

# Salvia News

NUMBER 73



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

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

Spring 2018

# **THE VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP**

## **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 4534
SECRETARY TREASURER	Heather Lucas Gordon Donaldson	03 9879 5365 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
PR & PUBLICITY	Fiona Williams	0417 323 785
FACEBOOK	Patrick Hogan patrick.hogan@optusnet.com	
SEED SUPPLIER PLANT SALES & ENQUIRIES	Lyndi Garnett Jillian Barkell Lyndi Garnett	03 9803 4534 03 9756 6361 03 9803 4534

The views expressed by the contributors of this publication are not necessarily those of the *Editor* or the *Committee* of this Study Group. While every effort is made to publish reliable information, the use of the information is at the discretion of the individual. The Victorian Salvia Study Group takes no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed and it does not offer treatment or advice.

## **SALVIA NEWS SUBMISSIONS**

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

**Please post your copy to:**

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

**email:**

**editor.salvianews@gmail.com**



# SALVIA NEWS

**VICTORIAN SALVIA STUDY GROUP**

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

## Welcome!

So much has been happening, is happening for The Victorian Salvia

Study Group as most of you are now aware.

After more than 25 years, the VSSG has made a break away from the parent organisation The Herb Society of Victoria. Much work has been undertaken in the setup and to become incorporated and all that incorporation involves. It wasn't completed at the time of going to print. 'Subscribers' have become 'Members' of the VSSG. Much of the information is available on the VSSG website, [www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au)

More information will be included in the Summer edition of *Salvia News*.

In the meantime, please find a copy of the *History of the Group* by Lyndi Garnett and a *History of the Nobelius Display Garden* that I wrote a few years ago using notes in the file of Trudi Fry and after speaking to some of the Founding Members prior to writing. Additional articles have been added about the Display Garden so that you can see how much work has been done and is ongoing. Most of the photos have once again been taken by Patrick Hogan.

Lyndi has been at the helm since the beginning. A couple of the founding members have passed. So much has been achieved and well worth a second look.

Congratulations to all involved over the years. What an exciting year ahead too. Read more beginning on page 9.

Adrienne Starkey of The Perennial Poppies is the SE Queensland writer this week and a read that many will relate to, page 7.

It's a 24 page read this Season and hope you all enjoy.

Here in Temora we have had such a cold winter with weeks of frosts with only a day or two off at a time. Its been such a dry season still, in fact its been such a dry year to date. We are finding that in the areas of the garden that are becoming a little more sheltered many plants are still struggling because of the cold. Its often down to minus 4 for much of the night, and still below zero at 8am in the morning. Bird baths are still frozen at lunch time. Skies are clear and blue, sun shines, and if there isn't any wind and you are warmly dressed, it can be a pleasure working outside. One day we had a short shower of rain and with it a short hail storm where the hail had to be brushed from my hair and clothes before coming inside. The garden and surrounds were covered in white. Poor plants, more ice.

Our most established garden is about 16 months old but there are also gardens of only a few months. We have lots of new salvias for planting sitting on the verandah waiting until overnight temperatures are above zero degrees. Even winter flowering plants including *S. 'Timboon'*, *S. madrensis*, *S. Anthony Parker* and more are struggling. Others that are burnt will have to be left until the temperatures rise some, and new shoots are appearing before being trimmed back. Many of the plants trimmed late Autumn early Winter perhaps should have been left but it wasn't this cold last year.

We are using rice straw as mulch which the birds don't like (pity our puppy still does) but the rain still penetrates and gives better protection for all seasons.

Hope you fared the season okay, would love to hear about it. [editor.salvianews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.salvianews@gmail.com)  
Until next time, happy gardening  
Beth Gilchrist

## INSIDE.....

<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>Summer at Nobelius 2018</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Subscription/Membership Form</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Autumn at Nobelius 2018</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>News from Ormeau, SE Qld</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Events at VSSG Display Garden</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Mail Order Shopping Order Form</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Winter Flowering Salvias</b>	<b>18/19</b>
<b>VSSG Has Gone It Alone</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>SN Subscription Renewals Now Overdue</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>In the Beginning - VSSG</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>Like Us On Facebook</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>History of Display Garden in Pictures</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>Update with Fiona Williams</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>History of Display Garden at Nobelius</b>	<b>14/15</b>	<b>STOP PRESS</b>	<b>22</b>
		<b>Manual for Salvia Growers - Order Form</b>	<b>23</b>

Salvia News COPY DEADLINE Summer

**17 October 2018**

# Events Calendar of

*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. Some events the hosts need to know numbers prior to the event.*

**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.**

**Sep 9 Sun 11am**

### **VSSG MEMBERS LUNCHEON**

**Nobelius Heritage Park, Mel: 127 G4**

**Crighton Rd, Emerald, under the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy line**

All members/subscribers, new and old are cordially invited to attend our Members Luncheon. This is our way of saying thankyou for joining and supporting the Salvia Study Group.

