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NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

June 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to APS Mitchell's 1st Newsletter!

Hello Everyone!

And a very warm welcome to Mitchell Group's very first newsletter.

We hope to keep you updated and informed about what's been happening in the group, what's coming up in and around Mitchell and beyond and of course any articles of interest.

We'd also like our newsletter to evolve into something for our members by our members. Just one example could be showcasing what our members have growing & currently flowering so please, please, please, feel free to send in any photos you have of anything that's a current feature from your gardens (along with a little info- if you are up to penning a couple of lines) and we'll put together something for everyone's enjoyment.



Grevillea fililoba

AKA, Ellendale Pool

Grevillea (Photo: Brian Weir)

To kick start us off Brian has sent in some pic's of Grevillea's currently in flower (Continued page 2).

It's likely to take a little time to fully develop the format and content of our newsletter so all ideas, articles and other contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Contributions can be sent to me at :
wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or
Mailed to

PO Box 381

Pyalong Vic 3521

Until next month, cheers & happy gardening,

Jeanine Petts

Inside this issue:

Flowering Now

Pg 2 Have you ever wanted to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne? <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/visit-cranbourne>

June & General Meeting Information

Pg 2 The committee is currently planning a bus trip to the gardens for Sunday September 28th, 2014. In order to make this affordable and possible we need to fill a 48 seater bus.

Membership News

Pg 2 So if you or any of your friends would like to spend a worry free day among like minded people being transported to these wonderful native gardens please let us know.

May Meeting Report

Pg 3

Correa Pic's

Pg 5 Send your expression of interest to Lorraine by June 30th.

Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc...

Pg 6 Email:
lorraine_brian@bigpond.com

Committee & Contact Information

Pg 6 Mobile: 0427 323511

Expressions of Interest please...

Ever wanted to:

"spend a worry free day among like minded people being transported to visit the wonderful native Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne" ?

If so please let us know
ASAP

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **JUNE 16th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Dr Ken Walker on Australian Spiders.
- **JULY 21st 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Jason Caruso on Euc's for small gardens.
- **AUGUST 18th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker TBA
- **SEPTEMBER 15th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Vince Davey from NEUTROG
- **SEPTEMBER 28th**
Proposed bus trip to Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.—Numbers permitting.
- **OCTOBER 18th APS Mitchell PLANT EXPO**
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney St, Kilmore
9 am– 3 pm
- **OCTOBER 20th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Frances Saunders on Garden Design using Australian Native Plants
- **NOVEMBER 17th**
Talk & Garden Visit
Barbara Mau



A few *Grevillea*'s flowering now

By Brian Weir



Grevillea leptobotrys

(Photo: Brian Weir)



Grevillea tenuiloba

(Photo: Brian Weir)

Grevillea leptobotrys

Dryandra forest form.

Other name Tangled Grevillea.

This is a small dense shrub in it's natural environment, which is south east of Perth not to far from Narrogin.

Good drainage is a must for this little beauty, grafting helps over come the problem in Wallan. In our garden it grows as a medium height standard on a *G. robusta* root stock, flowering for 6-7 months of the year. Starting early summer and continuing into winter.

The delicate masses of pink flowers are a real head turner, the new growth is also great, a ruby red colour

contrasting to the older leaves which are bluey grey.

Grevillea fililoba (Pictured Pg 1)

Other name Ellendale Pool Grevillea

Fililoba is another magnificent WA plant from just east of Geraldton. It is happy growing here on it's own roots with an average rainfall of approx 750mm and temperatures varying between -4c to 44c . It flowers copiously for an extended period then spot flowers for the rest of the year. The pendulous red flowers make a great contrast against light green fern like leaves which are very soft & people friendly.

