



# Newsletter

June 2018

## Dear ASA Members

Welcome to our June newsletter, we hope that your plants are continuing to thrive as the weather starts to cool.

## OUR APRIL MEETING WAS A HIT!

We all had a great time at the recent ASA general meeting in April. We would once again like to congratulate the winners of the online raffle, particular Sue Barnes who has now won a prize three raffles in a row!

Phillip Potts also gave a fantastic presentation on alocasias. He provided some wonderful insight into arguably the most impressive genus in the aroid family. If you missed his presentation and want to learn more about alocasias, please find his notes attached in the email. We would like to thank all the members who assisted in setting up the hall, particularly Jess Cowan for helping to set up the PA.

Continue reading on page 3 below for more details about the meeting.

## FIELD DAYS

The ASA would like to extend our sincerest thanks to **Len & Olive Trevor** for hosting their wonderful field day on Saturday the **12<sup>th</sup> of May**. It was a dream to wander through their impressive garden, and a number of us went home with some incredible plants.

For a full account of the day, please read the report by Mim on page 4.

We are also pleased to announce the upcoming field day **in Somerville, Victoria on the 15<sup>th</sup> September**. More details to come as the weather warms up.

*We held our first interstate meet at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne last month.*



*Olive and Brian wandering the garden at the recent Field Day.*



## **ASA NEWS**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

It is that time of year. All memberships will end at the start of July, so now is the time to submit your membership form for the next financial year. Please find the form attached, now with the option for family membership.

We will have a small grace period following the 1st of July where those who have not yet submitted their form will still be granted member privileges, but after this period, if their membership has lapsed, they will no longer be a part of the society.

### **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

We are pleased to welcome Aaron Grinter on board as a new committee member. He has taken up the position of Editor/Tech support, as well as becoming the state representative for Victoria. He has hit the ground running, starting to organise a string of Victorian events, as well as launching a number of new digital solutions that will assist the communication and online activities of the society.

### **NEW FACEBOOK PAGES**

We are excited to announce the release of two new Facebook groups, exclusively for members. One group is a market group, to facilitate the buying and selling of aroids, and the other is a member-only group for the discussion of aroid and ASA related topics.

For more information about these groups, jump to page 6 of the newsletter.

### **POPULAR VOTE/BEST IN SHOW**

For the October meeting, the ASA will introduce a new element, the popular vote. If you have a particularly attractive plant, or a peculiar plant of interest, or are looking for an I.D, or just have something interesting to say, then bring your plant to the meeting. The plant voted best in show will win a prize. Start thinking about it now!

This being said, if you would like to bring a plant to show/ask about to the August meeting, please feel free to do so!

### **FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS**

Being a young society (1 year old!) we understand that there are things that we can do better. So, if you have an issue or a suggestion about the ASA, please send it directly to [secretary@aroids.net](mailto:secretary@aroids.net) as opposed to posting it in Facebook groups. This way it will come directly to us, and we will try to resolve it as quickly as possible.



*Phillip Potts giving an amazing presentation on the genus Alocasia.*



## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting went very well, there were some great discussions and a number of very happy new plant owners. The plant sales have been particularly popular, and it is great to see some amazing specimens for sale (at great prices). We know that everyone is excited to see what is for sale, but we ask that everyone stays away from the tables until the designated time. We also ask that next time name badges be worn, so that if you are the winner in the lucky door you can claim your prize.

If you would like to sell at the next meeting, please ensure that your pots and plants for sale are clean and tidy, if this is not possible, please wrap them in a plastic bag/s. We don't want to leave unnecessary mess to clean at the end of the night.

Thank you to all involved, particularly Phillip Potts, it really was a great time. We hope to see you at our next meeting on the **6 August 2018**.

