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NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

October news...!

Hello and welcome to our October edition.

Mid Spring is here and a hive of activity abounds. Our Mitchell Group's Plant Expo is only days away and we need as many members as possible to lend a hand. If you're able to help out on the day (Saturday the 18th) and/or help with set up on Friday the 17th - please contact

Lorraine (see page 9 for details). The committee is also putting out a call for members to supply flowers for the Expo (see below right).

On a very sad note we heard of the recent passing of one of our members. Following a brief battle with illness Charlie Taylor of Kalkallo passed away during the second week of September. Charlie was one of our members who favoured the back row and we extend heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends.



Conospermum stoechadis
Common Smokebush
RBG Cranbourne
Photo: J Petts

Our November issue will be our last newsletter for 2014 due out on the 2nd Monday of November (the 10th). Please keep all the lovely photo's, articles and items of interest rolling in. The deadline for contributions is November 3rd (1st Monday) and can be sent to me at:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or
Mailed to PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

Until next month, enjoy the sunshine,
happy gardening & cheers for now,

Jeanine

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Flowers Needed for Expo...

The committee is appealing to all members who can supply flowers to bring them along to help us make a really great floral display for our Native Plant Expo & Flower Display this Saturday. Flowers from your gardens and even your

neighbours and friends gardens (if possible) would be very greatly appreciated. Please label any specimen you know the name of and bring them along to the Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street Kilmore during the afternoon of Friday 17th.

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October 2014

Volume 1, Issue 5

Mitchell Diary Dates..

• **OCTOBER 18th APS Mitchell PLANT EXPO**
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney St, Kilmore
9 am - 3 pm

• **OCTOBER 20th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
To Be Advised—Come along & find out on the night.

• **NOVEMBER 17th 7:30pm MEETING/AGM**
Guest Speaker:
Barbara Mau
"Reinterpreting Glover's Garden".

Please Note:
Our Annual General Meeting (in its usual brief, succinct form) will be held prior to Barbara's talk.

• **NOVEMBER 22nd 2 pm**
Garden Visit to Barbara Mau's

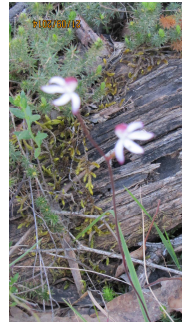


Wildflowers at Jeffrey's Lane 21/9/2014...

Janis has sent in photos from Jeffrey's Lane.

There were lots of wildflowers in patches amongst the Grass Trees. Some of the species sighted were *Diuris Chryseopsis*, the *Caladenia* is the musk one, as well as ordinary ones, the *Stackhousia* is the one starting with G, there were *Goodenias*, *Hibbertias*, early *Brunonias*, Greenhoods, *Bossiaie*, etc. etc. Also Leopard orchid.

Worth looking at!



Clockwise: *Diuris Chryseopsis*- Golden Moths, *Caladenia gracilis*- Musky Caladenia, *Stackhousia monogyna*- Creamy Candles, *Glossodia major*- Wax Lip Orchid, *Diuris Chryseopsis* & *Coronidium scorpioides*- Button Everlasting



Photos: Janis Baker

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



October Meeting - Monday the 20th 7:30pm

Unfortunately the speaker originally planned for this months meeting has had to move interstate and is no longer able to join us. Instead the committee are currently working on finding a new speaker, possibly a representative from the CFA to talk on preparing our gardens ahead of the fire season. At time of writing we have yet to definitely find or confirm next Monday's speaker therefore we could well end up with a "surprise" guest for the evening. So come along and find out on the night.



Hibbertia obtusifolia - Grey Guinea-flower

Colin Officer Reserve 5/10/2014

Memberships...

A last word from Bill on 2014-15 membership fees... In order to reach APS Victoria in time to stay on the mailing list and receive *Growing Australian* please make sure any late renewal fees reach Bill no later than October 28th, 2014. For membership/renewal enquiries please contact Bill Barker :
Phone: 5783 3838.

