grows on barren ground to supposedly feed the stock. Unfortunately the stock don't like it, and it is said that it was released by accident. Now its an ongoing pest in these excessively dry and windy conditions.



This is my garden somewhere underneath, you can just see the fence in the corner, we have dust as well just to make things interesting, wind very strong from the north west. The joys of living in the bush.

**Lila Warren / President, Temora & Local Districts Garden Club**

There are two different types, Umbrella Grass (left of inset photo above) looks like an umbrella frame, Hairy Panic (right of inset photo above) is like a tree where you can see the seeds at the end of each & every branch. They are both around this year but Hairy Panic is by far the worst.

Norman and I live at the edge of town. The other side of the road at the end of our street are clear paddocks which is easy for the Hairy Panic to travel. You don't have to leave town to see it travelling down the street, its everywhere, just more of it in open spaces. You can see how fine it is in the inset pic above, much finer than a pine needle and easily carried in even a light breeze.

You can see how thick it can get, it smothers everything and of course there will now be seeds everywhere for a very long time.

It's hard work to get rid of, it was suggested we use to use a blower to get it off the garden and into one area, wet it down well, then bag it and it has to be crushed inside the bag as you go to prevent it flying out again. It takes considerable time and its often back again before you have even finished the job. Can you imagine how long it took for Lila to get the above garden sorted.

The locals just take it in their stride. Its just another nuisance when its drought like conditions and everyone just hopes for rain sooner than later.





## IN THE GARDEN

*Photos by Patrick Hogan*

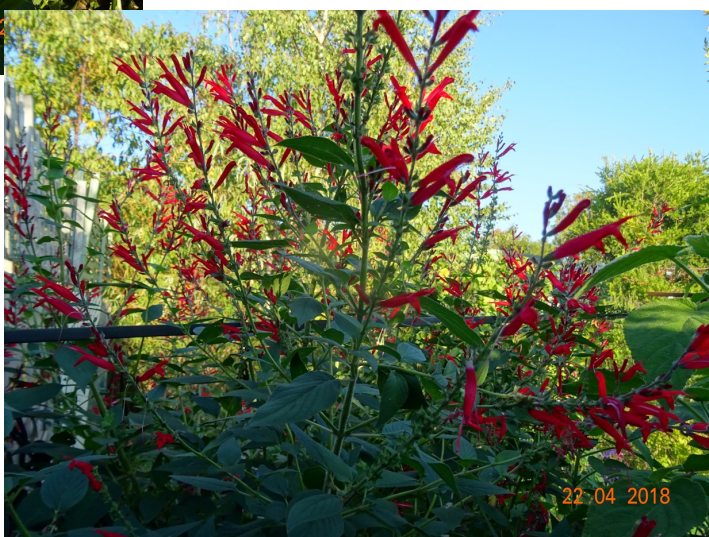
Above: Bee on a *Salvia josh*

Right:  
Honey eater is on a  
*Salvia involucrata* 'bethellii'



Left: *Salvia madrensis*

Below:  
*Salvia elgans* 'pineapple sage'



*Editor: Patrick Hogan has a lovely garden always with something of interest and so much colour. He often shares photos and has allowed us to share with you.*

*Patrick takes many photos for VSSG at the Salvia Display Garden at Nobeliuss Heritage Park, Emerald and other venues too.*

