



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

May news...!

Hello and welcome to our May edition!

I hope everyone's gardens are benefiting from the recent soggy weather, mine certainly is and I'm eagerly looking forward to getting back into my planting program. The weather may be turning colder but work is heating up with the committee busily continuing organising our Spring Plant Expo & Sale. We now have some information to share which you'll find elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our planned guest speaker for this month is unavailable until June so there's been a little rescheduling, see page 2 for details.

There's also been a little more information added here and there to our APS Mitchell Website so do take a look around it's various sections and feel free to provide feedback. Suggestions for content are always welcome too. www.apsmitchell.org.au

Lastly our June newsletter is due out on the 2nd Monday (the 8th). Remember: please keep all the great photo's, articles and items of interest



Thelymitria sp. Sun-orchid
High Camp November 2014

Photo: J Petts

rolling in :-). The dead line for contributions is June 1st (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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Expression of Interest? Euroa Arboretum Visit...

For a spring garden visit this year the committee is proposing a September trip to the Euroa Arboretum and is inviting expressions of interest from group members, friends and family etc. Depending on numbers it is envisaged car-pooling will again be offered.

If you'd like to come along please contact a committee member, let us know at a meeting or send an email to: apsmitchel@gmail.com

Are you interested in a group visit to the Euroa Arboretum?

If so please contact a committee member, let us know at a meeting or email:

apsmitchel@gmail.com

May 2015

Volume 2, Issue 4

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MAY 18th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker:
Neil Humphreys on
Australian Native
Essential Oils.
- **JUNE 15th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker:
Ian Chivers from
Native Seeds on Native
Lawns & Conservation.
- **JULY 20th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker to be
advised
- **AUGUST 17th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker to be
advised
- **SEPTEMBER 21st**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker to be
advised
- **SEPTEMBER 27th**
Proposed Euroa
Arboretum Visit
- **OCTOBER 17th**
APS MITCHELL
ANNUAL SPRING
PLANT EXPO & SALE
9am - 3pm
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney St, Kilmore
- **OCTOBER 19th**
7:30pm MEETING
Guest Speaker to be
advised



Eucalyptus froggattii

By Jeanine Petts

Instalment number three of the small Eucalypts mentioned by Andrew Slee from CSIRO...

Eucalyptus froggattii (Kamarooka mallee) - This box mallee-tree growing to 10 m is endemic to Victoria and is scattered in the North Central & Western districts. An identifying feature is its fruits that are visibly squared. Its glossy light green leaves are lanceolate to falcate in shape. White flowers have been noted to occur in January, July and throughout spring. Andrew's specimen has been in his garden more than 20 years and it is still multi-trunked, only 7 m tall and flowers regularly.

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

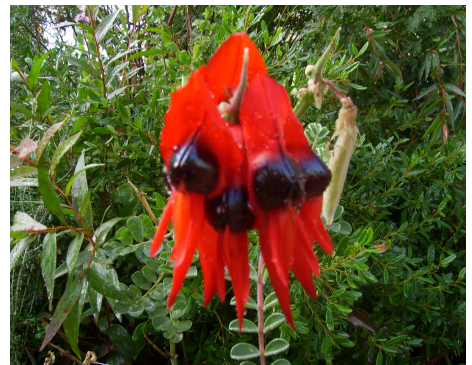


May Meeting Monday the 18th 7:30pm...

By Jeanine Petts

Unfortunately our planned guest speaker on Native Lawns and Conservation (Ian Chivers from Native Seeds) has had other work commitments arise so has rescheduled to our June meeting. At a future date Ian has also generously offered us a second talk on native rice seeds and their virtues.

As luck would have it we also have a talented home grown speaker in the form of our current group President: Neil Humphreys. Neil will be continuing on from his last year's fascinating talk on The Fragrance Industry and will be treating us to a presentation on Australian Native Essential Oils. Neil had us all enthralled, engaged and entertained with his last talk so come along and join us for our May meeting to get the second half of the story.



Swainsona Formosa "Flinders Flame"

Photo: Jeanine Petts

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

April Meeting Report - "Australian Orchids"

By Jeanine Petts

Monday April 20th saw a good turnout of members come along to hear our current APS Victoria Vice President speak on Australian Orchids. We were also the lucky beneficiaries of Bill Barker bringing in an array of plants offered free to a good home. Some of which were grown from seed gleaned at Barbara Mau's Garden. Happily for Bill a good number of his plants went off to new homes. ☺

Cathy began her talk with the question "why orchids?"

