NEWSLETTER



Dillwynia sericea

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764 Inc# A0054306V

February news...!

A very happy new year to all and welcome to our first newsletter for 2015. I hope everyone's gardens are surviving the heat, dry & wind- I've managed to loose a couple of plants to the ravages of dry harsh winds.

To start the year off we have an excellent first speaker lined up (fire weather permitting) see far right & page 2 for details.

Continuing with the theme of native birds we have received word that BirdLife Australia is seeking assistance for Janet Hand. Janet is their wonderful Education Coordinator who has attended our Expo each year and does a brilliant job. Janet is asking for a volunteer to learn what she does and be her emergency back-up. If you have an interest in native birds & can help email: melbourne@birdlife.org.au .

Our March newsletter is due out on the 2nd Monday (the 9th). Please do keep all the fabulous photo's, articles and items of interest rolling in. The dead line for contributions is March 2nd (1st Monday) and can be sent to me



Olearia ramulosa - Twiggy Daisy-bush (Quarry Ridge Garden Visit 23.11.2014) Photo: J Petts

at: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or

Mailed to PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

Best wishes, success & happy gardening in 2015 to all!

Feel free to Talk

to a committee

member at any

suggestions to:

apsmitchel@gmail.com

your ideas &

meeting or email

Cheers till our next edition,

Jeanine

Inside this issue:

Guest speaker ideas & topics...

February & General Meeting Information Memberships

Pg 2 Pg 2

would like to hear a

November Meeting Pg 3 Report

Quarry Ridge Garden Pg 7

Are there any topics you as a member guest speaker present?

The committee is very open to ideas and

suggestions and actively seeks input

Pg 8 from our members. Feel free to talk to a committee member at

February Garden Guide

December Garden Visit/Xmas Break-up

Visit

any meeting or via contact details on the

Reminders, APS Vic Diaty Dates etc...

 $_{Pg\ 10}$ back page.

Alternatively, send an email to:

Committee & Contact Pg 10 Information

apsmitchel@gmail.com

February 2015

Volume 2, Issue 1

Mitchell Diary Dates...

- FEBRUARY 16th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker: Neil Macumber** " Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to **Australian Native** Gardens".
 - *PLEASE NOTE: Neil's talk is pursuant to there being no fires close to Pomonal in the Grampians and it not being a declared **Total Fire Ban day.**
- MARCH 16th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker to be** advised.
- APRIL 20th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker to be** advised.
- MAY 18th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker to be** advised.
- June 15th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker to be** advised.
- July 20th 7:30pm MEETING **Guest Speaker to be** advised



Blandfordia punicea

Lorraine Weir



Our *Blandfordia* (Tassie Christmas Bells) flowered for the first time Xmas 2014.

We have it in a pot so we can keep the potting mix really damp, it will not grow in our garden.



Each flower has now set a seed pod so it will be interesting to see if I can get some to grow.

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

Guest Speaker

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



February Meeting Monday the 16th 7:30pm...

Neil Macumber of Birdswing Birding and Wildlife tours is scheduled to come and talk to us providing there are no fires near Pomonal and it is not a Total Fire Ban day. Neil's topic will be "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens".

Neil has extensive knowledge of Australian birds and wildlife gathered over many years traveling and working as a guide and has explored all parts of the continent seeing over 745 species of birds and 150 mammals. Born and raised in Melbourne Neil developed as

explored all parts of the continent seeing over 745 species of birds and 150 mammals. Born and raised in Melbourne Neil developed a great interest in natural history at an early age encouraged by his parents. Neil's passion for birds increased dramatically in the early 1980's when he was able to dedicate time to increase his bird list.



He spent many a happy rostered day off at the Werribee sewage farm. Neil's interest and commitment to the environment is demonstrated through his active membership to Landcare, BirdLife Australia, Victorian Wetlands Network, Friends of Grampians Gariwerd (FOGG), Australian Plants Society, Mammal Survey Group of Victoria Inc. and Wildlife Art Museum of Australia (WAMA).

