



NEWSLETTER

Dillwynia sericea

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Inc# A0054306V

March news...!

Hello and welcome to our March edition!

First up I have to say what a fabulous turn-out we had for our first meeting this year which included a goodly number of new faces. Due in no small part to Amy Hume and her generous article promoting our meeting in the North Central Review (February 10, 2015 pg 14) and of course Neil Macumber's expertise & excellent talk (report on page 3). May I be one of many who extend a very warm and grateful thank you Amy Hume & Neil Macumber for their efforts & services rendered. If you missed Amy's article it can still be viewed at:

<http://www.newspaperhouse.com.au/> go to the publications tab, click on North Central Review and download the February 10, 2015 edition.

Our April newsletter is due out on the 2nd Monday (the 13th). Remember: please keep all the fabulous photo's, articles and items of interest rolling in :-). The dead line for



Alyogyne buegelii

Photo: J Petts

contributions is April 6th (1st Monday) and can be sent to me at:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or

Mailed to PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

Cheers till our next edition,

Jeanine

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Guest speaker ideas & topics...

The committee is currently working to organise our guest speakers for the remainder of the year. Already we have a few speakers lined up but we would love to hear ideas & suggestions from our members. Feel free to talk to a committee member at any meeting or via contact details on the back page.

Alternatively, send an email to: apsmitchel@gmail.com

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March 2015

Volume 2, Issue 2

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MARCH 16th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker:
Graeme Woods on Hakeas
- **APRIL 20th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker:
Cathy Powers on Australian Orchids
- **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
- **August 17th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker to be advised



Eucalyptus pumila

By Jeanine Petts

Back in our August 2014 newsletter I promised to research a few more small Eucalypts mentioned to me by Andrew Slee from CSIRO. It's taken a while but here's the first instalment... *Eucalyptus pumila* (Pokolbin mallee)



Is a small mallee to 5 m coming from the Broken Back Range south of the Hunter Valley NSW and is listed as "Vulnerable". Known to be sometimes grown as an ornamental it has smooth grey to pink, yellow-green, brown, cream or white bark which sheds in ribbons. Its leaves are green to blue green and lanceolate to falcate to elliptical in shape. Buds are held in umbels of 7 and white flowers occur February – August. The specimen in Andrew Slee's Canberra garden is 25 years old and still 4 m tall and 5 m wide but now heavy-trunked and a bit scruffy, yet still flowers reliably.

Images: Euclid: Eucalypts of Australia (CSIRO)

Reference: Euclid: Eucalypts of Australia CSIRO

Australian Native Plants J W Wriggley & M Fagg

**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



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

By Brian Weir

Our guest speaker for Monday 16th of March is Graeme Woods and his topic will be *Hakeas*.

The Woods garden of 3-4 acres in Gisborne is home to a huge collection of *Grevillea*, *Hakea* & *Banksia* with many other species mixed through. Preservation Through Propagation is something that Graeme believes in with a passion, letting many people come to his garden for cuttings, seeds & scions to help spread rare and endangered plants, growers large & small should adopt this approach and help save our flora.



Hakea "Burrendong Beauty"
Photo: Brian Weir

As you can well imagine to keep a garden of this size in order it takes a great deal of time and with Graeme and Ros talking at clubs all over Victoria as well as gigs interstate we are extremely lucky to have them back at the club for a 3rd time.

Graeme's talks deliver a wealth of knowledge interspersed with wry humour, add to this the brilliant photography by Ros used in the presentation and we are in for a very pleasant evening.

Ros also brings magnificent cards featuring the best of flowers photographed in their garden, these cards can be purchased after the meeting.

Memberships...

For membership/renewal enquiries or forms please contact Bill Barker-
Phone: 5783 3838.

