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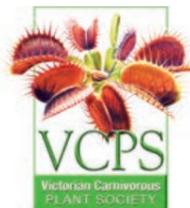
# Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

SEPTEMBER 2019

VCPS Newsletter No. 9



*Sarracenia* 'Leah Wilkerson'



# Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter No. 9

September 2019

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## MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2019 VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

<b>January</b>	<b>(19th)</b>	New Year BBQ at Steve Fretwell's House 12.30pm <i>Dionaea muscipula</i> (VFT). (Contact for details)
<b>February</b>	<b>(27th)</b>	<i>Darlingtonia</i> , <i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliophora</i> .
<b>March</b>	<b>(27th)</b>	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
<b>April</b>	<b>(24th)</b>	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
<b>May</b>	<b>(22nd)</b>	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera gemmae</i> swap
<b>June</b>	<b>(26th)</b>	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
<b>July</b>	<b>(24th)</b>	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
<b>August</b>	<b>(28th)</b>	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
<b>September</b>	<b>(25th)</b>	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
<b>October</b>	<b>(23rd)</b>	<i>Byblis</i> , pygmy <i>Drosera</i> , <i>Drosera binata</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Pinguicula</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> .
<b>November</b>	<b>(24th)</b>	<b>Triffid Park Open Day (10am-4pm)</b>
<b>Nov (30th) - Dec (1st)</b>		<b>VCPS Annual show</b> at Collectors Corner.

**Please note: All meetings, other than those where a specific venue is given, will be on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month in the hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Yarraville – corner Bayview Road and Montague Street, Melway Map Reference 41K7.**

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**S. purpurea ssp. purpurea** grown from seed.  
(Gander River, New Foundland, Canada)

Photographed by Stephen Fretwell



## FRONT COVER:

**Sarracenia 'Leah Wilkerson'**  
One of the largest S. x moorei hybrids in cultivation with pitchers up to 130cm tall with lids up to 17cm wide.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

## BACK COVER:

### Clockwise from top left:

- *S. alata* (DeSoto, Mississippi x Stone County, Mississippi flower.
- *S. flava* var. *atropurpurea*. (Blackwater River State Forest, Florida)
- *S. leucophylla* "Fine red veins".
- *S. leucophylla* "Fine red veins" flower.
- *Sarracenia jonesii* - front (Pickens County, South Carolina)
- *Dionaea muscipula* 'Red Piranha'
- *Sarracenia flava* var. *rugelii* "Short squat form"
- *Utricularia australis* (centre)

Design: Stephen Fretwell

## VCPS Growers photos

If you'd like to publish a photo that you took of your plant in the VCPS journal. Please email it to Stephen Fretwell the VCPS editor at: [stevfretwell24@gmail.com](mailto:stevfretwell24@gmail.com)

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## Seed Bank

We now have a huge collection of NEW fresh CP seed available, and our seed list has become quite extensive.

With over 250 varieties of CP's, we are now providing the list in PDF format on our website, [www.vcps.org](http://www.vcps.org)

For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact the VCPS Seedbank Officer.

The articles that are found within are copyright but can be copied freely if the author and source are acknowledged. The views are of the authors and are open to review and debate. Please send all material to the editor for consideration to be included in our quarterly journal.

# VCPS News

## RARE WHITE FLOWERED *D. ZIGZAGIA* FOUND

While exploring in WA, Thilo Krueger recently discovered a rare and beautiful white flowered form of *D. zigzagia* that's not anthocyanin free (albino). This species is one of the very few in the *Drosera* genus which has yellow flowers.

Apparently this form also has hairy sepals which are different to the type form which has completely glabrous sepals too.



## VCPS ANNUAL SHOW

The VCPS annual show is coming up soon and will be held at Collectors Corner, Gardenworld once again which is always fantastic to visit. Entry is free for all and it's surely going to be another brilliant show full of rare and spectacular species to see and buy.

This year the show starts on **Saturday, November 30th at 9am** and ends on **Sunday, December 1st at 5pm.**

It's one of the biggest events on the calendar for the society and is a great opportunity for members to meet and greet other collectors, and see and purchase some amazing plants.