Tea/Coffee and lunch will be provided by the Committee, just bring a chair and rug up and bags for leaves ( if wanted). An opportunity to see what has been happening at Nobelius this year and to meet the other committee members.

**VSSG Members Luncheon. It's a great day, not to be missed, please join us!**  
For catering purposes, please phone Lyndi if you are coming. Ph 03 9803 4534

**Sep 23rd Sun 11am**

### **ELLY ROOS GARDEN VISIT**

**Lemon Tree Cottage**

**9 Ferguson St, Upwey Mel: 74 H9**

It's a magnificent garden, full of Salvias and other treasures, beautifully landscaped. Bring a plate to share and appropriate clothing for the weather. Being Spring, the weather can be rather fickle.

Ring Elly if you are coming Ph 97526712

**Sep 22, 23 Sat & Sun 10am – 4pm**

### **YEA GARDEN EXPO**

**Yea Saleyards surrounds, Flatlead Road, Yea**

see website for directions or follow signs on the day

[www.yeagardenexpo.com.au](http://www.yeagardenexpo.com.au) or contact [yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au)

**\$5.00 adults. Children free. Free parking.**

This event offers a wide range and variety of specialty plants, trees, bulbs, tools, machinery, garden sheds, books, and much more. An interesting speakers program as well as a plant crèche will be available. Gardeners will be spoilt for choice with such a range to choose from.

**Oct 6, 7 Sat & Sun 10am -4pm**

### **GARDEN LOVERS FAIR**

**Bolobek gardens – Macedon Rd, Macedon**

Great stalls of rare plants and artefacts and the possibility of walking through the beautiful Bolobek gardens. Salvia plants, books and seed will be available Please email Lyndi your wish list so you don't miss out.

# Calendar of Events

**Oct 21 Sun - Noon—4pm**

## **IVANHOE GARDEN CLUB FESTA**

Bellfield Community Centre

Cnr Oriel Road & Banksia St, Ivanhoe

**Mel: 31 D4**

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 **Mel: 61 E12**

Stephensons Road & Miller Cres 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

# **Salvia News**

Victorian Salvia Study Group

## **NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / MEMBERSHIP**

### **NOT FOR RENEWALS**

Any queries, phone Meg Gadd – see details below

Name : .....

Address : .....

Suburb/Town: ..... State: ..... Postcode: .....

Phone : ..... Email.....

Annual Subscription 1 year (4 issues)

Hard copy posted \$20.00

On-line \$15.00

Subscribe for a Friend

Name: .....

Address: .....

Suburb/Town: ..... State: ..... Postcode: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

Payment Details: Fill in the form and send to Subscription Officer;

Meg Gadd

Subscription Officer

Victorian Salvia Study Group

82 Devon St, Cheltenham, Vic. 3192

Ph. (03) 95848005 Email: **gm1214.gadd@gmail.com**

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

2. Direct Deposit: Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 A/c No: 116846122

Account Name: Victorian Salvia Study Group Branch

Surname & Initial (Admin purposes only)

**A form must be completed with all forms of payment**

# News from Ormeau, South-East Queensland

*Adrienne Starkey of The Perennial Poppies Group Inc*

There have been a number of articles in recent times telling of lifestyle changes, often downsizing due to a need for lower maintenance because of health issues. The lucky (and usually much younger ones) are up-sizing! My husband and I have had “the talk”, and I do know that our time here on our two acre hillside must, by necessity, be limited. However, I’m fighting it! We have help now with hedging and some mowing, and that makes staying for a bit longer, (a few years), quite possible.

Even within one’s own garden, changes to style and choice of plants can happen, and this has gradually been the case here, as my plantings of rainforest trees have grown to such an extent, that much of my garden is now shady. I’m having to choose quite different plants and experiment with placement and position of many, most especially my much-loved salvias.

None will flourish in deep dark shade, but it has surprised me how many will do just fine in lower light levels, or with significantly less hours of sunlight than I ever would have thought possible. *Salvia splendens* are the obvious success stories for shade, and of these, I have quite a colour range. Allied with this group, the three “Wishes” all do very well too. My favourite is *S. ‘Ember’s Wish’*, lighting up dark corners – I have some planted near *Eranthemum pulchella*, and the warm apricot-orange of this salvia looks lovely near the light blue of the eranthemum.

Salvias *bethellii* and ‘Coconut Ice’, both involucrata types, only need a touch of sun in the mornings to flower well. They’ve both been a treat this winter. *S. madrensis* is in full, but bright shade, and due to (I think) unusually regular rainfall up here, has not stopped flowering since last winter.

