



The Herb Age



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

NO 429



"People trample over flowers, yet only to embrace a cactus" James Joyce

THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC

www.herbsocietyvic.org.au



www.facebook.com/groups/4104516136342577

Meetup group: www.meetup.com/Herb-Society-of-Victoria/

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

- ☼ To act as a forum for all persons interested in herbs for their mutual benefit and fellowship.
- ☼ To further the education of the public in the use, value and growing of herbs.
- ☼ To promote and encourage the organic growing of herbal plants.

Patron: Penny Woodward

HSOV COMMITTEE

President	June Valentine
Vice President	Nigel Holmes
Past President/ The Herb Age Editor	Meridith Hutchinson
Committee Secretary	Graham Ellis
Treasurer	Carmen Hollway
Membership Officer/ Library Coordinator	Marie Baker
Committee	Robin Calabrese
Committee	Jill Bryant
Committee	Mary Dawson
Committee	Jan Illingworth
Committee	Heather Davies
Committee	Lesley Northey

HSOV MONTHLY EVENTS

HSOV meets on the first Thursday evening of every month, from February to December. Monthly events often feature a guest speaker, mini-talks or event theme, like a picnic or trivia, and followed by herb refreshments.

Monthly events are held at:

- **Room MB10 Main Building.**
- Burnley campus of Melbourne University (was Burnley Horticultural College),
- 500 Yarra Blvd Richmond
- Enter from the main entrance.
- **Room is open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start**

Parking inside the grounds is often limited. There is ample parking on Yarra Boulevard, which is free after hours. Public transport access is nearby.

Next Meeting Details: See Page 4

HSOV DETAILS

ABN 22 261 579 261

PO Box 396, Camberwell,
Victoria, 3124, Australia

Bank Details to deposit payments, including membership renewals:

- BSB 633000 / Account 158914432

The Herb Society of Victoria acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we join together and pay respects to elders past and present.

Advertising Rates	Quarter page	\$15.00	Half page	\$25.00	Full page	\$45.00
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Payment should be sent to the Treasurer at the Society's address above. Advertising copy to be sent to the Editor by page 3 deadline dates.

THE HERB AGE

*Official Newsletter of the
Herb Society of Victoria*

Six issues published per year, covering:

- ✿ February/March
- ✿ April/May
- ✿ June/July
- ✿ August/September
- ✿ October/November
- ✿ December

Members' original contributions are warmly welcomed.

Post to:

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The Editor, The Herb Age
PO Box 396
Camberwell 3124

Email to

theherbage@outlook.com

Deadline for next issue:

Emailed and posted articles

Wednesday 3rd

November 2021

The views expressed by the contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee of the Herb Society of Victoria, Inc.

While every effort is made to publish reliable information, the use of that information is at the discretion of the individual. The Herb Society of Victoria, Inc takes no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed.

The Herb Society of Victoria Inc does not offer treatment advice for medical conditions.

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THE HERB AGE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

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Cover Pic and Quote.

Photo taken last week of Cacti in the Arid Collection at the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens. One of the latest collections featured in the talk from Lesley Poore at September's meeting. She identified it among her favourite collections, (although I suspect they are ALL her favourites). More on her fabulous presentation on page 11.

The group includes *Euphorbia resinifera* which has an accompanying tag which reads in part "Poison or Medicine?all euphorbias have a poisonous, milky white, latex-like sap. *Euphorbia resinifera* is the most toxic. Its toxin is 10,000 times hotter than the hottest pepper, causing skin to burn, swell and blister and if it gets in your eyes, you may lose your sight. BUT if handled and used correctly, it has powerful medicinal qualities, including as a strong painkiller."

The quote is from the famous Irish novelist, although when I took the cover photo, I saw no-one or trampling flowers or embracing any cactus, especially not the nasty fellow above!



Our Next Meetings

Thursday 7th October 2021

Zoom with Fantastic Fungi



Zoom Meeting: See link below

Video Feature: Fantastic Fungi



Fantastic Fungi (2019) is a beautiful and inspiring time-lapse documentary voyage through the magical, mysterious and medicinal world of fungi. Above ground we see organisms that change rapidly into a variety of forms and colour; below our feet is a vast and surprising network.