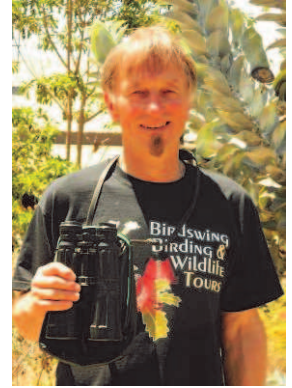
Alternatively visit APS Mitchell's website:

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

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens"

By Ian Julian

Twenty nine people with five of those being new faces to the group attended to listen to the presentation. Neil Macumber is also known as the "Birdman of Halls Gap" being respected for identifying 740 bird & 150 animal species across Australia. Neil was born and raised in Melbourne. At an early age he had a great interest in natural history encouraged by his parents. Neil's passion for birds increased dramatically in the 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, Bird Life Australia, Victorian Wetlands Network, Friends of Grampians Gariwerd (FOGG), Australian Plants Society and Mammal Survey Group of Victoria Inc.



Neil's forte is birds with reasonable knowledge of animals & plants. In conjunction with his partner Alison has been running Birdswing Birding & Wildlife Tours. This spring will see two W.A tours being run with Neil Marriott as the wildflower specialist & Neil Macumber as the bird & wildlife guide. The first tour runs over 9 days & travels north of Perth, the second 10 days & south of Perth.

Based in the Grampians since 1998 they are aware so far of having 143 native bird & 30 native animal species local to them.

Why do we plant? Some of the most spectacular plants e.g. *Corymbia ficifolia* attract Honey-eaters & Lorikeets etc.

- Australian flora is of significant interdependence for nesting sites, water, shelter & food sources.
- Breeding season coincides with peak flowering times.
- Birds feed on nectar, fruits, seeds & insects.
- Bird colour often matches the plants they feed in and on.

Some small Mallees that can be well worth planting are:

Eucalyptus Preissiana

Eucalyptus synandra

Eucalyptus forrestiana

Eucalyptus macrocarpa

Grevilleas are another great range of plants & are also insect attracting:

Grevillea magnifica

Grevillea alpina

Grevillea dimorpha (Grampians species)

Grevillea "Sylvia"

Grevillea confertifolia

Grevillea "Honey Gem"

Grevillea bipinnatifida

It can be a good idea to plant nectar producing plants in one area, seed producing in another etc. to help prevent some of the more aggressive species (such as Wattlebirds etc.) chasing other bird species away.

Some other good bird attracting plants are:

Correa reflexa

Dryandra quercifolia

Correa pulchella

Banksia spinulosa

Pimelea (grafted species are best)



Grevillea alpina

Photo: David Francis -

www.natureshare.org.au

(Continued on page 4)

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

By Ian Julian

(Continued from page 3)

Eremophila muelleriana

Grasses like Kangaroo grass, Sedges & Wallaby grass bring in insects & seed eating birds such as Red-Brow & Diamond finches. Grasses can also look fabulous waving in the wind and with light coming through. Care should be taken when planting in fire prone areas.

Insects that can be attracted to gardens are:

Mud dauber wasps

Jewel beetles

Hover fly

Cuckoo bee

Native bees

At an APS Quarterly meeting Neil saw the rim of a cart used to attract insects – Holes had been drilled into the wood and this was all being utilised by native bees.

Other attractable insects:

Katydid

Flower spiders

Robber flies

Praying mantis

Flower wasps

Butterflies & Moths:

Grapevine moth (can be a problem if you have vines)

Tiger moth

Mistletoe moth (caterpillar)

Chequered Swallowtail Butterfly

Emperor Gum Caterpillar (numbers seriously declining in Victoria due to European wasp predation)

Longtail Blue Butterfly

Dragonflies like the blue skimmer and Damselflies such as the blue ringtail can be attracted if there is even a little water around. Dragonflies have right angled wings and Damselflies have parallel wings.