I have a parterre style vegetable patch, and that has become so shaded, I now only grow leafy greens in it. To utilise the space more fully, I planted lots of microphylla and greggii in there. I always over propagate, and this was a good way, as it turns out, of using them up. I wasn’t expecting too much, florally speaking, but the results have been really surprising. Salvias ‘Blaze’, ‘Sparkle’, ‘Iced Lemon’, ‘Mrs Bucket’, ‘Angel Wings’, ‘Musk’ and ‘bicolour’ to name but a few, have excelled. The most sunlight any have received, has been three hours daily, some much less, and all have flowered with great vigour. My favourite in that bed is *S. ‘Garron’*. Its’ clear light red flowers persist for most of the year and are large for a microphylla, as are the leaves. Probably, it is not the most popular of colours, but for sheer floral enthusiasm, this salvia should be planted more.

In one of the few sunny spots, though actually quite a harsh position, exposed to winds, and on rocky ground, I have a thriving *S. dolomitica*. Not often successful in our subtropical climate, it seems to appreciate the tougher position. It’s coming into bud now, and on the back of its success, I’ve planted *S. ‘Greek Skies’* nearby. It’s a gamble in our humidity, but I felt it might do well in this similar position. Cross fingers!

I’m beginning to think that whilst light is important for successful salvias, even more important is the need for good drainage. As mentioned, we are on a hillside, so the garden is very well drained by default. My *S. leucantha* varieties, ‘Midnight’, ‘Pink Velour’ and ‘Santa Barbara’ all have less than ideal levels of sunlight, but flower away despite this, and I’m sure it’s just the fact of having good drainage.

In future, I’ll be much less frightened of planting traditional sun-lovers in shadier areas. At worst, they might grow a little leggy, and maybe produce a few less flowers, but best of all, I’ll still have them.

*Editor: Adrienne has advised that “there is much more pink in this photo, *Salvia ‘Garron’* is more of a light red “. One Salvia that grows and flowers very well in the shade is *Salvia miniata*.*



*Salvia ‘Garron’*

# 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 on page 23



## Salvia Cards - *Meg Bentley*

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

Plus \$2.50 per pack posted

.....	<b>Assorted</b> packs
<u>or</u>	<b>Single Flower</b> packs -
.....	<i>Salvia patens</i>
.....	<i>Salvia roemeriana</i>
.....	<i>Salvia microphylla</i> var <i>neurepia</i>
.....	<i>Salvia gesneraeiflora</i> 'Tequila'
.....	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
.....	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 Victorian 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: .....

# **VSSG HAS GONE IT ALONE.....**

***IS BECOMING AN INCORPORATED BODY;***

***SUBSCRIBERS ARE NOW MEMBERS;***

***AGM AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.***

The letter below was tabled at a meeting of the Herb Society of Victoria on 23 May 2018 and accepted. After more than 25 years, the Victorian Salvia Study Group has gone it alone and will become an Incorporated Body in its own right. The Herb Society's Insurance didn't cover subscribers, the new insurance from 1 July 2018 through the Royal Horticultural Society covers members and helpers of the VSSG.

'Subscribers', now 'Members' have been advised, and given the opportunity of electing a new Committee at the Inaugural Annual General Meeting to be held on 29 July 2018.

Once the Annual General Meeting was concluded and the proposed set of Rules was accepted, the process of Incorporating the Victorian Salvia Study Group would be completed, all in accordance with the Incorporation Act.

Results will be printed in the next Salvia News. In the meantime there is further information on the VSSG website or contact Lyndi Garnett on telephone 03 9803 4534 with any queries.

***23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018***

***Dear Robyn, Madam President,***

***The Victorian Salvia Study Group wishes to advise that we would like to leave the Herb Society, to be released from our position of a Branch of the Herb Society. At our last meeting, a motion was passed unanimously that the Salvia Study Group should leave the Herb Society. We hope that this departure can be amicable to both Groups. The proposed date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018***

***We would like to thank the Society for their continued ongoing support all these years and for the friendships formed and the exchange of knowledge during those years and hope that those friendships will continue into the future.***

***As a Branch of the Herb Society, it has become clear that the Salvia Study Group is moving beyond the interests of the Herb Society. We intend to continue as an independent body under the same name from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018***

***We look forward to continuing the interaction of both Groups in the pursuit of gardening and plant knowledge.***

# IN THE BEGINNING...

## Victorian Salvia Study Group (VSSG)

*Lyndi Garnett .....2014*

In the beginning, way back then, in early 1989, the Herb Society of Victoria placed an ad in The Herb Age asking for those who were interested in growing Salvias to attend a meeting, for like minded Salvia collectors. I was very interested as I thought I had a lot of Salvias – I had four Salvias!!

We met at Trudi Fry's house, early in Autumn, with the weather still very mild and warm. There were eight of us seated around her big table. At that stage no one seemed to know anyone else, but everyone knew Ray Boatman. Obviously Ray knew Trudi well and Trudi may have known Melwyn Fleay at that stage.