Fungi have the power to heal, sustain and provide medicine for humans and the planet. Search on line for “Fantastic Fungi trailer” for a teaser.

Please join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81368441438?pwd=clhMbURHMjFValpTeU5laEJ4U21wZz09>

Passcode: 083456

Meeting ID: 813 6844 1438

Meeting will be open from about 7.20pm.

An email reminder with the link details will be sent before the meeting.



Thursday 4th November 2021

BYO Picnic and Trivia Night

Burnley Horticultural Campus Gardens

500 Yarra Boulevard, Burnley

BYO Picnic: Starting at 6.00pm

Herbie Trivia: Starting at 6.30pm

Would you believe 3rd time lucky!



Where to Meet: Lawn near the Main Building Hall

An Outdoor meeting, starting a little earlier. BYO dinner if you like.

We'll kick off the Herb Trivia at 6.30 for a bit of fun and early finish before sunset.

We are hoping COVID restrictions will be lifted enough to allow outdoor gatherings. If this cannot go ahead as planned, we will notify members as soon as possible via email and announce changes on our revised facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4104516136342577>

President's Annual Report

We live in interesting times. What a year 2021 has been! It started off regular then became irregular, then regular, and then again irregular. (Yes I know there are herbs that would be recommended for irregularities if I was referring to your bodily functions). We've managed to see each other in person for several meetings.

February meeting: As is traditional it was a picnic rather than a formal function. The weather was mild, the company convivial and a good time was had by all.

March was a double delight: First delight was the AGM, which had been held over from October 2020 due to Covid lockdown. Meridith retired as our esteemed president - certainly had some challenges because of Covid, but did a splendid job of introducing us to Zoom committee meetings and general meetings.* For those of you who are thinking of joining the committee, and particularly aspiring to become president, know that it is only for a two year period.

A full report of the new committee and AGM was printed in the April /May Herb Age. An additional new member, Mary Dawson, joined at the March committee meeting. Also at that meeting, I volunteered to be president (again) just until the October AGM. Second delight: A herbal presentation by yours truly. Special thanks to my husband David who made an interesting, informative, and fun DVD (under my special instructions of course). It included appropriate music and visuals.

April meeting was Craig Wilson from Gentiana nursery in a Olinda. Not only is he a passionate plantsman and a grower of unusual plants but also the Gardener for Longacres, Arthur Streeton's family property and garden. A full report of the meeting is in the June /July Herb Age. Special thanks go to Mary Dawson because she instigated a proposed visit to this historic place planned for November.

May meeting was one of the Herb Societies treasures, Jill Bryant, presenting Plants of the First Fleet. There was an excellent report in the June /July Herb Age.

June (the month) was to be our 41st birthday celebration with a quiz, but Covid lockdown stymied that. We missed celebrating our 40th birthday in 2020 for the same reason. (If we were referring to human birthdays and you missed them does this mean you stay younger?).

July meeting was to be the ever knowledgeable Karen Sutherland, but we were still experiencing Covid restrictions. The good news is we have rebooked her for the December meeting. Meridith organised a zoom meeting instead. There were a several varied and most interesting mini talks. There is an excellent write-up in the Herb Age.

August meeting: still in lockdown so another zoom meeting. I presented the DVD of Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa. I visited in 2010 (not specifically to see the gardens but accompanying my husband David to attend the Soccer World Cup). This film celebrates Kirstenbosch's Centenary 1913 to 2013, and showed the diverse flora, fauna and birdlife throughout all four seasons, plus buildings, events and walks. Participants enjoyed the presentation and the bonus of Zoom meant no airfares, passport control or jet-lag. Of particular interest was the Braille walk. Something similar in Australia is the Lakeside Trail at Mount lofty Botanic Gardens in South Australia.

September meeting: Zoom again. Sorry for those of you unable to participate, however it has been recorded. The wonderfully passionate Lynsey Poore, current President of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, showed us some of the people and plant collections involved in its incredible 175 year history.





Let's hope that our Covid travel restrictions will soon be lifted so we can all visit these gardens again, and recognise and appreciate the plants, buildings, designs etc from Lynsey's superb talk. The Growing Friends have two plant sales a year, Autumn and Spring so you too can have your own botanic garden. Covid may change things but the 2021 dates are October 16th and 17th.