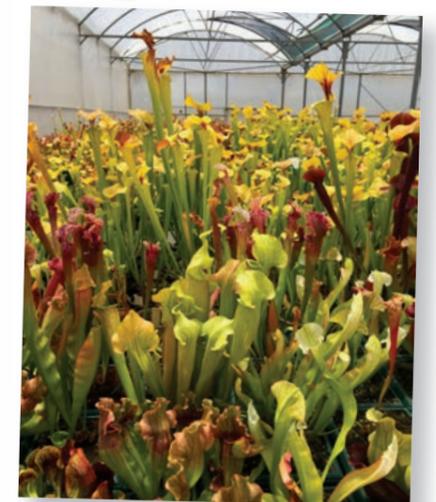


## TRIFFID PARK OPEN DAY

Triffid Park's annual Open Day is being held this **November on Sunday the 24th** at their wholesale nursery in Summerville. The event starts at 10am and finishes at 4pm. The VCPS will have a stand there to meet it's members and to inform the general public about the society and answer any questions they may have.

It's always a fantastic day out and there's always some fantastic plant to see and buy.

Triffid Park only open there doors to the public once a year so make sure that you don't miss out on this great opportunity.





*Sarracenia leucophylla*  
 "Thin Red Veins"  
 Photos: Stephen Fretwell



The new peat bog in October 2019, thriving once again.

## Build your own *Sarracenia* peat bog and pond

STEPHEN FRETWELL

Back in 2010 I decided to put a small pond and peat bog in my backyard which was thriving until I had backyard renovations in 2017 which meant that I had to pull it all apart, as it was going to be in the way and would have been completely destroyed by the builders.

The plus side to this was that I got to start again and could learn from a few mistakes that I made along the way.

While there wasn't any structural issues with my pond and bog, I did experience several problems along the way. The biggest mistake was the choice of companion plants that I put in and around the pond area and lack of maintenance. Many plants grew a lot larger than I expected and within 3 years I had to dig out and remove some black flax planted behind the pond which had become huge and had started to smother neighbouring plants and cover the pond.

Other plants such as water milfoil *Myriophyllum crispatum*, duckweed *Lemna minor* and fairy moss

*Azolla pinnatasimply* became extremely invasive and proved to be annoyingly difficult to get rid of. After 1 year the duckweed and fairy moss that came as hitchhikers with some waterlilies that I bought had multiplied rapidly and had all covered the entire surface of the small pond.

They looked nice at the start but were now just a nuisance and I could no longer see any of the *Utricularia australis* or *Utricularia gibba* that was also growing in the pond. I strongly advice getting rid of these plants if you ever see any in your pond unless you want to carry out regular maintenance to remove it.

Another plant, called water milfoil *Myriophyllum Crispatum* which is an oxygenating water plant soon also became an invasive weed, but not in the water. This plant decided that it like land better and after a few years started to colonise my peat bog and surrounding soil around the pond. This is an attractive and helpful plant which I wanted to keep so regularly checking and some basic pruning is needed to ensure that it stays just in the water.

Weeds to can also be a real problem.



The first pond and small peat bog after construction in January 2010.



Roughly one year later January 2011 the pond and peat bog were thriving and looking fantastic.



In winter 2014 more carnivorous plants were added and the black flax were removed from behind the pond.



In summer 2016, foreign noxious reeds had spread into the bog and started to take over.

I experienced native reeds and weedy grasses that blew into the peat bog. These are easy pull out when they're small plants, but can start growing between the rhizomes of *Sarracenia* and the only way to get rid of them is to dig both plants out, pull the *Sarracenia* rhizome apart and removed all of the grass/reeds by hand which is not a desirable solution. If that isn't done they will soon invade the whole peat bog and may smother your *Sarracenia*.

For ponds algae will become a problem at some point. Water snails, water plants, pumps that move the water and filters can help with this.

To prevent problem plants, thoroughly research about what companion plants you put in and around the peat bog and the pond. And pull out any unwanted plants as soon as you see them.

If you also plan to put a small pond in, the plastic moulded ponds are generally the best way to go as they won't leak and are easier to clean if that needs to be done.

Once the renovations had been completed in 2018 I bought a small plastic moulded pond that would fit in the new space and began planning on building the new peat bog which would be twice as large as the last one. If you've ever considered making a peat bog there are many way to do it ranging from using a thick, deep plastic container to using pond liner. In the end it really only comes down to how much space you have and how big you want to make them.