Cranbourne Gardens Wrap Up...

By Jeanine Petts

Sunday September 18th turned out to be a hold on to your hats day although sunny and pleasantly warm. We headed out bound for Cranbourne bright and early. Picking up a couple of other group members along the way gave the added advantage of pleasant company, getting to know people and discovering we had more in common than just an interest in native plants. By morning tea time our group of fourteen had assembled in the Café at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne all enjoying coffee & a bite to eat. Two of our group were in the mood to wander the native gardens as they pleased and the remaining twelve opted to take the 11 am guided walking tour. Although we discovered we should have pre-booked for a separate group tour we were still happily allocated a guide of our own & set off around the gardens with our guide Margaret explaining the history & design concepts of the gardens along the way. The morning tour covered parts of both the first and second stages of the gardens. The site has been owned by the RBG since the 70's with the design process really getting underway in the 90's. Stage 1 has been open about 7 or 8 years now and Stage 2 is still quite young with it being only two years since its opening. The main design concept is based on the theme of water through the landscape – Underground in the red centre, bubbling up from the artesian basin and moving through the landscape in a sometimes ephemeral manner. The gardens also boast having the longest sculpture in Australia with views well worth seeing. Within the main design concept of the gardens there are a great number of smaller specific design areas. Some of the areas our morning tour covered were:

- The Diversity Garden, showing plants from localities around the country.
- The Water Saving Garden in which plants are grouped according to water requirements.
- The Future Garden has been constructed using recycled materials with its focus on the artificial manipulation of plants and all the ways we seek to alter the natural form of plants.
- The Home Garden shows design possibilities for native plants in a home garden setting and is designed to be changed every couple of years or so but the current format has been in place for longer than intentionally planned.
- The Kids' Backyard Garden has been designed using organic materials and with stimulating the imagination in mind.
- The Cultivar Garden highlights experimental and newly released plant varieties in an ordered format.
- The Research Garden contains research plots used by horticulturalists and higher education students highlighting the role of Botanic Gardens in research and its impacts on home gardens.

We also wandered around Howson Hill which gives views across the gardens.



Red Sand Garden & Ephemeral Lake Sculpture

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Clare, Lorraine & Jeanine

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Listening to Margaret's introduction

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Maureen & Victoria

Photo: Neil Humphreys

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Cranbourne Gardens Wrap Up...

(Continued from page 3)

Crossing into the Arbour Garden we had a surprise stop and few minutes of added interest when an eagle eyed member of our group spotted a Tiger snake very close by so we had to take a step or two back, wait and watch while our guide called the sighting in. Then we waited a little longer for the ranger to arrive before moving on.

The rest of our tour took us past The Seaside Garden then through an urban themed area containing the Greening Cities Garden, Lifestyle Garden, Backyard Garden, Promenade Plaza and the How to Garden before ending at a half way point near the Kiosk at the Northern Precinct of the Gardens. At that point some of our group wandered back and off to other areas of interest while others stayed and enjoyed lunch at or near the Kiosk. Our Guide Margaret brought Barrie Gallacher over to us for a bit of meet & greet. Barrie is an APS Vic member involved with the Cranbourne Gardens.

Following our lunch break most of the rest of our group wandered off as they desired while four of us continued with Margaret & Barrie on an informal tour around much of the second half of the circuit through the Gardens. Travelling back over the Lily Pad Bridge some of the remaining areas we took in were: the Gondwana Garden, the Weird & Wonderful Garden, The Forest Garden, Eucalypt Walk, Stringybark, Bloodwood, Peppermint, Box & Ironbark Gardens which eventually led us back to the Visitor Centre and our last feature of the day an Orchid display on ground level under the Café. A final stop at the Garden's shop and our day was done. All in all for us it was a great day out and we hope a great day had by all.