* As an aside, I have attended 45 (so far) Zoom talks with Glen Eira library. An amazing range of topics including "Theft of the Mona Lisa in 1911" with Noah Charney presenting from Slovenia; "Eat a Bug Cookbook" with David Gordon presenting from Seattle; and "Mudlarking the Thames" by Nicola White presenting from London, to name a few. At least Zoom has been a positive out of the negative Covid.

June Valentine

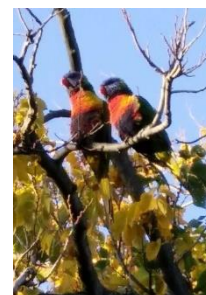
Hills Group Update

You may have noticed, with sadness I dare say, that the Hills branch details have been removed from the inside front cover of the Herb Age. Under the leadership of one of the Herb Society's most loved members, Ray Boatman, the Hills Group has been an active, important part of the herb scene in Melbourne for many years. Monthly meetings were held at the Belgrave Library with guest speakers and a strong membership. The group was very active; having local stalls to sell herbs and promote the HSOV and many of the members also participated in the nearby Salvia Study Group.



As membership has dwindled in recent years, and with COVID restrictions on meetings, the time has unfortunately come to discontinue library meetings. The current remaining members have formed strong friendships and plan to continue to meet socially to talk, eat and drink all things herbie; as a herb interest group.

Ian Wells, Dorota Bortnowski and Janine Groves happily remain HSOV members. Janine has attended many of the interstate and New Zealand Herb Conferences and will continue to be active on our Herb Conference committee, which we plan to host in October 2022.



A big thankyou to all past members of the Hills group for their contributions to the HSOV over the years. We would love to see our Hills friends at our general meetings via zoom or when we can meet in person.

FOBG Book Launch Postponed

We had reported in a recent issue that the Friends of Burnley Gardens planned to launch the new book about the history of the Burnley Gardens in October. The function, in conjunction with FOBG, the Australian Garden History Society & Herb Society of Victoria will be held on the grounds at Burnley Gardens followed by an afternoon tea.

Due to the latest restrictions, the function has been postponed, and will be held in 2022. We will advise when the new date has been finalised.