Neil along with his partner Alison Bainbridge started Birdswing Birding and Wildlife tours in 2008 based in the beautiful Grampians. Neil specializes in tours around the Melbourne area and other parts of Victoria including Pelagic trips off Port Fairy, Phillip Island for the world renowned little penguin parade, the famous Great Ocean Road, the majestic Grampians and Little Desert. He has run tours to see the spectacular wildflowers in Western Australia over the last six years along with his good friend and renowned botanist Neil Marriott. http://www.birdingwildlifetours.com.au/

Memberships...

For membership/renewal enquiries or forms please contact Bill Barker-

Phone: 5783 3838.

Alternatively visit APS Mitchell's website:

http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/?page_id=18

November Meeting Report...

By Jeanine Petts

The evening started off with our no fuss AGM and Lorraine leading the way with a Vice Presidents Report covering the activities, achievements and successes through the year including:

- All the 2014 Guest Speakers: Neil Marriott (Grevilleas), Paul Piko (Victorian Orchids, common & rare), Brian O'Halloran (Royal Botanic Gardens Virtual Tour), Peter Nisbet (Carnivorous Plants), Dr Ken Walker (Australian Spiders), Jason Caruso (Eucalypts for small gardens), Elyse Kelly (Mitchell Environment Strategy 2014), Helen Lovel (Neutrog Fertilisers), Neil Humphreys (The Flavour & Fragrance Industry & the Search for a Novel Fragrance), Barbara Mau (Reinterpreting Glover's Garden)
- Commencement of the APS Mitchell newsletter
- Establishment of the APS Mitchell Web Page (www.apsmitchell.org.au)
- The Spring Plant Expo & all our supporters & stall holders:

Our Sponsors: Mitchell Shire Council & Coles Wallan

Our Participants:

Victorian Native Bonsai Club (Marcela & Quentin)

BirdLife - (Janet Hand)

Ironstone Park (Peter & Joan Broughton)

John Forrester

Kilmore Arts Society (Maureen & fellow artists)

La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary (Mike Cincotta)

Lorraine & Brian Weir

Mike Williams

Steve Fowles

APS Victoria book sales

Our helpers:

Ros & Graeme Woods from Gisborne, Lorraine, Barbara, Neil, Bill, Mike, Jeanine, Maureen, Chris, lan, Leanne, Alex, Victoria (special mention for keeping us all going with tea, coffee & biscuits etc.), Cynthia, Benjamin, Paul, Dianne, Terri, Andrew, Emily, Benjamin, Jacinta & Maria

And a special mention thank you to Amy Hume from the North Central Review for all her articles & coverage of our group through 2014

Receipt of two Mitchell Shire Council Grants:

Expo Advertising

New Library Books

3 Garden Visits:

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Quarry Ridge (Barbara Mau Garden)

Anne & Norman Rose's Garden (& Christmas BBQ)

Bill was next up with his financial report quipping how many times he'd white inked & reminisced that in his navy days he'd had a yeoman to do that sort of thing for him. Then it was on to an efficient election of office bearers &

November Meeting Report (Reinterpreting Glover's Garden)

By Jeanine Petts & Barbara Mau. Photos: Barbara Mau

(Continued from page 3)

general committee. Nominations were made, accepted & ratified in short order with the new line up for 2015 being: President: Neil Humphreys, Vice President: Barbara Mau, Treasurer: Bill Barker, Secretary: Maureen Runge General Committee: Janice Baker, Ian Julian, Dawn McCormack, Jeanine Petts, Lorraine Weir and Brian Weir.

With all the formalities over for another year Barbara took the floor to speak on her Masters by Research Degree:

"Reinterpreting Glovers Garden" ably assisted by Chris Cram with I.T. ...