Grevillea tenuiloba

Another Great WA Grevillea from around the Wongan Hills, approx 150kms north east of Perth. Once again good drainage is a must if it is to be grown on it's own roots. We have a bush and a standard both grafted onto *G. robusta*. I absolutely love *G. tenuiloba* as a standard, it has a naturally weeping habit and the flowers are right there in your face to enjoy. The leaves are very prickly but this does not deter honey eaters who repeatedly visit the flowers for their nectar. This plant responds well to pruning which improves flowering I believe.

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
(February to November)

In the John Taylor room at
Kilmore Library

12 Sydney Street, Kilmore

Entry \$2.00 Gold Coin

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

Fertilizer Sales

(APS Mitchell Slow Release
fertiliser \$5.00 per 500g)

Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library (See Barbara)

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Members & Visitors are
encouraged to bring along
exhibits for our Flower
Specimen Table

Please label plants



June Meeting - Monday the 16th 7:30pm

Dr Ken Walker the Senior Curator of Entomology and Arachnology at Museum Victoria will be joining us to speak on Australian Spiders this coming meeting.

Dr Walker is responsible for Museum Victoria's insect and spider collection. Which is one of the largest collections held by a state institution in Australia. Containing an estimated 2.5 to 3 million specimens.

Being in contact with Australian Native Plants naturally also brings us into contact with all sorts of other garden inhabitants, spiders included. So this talk should provide some fascinating insights and also very useful information. A book on [Victorian Spiders: 'Spiders and Scorpions Commonly Found in Victoria'](#) has also been written by Dr Walker.

Reference:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/bugs/exhibition/collection.aspx>

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/spidersparlour/links.htm>

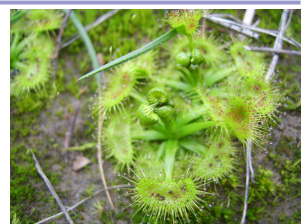
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/spiders/book.aspx>

Membership News ...

A big hello & welcome to our most recent new member:

Paul Piko :-)

Reminder... Membership renewal time is just around the corner. Details page 6!



Drosera peltata—Leaf rosette
29.08.2010 Photo: J Petts

May Meeting Report

By Jeanine Petts

On a damp, dark May night a small number of members braved the conditions to be rewarded with a fascinating and entertaining talk and display by Peter Nisbet.

Peter is a Carnivorous plant enthusiast and grower, who is also member of the Victorian Carnivorous Plants Society and he just happens to be a teacher. There was some comment about a conspiracy theory regarding teachers - it seems they abound in the group. Anyway, on to the nitty gritty, my expanded scrappy notes follow...

Of all the main species of carnivorous plants bar one (excepting Venus Fly Traps), Australia has 187 representative species which include 3 Northern Queensland Pitcher Plants and one rare/endangered species from Western Australia – The Albany Pitcher Plant. Which has been used at one time or another as the emblem of a plant society (Ed: sorry I cannot recall the mentioned society's name).

Carnivorous plants are green leaved flowering plants which means they photosynthesise and grow equally well without nutrient from insects and other organisms, but it does give them an advantage and they will grow better with the supplementary nutrient. Carnivorous plants do not react well to fertilisers - which will kill them.

The various insect traps of carnivorous plant species are leaf modifications. In the case of a Pitcher Plant the end of the leaf is modified. The traps of a Venus Flytrap are again, another type of leaf modification- a snap trap. Butterworts secrete a sticky enzyme containing substance on their leaf surface- a sort of fly paper. Other fly paper types are the *Drosera* (Sundews), which have a central growth bud and a rosette of leaves with tentacles which secrete a sticky liquid and in some species can close around a victim so it can be digested.

Carnivorous plants can be found in peat marshes, poor nutrient soil, sandy and aquatic environments, even in paddocks with grazing stock. Many can be grown in cultivation- potted. Although one species in particular: *Drosera regia* is very fickle and hard to grow. The plants need a moist humid environment and some can be kept outside. In summer, sit pots in shallow trays of water and over winter cut the water back. Some suggested sites are on a window sill or fish tank etc.