Insect attracting plants:

Tall Mulla Mulla – *Ptilotus exaltatus*

Olearia rudis

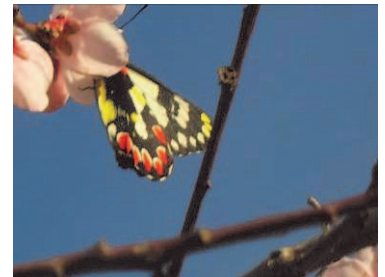
Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Xanthorrhoea australis (also attracts Pygmy Possums)

Bursaria spinosa (a summer flowering food source and one of the best insect attracting plants)

Scaevola species

Senecio biserratus



Chequered Swallowtail Butterfly
Photo: J Petts



Bursaria spinosa - Sweet Bursaria
Colin Officer Reserve 5/10/2014 Photo:
J Petts

(Continued on page 5)

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

By Ian Julian

(Continued from page 4)

Grampians Thryptomene

Still more bird attracting plants:

Grevilla petrophiloides - "Pink Pokers"

Kangaroo paw – *Anigozanthos manglesii* subsp. *quadrans*

Epacris impressa

Astroloma – flame heath (attracts Spinebills)

Diplolaena

Banksia occidentalis

Calothamnus bletharospermus

Hakea decurrens

Hakea sericea

Mistletoes such as the Drooping - *Amyema pendula* & Grey Mistletoe - *Amyema quandang* attract the Mistletoe Bird (which has a loud call) also the nomadic Painted Honey-eaters with it's distinctive call: georgie-georgie-georgie. Although Mistletoe may adversely affect some trees if they're under stress it does also provide a mass of fertile soil created by the mistletoe leaf litter which also attracts insects.

An item of future interest is that WAMA - Wildlife Art Museum of Australia is planning a botanic garden & gallery (like Tasmania's) at Pomonal.

Dams are also important for attracting birds. An ideal bird attracting dam has:

- Logs for habitat and safety
- Plenty of things/plants in the water
- Plants around it

Small ponds are easily put in and at Pomonal a pond and *Eucalyptus sepulcralis* (a small weeping mallee) attracts Gang-Gangs with an Echidna also coming in to drink.

If establishing a pond have:

- Some Deeper areas
- A Sloping shallow end for walking into
- Vegetation
- Sticks etc in the water so birds can feel safe

Be aware of foxes, cats & bird of prey etc. Cat cages are a great way to have the best of both worlds. They do keep cats from killing. 20 million cats in Australia taking an average of 3 native animals per night equals a loss of 60 million native animals per night – Food for thought and an issue that needs more work and attention.

Another alternative is to put water out for birds - At Pomonal birdbaths are kept on the verandah which attract over 50 species in to drink. Remember to top up and change the water regularly, Alison even puts ice blocks in the water on a hot day. The best depth is 20 mm – 50 mm, if it is too deep birds can drown. Guests have enjoyed watching:

Black-shouldered Kite, Kestrel, Galahs, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Emu, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-winged Choughs (identified by red eye & de-curved bill. A social bird that will "punch up" Magpies & large flocks will kidnap other flocks young & raise as their own.)



Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Photo: B Mau

(Continued on page 6)

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

By Ian Julian

(Continued from page 5)

Crested/Eastern Shrike-tit, Northern Shrike-tit (rare in western districts not many around. Interesting to watch them rip bark of trees looking for insects).

Honeyeaters: New Holland (aggressive species), Little Wattlebird (aggressive species), Yellow-faced, Eastern Spinebill, Brown-headed, Tawny-crowned (Costal/Grampians species), Black-chinned, Black (nomadic), Painted, White-napped, Blue-faced.

Seed eaters: Diamond Firetail Finch, Red-browed Finch.

Insect eaters:

Robins: Red-capped (Dry-land species), Scarlet, Eastern Yellow, Flame (comes down from highlands over winter).

Speckled warblers, Black-eared Cuckoo (which parasites speckled warbler nests).

Pigeons: Common Bronzewing, Brush Bronzewing (a coastal bird) (both come in for acacia seed).

Parrots: , Red-rumped (grass parrot), Blue-winged, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella (open woodland areas).

Cockatoos: Yellow-Tailed Black (can be destructive on Acacia's), Sulphur-crested, Long Billed Corella, Gang-gang, Galah.

Lorikeets: Rainbow (self introduced to Victoria), Musk , Little, Purple-crowned.

Golden Whistler (insectivorous), Rufous Whistler.

Predators:

Powerful Owl – Our largest owl at 65cm (Male bigger than female) Nests over winter and loves eating Ring-tail possums – (Yum!) Also eats Sugar gliders as evidenced by finding only tails.