**Here's a rough guide of steps that you'll need to follow to create your own slice of paradise.**

#### ELEMENTS/EQUIPMENT:

Sphagnum peat moss (Preferable Teem Canadian sphagnum peat moss), coarse perlite (5mm in size) or washed coarse river sand, thick plastic pond liner, rock wool or lots of newspaper, smooth 2-5cm pebbles, washed fine sand, plants.

**Optional extras:** river pebbles, rocks/boulders, ponds/pond moulds, 6-8cm diameter PVC piping, irrigation, pumps, filters, lighting.

(If you wish to plant *Darlingtonia* you'll also need sphagnum moss).

#### Step 1: Find a location

Find a suitable spot in your garden that receives as much sunlight as possible during the day and if possible with some protection from the wind. (*Sarracenia* require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight during their growing period of Spring to Autumn to grow robust colourful pitchers)

#### Step 2: Consider extras.

While in the initial planning stage. Consider what other objects or you might want to include with your peat bog. Ponds are always a great addition within or next to a peat bog. If it's a large pond you may wish to run power to it for a pump or filter to help circulate the

water to prevent it from becoming stagnant and filled with algae. If so trenches will need to be dug to a specific safe depth and electrical cabling will need to be laid out to the area by an electrician. Irrigation may also be useful depending on the size of the peat bog. Whether you put permanent pipes in to run mains water if the quality is good or from a water tank, it's good to plan what you'll need first and where it will all go.

#### Step 3: Start digging.

Did out a hole to the size that you want the peat bog to be with a minimum depth of 30cm and a maximum of 50/60cm with a flat bottom. For the peat bog and pond, try and keep the sides and bottom as smooth as possible and free from any any pointy roots or rocks that may tear the plastic pond liner. If adding a pond you can also dig out the space for that at the same time to what size and depth you wish to make it.

#### Step 4: Create soft base and sides.

Fill the base with a minimum of 3-10cm of sand and line the side walls with rock wool, thick layers of newspaper or something soft. (This will soften the base and sides to further help protect the plastic liner from getting holes and tearing.

#### Step 5: Place pond liner

Drop in a thick plastic pond liner into the bottom of the hole and smooth out any creases as best you can. Some neat folds on the sidewalls will be needed to help mould the plastic around the hole. It's also best to have 15-20cm of plastic liner over lapping over the top edges. These can be buried and cover later with toppings, but will help guide water into the bog.

(Trim off any excess plastic from the over lap at the end once the CP mix has been added)

#### Step 6: Get CP soil ready.

Mix up some pre saturated fresh sphagnum peat moss with either perlite or coarse river sand.

A ratio of 2:1 (2 parts peat moss to 1 part perlite/sand) or for drier regions a ratio of 3:1 (3 parts peat moss to 1 part perlite/sand) will be fine for *Sarracenia*, *Dionaea*, some *Drosera*, *Utricularia* and *Pinguicula*.

\*If using dry peat moss or perlite it's best to water first (preferable with rain or distilled water) to avoid inhaling in dust particles and it's best also to wear a breathing mask in the process.

If you're planning on planting *Darlingtonia*, create a mix of 3 parts sphagnum moss and 1 part perlite.

For *Cephalotus* they require more drainage and a mix of 3 parts perlite/sand to 1 part peat moss.

#### Step 7: Drainage

This will vary on where the peat bog is situated. 5-7cm of smooth round pebbles should be placed on the bottom as drainage. And if it's on a slope some PVC piping can be placed on the lower side to drain any excess water from the bog.



In 2018 the new pond and peat bog area were dug out with a adjoining path and drainage along side the area.



Filling the pond with water. The best way is to put a small amount in the bottom and level it out. Then fill slowly and keep adjusting the level to make sure it's right.



Mixing the peat/perlite mix in a 80 litre container.



Filling the peat bog with the new peat/perlite mix.



The new peat bog being filled with a peat/perlite mix in preparation for *Sarracenia* to be planted.



August 2018, a variety of *Sarracenia* species and a few selected hybrids were planted into the new peat bog.



The new pond a month after planting with stone pebbles used to line and hide the edge.