Carnivorous plants can often propagate very easily and also be very weedy. Once you have some species in your green house you'll end up with them coming up in everything. The recommended potting medium most often used is 50% peat moss with 50% sand, sphagnum moss is also used. Leaf and root cuttings are used and some species such as the Pygmy *Drosera* can reproduce via Gemmae (a modified bud of tissue that detaches from the parent and develops into a new individual). These growths can be taken off then placed on medium and will, given time grow into new plants. West Australian *Drosera* species also propagate easily.

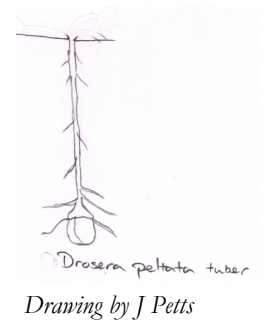
"If you are transporting Pitcher Plants in a vehicle never let them spill over"



Drosera peltata (Taken at Pyalong 19.9.2010) Photo: J Petts

Drosera (dros-er-uh) is a prolific species and propagate readily. Among the species are *Drosera binata* which grows around the world and is found South Africa, New Zealand, Australia (including Victoria) and other places, and is commonly known as the Fork-leaved sundew.

Tuberous *Drosera* are found in Southern Australia, including Tasmania & Western Australia. Two species of which are found locally: *Drosera peltata* subsp. *Peltata* & *D. peltata* subsp. *Auriculata* which grow freely amongst grass in grazing paddocks.



Utricularia (yoo-trik-yoo-lair-ee-uh), AKA, Bladderworts. The "silent but deadly" of the plant world. They Flower on the very top of the plant but the real action is all down below. Bladderworts grow in moist to wet soils or an aquatic environment. Under soil surfaces or water they have a bladder which is kept at negative pressure, so when an insect or organism brushes the trigger the prey is then sucked into the plant. A bladderworts reaction time is actually faster than that of a Venus flytrap.

Pitcher plants, as their name suggests, have a pit fall type trap. The traps are a modification formed at the tips of leaves. Throats of traps have down-ward facing hairs and there are glands which secrete a nectar-like attractant around the slippery lip of a pitcher. It's believed some species aid



Drosera peltata Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 4)

May Meeting Report

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 3)

their nectar with a narcotic drug, causing insects to fall inside, where they die and are digested. The liquid in the bottom of traps contains enzymes which break down victims.

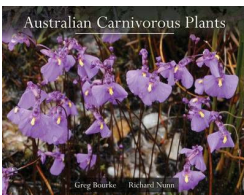
- **Sarracenia**, (sarr-uh-see-nee-uh) commonly called trumpet pitchers hold their funnel like traps in the tips of upright blades. Some looking a little reminiscent of Greenhood Orchids.
- **Nepenthes** (nep-enth-eez) are tropical Pitcher Plants. Their traps hang from the end of leaves in a vine like fashion. Some of the exotic species have common names such as Monkey Cup and Condom Plant and when you look at them you can certainly see why. Another exotic species has a symbiotic relationship with a Tree Shrew, which use the pitchers as a toilet and the plants gain nutrient from the faeces.
- **Cephalotus follicularis** (sef-ah-LOH-tus) (fol-ik-yoo-lar-is) is the West Australian/Albany Pitcher Plant. It is a small ground hugging plant with pitchers that grow to around 2 cm. They generally trap ants and about two thirds of the plant is made up of traps and one third leaves. Propagation is by leaf cutting placed in a bag of sphagnum moss-cuttings will take a few months to develop roots. The Albany Pitcher plant is found in both sandy and peaty soils. When grown in sunlight its Pitchers will turn lovely reddish shades.

Pinguicula (ping-gwik-yoo-lă), AKA Butterworts. The common name comes from the leaves being used to curdle milk. Glands on their leaves secrete a sticky enzyme which traps & digests insects. Propagation is by leaf cuttings placed on Sphagnum Moss.