*The photos today are all taken in his garden.*



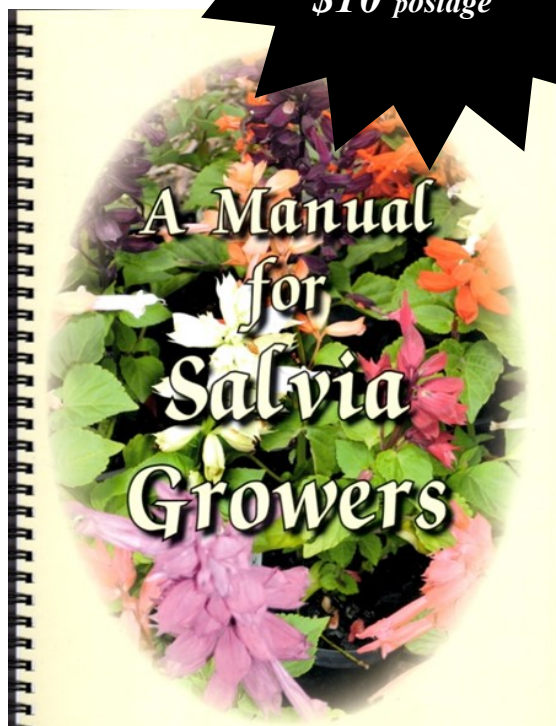
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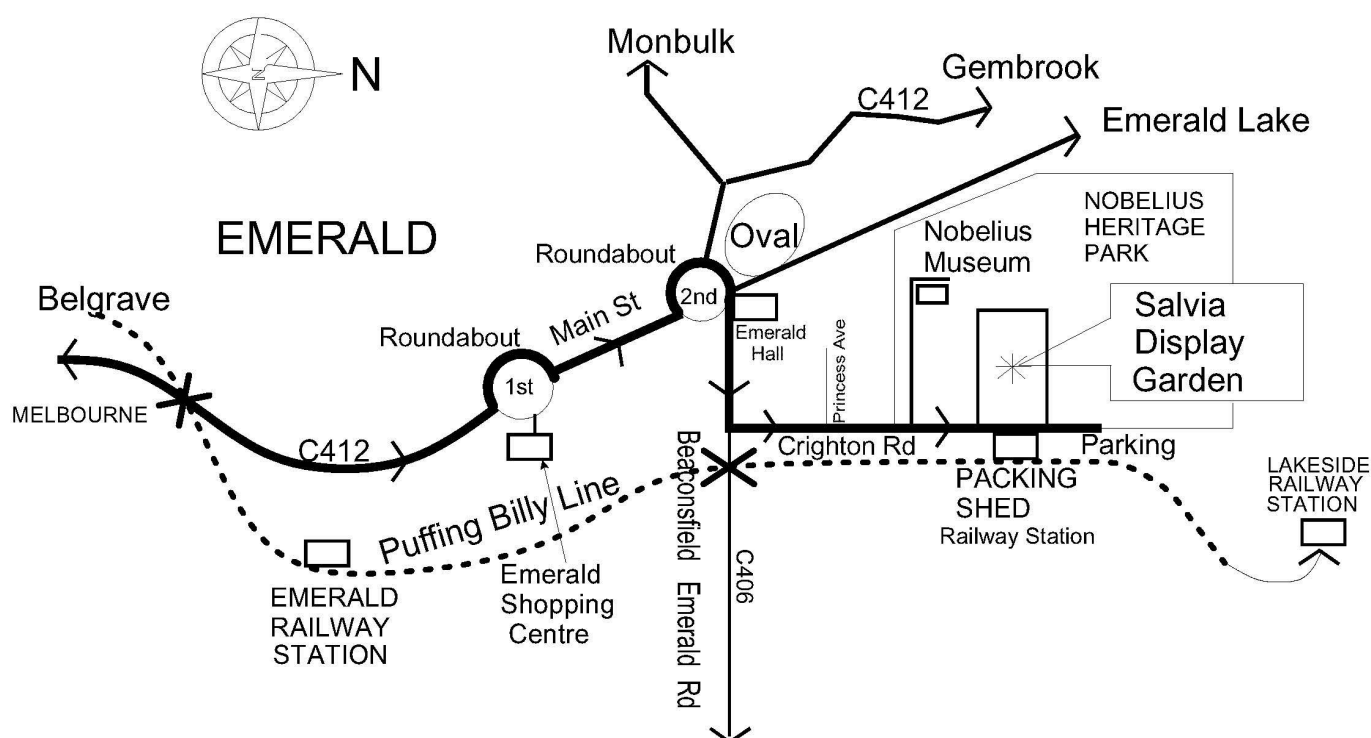
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