#### Step 8: Fill with CP soil mix

Start filling the peat bog with your saturated sphagnum peat moss and perlite/sand mix until it reaches the desired level which should be roughly the same as the surrounding ground. (The level may raise slightly once plants are placed into the peat bog. This will depend on the size of the bog and amount of soil around the plants placing into the bog.)

If you're planning on planting *Darlingtonia* or *Cephalotus* work out a spot that gets some shading from the harsh afternoon sun to help prevent the roots from heating up which makes them die and usually also leads to the death of your plant.

If there's a suitable spot you can add their specific soil medium in that spot instead. Also add a little more than you need to as it may slowly blend into the other peat mix.

#### Step 9: Water new peat mix in peat bog

To get rid of any air pockets in the soil mix, water the soil thoroughly with preferably rain or distilled water and then let it settle for a few days to a week. If the level drops too much then add more peat mix and water again.

#### Step 10: Create your plant composition

Place plants while they're still in pots where you'd like them in the bog. It's best to arrange the taller *Sarracenia* species/hybrids at the back and smaller prostrate plants at the front if it can only be viewed from one side or taller plants in the middle and smaller plants around the outside if the bog can be seen from all sides.

If you're going to use any large rocks or boulders in the bog place them in now. As they will sink into the mix it may be best to put some supporting brick underneath to prevent them sinking too far.

Remember to leave adequate space between the plant for them to grow and spread out into. The bigger the plant the more space it will need as *Sarracenia* have rhizomes which grow forwards. They can create additional growing points along the rhizome so can become very large in 3-5 years time depending on what species/hybrid it is.

Small genera like *Dionaea*, *Drosera*, *Pinguicula*, *Cephalotus* can fill in the spaces in between the *Sarracenia*. *Dionaea* and some *Drosera* will require full sunlight, but *Pinguicula*, *Cephalotus* will prefer some shade.

#### Step 11: Irrigation

Once you have a rough composition of where your plants will be placed, you can also rough in where your irrigation is going to go to water all the plants.

#### Step 12: When to plant?

Planting is best done in Winter before August in Victoria while the plants are still dormant. However if you want to create a bog straight away they can be planted still in their pots and taken out and planted properly the following winter.

#### Step 13: Planting

Start planting from the back of the bog with the taller plants and work towards the front for a bog viewed from the front or from the middle outwards for a bog that can

be viewed on multiple sides. If the plants are in an old soil mix it will be beneficial to wash most of it off. If the mix is less than 2 years old and looks ok, tease the roots a little and plant them into the bog, into a similar sized hole as the pot. But make sure that the *Sarracenia* rhizomes stay above the soil level. (As that can lead to them rotting)

Keep labels with each plant if you want to remember what they are. (Or draw a map to record what you've planted and where if you don't want labels to effect the natural look.

#### Step 14: Water in you plants

After you've finished planting, use a watering can with preferably rain or distilled water to thoroughly water in each plant to get rid of any air pockets from around their root systems.

#### Step 15: Companion plants

Apart from Carnivorous plants in your bog you may also want to put in a few other water loving plants such as Papyrus, reeds, waterlilies grasses, mosses etc which can help create an attractive natural environment. Just be extremely careful what you put where as some plants can become invasive very quickly and become extremely hard to get rid of.

#### Step 16: Artificial lighting

If you want to enjoy you peat bog after dark, spotlights can be placed within the bog to highlight some of your best plants.

If you have access to mains power you can connect spotlights up with a transformer or alternatively use solar weatherproof spotlights as an easy alternative.

#### Step 17: Top Dressing

It's always good to add a type of mulch to gardens. And for carnivorous plant, river pebbles are a great natural way to finish off a peat bog. They are more expensive than other mulches, but the positive far outweigh the negatives as a type of mulch as they help prevent weeds, evaporation, keep the soil cool, stop birds, cats and dogs from digging up the soil, won't blow away and last forever.

#### Step 18: Maintenance

Depending on how big and deep your peat bog is, what water you use for irrigation and what you've used for mulch, minimal maintenance is needed for a peat bog. A few key things to continually check for is that the irrigation is working if one is set up. Weeds are pulled out so that they don't spread. That there's no unwanted insect infestations like aphids, thrip, scale, mealy bug, spider mites, caterpillars etc. After Autumn it's also good to cut off all of the dead leaves of *Sarracenia* and remove any other foreign matter to help air circulate through the plants and to prevent fungus from attacking plants in winter.