Southern Boobook - Is our smallest owl at 28 to 30cm. Eats frogs & gecko's .

Barking Owl (is the next largest owl)

Rufous Owl (second largest before the Powerful Owl)

Animals:

Swamp Wallaby (now being called Black Wallaby)

White-striped Freetail bat (the only bat with calls within human hearing frequency range)

Water Rat (If a dam available)

Short-beaked Echidna

Red-necked Wallaby (pushed out by Black Wallaby)

Possums: Ringtail Possums (known rose eaters) & the Common Brushtail. It is Illegal to move both species as the dominant residents will kill interlopers.

Swamp Rat- If you have rats in the roof they are non-native – Native rats do not climb. Swamp Rats dig tunnels to eat roots & can collapse plants.

Yellow-footed Antechinus – Males die with a smile on their face – Mating themselves to death is a species survival strategy (same as Phascogale) which leaves more food/resources for mothers and young. They can run up walls and are not smelly like mice and also have bigger eyes. Females produce many babies. Omnivorous/carnivorous, eats plants & nectar as well. Having habitat the main thing to attract them.

Eastern Pygmy Possum – Not often seen as they are more secretive (discovered when brought in by cat).

Feather-tail Glider – Our smallest marsupial. Glides 15 m from High point to low. There are two different species & can be found living side by side.

Eastern Kangaroo (appears Grey-brown)



Gang-gang Cockatoo
Photo: Brian Weir

(Continued on page 7)

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

By Ian Julian

(Continued from page 6)

Western Grey Kangaroo (appears Brown-grey). The Grampians are a cross-over point for both species. The Kangaroo Is species is a sub species of western grey. Kangaroo species do not interbreed. They have a 30 day gestation and diapause. Which means females can have a Joey at foot, one in the pouch and one in utero.

Southern Brown Bandicoot – Declining in numbers due to loss of habitat.

Sugar Glider – benefit from putting up nest boxes. Put up a nest box and you'll be surprised what comes in. Owlet Nightjars have been found in nest boxes too. Sugar Gliders are known to glide right across the Murray river and have been found in the bellies of large Murray Cods.

Small Bats – These are valuable as they eat as much as their own weight in insects each night.

Koalas – Numbers declining in many areas (including Phillip Is.) and need wide corridors to they can move around. Males are identified by their bulbous nose.

Goannas:

Lace Monitor – Climbs trees

Gould Sand Monitor

Lizards:

Bearded Dragon

Eastern Water Dragon

Jacky Dragon

Shingleback – Likes strawberries, slugs, snails, tomatoes.

Frogs:

Common Froglet – size to 20mm and quite variable

Eastern Banjo – 75-80 mm



Blue-tongue in the strawberry patch 2013
Photo: J Petts



Eastern Banjo Frog
Photo: J Petts

The presentation concluded with a brief question time discussing Currawongs and Common Myna control and issues. Currawongs cause a problem by taking eggs and chasing other species off, we've caused problems by feeding them. The Channel billed Cuckoo is parasitising Currawongs in Sydney. Common (Indian) Mynas are newly arrived in Ballarat & Bendigo and are an issue government should be doing more about. On a local level Kilmore East Sunday Creek Landcare group currently build and hire Myna traps for a small fee.

For further information on Birdswing Birding & Wildlife Tours contact Neil or Alison either by email or mobile.

Email: birdswing@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0413 628 306

Full quality Bird and Wildlife photo's are available for purchase from Birdswing Birding and Wildlife Tours, contact birdswing@bigpond.com

Also Visit:

<http://www.birdingwildlifetours.com.au/>

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

Information sheet reprinted with permission from Neil Macumber

Potential Birdlist for Gardens			
White-faced Heron	White-necked Heron	Great Egret	Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Little Pied Cormorant	Great Cormorant	Little Black Cormorant	Australasian Grebe
Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal	Wood Duck	Australian Shelduck
Masked Lapwing	Black-fronted Dotterel	Red-kneed Dotterel	Common Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon	Galah	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Major Mitchell Cockatoo
Little Corella	Long-billed Corella	Gang Gang Cockatoo	Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella	Red-rumped Parrot	Blue-winged Parrot	Rainbow Lorikeet
Musk Lorikeet	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Superb- Fairy Wren & other Fairy Wrens
Red Wattlebird	Little Wattlebird	Blue-faced Honeyeater	Little Friarbird
Noisy Friarbird	Bell Miner	Noisy Miner	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Singing Honeyeater	White-eared Honeyeater	White-plumed Honeyeater	New Holland Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill	White-winged Chough	Brown Thornbill	Striated Thornbill
Yellow Thornbill	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Scarlet Robin	Red-capped Robin
Eastern Yellow Robin	Grey Fantail	Willie Wagtail	Restless Flycatcher
Silvereye	Mistletoe Bird	Crested Shrike-tit	Tawny Frogmouth
Laughing Kookaburra	White-throated Treecreeper	Brown Treecreeper	Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote	Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Australian Raven
Little Raven	Pied Currawong	Grey Currawong	Magpie Lark
White-fronted Chat	Diamond Firetail Finch	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Pallid Cuckoo
Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo	Black-faced Cuckooshrike	White-browed Scrubwren	Red-browed Firetail Finch
Weebill	White-browed Babbler	Raptors	Woodswallows
Owls	Whistlers	Sittellas	Swallows & Martins

Some of the Major Bird Families

Waterbirds – Can be attracted if you have ponds or larger waterbodies

Shorebirds (Waders) - May also be attracted to the edge of receding water bodies

Pigeons & Doves – Attracted to seed dropped from acacias etc

Lorikeets, Parrots & Cockatoos – Attracted to nectar producing plants & their seeds eg. eucalyptus

Wrens – You plant the plants and they will usually turn up

Honeyeaters- Plant Grevilleas, eremophilas, banksias & other nectar producers & they will arrive

Finches – Plant native grasses

February Meeting Report - "Attracting Birds and other Wildlife to Australian Native Gardens" Continued...

Information sheet reprinted with permission from Neil Macumber

Tree & Shrub Selection

Plants useful to attract: - Birds -  Native Wasps, Bees & Beetles -  Butterflies - 

Victorian Plants


Eucalyptus sideroxylon  

Leptospermum turbinatum


Grevillea dimorpha 


Austrodanthonia bitartita 

Banksia ornata (hardy) 


Hakea rostrata 


Leptospermum myrcinoides


Grevillea aquifolium 



Themida triandra 


Banksia integrifolia 

Banksia saxicola 



Bursaria spinosa 

Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea 

Xanthorrhoea australis  

Banksia marginata 


Dichantherum sericium



Hakea decurrens  



Australian Plants – Genus only (Some of the best for Victorian Gardens)



Acacia   

Banksia   

Daisies 

Eremophila  



Grevillea  




Macropidia  



Adenanthos  


Calothamnus  



Diplolena  



Eucalyptus  



Hakea   



Scaevola  




Anigozanthos 

Correa  

Dryandra  

Grasses  

































Lambertia  

Mistletoe – all species   

Western Australian Plants – a lot of these require deep sand and are/can be difficult to grow in Victoria ## Note: These are WA nurseryman George Lullfitz's favourite WA plants.

Beaufortia "Summer Flame"	Verticordia nitens	Banksia prionotes "Little Kalbarri Candles"
Hemiandra pungens	Banksia sceptrum "Little Xmas Candles" 1m	Corymbia ficifolia
Eucalyptus macrocarpa	Grevillea candelabroides "Dwarf" "little Coastal Candles"	Eucalyptus synandra
Isopogon latifolius	Swainsonia Formosa	Ricinocarpos cyanescens
Anigozanthos manglesii	Macropidia fuliginosa	Acacia rossei
Conospermum incurvum	Verticordia monodelpha	Eremophila cuneifolia
Eucalyptus caesia	Kunzea baxteri	

Australian Plants – Good for attracting Insects Bees, Wasps & Beetles - Butterflies -

Acacia  	Bursaria  	Leptospermum  
Banksia 	Calothamnus  	Correa 
Daisies 	Diplolena  	Dryandra  
Eremophila  	Eucalyptus 	Grasses  
Grevillea  	Hakea 	Lambertia  
Macropidia  	Pimelea 	Scaevola  
Mistletoe – all species  		

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

By Barbara Mau



Podolepis jaceoides - Showy Podolepis
Photo: Barbara Mau

What a wonderful start to autumn with 7ml of greatly needed rain! I think everyone will agree that a good downpour does wonders for thirsty plants. And that delicious, fresh smell when you walk out in the morning is just heavenly!