Coming from an arts background Barbara's 2013 Masters of Art in Fine Art by Research project was to identify the indigenous flora of the Kilmore region. In addition an artist's garden was to be developed incorporating as many of the local flora as possible. The garden, now established at Quarry Ridge Vineyard, employs a colonial layout with a planting scheme that offers a sustainable horticultural model through an art project.

In the 1830's Kilmore was one of the early inland Victorian towns to be established for the purpose of grain growing. Considerable land stripping occurred making it difficult to find what the regions original plants were. One of the aims was to create a garden that would increase our awareness of the diminishing Kilmore flora.

To bring an art context to the project, the 1834 garden layout of Tasmanian colonial artist John Glover was chosen. Glover was one of the "Picturesque" romantic painters of England before immigrating to Tasmania in 1831. At the age of 64 and a highly respected artist, wealthy in his own right, Glover joined his two sons in Tasmania. Together they took up one of the largest land holdings in Tasmania, south east of Launceston at Mills' Plains (near Deddington).

Why choose John Glover?

A historical reference was needed and Glover's garden was possibly the first substantive garden in the Colony that was consciously designed by a person with recognised artistic sensibilities. Although Glover's garden was modest in design, it still represented an imported pocket of home, superimposed onto the indigenous landscape. His colonial, rectilinear garden, incorporated water rills and was planted with many exotics he had bought with him from England. He borrowed from the landscape and extended the size of his garden by incorporating many of Mills' Plains indigenous floras.

Some aims and objectives of the Quarry Ridge design brief were:

- Re-interpret John Glover's garden design by planting indigenous species relevant to Kilmore instead of the exotics he had used. Plant indigenous species relevant to Kilmore.
- A re-dedication to local plants and sustainable horticulture.
- A garden sustained by rainfall water only.

A great deal of research was undertaken to build an extensive list of floras relevant to Kilmore. Many visits were made to Mt. Piper, Monument Hill, Colin Officer Reserve, Old Sydney Rd, Daraweit Guim Rd, and Kilmore area roadsides. Various artists Gardens were also visited:

- William Martin's sustainable garden 'Wigandia' at Noorat, Western Districts of Victoria. His garden is never watered (other than rainfall). Martin is a sculptor who uses sculptural aspects in his garden. He looked at, and made use of, plants from the same latitude as Noorat, from around the globe.
- Fiona Hall's Fern Garden, 1998 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.



November 2009 Bulbine lilies at Clonbinane (following the Black Saturday fires).











November Meeting Report-Reinterpreting Glover's Garden cont'

By Jeanine Petts & Barbara Mau. Photos: Barbara Mau

(Continued from page 4)

- Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.
- Dadang Christanto's humanity sculpture Heads from the North at the Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, is a dedication to lives lost in the Suharto Coup and incorporates artificially produced mist to portray a jungle atmosphere.



Dadang Christanto's Humanity sculpture

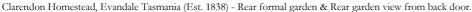
Royal Botanic Gardens Canberra, ACT.







Brickendon House 1829-30 Woolmers Estate, Longford Tasmania Rose walk and original *Araucaria* bidwilli (Bunya Pine)



Hoping to gain insight into Glover's home, and in particular any remnants of his Mills' Plains garden, Barbara visited Tasmania twice. The first visit didn't quite go to plan. Intending to visit John Glover's garden, and thinking the heritage property would have public access, she discovered that it was still privately owned and the residence of the property manager. This resulted in a rethink of schedule and some informative visits to other colonial homes and gardens were undertaken.

Houses and homesteads, established around the 1830s, were visited: Clarendon Homestead, 1838, at Evandale, Old School House, 1838 at Launceston and Brickendon House, 1829, Woolmers Estate, at Longford. Brickendon House was built by the Archer family and is still owned by the family today. Much of the garden layout has been preserved, including a rose walk to the front door and the original Bunya Pine in the front garden. The trip was deliberately timed during winter in order to see the "bones" of the gardens.