And hopefully your peat bog will thrive and last for many years.

Happy growing!



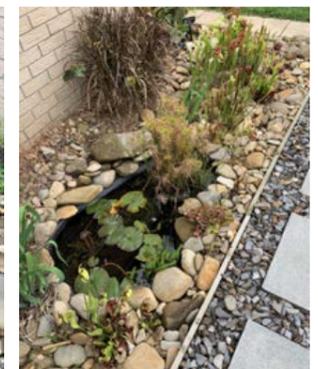
Stone pebbles were also used as mulch for the peat bog to create a natural looking finish.



2019: One year on all of the *Sarracenia* are doing well and many have grown vigorously with no losses.



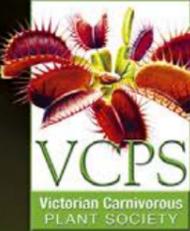
September 2019: Many of the *Sarracenia* are flowering.



The view of the pond and peat bog, October 2019.



October 2019: Most *Sarracenia* have now produced new pitchers and many plants have doubled in size in one year.



# Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY

## 2019 Annual Show



**FREE ENTRY**  
**Saturday November 30th – December 1st**  
 9AM TO 5PM AT COLLECTORS CORNER,  
 GARDENWORLD CENTRE, SPRINGVALE ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH  
[www.vcps.org](http://www.vcps.org)

## Meetings highlights & Plants of the night!

BY ANDREW GIBBONS



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ANY CP'S**  
 1st place: *Drosera zonaria*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ANY CP'S**  
 2nd place: *Byblis gigantea*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ANY CP'S**  
 3rd place: *Drosera prostratoscaposa*

### June 25th VCPS meeting

#### AGM, ANY CP'S

The society's AGM was held at the June meeting. Thank all members who have contributed to running the society and to those who have volunteered to be on our committee for the coming year. The current committee members can be found on the committee page of our website.

Topic plants for the June meeting were open to any carnivorous plant. Sean's *Drosera zonaria* was awarded plant of the night. This Western Australian tuberous *Drosera* can be both difficult to grow and shy to flower.

Three other plants Sean brought in were voted equal runners up for plant of the night. Sean's *Byblis gigantea* was brought in several months ago when it was flowering. He has since cut the plant back to reinvigorate it and it is now growing back strongly.

*Drosera prostratoscaposa* was also brought in several meetings ago, when it was in flower. Sean's plant is now has now produced a rosette and was showing this species habit of the new leaves pushing the old flower stems over as the plant grows.

*Pinguicula caerulea* is native to south east USA. Sean brought in one of several plants he grew from seed. This plant was his first to flower and had produced a very deep blue flower.

As with previous years, the night concluded with the AGM plant giveaway with a variety of uncommon and unusual carnivorous plants on offer for members to take home and add to their collections

#### The species benched at the June meeting included:

- Byblis gigantea*
- Drosera browniana*
- Drosera graniticola*
- Drosera gunniana*
- Drosera intermedia*
- Drosera peltata*
- Drosera prostratoscaposa*
- Drosera zonaria*
- Pinguicula caerulea*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
1st place: *Drosera aberrans*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
2nd place: *Drosera macrophylla*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
3rd place: *Drosera tubaestylis*



*Drosera squamosa*



*Drosera lowrei*



*Paphiopedilum insigne*

## July 24th VCPS meeting

### ROSETTED TUBEROUS DROSERA JUDGING & PROPAGATION

Judging for our Annual Show's Rosetted Tuberosus *Drosera* category was held at the July meeting, as this group of carnivorous plants has largely gone dormant by the time our December show is held. Several plants from the the former *Drosera whittakeri* complex were brought into the meeting. Amongst these were two large pots filled with *Drosera aberrans* that Peter brought in, one of which won best rosetted tuberosus *Drosera*. Steve's *Drosera macrophylla* won second place while third place went to Steve's *Drosera tubaestylis*. The latter plant was a giant swamp form of the species and was producing deep red rosettes.