The Tiger Snake

Photo: Neil Humphreys



On Tour

Photo: Jeanine Petts



On Tour

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Lechenaultia biloba

Photo: Neil Humphreys



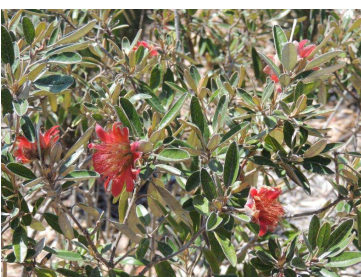
Escarpment Wall Sculpture

Photo: Jeanine Petts



Bee & Bill

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Diplolaena grandiflora

Photo: Neil Humphreys



Above: *Telopea speciosissima*

Right: *Dendrobium speciosum*

Photos: Jeanine Petts



September Meeting Report

By Jeanine Petts

September 15, 2014: Helen Lovel—Neutrog Fertilisers.

Helen Lovel introduced herself & explained she'd received a call from Vince Davey (our intended speaker) and that he'd mixed up the APS Mitchell Group with Mitchell in ACT – where he currently is & would she come along as his replacement for the evening's talk. Helen originally worked for Neutrog a number of years ago and has only recently returned to their employ.

First up a little background: Neutrog is situated about an hour and a half out of Adelaide on a 52 acre site which is head office, manufacturing and administration. The owners started out from a farming background & the property at Kanmantoo backs on to a copper mine. The name Neutrog comes from combining Nutrients + Organics and as their name suggests Neutrog have developed a range of organic fertilisers which are supplied on both a commercial and retail level nationally. Over the years the operation has grown and currently also exports to Singapore, Vietnam, Guam & Taiwan. There is a Branch in South Africa and more recently a new branch in Ireland.

Neutrog's catch phrase "The Experts Choice" reflects that Neutrog products are used by professionals - people and organisations who rely upon the fertilisers they use for their living. All of Neutrog's products are primarily developed and tested within the commercial market. One example given was the product Sudden Impact For Roses- commercial trials were established with The Rose Society of SA and professional rose growers and a process of 'tweaking' the analysis including major & minor elements continued until the "best fertiliser" was developed. This resulted in the Rose Societies of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Gold Coast, Western Australia, The South West Rose Group of WA, the National Rose Society and Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. endorsing the product. Many high profile sites around Australia use Neutrog products some of these include the Victoria State Rose Garden, Morwell Rose Garden, International Rose Garden SA, Flemington Racecourse, Old Parliament House Gardens Canberra, Araluen WA & the National Rose Garden at Woolmers Estate in Tasmania. A number of Garden Personalities have become associated with Neutrog over the last 10-15 years and have authored a series of garden guide books specific to each state. There is book for SA by Sophie Thompson, a Victorian edition by Jane Edmanson, a NSW edition by Linda, Sandra & Graham Ross and Editions for Queensland and WA will be forthcoming.

Along with making fertilisers Neutrog also has a philanthropic community spirited side and have established their Pooh Bah Foundation to support community based parks & gardens and garden related clubs, societies and organisations throughout Australia. It puts aside money and supplies free or discounted fertilisers in support of organisations and their works such as the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, the Royal Talbot Rehab Centre (Sensory Garden), and the Botanic Gardens Trust among many others.

There is also a club for gardeners called the Pooh Bah Club. This free club provides information, updates, newsletters and product samples (sometimes via a voucher redeemable at a retailer). Communication is via email and Helen assured us that it's not the sort of club that bombards its members only providing updates and information every couple of months or so. A form was made available and most (if not all) of the committee and a number of other APS Mitchell members signed up on the night. Anyone wanting to sign up can do so via the Neutrog website at <http://www.neutrog.com.au/join-the-pooh-bah-club/>

Now down to some of the nitty gritty information...

Neutrog base their fertilisers on chicken manure, some seaweed and fish. The raw material is composted for 8-10 weeks, kept watered by drippers and the manure is regularly turned. Once the manure has been well composted it is screened for foreign objects (stones etc.), then when the moisture level is at 15% it is pelleted and dried to form the end product. Each manure row can be and is traceable back to its raw sources as Neutrog takes its quality control and certified organic status seriously. A large part of their business is farming – and products are Bio-organic farm suitable.