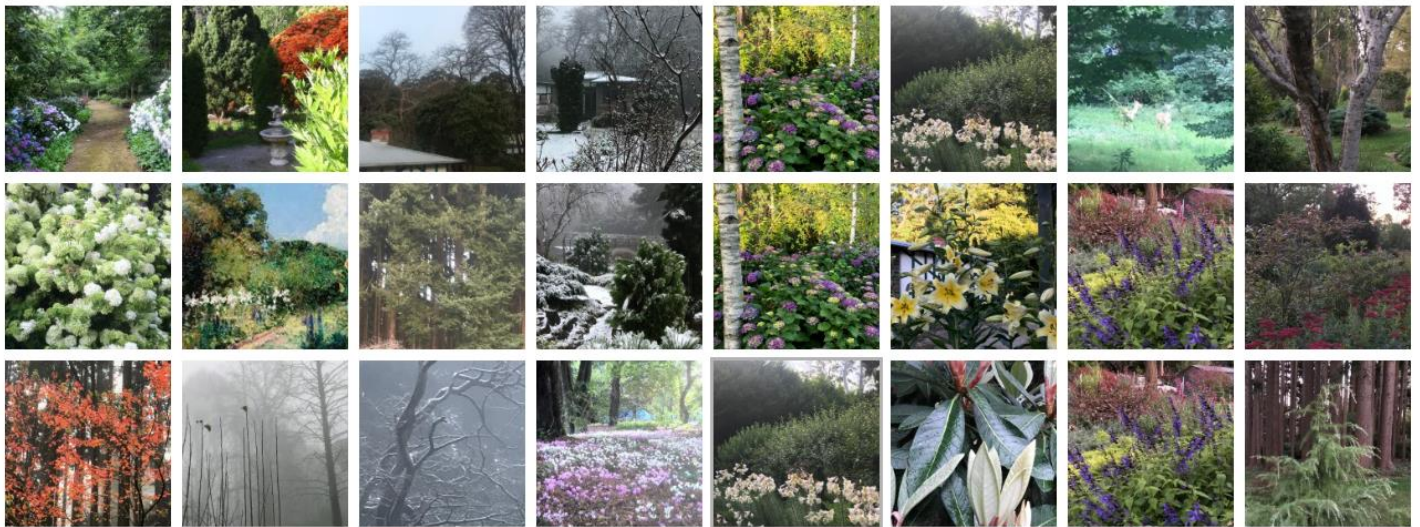
THA Correction

Our last August / September 2021 issue, had the incorrect botanical name for the Mediterranean wild thyme shown in Penny's 'show and tell' from the July zoom meeting. It should be *Thymus capitatus* not *Thymus nitidis* (which is orange peel thyme). Apologies. ☺

Longacres Tour

You may remember that at our April meeting, our guest Speaker, Craig Wilson of Gentiana Nursery, spoke about the gardens at Longacres that he tends. Longacres at Olinda, was the final home of the great Australian landscape artist, Sir Arthur Streeton.

Since then, HSOV has arranged with the current owner, the Hon. Julie Dodds-Streeton QC, a walk-through tour of the gardens to be guided by Craig. When planning this the expected date was set for early November and we hope to be able to still achieve that, but please be aware that it may need to be moved to a date next year.



This special event is limited to members only and a maximum of 30 people.

Date: Saturday 6th November (fingers crossed!)

Time: Gather at 1.45pm to start at 2pm
Participants will be advised the meeting point closer to the event.

Cost: \$10 per person
(this is to cover a fee to our Guide and a donation for the garden tour)

Afterwards: Visit to the Rhododendron Gardens (optional)

To book:

- Please email theherbsocietyofvictoria@gmail.com

Payment is required in advance, please:

- direct debit into our Bendigo bank account (see inside front cover)
- or in person at the November outdoor meeting.

Please note: We are hoping COVID restrictions will be lifted enough by November to allow us to travel to the garden and meet for this outdoor event. If the event needs to be postponed to the new year, prepayments will either be held over for a new date or refunded on request.

Any changes will be communicated to members who have booked as soon as possible and will also announced on our revised facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4104516136342577>

Annual General Meeting 2021

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE



The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Herb Society of Victoria Inc. will be held on **Thursday 2nd December '21 at 7:30 pm** at Room MB10 Main Building, Burnley Horticultural Campus, 500 Yarra Blvd, Richmond.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to attend to the business of the Society and the Annual Election of Officers and Committee Members as defined in the Rules 2014.

Our Rules 2014 allow for up to fifteen positions on the Committee of Management. All positions are declared vacant at the AGM. Nominations are called for the following positions:

- President
- Vice-President (2 positions)
- Committee Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Officer
- Editor and
- Up to seven other Committee members.

NOTE: we currently only have nominations for the Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Membership Officer and Committee roles. We do need nominations for President and two Vice-President positions. A full complement of Committee members is important for the functioning of the Society and to provide services. It is also your chance to put your stamp on the future direction of the Herb Society of Victoria.

Candidates, if unopposed, shall be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting. Where more candidates are nominated than required, voting shall be by secret ballot. Any member who is unable to attend the meeting may appoint any other financial member as proxy. The member appointing the proxy must notify the Committee Secretary (or President) in writing before the meeting. A Proxy Form is in this edition of THA.

The Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month except December to organise General Meetings and other activities of the Society. Committee Meetings are conducted in a friendly atmosphere and kept as short as possible. They are either held in the same room as the general meetings that is MB10, Main Building, BURNLEY CAMPUS or via Zoom.

All financial members are eligible to attend the AGM and to stand for election to the Committee of Management. Nomination forms will be available on the night or complete the form in this issue. All new Committee members are very welcome.

The HSOV Financial documents will be published in the upcoming December issue of The Herb Age and should enable you to understand the financial position of the Society. As a financial member you may ask questions at the AGM about financial matters or other issues that concern you.

A Nomination and Proxy form are on last page of the THA in this issue.

Graham Ellis
Committee Secretary,

Say it with Flowers

Look at those beautiful flowers, photographed recently, on our small Nectarine tree. On the right is the newly opened flower while the other is perhaps five days older. One flower looks quite different from the other. What is happening here?