David brought in two *Drosera browniana* plants. Interestingly, one of these plants had been flowering for several months while the other was just starting to produced flower buds.

#### The species benched at the July meeting included:

*Dionaea muscipula*, *Drosera aberrans*, *D. browniana*, *D. lowrei*, *D. macrophylla*, *D. praefolia*, *D. prostratoscaposa*, *D. tubaestylis*, *D. squamosa*, *D. tubaestylis*, *D. whittakeri*, *Heliamphora folliculata*, *Nepenthes dubia*, *N. 'Gothica'*, *N. ventricosa*, *Paphiopedilum insigne*, *Sarracenia minor*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
1st place: *Drosera zigzagia*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
2nd place: *Drosera stolonifera*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:**  
3rd place: *Drosera menziesii*



*Pinguicula caerulea*



*Utricularia menziesii*



*Drosera rubrifolia*

## August 28th VCPS meeting

### UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER GROWING DROSERA JUDGING

Following on from last month's judging for the rosetted tuberosus *Drosera*, members brought in their upright tuberosus *Drosera* for the August meeting for show judging. A large number of very impressive tuberosus *Drosera* were brought into the meeting including several examples different forms of the same species.

Sean's *Drosera zigzagia* was awarded 1st place for this category. This species is found growing around the margins of salt lakes in Western Australia and, as the name suggests the carnivorous leaves alternate along a short zigzag-shaped stem.

2nd place went to Sean's Hill's form of *Drosera stolonifera* and 3rd place went to Sean's pot of *Drosera menziesii*, the latter being a very large and robust example of this species.

Non-topic plant of the night went to Sean's *Pinguicula caerulea*. This native of SE USA had several plants in the plant in flower or in bud. Runner-up plant of the night went to Sean's *Utricularia menziesii* and *D. rubrifolia*.

#### The species benched at the August meeting included:

*Drosera aliciae*, *D. afra*, *D. aff bulbosa*, *D. andersoniana*, *D. auriculata*, *D. basifolia*, *D. borealis*, *D. browniana*, *D. calycina*, *D. coocipetala*, *D. cistiflora*, *D. eremaea*, *D. erythrogynae*, *D. esperansis*, *D. gigantea*, *D. gracilis*, *D. graniticola*, *D. gunniana*, *D. indumenta*, *D. latifolia*, *D. macrantha*, *D. menziesii*, *D. moorei*, *D. myriantha*, *D. peltata*, *D. pallida*, *D. planchonii*, *D. platypoda*, *D. porrecta*, *D. rubrifolia*, *D. rupicola*, *D. stolonifera*, *D. stricticaulis*, *D. squamosa*, *D. subhirtella*, *D. thysanosepala*, *D. trinervia*, *D. venusta*, alba form, *D. yilgarnensis*, *D. zigzagia*, *Nepenthes ventricosa* x *ovata*, *Pinguicula agnata*, *P. caerulea*, *Sarracenia flava* var *rubricorpora*, *Utricularia cornigera*, *U. menziesii*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CATOPSIS/BROCCHINIA:**  
1st place: *Catopsis berteroniana*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CATOPSIS/BROCCHINIA:**  
2nd place: *Brocchinia hecetioides*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CATOPSIS/BROCCHINIA:**  
3rd place: *Brocchinia reducta*



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:**  
1st place: Seedlings



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:**  
2nd place: Common form



**PLANT OF THE NIGHT**  
**CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:**  
3rd place: "Paul's Giant Clone"

## September 25th VCPS meeting

### CEPHALOTUS, BROCCHINIA AND CATOPSIS

The September topic was *Cephalotus*, *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis*. *Cephalotus follicularis* can be a challenge for many growers to keep happy. The key to growing these plants seems to be to avoid extremes and dramatic changes in their environment.

This can be difficult to judge as, even if you can avoid the temptation to move a struggling plant to a new spot, it's hard to tell when a struggling plant just needs time to settle into a new spot or whether it's dying from poor conditions.

Several members brought in their *Cephalotus* to the August meeting. Peter's Ceph had been growing from seed for 9 years but still hadn't progressed beyond the size of a small seedling. His plant was voted *Cephalotus* of the night in the hope that it got some encouragement to grow bigger.