Research and development is always ongoing. A couple of products under development are – Kat Can Doo & Humungus soil kit. Two recently developed products available from Bunnings and Masters are:

- Rocket Fuel- a pellet form organic fruit and vegetable fertiliser that can be used for bed preparation, at planting and seasonally for established trees & plants.
- GOGO Juice - is a liquid Pro-biotic full of beneficial microbes that help organic matter in the soil to be broken down & made available to plants. In its development process the very first batch was actually brewed in a beer brewing kit. It's suitable for year round application for the whole garden including native plants and can also be used as an additive for compost.

Soon to be released is "Bush Tucker" a specific fertiliser for native plants. Angus Stewart from Gardening Australia is currently working with Neutrog on this project.

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September Meeting Report

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 5)

Helen recommended year round fertilising as like humans plants require constant feeding all year round and the more regular the better, at least once each season. Happy healthy plants are more resistant to pests and diseases.

Winter fertilising helps plants to access nutrients, cope with stress, promotes root growth and frost resistance. "Seamungus" was recommended. Its Suggested usage is monthly.

Spring fertilising helps to encourage new growth and productive plants and also promotes resistance to pests, diseases, frost and heat stress.

Summer fertilising helps with root growth and to cope with heat stress, pests and diseases.

Autumn Fertilising helps plants rejuvenate & recover from the stress of summer and also helps give new plantings the TLC needed to develop.

For more information on year round fertilising programs visit: <http://www.neutrog.com.au/fertilising-programs-2/>

Some specific tips for native gardens from the website are:

Spring: As natives finish flowering prune them back by up to one third and feed with two good handfuls of Seamungus per plant.

Summer: In mid-summer give natives a light trim to maintain shape and feed with Seamungus.

Autumn: As the autumn rains arrive give all natives 100g of Seamungus to help promote healthy, new autumn growth.

Winter: Winter is a great time for planting natives. Use some Seamungus in the bottom of the planting hole to get them started, and water in with GOGO Juice. If you need some winter colour in the garden consider planting the colourful climber *Hardenbergia violacea* (commonly called Happy Wanderer) or flowering shrub *Alyogyne huegelii* (commonly called Native Hibiscus).



Included Neutrog's range of fertilisers is:

Multi purpose certified organic fertilisers:

- Cock a Doodle Doo – Available at Home Hardware.
- Rapid Raiser – A pellet form certified organic fertiliser that contains 4 parts nitrogen.
- Bounce Back – Pellet form certified organic fertiliser with 3 parts nitrogen.
- Rooster Booster – Available only from Bunnings, pellet form certified organic fertiliser with 3 parts nitrogen.

Specialist Garden & Lawn Products (Chemically Enhanced):

- Kahoona – for Camellias, Gardenias, Azaleas, Rhododendrons and other acid loving plants. Pellet Form Organic Based Boosted Fertiliser 6:2:8 – plus the full range of secondary nutrients and micronutrients in a natural form.
- Sudden Impact – For roses and fruiting & flowering plants except natives & bare rooted roses.
- Strike Back – For Orchids and potted flowering and fruiting plants. Pellet Form Organic Based Boosted Fertiliser 8:4:10 along with added magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron and molybdenum to the existing range of nutrients provided by its organic base.
- Upsurge & Sudden Impact for Lawns – Nitrogen boosted fertiliser used to lush green growth.
- Gyganic – For Fruit And Citrus – Pellet Form Organic Based Boosted Fertiliser. Developed to enhance fruit size, quality and taste 7:4:9 – with boosted levels of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Iron and Magnesium.