### Meeting Only Financials

The meeting proved to be a financial success for the Society, raising a total of \$1,554.45 with minimal expenditure. The details are:

#### *Incoming:*

<i>New memberships</i>	\$210.00
<i>Renewals</i>	\$55.00
<i>Auction</i>	\$291.45
<i>Raffles</i>	\$220.00
<i>ASA Plant sales</i>	\$722.00
<i>Commission</i>	\$119.80
<i>Labels</i>	\$24.50
<u><i>Total</i></u>	\$1,642.75

#### *Outgoing:*

<i>Supper:</i>	\$50 approx
<i>Raffle prize postage:</i>	\$50 approx
<u><i>Net Profit</i></u>	\$1,554.45

*Sue Barnes taking home a plant on the night*



*Some of the amazing plants up for grabs at the meeting.*





## ASA FIELD DAY IN OLIVE'S GARDEN

*By Mim Stocks*

The ASA were thrilled to have their very first Field Day in early May this year. We were graciously hosted by Olive Trevor on her gorgeous two-acre private garden. Olive and her husband Len bought their six-acre property in Upper Kedron in 1985, and while they live on two stunning acres of luscious garden, four acres are also dedicated to their Bromeliad Nursery aptly named "The Olive Branch", which is now run by their granddaughter Rebekah. Of course, Olive's love of plants doesn't stop at bromeliads, her private gardens are overflowing with every kind of plant including, most importantly, numerous aroids.

Both members and guests enjoyed a relaxed day of socialising and appreciating the stunning plants in her collection. It was an unusually windy day in Brisbane, but that didn't stop us from having a great time, it simply meant that we hugged our hot drinks a little closer and relished our croissants. The day started with some mingling and, after the members who were selling plants had finished setting up, we commenced our garden walk.

I have been extremely lucky to have already enjoyed many walks through Olive's garden, which I call her "tropical jungle", since I work at the Olive Branch. I thought I knew the garden well, but it wasn't until the guided tour by Olive that I realised how many aroids are in her collection. You need to look down, up and in between to make sure that you didn't miss anything! As we ventured through, Olive delighted us with the stories accompanying each plant. Some were even imported by Olive from the Philippines and

Thailand while holidaying there, a desire with which I am sure we can all relate. It was enchanting to see that each aroid was not in isolation, but nested amongst a diverse canopy of a whole array of plant families. There were aroids planted amongst flowering heliconias, many different ferns and palms, and, of course, bromeliads.

It was impossible not to want to take photos while walking through the jungle and along the dry creek bed, it was hopeless to keep the group together as everyone was so enthralled in what they saw. There were many questions about identification, and in the background I'm sure I could hear the sound of growing wish lists.

After the walk, Olive let us into her private bush house, which, unsurprisingly, is home to many rare and beautiful collector's plants. We viewed her orchids, ferns, cordylines, hoyas and of course her stunning aroids. There was certainly no lack of beauty in her house, and I could fill this newsletter with the names of all of the incredible plants we saw.

After a couple hours of awe-struck meandering, we picked our jaws up from the ground and headed back to the house where our members and guests purchased aroids that a number of members had kindly brought to sell. We then drew the lucky door prizes and raffle, I won three (!) plants which was the cherry on top of an already fantastic day. The day concluded with a most delicious curry and rice that Olive had made for everyone.

The ASA showed their appreciation for Olive's generosity by presenting her with an Anthurium Magnificum. It was a lovely day and a great opportunity to meet fellow aroid lovers. Thanks again to Olive and all involved on the day.