Dionaea muscipula (Dye-OH-knee-uh) (mus-KIP-yoo-lă) – AKA, Venus flytrap. Along with Nursery Men and children these three form a three-way love hate relationship. Children love to set the traps off (repeatedly!). The traps take a lot of energy for the plant to operate, so too much setting off will drastically shorten a plants life. So it's back to Nursery to purchase more! A Venus Fly Trap has a very quick reaction time and once two of the hairs on its modified leaf are brushed it will set off and speedily trap an insect within. A trap will take a few days to re-open and also close up at a faster rate in warmer temperatures. They can be grown from stratified seed.

A couple of things to remember about carnivorous plants

- Slugs and Snails still love to eat them.
- Peter also warns (The voice of bitter experience here!): If you are transporting Pitcher Plants in a vehicle never let them spill over. The contents of Pitcher traps have a very strong, pungent & lingering odour – As all the members present at his talk will attest to!



Peter kindly gave the group a booklet on Carnivorous Plants which is now residing in our Group Library and is available for loan. We were also shown a book on native species by Greg Bourke and Richard Young, titled 'Australian Carnivorous Plants'.

For a mine of information on Carnivorous Plants take a look at the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society website: <http://www.vcps.org/>

Query Corner? *This section is for members questions, wish lists, has anyone got? Does anyone know? Where can I find, Etc... (Just send your questions in.)*

Brian asks...

Does anyone have spare "super tubes"? I always need, super tubes but not "forestry tubes".

Editor's Plea for a Volunteer?

I openly confessed to being a scrappy note taker and having an even scrappier memory. Consequently I'm hoping that there is a kind and generous member among us. Someone who happens to be a good note taker, is a bit of a word-smith and regularly attends meetings.

If there is a member who could take on the task of doing regular meeting reports for us it would be absolutely wonderful :-). If you could do this for us just let me or any committee member know.

Cheers, Jeanine

Correa's (A K A Brian's weeds :-))

By Lorraine Weir

(Editors Comment: Brian likes to refer to Correa's as "weeds". Lorraine and I beg to differ :-))

Correa Federation Belle (C Marian's Marvel x C reflexa var. speciosa). This Correa grows very well in our garden, approx 1 metre high, and 1metre in width. It starts spot flowering late December, with the main flowering season being Autumn. Our plant is quite hardy but does need some water during hot summers. The name Federation Belle was selected to honour the Tenterfield Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001.



Correa Little Cate (*C pulchella* Pink Mist x *C pulchella* Minor). Photo: L Weir

Correa Little Cate (C pulchella Pink Mist x C pulchella Minor). This Correa is a low growing compact plant that always seems to have a flower. It has dark green leaves and narrow bright pink tubular flowers. It is an easy plant to grow and seems to be happy in full sun or part shade. It puts on a great display of flowers in Autumn.



Correa Federation Belle (*C Marian's Marvel* x *C reflexa* var. *speciosa*).
Photo: L Weir

Correa Autumn Blaze (C pulchella). This Correa has been a real challenge to grow, with its beautiful bright orange flowers and dark green leaves. It has played musical chairs around our garden finally growing in a raised garden bed with a clay mixture in the soil. It is an extremely pretty Correa.



Correa Autumn Blaze (*C pulchella*).
Photo: L Weir

Correa Portland Belle (C alba var. alba x).

This Correa is my favourite. It was extremely hard to find in the nurseries for sale. I finally came across it being sold as Split Bell. It is a hardy plant in our garden growing in a raised bed and requires some summer watering. It has a very distinctive flower that is split. Red flower, white throat and apple green tips. It is a low growing plant about 1 metre across. The Wattle birds and Honeyeaters really enjoy feeding on this Correa.



Correa Portland Belle (*C alba* var. *alba* x).
Photo: L Weir

Garden Guide, What's To do in June...

By Barbara Mau

Things to do in the garden: It is time to cut back any leggy, woody or dead foliage to encourage new growth and flowers for Spring. The cuttings make a wonderful mulch for your garden. Simply run the mower over your pile of cuttings and spread the contents over your garden beds as mulch in Spring.