Standing beside Ray was a small man with a wonderful warm smile and cheerful eyes – Bill Whitehead. He then introduced himself as the rep for the OPCA – as it was then (Ornamental Plant Collections Association) – the extra 'A' in the title came later and later became known as the GPCAA.

Bill told us about his extensive collection of Salvias, which put the rest of us to shame as none of us had many more than about six different Salvias.

Bill emphasized the importance of collecting, growing and keeping lists of our personal Salvia collections, as he believed that many Salvias were being lost through building development and carelessness of not keeping seed or records of collections. Thus unofficially the Salvia Study Group was born.

After that short meeting we said that we would all keep in touch and really start to collect Salvias and we had a brief tour of Trudi's garden, but I had to leave to pick up children from School. At that stage I didn't know the Dandenong Ranges very well so I almost got lost on the way home.

A few weeks later Ray phoned up and asked me to come up to Melwyn Fleay's garden in Healesville – again I hadn't any idea of the distance or the travel time. When I arrived Ray, Trudi, Melwyn and one other from the meeting were there walking around her beautiful garden. It was at that time we received pieces of *Salvia involucrata* spp. Ray and Trudi were able to strike it successfully, I had to wait to eventually receive a plant.

A few months later at a Herb Society meeting, Ray announced that Mark Dimiotis had kindly donated his front garden for the use of growing Salvias. We being at that stage, Ray, Trudi and myself with the help of Jill Bryant, Helen Fallshaw, Graham and Velda Ellis then went down to Mark's place and began planning and planting out the front garden with the few plants that we had acquired and scraped together from anywhere we could find them.

I should mention that at that stage, Graham and Velda had a nursery, selling herbs and Salvias from their home in Canterbury. They were able to supply quite a few Salvias for both Hampton and Nobelius.

In 1991 Ray received a letter from the OPCA, suggesting that the Herb Society hold a collection of Salvias for the OPCA and would they consider having a Salvia Study group within their midst upon which the Group was formally begun. It was also about this time that Ray was granted a piece of land by the Emerald City Council as a trial plot for the growing of Salvias. This was situated just below the Emerald Museum in the Nobelius Heritage Park.

Ray then drew up a design of the proposed Salvia trial garden and we proceeded to have working bee's to plant it out. Ray was very proud of this plot and worked tirelessly to find new plants for the plot.

Of course all through this period there was a huge amount of correspondence to find anyone who had any Salvias in their nurseries, anyone who had Salvia collections and to be able to buy seed from overseas nurseries. We were also trying to find the correct information about the Salvias that we had and knew about. Copious number of visits were made to the Herbarium to sort through their information which seemed out of date, scrabbling through Flora's and any books on Salvias to find up to date information on names, so many names were old names no longer in use.

We also kept copious amounts of lists, noting any relevant information on cards which were kept and then presented to the OPCA for their records.

*Continued on page 11...*

# IN THE BEGINNING...

## Victorian Salvia Study Group (VSSG) ...continued from page

We were also grabbing any new Salvias we could find and of course not knowing what they were or how they grew, we planted them in both gardens. Had we known then about *S. guaranitica*, I don't think we would have planted it – it became a weed in Mark's garden until we pulled it all out. Mark's garden was then registered officially as a collection for the OPCA in 1993.

All through this time we were holding regular meetings, many being held at the Ellis's home. At one of these meetings – (all had even at that time a wonderful spread of food), Ray introduced us to Elly, who we were informed had a magnificent garden in Upwey and was an avid Salvia collector (who later became our first Treasurer) and who opened her garden for us to visit and to the Open Garden Scheme as Lemon Tree Cottage. Many will remember the wonderful garden visits we've had admiring and ogling at all her beautiful Salvias plants.

It was also in the early 90's that we became aware of Sue Templeton's Unlimited Perennial Nursery in Albury. Most of us were in regular contact with her trying to obtain more of her Salvias. Some members even took the journey to Albury and Lavington to buy, bringing back some wonderful treasures which we all eagerly wanted to know more about and had to wait until cuttings were ready to distribute.

It was through Sue's efforts and contacts in America and elsewhere that she was able to bring in seed and introduce so many new species and hybrids to Australia. We are extremely indebted to Sue for all the work she has done in increasing our knowledge about Salvias.

It was also about this time that Meg Bentley came upon us and decided to join our small band of Salvia enthusiasts. Her tale can be told in another saga of the Group.

As with all groups, as they are growing and developing, some people leave and others find us and join our little band, while others remain to continue. We are indebted to all those wonderful people who helped build the Group to what it is today and without the work, the help, the promotions of the Group of people like Ray Boatman, Bill Whitehead, Trudi Fry, Graham and Velda Ellis, the help of Jill Bryant, Mark Dimiotis and Elly, we wouldn't be here today.

Of that original meeting all those years ago, some people we didn't see again, while others having retired from active service still follow our activities through the Salvia News.