*Olive with her gift from the ASA*

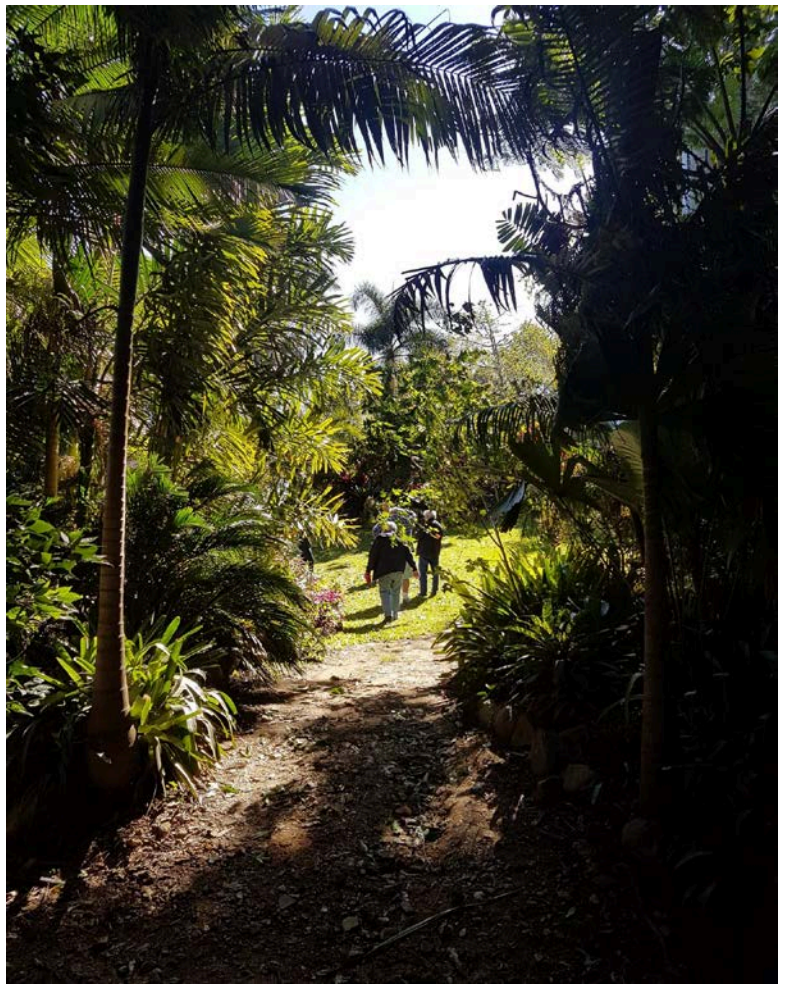


*Leaving  
"the  
jungle"  
after a  
lovely walk.*

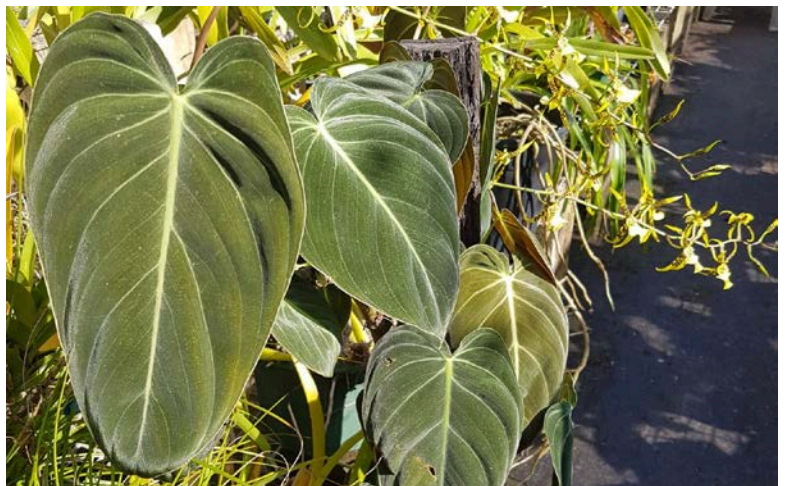
## ASA FIELD DAY IN OLIVE'S GARDEN



*Above: Members are welcomed to Olive's stunning residence; below: enjoying the plants.*



*Above left: A gorgeous variegated Monstera deliciosa; above right: Thamatophyllum spruceanum; below: Philodendron melanochrysum*





## **ASA FACEBOOK**

### **ASA COMMUNITY**

There has been a number of discussions recently about the ASA Community Facebook page, specifically in regards to the strict rules about the kind of content that can be posted. The ASA would like to quickly explain our reasoning for these rules. The community group was created to provide a safe, fun space for the free discussion of aroids. We wanted a space where anybody, member or non-member, can share photos, ask about identification, discuss plant care, and just generally chat about plants without the solicitation and competitiveness that comes with plant commerce. We don't think plant selling and advertisement is bad, in fact increasing your collection is the most fun part of being a collector! We simply wanted a space dedicated to the love of aroids.