The new petals are a uniform light pink while the filaments (stems of the anthers) are white. The older flower has the base of petals pink and the filaments have turned red. Why is it so? Well, once a flower has been pollinated by an insect it wants no more visitors. This flower wants to be left alone to produce a delicious Nectarine fruit. See it like traffic lights: red means stop. How clever but this is vital for the performance of the tree.



I hope you agree that in Melbourne this early spring we seem to have had very generous flowering of deciduous fruit trees. Hopefully you will be able to enjoy home garden Nectarine fruit this summer. Remember that Nectarine trees come true to type from seed.

Graham Ellis

What Herb am I?

- 5 points I am native to Brazil and Paraguay.
- 4 points Oddly, I'm in the sunflower family, Asteraceae.
- 3 points I'm a soft green perennial growing to about 30-60 cms.
- 2 points In recent years, I have become a popular food additive.
- 1 point Also called Candyleaf or Sugarleaf, my leaves are super sweet.

I am _ _ _ _ _

Solution Page 13.

Friends of RBG Books



Two all–Australian books of botanical illustrations

1. Alphabotanical features botanical illustrations by Victorian botanical illustrators, the Whirlies. This dedicated group, as members of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, (FRBGM), meet each week at the Melbourne Gardens to paint together and generally support each other in development of their botanic art skills.

Alphabotanical features an A – Z of Australian flora. Each artist had to source and research their plant before painting it to a standardised size. Many of the plants are to be found in the Melbourne Gardens, but others required the artist to be resourceful in tracking down specimens Australia-wide to paint. The resulting publication is a most attractive book featuring a diverse range of Australian flora.

2. The Acacia Project is the second book recently completed by the Whirlies.



Also the result of a group project, this book features 23 botanical illustrations of rare, endangered or unusual acacias growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. A description of the species accompanies each illustration and a location map indicates where you might expect to find each one growing in its natural habitat.

The artists have donated their artworks to the State Botanical Collection and all proceeds of sales of The Acacia Project book will be donated to the RBGV Herbarium to fund future Acacia research.

There couldn't be better gifts for relatives or friends who appreciate Australian plants, or someone overseas who will be amazed at the variety of attractive flora to be found growing on our continent. It is refreshing to see these books published in Australia, featuring Australian artists, using paper that meets Australia's sustainable environment standards, and printed in Australia.

To purchase your copies contact:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Inc.
Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne Vic 3004
T: (03) 9650 6398
E: friends@frbgmelb.org.au
W: rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Jan Rosenberg

Ed note: Our very own HSOV member, Jan Rosenberg has contributed her beautiful artwork to these books. She assures us these have been produced to be the perfect size and weight for posting as a gift. With Christmas not that far away, and it not so easy to get to the shops, we have included the details in the Herb Age to give you some great gift options.

An (easy) walk through the RBG

What a fabulous guest speaker Lesley Poore was at our September event on zoom. She worked from a wonderful slide presentation on 175 years of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Melbourne. Starting with the Royal Botanic Gardens Past, we heard about the three famous early contributors to the early RBG. Governor La Trobe, a lover of the natural world, selected the site and founded the RBG in 1846. The first Director in 1857, was of course Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller, who created the national Herbarium of Victoria on the site. The maps of the gardens from then, showed it to be a number of small plots, designed for scientific study of plants.



When William Guilfoyle became director in 1873, he redesigned the gardens, taking advantage of the changed route of the Yarra river to create central lakes. He also developed sweeping walking paths and gardens to group collections, making it more attractive to the people for recreation. A severe drought occurred during his directorship, so he responded with the 'volcano' to store water for the gardens. Today the RBG still benefits for the many ground breaking ideas Guilfoyle developed. The picture left is from Guilfoyle's volcano looking towards the arid garden, where a young girl with her dog were scrambling up the steps to climb the volcano.



You may remember how the giant Oak tree near the Herbarium came crashing down a couple of years ago. Lesley spoke about the event and how the RBG have managed it. The branches have been kept in situ, as a natural sculpture with some whittled so they can be used as seats and all can be climbed on by kids. Acorns were taken and grown into plants, the three best have been planted around the site for future generations. There is also a 300 year old gum on the site, which can be clearly be seen in photos from the Victoria era.