I'm beginning to feel a bit lonely as I'm the only one from that wonderful initial meeting of decades past still actively engaged in the activities of the Group. I'm so pleased to have been present at that inaugural meeting in 1989.

\* OPCA , Ornamental Plant Collection Association.  
later OPCAA, Ornamental Plant Collection Association of Australia. - later  
GPCA, Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia Inc. now called Plant Trust (GPCAA)  
As you can see, the 'collection' has changed to 'conservation'

**On the 23 May 2018, we tabled our resignation at a General Meeting of the Herb Society of Victoria, our parent organisation for more than 25 years, the resignation was accepted.** The Herb Society's insurance didn't cover our subscribers, so it was time for the VSSG to move on. At a recent Committee Meeting it was unanimously agreed by all present that after more than 25 years, the Victorian Salvia Study Group was to go it alone and become an Incorporated body in its own right. VSSG being a member of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV), insurance has been taken out to cover not only the committee but all paid up members/subscribers of VSSG at meetings and venues of the Group.

Once the Annual General Meeting is concluded and proposed set of Rules accepted, the process of Incorporating the Victorian Salvia Study Group would be completed, all in accordance with the Incorporation Act. The VSSG Privacy Policy is also being put together which will be in place in addition to the Privacy Act of Australia that we all abide by. VSSG Rules and Privacy Policy will be available for all members on request. The VSSG is strictly following the Incorporation Guidelines in all of the above.

It's a big move, a lot of work, but it is to ensure that this non profit Study Group of volunteers continues for the next generation, to grow and enjoy salvias today and in the future.

# SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN

## Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald

### HISTORY IN PICTURES

by *Patrick Hogan*



Original Salvia Beds



November 2003



Just Beginning Feb 2007



End of the day Feb 2007



April 2007



December 2007

# SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN

## Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald

### HISTORY IN PICTURES

*Patrick Hogan & Lyndi Garnett*



Nobelius Garden Day Oct 2009



Nobelius Working Bee May 2010



Christmas 2010



January 2015



17 April 2016



May 2018

# HISTORY OF VSSG DISPLAY GARDEN AT NOBELIUS HERITAGE PARK

*Beth Gilchrist*

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 Seeds-men'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**

*References: Trudi Fry's files as an original member of the Group, and the lady who set up and edited Salvia News for almost 20 years: and discussions with others who were part of the original setup of the Group*

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

### **AIMS**

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

*Continued on page 15...*

# HISTORY OF DISPLAY GARDEN AT NOBELIUS

*...continued from page 14*

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 were 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.

# Summer in Nobelius 2018

*Lyndi Garnett, VSSG Salvia Co-ordinator*

Summer in Nobelius was a very prolonged hot and dry season, without much moisture during the summer months, nor even the autumn months.

Don't forget we DON'T WATER these plants, the Salvias have to survive, and survive they did. Except a few young newly planted Salvias at the end of 2017, we didn't lose any plants.

As the dry continued, the big leaf Salvias began to look bedraggled and forlorn with their leaves just hanging, looking a bit yellow. Interestingly, most plants still held their leaves, not dropping them as in previous dry years.

It was worthwhile walking through the garden to see how the plants were coping and what

was actually still growing and flowering. These weather conditions showed what could cope with the heat and the dry and what could not. It was the South African and Mediterranean Salvias that coped very well, still standing upright and green, some even beginning to flower. Many of the small greggii and microphylla's were still flowering beautifully presenting a cheery face for those walking through the garden.

I think many of the larger leaf Salvias coped by the shelter given by the Pin Oaks and the Flowering Cherries on either side of the garden from the blazing sun and the heat from the north/westerlies that come up the slope. Their leaves were already dropping covering the ground and helping to keep the ground cooler for their roots.

Most gardens always look hot and dry when the sun is blazing, and it's 25C+, but when you have lots of small Salvias flowering, the garden look so much better, and the situation doesn't seem so dire!



**January 2018**



**2017 Annual Salvia Plant Sale at Nobelius. PHOTO PATRICK HOGAN**  
Next will be held Sunday 18 Nov 2018, check Calendar of Events for details

# Autumn in Nobelius 2018

*Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald*

*Lyndi Garnett*

This is the year of the “Big Dry”. In fact, we didn’t receive any decent rain until April, anything else was only a little perspiration dripping down from those above. Now in the middle of April we’ve had a good lot of rain as well as some light moisture and all the leaves from the Pin Oaks have come down with a flourish.

Although the sky is grey, the flowers look magnificent, there is something about the light that makes the colour of the flowers look clear and illuminесcent.

At the moment most of the tall winter flowering Salvias are in full bud, just waiting for the parrots to come and nip them off before they’ve opened!! There are so many Salvias in flower at the moment, it’s a glorious sight when you can see the different hues of purple in the S. leucantha’s mixed with the vibrant S. ‘Anthony Parker’ and then the S. mexicana’s ‘Bill Whitehead’ and ‘Lolly’ with their almost black calyxes. This is contrasted with the startling purple and white of S. ‘Meigan’s Magic’ and the cerise of S. curviflora and the dark crimson of S. ‘Ripe Raspberry’. They all certainly make a picture to behold.