In my garden I am currently cutting back:
Chrysocephalum apiculatum,
Chrysocephalum semipapposum,
Calocephalus citreus, *Linum marginale*

Poa Labillardierei, *Wahlenbergia communis*,
Xerochrysum viscosum.

It is also time to: Germinate any *Arthropodiums* (Chocolate or Vanilla lilies). Order new stock for Spring planting. Planting can still be done on hillsides or frost free protected garden areas. Keep an eye on seedlings for snail or slug damage, and keep them moist.

Keep weeds under control.

Remove any tree guards from 2 years old

tree or shrub plantings.

Collect seeds of, *Eucalypts*, *Callistemons*,
Allocasuarina, *Leptospermum* and *Hakeas*.

Still flowering in my garden:

Brachyscome multifida-Cut-Leaf Daisy,
Chrysocephalum apiculatum-Common Everlastings,
Goodenia gracilis-Slender Goodenia,
Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides-Button Wrinklewort (nationally endangered),
Olearia ramulosa-Twiggy Daisy-Bush.

Reminders, A P S Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

- For their various contributions of Articles, photos, ideas, information, artwork, proof-reading, inspiration, feedback and generally putting up with a "Serial Pest". :-)) A VERY BIG Thank you to Brian & Lorraine Weir, Maureen Runge, Barbara Mau, Neil Humphreys & Bill Barker.
- THANK YOU also to Cathy Powers for mailing list information.

REMINDER:

APS Victoria Inc & APS Mitchell Inc. membership fees are due 1st July 2014.

Single Member

Victorian fee \$32.00

Mitchell fee \$10.00

Total \$42.00

Couple or Family

Victorian fee \$35.00

Mitchell fee \$12.00

Total \$47.00

People who joined at the 2013 Expo pay only Mitchell fee's

Single member \$10.00

Couple or Family \$12.00

FEES ARE PAYABLE TO A P S MITCHELL Inc. TREASURER BILL BARKER. CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO : APS MITCHELL Inc



A P S VIC DIARY DATES...

August 30— ANPS East Gippsland 'Wattle Day' celebration. 10 am—12 noon at the Rotunda, Main St Bairnsdale.

September 6— APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick. 9 am—4 pm.

September 13 & 14— APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo, Eltham Community &

Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am—4 pm both days. Melway's 21 J6.

September 20 & 21— Bendigo Native Plants Group Flower Show. Rotary Gateway Park, High Street, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 10 am—4:30 pm both days \$5 entry (children free).

September 20 & 21— ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Weekend, 10 am—4:30 pm each day. Anglesea Community Hall, McMillan St, Anglesea.

October 4 & 5— APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30 am—5pm.

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.
PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764 No. A0054306V
aps.mitchell@gmail.com

Committee Members

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| President | (Vacant) |
| Vice President | Lorraine Weir 5783 2912 |
| Secretary | Maureen Runge |
| Treasurer/Memberships | Bill Barker 5783 3838 |
| Committee: Janice Baker, Neil Humphreys, Barbara Mau, Brian Weir. | |
| Group Librarian | Barbara Mau |
| Plant Sales | Brian & Lorraine Weir |
| Newsletter Editor | Jeanine Petts 5785 1434 |

Newsletter contributions:
Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts
Email: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

For inclusion in the next Newsletter please forward contributions prior to the first Monday of each month.

Activity suggestions wanted!

Calling all members....

For your ideas and suggestions on group activities e.g., Garden visits, Parks, local areas of interest or significance, propagating day, seed collection day, events on etc.

Where would you like to go? What would you like to do as a group?

Simply contact any committee member. We look forward to & greatly value and appreciate your input.

Photo: M Runge

Hakea laurina- Pin-cushion Hakea

This is the first time this plant has flowered in Maureen's Garden.