### **ASA MARKETPLACE**

In saying the above, we would like to announce our newly created ASA Aroid Marketplace. Since we now have a committee member dedicated to tech support, we have the time and resources to create a separate space dedicated to aroid commerce. It is still under construction, but once operational it will be a space specifically for members to engage in buying, selling and swapping plants and plant products. If you are not already a part of this group, please [click on this link](#) to join. We look forward to seeing everyone expand their plant collections.

### **ASA MEMBERS ONLY GROUP**

Along with the new Marketplace group, we also have a new Members Only group. This group is functionally for the purpose of distributing information about the society and its activities, but also provides a forum for members to discuss anything interesting relating to aroids. Recent Newsletters will be available, as well as any forms or documents that are relevant to the society.

There will also be a number of threads dedicated to each state, where members can discuss state-specific topics and generally develop connections with their local members.

The Members Only group is now operational, and when we have a significant number of our members joined we will start to direct our communications to this group instead of the community group. If you are not already a part of this group, please [click on this link](#) to join.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VICTORIAN WINTER AROID MARKET

After a recent online vote, the Victorian members have decided to hold a winter market to break the cold month blues. It will be a fun afternoon, with a number of stalls of plants for sale, and members can bring any plants they would like to sell or swap. Plus there will be a special presentation on looking after your plants in winter. There will be an event published soon, but the market will be held on the **28<sup>th</sup> of July** in **Collingwood VIC**. We look forward to warming up with our Victorian members.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We would like to take this chance to inform you all of our upcoming AGM held on the **6 August 2018**. The speaker at the next meeting will be Steve Flood and his presentation will be "My Experience in Growing Aroids". If you would like to sell at the next meeting, please contact us for more information at [secretary@aroids.net](mailto:secretary@aroids.net).

For those of you who have never participated in a society before, this is a significant meeting because, during the meeting, the committee is disbanded and all positions become vacant. Following this, the committee for the proceeding year takes over. This means that shortly we will be taking nominations for each of the committee positions. Considering that fact that we are an Australia-wide society, we would like to do our best to represent the whole of Australia. As such, we welcome nominations from all states, and will endeavour to construct an apparatus to ensure that, if a vote is required, all members will be able to do so even if unable to travel to the AGM location.

### VICTORIAN FIELD DAY

One of our Victorian members with an impressive collection has generously volunteered to open their property to ASA members. So, on the **15<sup>th</sup> of September**, the ASA will wander down to **Somerville, Victoria** and have a day wandering around and observing some amazing plants. Details will come closer to the date but be sure to mark it in your calendars now, as I can assure this is one event you do not want to miss.





## CALENDAR OF ASA EVENTS

- ASA Victorian Winter Market: 28 July 2018
- AGM: 6 August 2018
- ASA Victorian Field Day: 15 September 2018
- ASA Meeting: 8 October 2018
- ASA State Christmas Party: December 2018 (Check your state)

## ASA MANAGEMENT TEAM

President - **Michael Pascall**

Vice President - **Lee Thorneycroft**

Secretary - **Trevor Crawford**

Assistant Secretary - **Biana Borg**

Treasurer - **Jim Edwards**

Committee - **Neil Crafter** and **Mim Stocks**

Editor/Tech support - **Aaron Grinter**

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to send our upmost appreciation to Arden Dearden, Chris Hall, Philip Potts, Peter McLain, Steve Flood, Trevor Crawford, Lee Thorneycroft, Jim Edwards, and Neil Crafter for your kind commitment and ongoing donations to our online raffle and auctions. Special mention also to those that donated plants during the meeting. Proceeds from these raffles and sales are invaluable to keep our Society functioning.

We look forward to seeing you at the Victorian Winter Market on **Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> July** and at the upcoming AGM on the **6<sup>th</sup> of August**.

Yours sincerely

**The Aroid Society of Australia Inc Committee**