Then on the other side, we have a gorgeous red S. ‘Mystique’ and S. microphylla var neurepia in full flower, with the pale blue brushes of S. polystachya behind, close by is the S. lasiantha, just coming out showing it’s 3 colours of pink/ mauve calyx, it’s yellow buds and then it’s orange flowers. What a stunning show, all contrasting well with a nearby purple S. ‘Anthony Parker’ and the S. leucantha’ White Velour’ and other small red microphylla’s and greggii shrubs. It is certainly wonderful to stand in the middle, slowly turn around and take in the magnificent panoramic vista of all of these beautiful flowers, and then to see the little Eastern Spinebills flitting through the shrubs and Black Cockies crying overhead. Sometimes we don’t realise just how lucky we are to have such a scene before us on every side of the path.

Nobelius is such a restful place, to contemplate, to de-stress, so therapeutic after a hard day “at the office” or in “the traffic”. It’s a great place to spend some quiet “me time”, shuffling through the leaves, seeing all the Autumn colours, watching the birds, listening to Puffing Billy passing before heading back to hectic life of suburbia.

## GARDENING DAYS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER EVENTS AT THE VSSG DISPLAY GARDEN

The Display Garden takes considerable time and effort for it to remain in a good condition. It is mostly managed by Lyndi Garnett and Jillian Barkell on an almost fortnightly basis on a Wednesday. When they are lucky, a few people may assist. Not only do many hands make light work, it is also a great learning curve and of course the helpers may take home free cuttings for propagating for their own gardens. Experienced or new to Salvias, all are welcome, please contact Lyndi on telephone 03 9803 4534 to let her know you are coming.

A few times a year in the warmer months, there is a Working Bee, usually one held on a Wednesday and another on a Sunday, so that more people are able to attend. These days are a social day with a shared lunch with other salvia enthusiasts, and like Gardening Days, helpers get to take home free cuttings for propagating. It’s a great way to learn about the different salvias and their maintenance for lots of colour in your own garden. Don’t forget that it only takes 6 to 8 weeks after pruning to bring most salvias back into flower. Its good to know so that you can ensure your salvias are in flower for special occasions.

The Display Garden is open seven days a week. There is free parking and a lovely spot for a picnic. Remember to check the website Calendar regularly for additional and changes to events. [www.salvias.org.au](http://www.salvias.org.au) There is more information about the events below on the Calendar of Events this issue on pages 4 & 5.

**Sep 9 Sun 11am**

### **VSSG MEMBERS LUNCHEON**

**Nobelius Heritage Park,**

**Crighton Rd, Emerald, under the Packing Shed, along the Puffing Billy line Mel: 127 G4**

**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**

# WINTER FLOWERING SALVIAS

Patrick Hogan, Ferntree Gully Vic



Salvia 'Violet Eyes'



Salvia wagneriana



Salvia concolor



Salvia miniata



Salvia 'Meigan's Magic'

A small selection of winter flowering Salvias from the many available.

### ***Salvia 'Violet Eyes'***

forms loose clumps 140-150cm x appros 60-80cm. Continuous blooms from late Winter to Autumn

### ***Salvia wagneriana***

large shrubby perennial 1.5-2m x 1.5m. Flowers Winter to Spring.

***Salvia concolor*** perennail , shrub. 1.5-2m Flowers Autumn to Spring.

***Salvia miniata*** Shrubby perennial, 1 m x 1 m, Frost tender but grows well in filtered to light and part shade.

### ***Salvia 'Megan's Magic'***

Height approx. 1.2 x 1 m

### ***Salvia mystique***

Should you like some more information on these or other salvias, check the VSSG website, Meg Bentley's 'A Manual for Salvia Growers', VSSG Facebook page. There are people who may be able to answer your questions.



Salvia mystique

# WINTER FLOWERING SALVIAS

Patrick Hogan, Ferntree Gully

## *Salvia madrensis*

Tall perennial, 1.5-1.6 x 1.1-1.4m

Flowers late Autumn-Winter

*Salvia* 'Romantic Rose' 2 metres

## *Salvia semiatrata*

Bushy perennial, 1.4-1.5 x 1m. Blooms on and off late Spring to Winter

*Salvia discolor* 50-60cm.

## *Salvia forskaohlii*

80-90 x 60cm. Flowers Spring to Autumn



Salvia madrensis



Salvia 'Romantic Rose'



Salvia semiatrata



Salvia discolor



Salvia forskaohlii

## **SALVIA NEWS SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE**

***All subscriptions to the Salvia News are due in June each year for the coming 12 months.***

Those subscribers who receive the hardcopy (ie. printed) edition and have not renewed yet, could you please complete the **Renewal Form** enclosed with this Spring 2018 edition of Salvia News **enclosing your cheque or details of your direct deposit into the account given on the form and POST with your Renewal Form to the Subscription Officer.**  
If you have an email address, could you please print this clearly on the form.