Image: Neutrog

<http://www.neutrog.com.au/fertilising-programs-2/>

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September Meeting Report

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 6)

Plant Tonics:

- Seamungus – for year round seasonal use- a health tonic and planting food for all plants including natives.
- GOGO Juice – for year round soil conditioning and to stimulate growth and root development. Suitable for all plants including natives.

Three products used by Botanic Gardens in Australia are:

- Blade Runner- Granular form organic fertiliser ideal for lawns 3:2:2 – plus the full range of secondary nutrients and micronutrients in a natural form.
- Rapid Raiser - Pellet form organic fertiliser 4:3:2 – plus the full range of secondary nutrients and micronutrients in a natural form.
- Bounce Back- Pellet form organic fertiliser 3:2:2 – plus the full range of secondary nutrients and micronutrients in a natural form.

They are organic, BFA registered products used by professional turf managers, gardeners and horticulturalists. Also easy to use in home gardens, pots and lawn.

When asked what to use for bulbs Helen recommended Seamungus when growing and Sudden Impact just before die back.

Helen asked that if we like Neutrog products to spread the word and support our local suppliers. If they don't already stock a Neutrog product ask them get to the product in. And a final note... Remember to water in well!



Our FREE SAMPLE packs revealed - Each attendee took one of these packs home on the night.

Photo: Ian Julian

Hakea Burrendong Beauty...

By Brian Weir

As a mate of mine Graeme Woods would say, "Damn near good enough to be called a grevillea". Beautiful plant for 8 weeks of the year, then you walk past it without noticing it's there for the next 44 weeks. It is a hybrid Hakea found growing at the Burrendong Arboretum in the mid 80,s. It is a cross between *H. myrtoidea* and *H. petiolaris* Well worth a place in every garden.



Photos:

Brian Weir

Potted Pictures

By Lorraine Weir

Took a couple of photos of my pot of *Lechenaultia*. The larger plant is a hybrid called Tropicana. They are planted in a mix of propagation sand and native potting mix. For people with limited garden space they grow so well in pots. It faces north on our front veranda. Also a couple of photos of the pots of *Pterostylis Curta* (Blunt Greenhood). I have always loved Native Orchids and didn't know they were so easy to grow. Watering is the main problem, I only water after they appear each year and stop as they begin to die back to go into dormancy.



Garden Guide- What's to do in October...

By Barbara Mau

We are truly into spring and should have most of our new plantings in the ground. The projected weather forecast is for a drier and warmer than usual summer. If some planting were still to be done it would be advisable to complete this task before the end of October. Young plants need a little time to establish themselves in their new environment before the summer heat arrives.

Some time towards the end of this month, after some good rain (we hope), and before the weather starts to warm further, it might be wise to apply some additional aged Eucalyptus mulch to garden beds. Nitrogen is most important to good plant growth, and aged Eucalyptus mulch is therefore better than fresh E. mulch that can deplete the soil's nitrogen supplies as it decomposes. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, keep the root zone cool, reduces weed growth, and over several seasons will decompose adding to the soil's structure. However, plant based mulches prohibit seed germination, a plus as a weed deterrent but not great when you want

your natives to self-seed. These mulches act as a barrier between seeds and the soil.

Gravel mulch (7mm pebbles) is often used as an alternative, allowing the seeds to be washed down between the stones to make contact with the soil and enable germination. Gravel of course does not break down to add decomposition to the soil. It does however add to the good soil drainage, a requirement of many of our native plants. It also keeps the soil cool and moist, but you will grow more weeds as well as sprout your natives. Gravel does not need replacing, plant-based mulches do. There are always choices to be made!

Take time to enjoy, contemplate and reflect in your garden. Go for a 'wild flower walk' through one of our many flora reserves while the indigenous plants are still putting on their spring show. Envisage how some of these plants might be incorporated into your garden scheme next autumn and help preserve what we have left locally. There are great benefits in growing indigenous plants; they are

beautiful, and breathtaking when grown in drifts or individually. These plants have adapted to local soil and climatic conditions over many years. In your garden they are more sustainable than non indigenous and will require only a little care and even less watering.