The second trip to Tasmania, also in winter, was only marginally more successful.

Although permission to visit the Mills' Plain property was sought and granted, it turned out that no evidence of the original garden currently remains at the site. This left only Glover's works and correspondence to be viewed at the Tasmanian Museum and Art





John Glover's house, Mills' Plains June 2011

Gallery, and a couple of publications for clues as to the layout of his garden. Glover's painting *View of the Artist's House and Garden, Mills' Plains,* 1834-5, owned by The Art Gallery of South Australia, and John Richardson Glover's drawing of the family's plans for Patterdale, published in David Hansen's book, *John Glover and the Colonial Picturesque*, are the only traces of a 'garden plan' that could be gone by. A small publication produced by the Art Gallery of South Australia, *John Glover's house and garden,* 1985, clarified questions about the plant species that grew in Glover's garden. Using Glover's painting as their reference, the Adelaide Botanic Gardens identified the exotic and indigenous plants depicted in the artwork.

Site sensitivity – The site at Quarry Ridge is on a steep disused area of the property and once the site of Kilmore's first bluestone quarry. Every site leaves clues to follow and *Wahlenbergia luteola* and *Dianella amoena* were found existing on site. Topography was also looked at. The north, south orientation of the hedgerows and vineyard in the landscape matched the north south orientation of Glover's garden. The top garden has a basalt cap, where the bluestone was quarried to build Kilmore's early houses. The rubble dumps that were created, when the quarry was active, have left a steep protective

November Meeting Report-Reinterpreting Glover's Garden cont'

By Jeanine Petts & Barbara Mau. Photos: Barbara Mau

(Continued from page 5)

amphitheatre. Further down the hill windbreaks would be established for protection the lower hill gardens against strong northerly and southerly winds.

To reinforce a 'sense of place' and respect the site's history and collective memory, the tracks made by the early horse drawn drays', whose imprint can still be seen on the site, have been left in the landscape, and the 1860 Richmond crusher wheel still remains to 'keep spirit'. A soak existed on the lower slope and was turned into a pond in 2010.

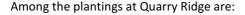
Barbara also sought and took advice from Jim Robinson (Greening Australia), and Ian Taylor (from Western Plains Flora), who advised, "Plant what's right for the site", "go with your soil". Ian provided many of the harder to access indigenous plants for the project.

Barbara claimed her first drawings held big ambitions and were a "bit pretentious" so it was back to the drawing board.

The proposed garden site was weedy with exotic grasses, thistles and flat weed. To commence work Jim Robinson's suggestion to 'skim' the top soil lightly to eradicate weeds and their seeds; was followed. The garden site then lay dormant for twelve months and was used as a loading and storing area by the tradesmen building the new house. Finally the site was unencumbered with heavy vehicle traffic and raised beds were established, granitic sand put down for paving, and aggie piping laid for adequate drainage.

The process of seed collecting, sprouting seeds, pricking out, potting into tubes then hardening off, had been on going. In October 2012, 1000 seedlings were planted, mulched with aged Eucalyptus chips, watered in, and watered through

the heat of their first summer. As there is no water on site a 1000 litre tank on the back of a Ute was used.



Leptorrhynchos tenuifolius – Wiry Buttons

Leucochrysum albicans – Paper-daisies

Pultanaea pedunculata - Matted Bush-pea (Forms a carpet like mat & is very pretty when flowering in spring)

Rhodanthe anthemoides - Chamomile Daisy

Pimelea humilis - Common Rice-flower

Veronica gracilis – Slender Speedwell

Calocephalus citreus - Lemon Beauty-heads

Correa reflexa – Common Correa

Dianella amoena - Matted Flax-lily (Rare endangered local)

Podolepsis jaceoides - Showy Podolepis

Olearia ramulosa – Twiggy Daisy-bush (Is a mass of flowers in spring)

Convolvulos angustissimus— Bind weed

Nicotiana suaveolens - Austral Tobacco (Perfumed in the evening & attracts moths).