If you receive the online version of the Salvia News, then an overdue reminder has been emailed to you with the Renewal Form to complete, and details of your date of payment into the Bendigo bank should be noted.

***ALL renewals must be received by the 18th September 2018 in order to continue to receive the Salvia News.***

**Note:**

Renewals already paid since June 2018, or NEW subscribers who have taken out a subscription in the past 6 months, do not need to fill-out a Renewal Form, as you are paid up to 01 June 2019

**A RENEWAL FORM MUST BE COMPLETED  
AND SENT WITH ALL FORMS OF PAYMENT.**

If you no longer wish to subscribe, could you kindly let me know.

Regards,  
Meg Gadd - Subscription Officer.  
Email: [gm1214.gadd@gmail.com](mailto:gm1214.gadd@gmail.com)  
Enquiries: (03) 9584 8005

### **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](mailto:patrick.hogan@optusnet.com)

# Update with Fiona Williams

VSSG PR & Publicity

We've recently returned from a three week camping trip around Innamincka etc . The garden seems to have survived moderately well but the deer have finished off the lemon trees and started demolishing the cumquat. Their vitamin C levels must be very healthy. And as always, some of the seeds I planted before I left have germinated with a vitality that has them leaping out of the punnet while others are limping along while they consider whether to keel over. I do wish they would make up their minds so I can toss them out and start again.

Salvia wise, Timboon might be a thug but it's a beautiful thing when in full flower in the middle of winter. And an unlabelled cutting (which you know I have a bad habit of collecting) has just flowered and seems to be *Salvia amethystina*. Massive leaves and spires of purple flowers with a white blotch. Such a surprise – I haven't seen it flowering before but what a beauty.

Now on to the more formal salvia news:

**On Sunday 26th August we will be visiting Daylesford Wombat Hill, 7 Daly Street, 11 am.** We'll meet at the Begonia Houses in Wombat Hill, explore then retire to the Monastery Tea Rooms

**On Sunday 9th September there is the Members' Luncheon at the Nobelius Display Gardens at 12.30 pm.** All new and old members are invited to come and lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. Come and meet your fellow salvia enthusiasts and the newly elected committee members.

**On Sunday 23rd September there is a visit to Ellie Roos Garden at Lemon Tree Cottage, 9 Ferguson St, Upwey at 11am.**

**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October** will be our next selling date at the **Bolobek Gardens, Macedon.**

Regards

Fiona Williams

0417323785

*Financial members/subscribers who have included their email addresses with their Membership/Subscriptions will be advised via email the results of the Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Salvia Study Group (VSSG). More information will be in the next issue of Salvia News - Summer edition.*

*Fiona reminds Members of upcoming events and other news which may be of interest. If you haven't included your email address when subscribing or renewing, perhaps its time to do so now so that you don't miss out.*

*Thanks Fiona!*

# **STOP PRESS**

As a result of the Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Salvia Study Group as an independent, voluntary, non profit organisation held on Sunday 29 July 2018 at Nobelius Heritage Park in Emerald, the incoming Committee are as follows;

Co-ordinator	Lyndi Garnett
Assistant Co-ordinator	Jillian Barkell
Secretary	Heather Lucas
Treasurer	Gordon Donaldson
Membership Officer	Meg Gadd
Committee	Norm Winn Andreina Chinn
Editor Salvia News	Beth Gilchrist

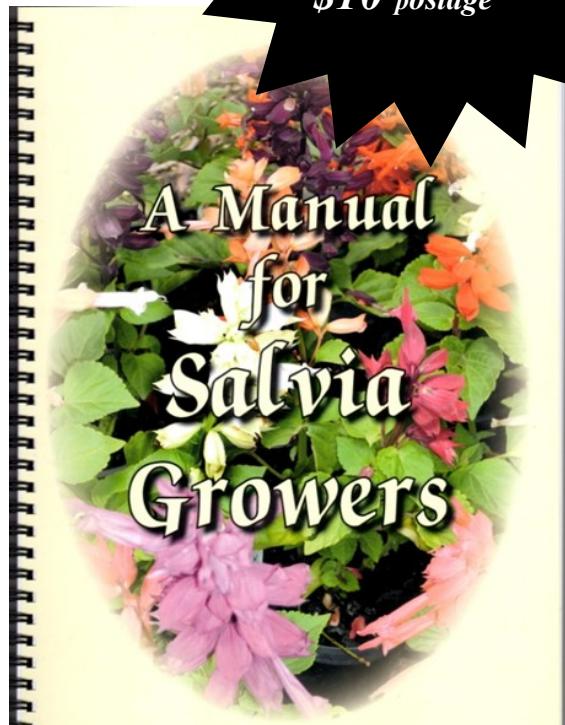
# A MANUAL FOR SALVIA GROWERS

by Meg Bentley

There are now approximately  
370 Species and Cultivars represented,  
202 Photographs, Illustrations and Index