I leave you with a quote from one of Australia's, now internationally renowned landscape designers, Bernard Trainor.

'Where a garden and its plants belong, they not only look right, they also thrive and with little help; they're generous and undemanding'.



Pycnosorus globosus - Drumsticks &
Linum marginale - Native Flax

Photo: B Mau

APS Mitchell Plant Expo—October 18th, 2014

Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore 9 am - 3 pm

Native Plant & Flower Displays

Victorian Native Bonsai Club exhibit & demonstrations

At 10:30 am & 1:30 pm



Kilmore Art Society Display

Art by Local Artists:

Themes of native fauna, flora and Aussie landscapes



Plant, Book & Art Sales

APS Mitchell - Assorted Native plants

APS Victoria - Books

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Assorted Plants

John Forrester - Assorted plants

Kilmore Art Society - Art by local artists

Lorraine & Brian Weir - Low graft & Standard grafted Grevilleas & Correas

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks



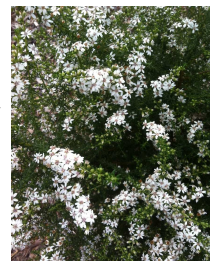
Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea,
Button Wrinklewort
(nationally endangered)

Photo: B Mau



Volunteers are needed to assist with: Set up on Friday October 17th, also on Saturday October 18th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc.
contact Lorraine: Email: lorraine_brian@bigpond.com

or call 0427 323511



Olearia ramulosa
Twiggy Daisy-Bush

Photo: B Mau

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

- For comments, compliments & various contributions of articles, event information, photo's, feedback, proof-reading, hunting up info when asked and general support. A BIG THANK YOU TO: Janice Baker, Bill Barker, Neil Humphreys, Ian Julian, Barbara Mau, Maureen Runge & Lorraine & Brian Weir.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

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

October 18 - ANPS East Gippsland 'Noweyung Garden Show', Goold St, Bairnsdale. 10 am - 1 pm.

October 18 & 19 - 2014 FJC Rogers Seminar on Brachychiton and Associated Genera hosted by Bendigo Native Plants Group.

October 18 & 19 - Native Flower Show, Plant & Book Sale by APS Ballarat District. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens (next to the

conservatory). 10 am - 5 pm Saturday, 10 am - 4:30 pm Sunday.

October 25 - Native Flower Showcase presented by Echuca-Moama Group APS. Echuca Uniting Church Hall, Hare St, Echuca. 9 am - 4 pm.

November 8 - APS Victoria AGM and Committee of Management Meeting, COM meeting 10 am - 12 noon: AGM 12:30 pm - 1 pm followed immediately by Awards Ceremony. Anakie Hall, Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie (Melways: 611 E4 VicRoads: 77 G7)

'Grasslands'... Imagine what Melbourne looked like before the city was built, when the ground was covered in flowering grassland... This spring, award-winning artist Linda Tegg will transform the forecourt of the State Library using hundreds of specially grown native plants and grasses to re-create the once lushly planted and extraordinarily diverse flowering landscape. Grasslands, a grand meditation on nature versus culture. **Opens Saturday 11 October 2014 - Sunday 23 November 2014**

Cost: Free

Venue: Library forecourt

328 Swanston Street, Melbourne



Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.
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Committee Members

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Treasurer/Memberships	Bill Barker 5783 3838
Committee: Janice Baker, Neil Humphreys, Barbara Mau, Brian Weir.	
Group Librarian	Barbara Mau
Plant Sales	Brian & Lorraine Weir
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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.

Query Corner?

Members are welcome to send in questions, wish lists, has anyone got? Does anyone know? Where can I find, Etc... Just email your questions to Jeanine at

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

or contact me via Mobile on 0409 029 603.

Queries will be published in the following newsletter.



Tetralochea ciliata - Pink Bells

Photo: J Petts

Colin Officer Reserve 5/10/2014