Finally a quotation from Tim Flannery rounded out the presentation:

"Three human lifetimes—about 218 years—is simply not enough to become truly adapted to Australia's unique conditions, for the process of co-evolving with the land is slow and uncertain.'

Yet it has begun, and the transformation must be completed, for if we continue to live as strangers in this land – failing to understand or live by its ecological dictums – we will forfeit our long term future here by destroying the ability of Australia to support us."

Tim Flannery, 2002.



Early Garden Plan, 2009



Garden Plan, 2011







Garden Visit to Quarry Ridge...

By Jeanine Petts

Page 7



Photo: Neil Humphreys

A sunny hot Sunday November 23rd, 2014 saw around sixteen APS Mitchell members & friends arrive to visit Barbara's very inspirational garden. We were treated to gorgeous views across the garden & landscape and even took a peek at the old quarry site.

The garden sits on the hillside over looking the vineyard and Barbara's dedicated use of local indigenous species is a creative credit as to what can be achieved in a sustainable low water usage garden with plants sympathetic to site.

A lovely couple of hours were spent wandering,

investigating plants & views while enjoying conversations on all things gardening. Barbara even provided a listing of species planted in her garden to date and a selection of seeds which visitors were free to take home in thoughtfully provided paper bags.

Anne Rose also very kindly spoilt us by bringing along delicious cake shared for afternoon tea under the shady pergola. Barbara was given a gift of Gardener's Hand Crème as a thank you for her time, effort & hospitality.



Photo: Jeanine Petts



Photo: Jeanine Petts



Photo: Neil Humphreys



Pycnosorus globosus Photo: Neil Humphreys



Chrysocephalum semipapposum - Clustered Rutidosis lepton Everlastings Photo: Neil Humphreys Wrinklewort



Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides - Button Wrinklewort Photo: Jeanine Petts



Photo: Jeanine Petts

To view many more photos visit: http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/?page_id=9

December Garden Visit & Christmas Break Up...

By <mark>Jeanine Petts</mark>

During the late afternoon of Sunday December 14th (2014) 14 members of APS Mitchell joined Anne, Norman & their son Peter at their 76 acre property in Upper Plenty.

A warm welcome greeted us on arrival and a slide show of their recent WA Wildflower Tour was playing quietly in the back ground. Wandering around the expansive garden in the warm late afternoon and early evening proved to be delightful.

The Rose family have been in residence in this beautiful location for 25 years and the property has seen a number of changes over this time. One of the original buildings (a cabin) burned down in 1994. A new section of the home was rebuilt

then following a 2 year insurance battle was finally linked to the main existing dwelling to create the lovely home we see today. Originally the garden mainly consisted of Rhododendrons & Azaleas close to the house, Anne has created the rest of the current garden.



There are sweeping views across lawns & gardens then further out to the property's woodlands to which the 2009 fires came exceedingly close. Anne has put in extensive stone retaining walls and due to cost some terrace walls have also been constructed with sleepers picked up at the miracle price of \$5 each. Newer sections of the garden are only 2 years old. Some plants have come from the Pretty Sally Garden Club and in recent years many plants from Brian & Lorraine. Some of the more difficult lawn slopes are managed by whipper snipping in early summer. A few features of the garden were a magnificent old *Banksia integrifolia*, many Grevilleas including the fine leaf *G. nudiflora* and of course Correas.



Following our wanderings in the garden Peter took the role of master of the barbeque cooking everyone's food with great care. We had a most agreeable meal together topped off by a delicious orange cake cooked by Anne. An excellent time was had by all!









More photos can be viewed at:



http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/?page_id=9



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

By Barbara Mau



Calocephalus citreus - Lemon Beauty-heads Photo: Barbara Mau

A very happy New Year to you all, and what a dry start to 2015 it has been.