Contents include:

- Botany of Salvia
- Characteristics of Leaves
- Salvia microphylla & greggii differences
- Salvia karwinskii and cultivars
- Purple Majesty and Black Knight
- Salvia Maintenance
- Hardy Salvias and Shade Lovers
- Containers/Hanging Baskets/Hedges
- As an Accent in the Garden
- Propagating and Pruning
- Colourful Tints of Stressed Leaves
- Pests and Disease
- Where to see Salvias
- Cultivation Notes and Name Changes



**\$30** / copy  
Plus  
**\$10** postage

## A Manual for Salvia Growers by Meg Bentley

Cost: \$30 + \$10 P/P per copy

Cheque only made out to:

Victorian Salvia Study Group

(Postage rates given for within Australia)

Victorian Salvia Study Group

6 Halcyon Avenue

The Patch Vic 3792

Phone (03) 9756 6361

Salvia Manual

Quantity: .....

Total: \$.....

PLEASE PRINT

Name: .....

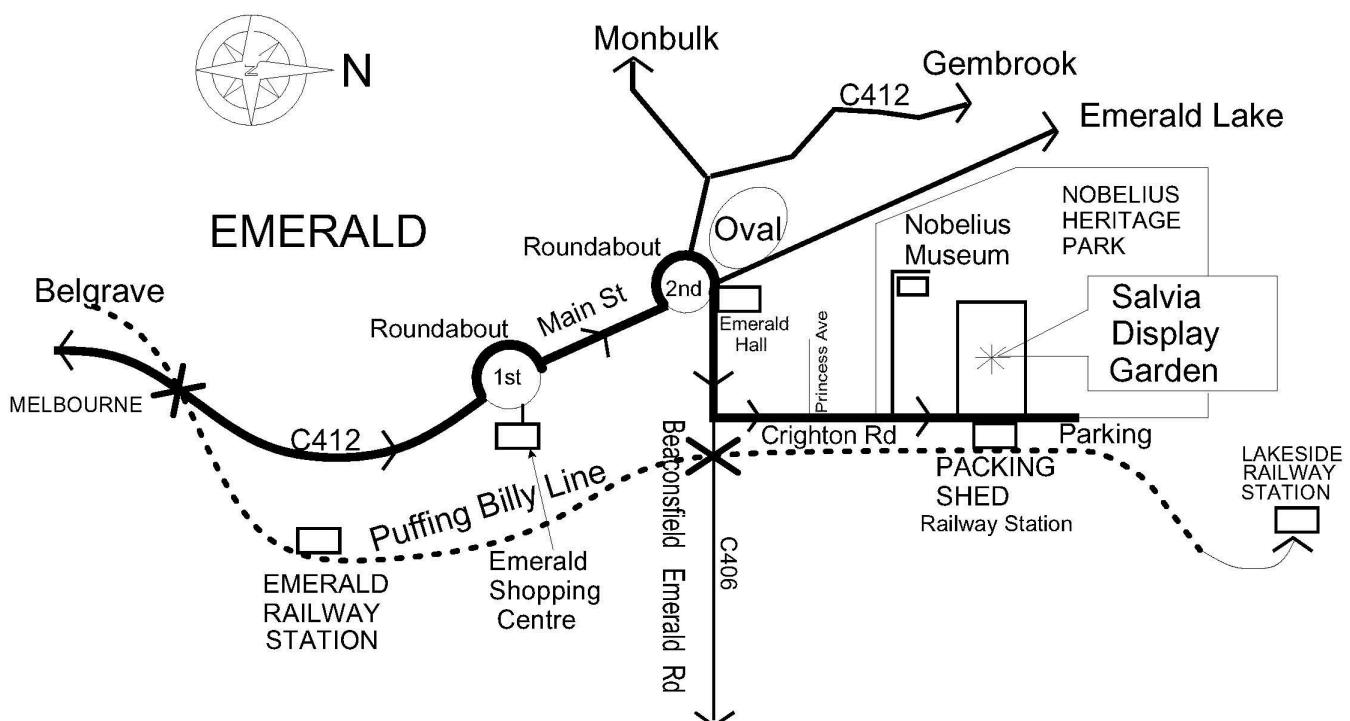
Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Daytime contact phone number .....

**Victorian Salvia Study Group  
c/- Lyndi Garnett  
844 Highbury Road  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150**

## DIRECTIONS TO THE SALVIA DISPLAY GARDEN



ISSN 2208-1089 (Online)

*Salvia News* is printed by  
Apple Print  
702 High Street Road, Glen Waverley Vic 3150