A botanic garden is defined by having scientific and documented plant collections, the Melbourne RBG has dozens of collections. Some have been well established, such as the Californian Species, Camellias and Cycads, species Roses and plants from Southern China. The bloom above is Camellia 'Susie O'Neill' theaceae is literally a dinner plate sized. Others are more recent such as the Arid collection of Cacti and Succulents (pic right and above) to showcase plants for the changing climate. Other recent developments include a sensory garden with some highly scented plants included.

Lesley is such a personable and knowledgeable guide. It was like a personally guided walking tour of the Gardens, except from the comfort of home and with a cup of tea (or something stronger)!

After zoom meeting last week, I realised I just live within 5 kms and popped over on the weekend for a rejuvenating visit. The Herb Garden looks pretty good for this early in Spring with lots of Calendulas out to add some colour.



Meridith Hutchinson

Gods in the Garden (Part 1)

The days of Roman-Britain was the time of the god Viridas, who, as his name suggests, was probably green, and may have been related to the Celtic Green Man. Statues of and inscriptions to the god have been found near the town of Ancaster, Lincolnshire. Some statues are classically Roman, but one, depicted, is carved in limestone and said to be Late Iron Age in Britain 100_50 B.C.. It is thought to have been an altar piece.

Aristaens was the god of cheese making, shepherds, bee keeping, honey, olive growing, oil making, medicinal herbs and the Elysian winds. Elysium was where the gods sent special spirits to become immortal. Hegemone was a goddess of plants, especially making them bloom and bear fruit as they are supposed to.

Chloris is goddess of flowers and new growth. She was thought to have lived in Elysium for some time. She was married to Zephyrus, god of the West wind. Their son Carpius was a god of fruit. The West wind was the gentlest of the winds.



A plant of very ancient use, at least ten thousand years, is Cannabis (pic left). Although not a horticultural plant, early man used it for fibre, seeds, food, and as medicine, linked to euphoric and hallucinogenic properties and to introduce him to other worldly planes. In 16th century England cannabis was known as angler's weed, for if a solution was poured into worm holes, the worms were induced to come out, when they could be impaled on fish hooks.

In India Cannabis was early viewed as a gift of the gods and a means of communication with the spirit world. A favourite drink of the god Shiva was made of cannabis, which he also smoked. He commanded that the word Bhangī must be chanted repeatedly during weeding and harvesting of the sacred plant.



There are many more plants with psychedelic properties, mostly in South America and some in Africa. Some occur in Europe and the U.K., but do not have a history of psychedelic use.

The opium poppy (pic left) does not appear to have a god of its own, but morphine was first isolated about 1803 by a German pharmacist Friedrich Sertürner. This was the first isolation of an active ingredient from a plant. This new compound was named after the Greek god of sleep, Morpheus.

Priapes was a god of ancient Greece although he was of Asian origin. He was god of animal and plant fertility and gardens. It was thought that to have his statue in the garden would be both a scarecrow and guardian deity. Priapes was also patron of seafarers and fishermen and others in need of good luck. He could also avert the evil eye.

Datura, in the old world had a long history as a medicine and sacred hallucinogen. The Persian doctor Avicenna reported it in the eleventh century under the name jous matahl, (translates: metal nut). This report was repeated in Dioscorides' writing. In India the plant was considered sacred when Buddha was preaching and dew or rain drops fell on a datura plant. In India it is called tuft of Shiva and it is said that Shiva smoked it. It was also valued in India for various medicinal cures. It is said that in Ancient Greek priests of Apollo are believed to perhaps have induced their prophetic state by the use of datura.

Primitive communities around the world have regarded datura as a gift of the gods. Several of the nine species of *Datura* occur in Australia, from the poisonous Jimson weed of the USA to the long spined *D. ferox*, the ferocious one. All species are poisonous, for people and other animals, and are armed with formidable spines. The flowers are mostly white, sometimes red and always beautiful. It was said that if one were to sleep under a *Datura* plant in flower, even the perfume could be dangerous. Indian robbers were in the habit of lacing the food of their victims before robbing them. Oddly enough, seed of several species of *Datura* is obtainable from certain nurseries In spite of *Datura*'s weed status.



Datura Innoxia Photographer: Colline Muir

Throughout the world most cultures have felt the need for some spiritual care for the world and everything in it, from the most primitive to the most sophisticated, as the great religions still help very many people today.