My garden, at Quarry Ridge, Kilmore, is a no water garden and we have had only 20 ml of rain this year. For those of you living further north the rainfall has possibly been even less.

However, despite the dry there are some little local plants that just seem to thrive in these conditions, smiling through the heat of long summer days. I never cease to be amazed at the Calocephalus citreus- Lemon Beauty-heads that have been flowering since December. This delightful perennial flowers for months, and is beautiful for most of the year, forming a perfect round grey green loose mound through winter and spring. Then with the onset of hotter weather the beautiful foliage is off set by numerous lemon flower heads. This plant requires full sun, and well-drained soil. It looks wonderful when planted in drifts together with Wahlenbergia

communis- tufted bluebell or Brachyscome multifida- cut-leaf daisy.

Then there are the Wiry Buttons-Leptorrhynchos tenuifolius. They too have not missed a beat since December, their numerous, tiny, yellow button heads, held high above their grey foliage, shimmer in the afternoon heat. Again they make a great impact in the garden when planted on mass. They enjoy dry basalt or gravelly sedimentary soils, full sun or light shade.

Leucochrysum albicans - Paperdaisies is another very hardy, long flowering species.

This bright yellow daisy, with its lovely round clump of grey green, wooly foliage, just keeps on producing new flowers from spring through to autumn. The flowers are lovely in dry flower arrangement. They enjoy a slightly rocky/stony, dry soil, in full sun to dappled shade.

For colour, other than yellow, you can't go past the sky blue Wahlenbergia communis that complements other sun and heat loving flowers so well. Planted on mass they are a showstopper, try them mixed with some native grasses. They will flower for you from spring until the winter frosts cut them back, and require full sun in dry well drained soil.

Finally, February is a good time to be gathering seeds for autumn planting. All the above flowers are setting seed now and they are well worth a try, in your garden, for a great display next summer. So happy gardening!



Brachyscome miltifida - Cut-Leaf Daisy Photo: Barbara Mau



Leptorrhynchos tenuifolius - Wiry Buttons Photo: Barbara Mau



Wahlenbergia communis - Tufted Bluebell Photo: Barbara Mau

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

 For various contributions of articles, event information, photo's, feedback, proofreading, hunting up & providing other information as needed and general support. **A BIG THANK YOU TO:** Bill Barker, **Neil Humphreys,** Barbara Mau, Neil Macumber, Maureen Runge & **Lorraine & Brian Weir.**

A P S VIC DIARY DATES...

March 21 - APS Victoria Committee of Management (COM) meeting hosted by APS Victoria at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (RBGC), 10 am.

March 25-29 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show participation with RHSV, Carlton Gardens.

April 26 - APS Mornington Peninsula plant sale at Seawinds in Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat. 9:30 am - 4 pm (Melway 159 D12). Featuring local growers.

May 2 - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, Uniting Church Car Park,

Bacchus March. 9 am - 1 pm. Sale features genus hakea with large number of unusual species. A full list is available approx. one month prior to sale & pre-orders can be sent to the secretary:

apsmeltonbacchusmarsh@gmail.com

May 3 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale & Propagation Demonstrations, Cnr Brougham St & Main Rd,

Eltham. 10 am - 3 pm Melways 21 J7.

VNBC April 11-12 -

Australian Plants as Bonsai -Fourth National Symposium, hosted by VNBC. For further information: Email

secnativeclub@gmail.com or visit website:

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



Committee & Contact Information Query Corner?

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

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Secretary Maureen Runge

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5783 2912

Newsletter Editor 5785 1434 Jeanine Petts

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts Email: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

Janet Hand - BirdLife Melbourne's Education Coordinator would like a volunteer to learn what she does, and be an emergency backup. To volunteer, email:

melbourne@birdlife.org.au



Leucochrysum albicans - Hoary Sunray

Photo: J Petts

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