Autumn is the time to sow your collected seeds. Once your seedlings have several leaves you can pick them out into forestry tubes to mature for your spring planting. Plant any tube stock you may have while the soil is still warm, and autumn rain will help to establish the plants before winter sets in. It is also time to place orders for new tube stock for planting next spring. Seasonal change in the garden is always exciting with the anticipation of those first flowers to emerge on your favourite plant.

Podolepis jaceoides - Showy Podolepis is a very ornamental perennial and so easy to grow. This plant has an endearing habit of bowing its flower heads before they open. When the bright yellow daisy heads suddenly appear, they will stand upright turning their faces into the sun. Flowers rise to 40-60cm from dark green leafy rosettes, appearing in spring and flowering on through summer. *P. jaceoides* enjoys full sun to part shade and well-drained soil. They are frost tolerant and drought

hardy.

I cannot wax lyrical enough about the *Wahlenbergia communis* - Tufted Bluebell, or *W. luteola* - Yellow-backed Bluebell, the former being less common but both are easily grown from seed. I have *W. luteola* growing naturally at my place. Should anyone like to give then a go I am happy to bring seed to our general meetings for you. Both *W. communis* and *W. luteola* look stunning when grown on mass or mixed with smaller Wallaby grasses and/or in conjunction with, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*.

Last year, while in Canberra, I saw *W. communis* planted with a variety of Wallaby grasses as an alternate to water thirsty lawns strips that separate Canberra's arterial road. It was a magical sight, kilometres of gently rippling, pale yellow, native grasses shot with sky blue *Wahlenbergias*.

Both Bluebell species have similar requirements, full sun and dry, well-drained soil. They grow to 15-50 cm, flowers appearing in spring and continue into autumn. You will be rewarded with their endless flowering capacity, free seeding habit. They also make an excellent container plant mixed with *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius* - Wiry Buttons. Cut them back in winter for a vigorous restart in spring.

I know that I go on about the grassland plants that I adore, so here is a little about a lovely and very generous flowering small shrub! The energetic *Olearia ramulosa* - Twiggy Daisy-bush is fast growing and can reach its full height of 1.5 m in just twelve months. It is a most attractive and versatile plant that can be grown as a single specimen in a small garden. In a larger garden try growing it arranged in multiples, as a low clipped or informal hedge.

O. ramulosa grows in a rounded, dense habit, with small, aromatic, deep green leaves. It is covered in masses of tiny, white daisy flowers in spring through into autumn. It prefers dry, gravelly, well-drained soil, with a sunny aspect.

Another *Olearia* species worth mentioning is *Olearia erubescens* - Moth Daisy-bush. This shrub grows to 1.5 m with the same growing requirements as

O. ramulosa. Its attractive red colouration, on the young growth, compliments the floriferous nature of its abundant white daisy flowers that appear in early spring to early summer. It can also be used to great advantage as a container plant.

'Plants for thought', until April, happy autumn gardening!



Olearia ramulosa
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, proof-reading, hunting up & providing other information as needed and general support. A BIG THANK YOU TO: Bill Barker, Ian Julian, Neil Humphreys, Barbara Mau, Neil Macumber, Maureen Runge, Lorraine & Brian Weir & Nicky Zanen.

APS 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.

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

April 11-12 APS Geelong Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. Mel 431D6.

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.

VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB presents

Bonsai Exhibition of Australian Native Plants

Domain House
Dallas Brooks Drive
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
10am-4pm
Saturday April 11 - Sunday April 12 2015
Entry: \$3.00
Children under 16 free

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au

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

Query Corner?

Maureen has photographed this moth. Does anyone know what species it is and any further information?



Unknown Moth ? Photo: M Runge

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