Colline Muir

Ref:

Plants of the Gods, Richard E. Schultes and A.Hofmann, ISBN-10 0892819790

Bush Medicine, Tim Low, ISBN-10 : 0207164622

If you would like to have a protective garden god in your garden, small statues (as well as big ones) are available from Design Toscana. One may guard from the end of a path, but don't let him displace the bird bath!

Ed Note: thankyou Colline for another amazing article. This is another story of the Gods in our garden, the Almond tree, which symbolises love and hope and sugar almonds still feature at Greek weddings.

According to myth, Demophon, son of the legendary hero Theseus stopped in Thrace (northern Greece) while returning from the Trojan War to Athens. He met Phyllis, daughter of the Thracian king Sithon. They fell deeply in love and married, but soon Demophon had to resume his journey to Athens. Phyllis reluctantly agreed to let him leave, on the promise he would quickly return for her. Demophon was held up in Athens much longer than expected, as Phyllis waited for his return, dying of a broken heart. The gods took pity on the pitiful Phyllis, transforming her into a tree that remained dry and barren, as Phyllis's soul was in mourning. Finally Demophon returned to Thrace, only to find the dead almond tree in her place. Filled with sorrow and regret, he wrapped his arms around the dry trunk, and cried hopelessly. Warmed by his embrace and watered by his tears, the tree instantly blossomed.

(source: <https://neoskosmos.com/en/186737/the-almond-tree-in-greek-mythology>)



The WeedScan Project

In support of a National Project conducted by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and The New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.

THE GCA IS ASKING as many as possible of the 55,000 gardeners who are associated with Affiliates of The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc to participate in this project - all you need is a **MOBILE PHONE** or a digital camera.

Spend a little time between September 2021 and May - June 2022 photographing weeds in your garden, on street verges in your neighbourhood, in parks, gardens and sports-grounds, on the sides of roads, on the banks of creeks and waterholes or at the beach and send them into WEEDSCAN

This project aims to identify all weeds in Australia by compiling a photographic data base. It will then allow all Australians to identify any weed from its photograph and to be provided with advice on how to control or eradicate it.

At least 1000 pictures of each weed species need to be collected from locations across Australia. The database will use the photographs to identify any weed.

Current weed identification relies on expert knowledge, interpreting taxonomic or morphological identification keys, trying to match a weed with an image in a weed guide or app, or sending a weed image or specimen to herbariums for identification.

This often leads to delayed or incorrect identification that impedes timely action, particularly on emerging weeds, and requires State herbaria to allocate scarce resources to respond to community identification requests for well-known for well-known established weeds

This project will develop, trial and implement Australia's first real-time, artificial intelligence-based, automated identification of national state and regional priority weeds. It will also develop and promote a fit for purpose community weed management, alert reporting and communication system, WeedScan building on the currently available FeralScan platform to better enable cooperative community-led weeds management.

The new tool will provide an easy to use digital tool enabling:

- (a) Weeds to be identified quickly without expert knowledge.
- (b) Easy access to best practice management information.
- (c) Enable action either at the individual enterprise level or as part of a cooperative regional WeedScan community-led management and communication system.



Submitting photos to WeedScan is a relatively easy process. Firstly, for each weed, photograph the whole plant then take photos of leaves, flowers (if present) growth habit or distinctive features. Take lots of photographs.

Submit photos separately by weed species and location at- [http:// weeds.org.au/ identify/weeds- photo-submissions/](http://weeds.org.au/identify/weeds-photo-submissions/) More tips on identifying weeds are available on-line at the submission form link

THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM**

Positions for Nomination:

- President
 - Vice-President
 - Committee Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Officer
 - Editor
 - General Committee members *
- * up to 7 general committee members permitted.



Nominee

I wish to nominate for the position of

Nominated by

Office Use -----*Acceptance of position**Date**Financial position of Member**Treasurer**Secretary***THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.****PROXY FORM**

I....., a Financial Member of The Herb Society of Victoria,

appoint as my proxy for the 2021 Annual General Meeting

on and on any date that the meeting is postponed.

Signed Dated



If undeliverable, return to:
HSOV
PO Box 396
CAMBERWELL VIC 3124

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