2nd place went to one of two Ceph's that Justin brought in. These were bought from Collector's corner about 18 - 24 months ago. He's been growing them on the floor of his greenhouse in a 50:50 peat:sand mix and his plants were thriving and showing lots of colour.

3rd place went to Steve's "Paul Edwards" clone, which he has taken as a cutting from Paul's plant in 2013.

The subcarnivorous *Bromeliads* in the *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis* genera are generally easy to grow in

Melbourne although they lack the flamboyance of other *Bromeliads*. Peter brought in two pots of *Catopsis berteroniana* "Guatemala", one which was growing in the greenhouse and the other outside. The greenhouse-grown plant, which was voted *bromeliad* of the night, had cleaner leaves due to the more protected position but both plants were growing well as evidence of how forgiving this form is.

2nd place bromeliad went to Ben's pup of *Brocchinia hecetioides*. This species is much rarer in Australian collections than the related *Brocchinia reducta*. *Brocchinia hecetioides* has a more open habit than *reducta* and typically forms a somewhat looser tank.

3rd place Steve's *Brocchinia reducta*, a large plant in an 8" inch pot with multiple growing points. Steve's got this plant from Collectors Corner 15 years ago when this was a much rarer plant in cultivation.

#### The species benched at the September meeting included:

*Brocchinia hecetioides*, *Brocchinia reducta*, *Catopsis berteroniana*, *Cephalotus follicularis*, *Drosera geniculata*, *D. gigantea*, *D. rupicola*, *Nepenthes lowii* x *fuscus*, *N. spathulata*, *Sarracenia alata*, *S. flava* var *flava*, *Utricularia alpina*, *U. dichotoma*, *U. warburgii*

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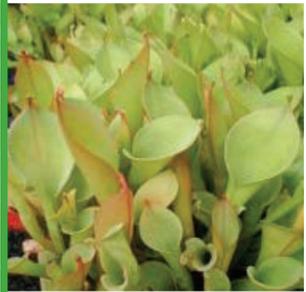
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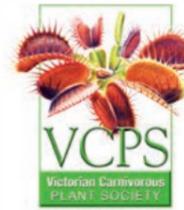
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## Correspondence

Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

**The Secretary VCPS  
1 Pollard Place,  
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AUSTRALIA**

Journal articles, in MS-Word, ready for publication, may be Emailed to the Editor or Secretary.

## Meetings

Most VCPS meetings are held in the hall at the rear of the Pilgrim Uniting Church on the corner of Bayview Road and Montague Street, Yarraville – Melway map reference 41K7. These meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

However, some meetings may be at the home of members during a weekend. Details of meeting dates and topics are listed in each journal.

If unsure of the location or date of any meeting, please ring a committee person for details.

The VCPS Annual General Meeting, usually held at Yarraville in June, provides substantial benefits for each and every member able to attend.



*Sarracenia alata*



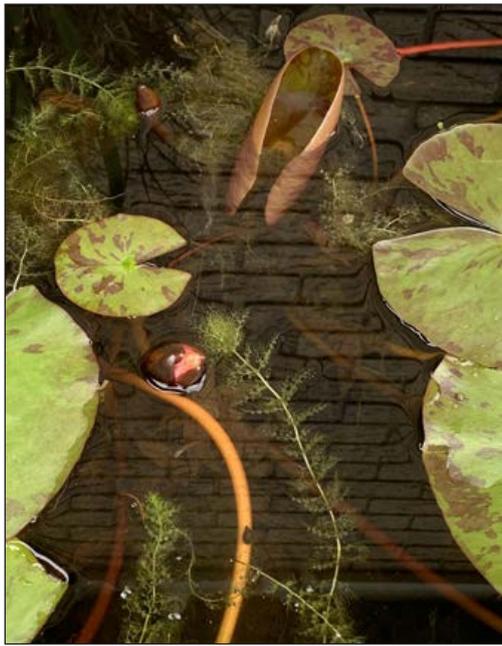
*Sarracenia flava* var. *atropurpurea*



*Sarracenia leucophylla*



*Sarracenia flava* var. *rugelii*



*Utricularia australis*



*Sarracenia leucophylla*



*Dionaea muscipula* 'Red Piranha'



*Sarracenia jonesii*