Focussing on terrestrial orchids (terrestrial meaning ground dwelling) perhaps the question should be: Why not? We expect beauty and diversity in nature, even grasses can be beautiful. Just think of "amber waves of grain flowing in the wind". After all beauty is in the eye of the beholder and in the case of orchids could it be because they are eye catching? Many orchid common names relate to something they look like. The Swaddled Baby Orchid (a non-native) is a good example.



Swaddled Babies - *Anguloa uniflora*

(Photo: <https://plus.google.com/+patrickkane/posts/gA7ibhMqs2k?pid=6055100415551330546&oid=115712613772547949696>)

Some features of orchids are that they:

- Have bilateral symmetry (each half is a mirrored image).
- Nearly always have a modified petal called the labellum.
- Have fused stamens and carpels.
- Have extremely small seeds (orchids produce millions of seeds but there is a huge attrition rate and very few seeds come to fruition).

Orchids have a number of flower orientations: Some are resupinate meaning the flower is the right way up, some are non-resupinate meaning the flower is upside down and some begin in one position and shift to the other position during their life cycle.

The orchid family is incredibly old, some 230 million years. A Sweat Bee has been found in amber (fossilised tree resin) carrying two mites in turn carrying orchid pollen dated to over 100 million years ago.

Carl Linnaeus classified the family as Orchidaceae, the name coming from the word orchis meaning testicle, relating to the tuber structure of orchids. Orchids are found everywhere and are an exceptional plant family as they tolerate all sorts of environmental excesses including dry environments. This gives them the ability to live in a wide range of habitats providing the mycorrhizal soil fungi exist for them. Epiphyte orchids are another example of being able to live in a high stress environment as epiphytes can experience water stresses similar to that of an arid area. The adaptability of orchids is the key to their success.



Orchids live among all sorts of other wildflowers. Drought resistance and low nutrient requirements enable terrestrial orchids at temperate zones to thrive and orchids have developed all sorts of specialisations. A couple of examples being the Leek Orchid that flowers after summer fires and the Lizard Orchid which is only 2 inches high, only flowers after fire and grows only in conjunction with Prickly Tea Trees- exact soil requirements are needed for it to flower.

Insect Interaction

Wasps are one example of orchid and insect interaction. The plant uses pheromone mimicry exuding a pheromone like that of a female wasp which attracts male wasps wishing to mate who then end up pollinating the flower. Sometimes the flowers can attract in more than one male at a time.

Pterostylis melagramma & wasp pollinators
Photo: Bob Lindhe

(Continued on page 4)

April Meeting Report - "Australian Orchids" Continued...

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 3)

Many Sun Orchid species show a distinctively structured column (the fused reproductive structure of male & female parts) with a "fuzzy" top which is "buzz pollinated". There are ongoing studies into the relationships between orchids and their pollinators. Some orchids are "picky" being very specific in which insects they attract and others not so. Therefore the study of orchids entails knowing as much about the insect as the orchid. Different pollinators have different characteristics, behaviours and colour receptors so in order to be attractive to insects orchids have evolved their differing features. Some orchid labellum light up like landing strips in the UV range. Others are counter weighted. Pollen packets are also sized appropriate to the particular pollinator. Pollinators can be all sorts of insects, ants, bees, beetles, gnats, midges, flies, fruit flies and the list goes on. Many of the Spider Orchids are pheromone emitters. Orchids are also sneaky, like the Diuris (Donkey Orchids) which have evolved to look like the pea flowers they grow near to attract insects. Further information on orchids and insect interaction can be found in Rudie H Kuiter's book *Orchid Pollinators of Victoria*.

Some of the many notable and varied types of Australian Orchids are:

- Helmet Orchids, which are small orchids with a dorsal sepal in the shape of a helmet over a single leaf.
- The small *Caladenia* also called Pink Fingers or Lady Fingers.
- The Undertaker Orchid, so named because the plant turns black to look dead (and unappetising) after pollination to avoid grazers. This orchid also only flowers after fire.
- *Pterostylis* otherwise known as Green Hoods. *Pterostylis curta* is easy to identify with it's twisted labellum.
- Spider Orchids which are wispy with long sepals and petals. The Heartlip has a heart shaped labellum.
- Pink Fairies.
- Beard Orchids.
- Flying Duck Orchids.
- The Bird Orchid which has 2 leaves at ground level.

More reasons as to "why orchids?":

- You can get to travel everywhere to see orchids, even overseas.
- To see beautiful spectacles, the beautiful enamel orchids are a great example.
- Australian Orchids are among the best in the world.
- You can get to see some really weird stuff too and occasionally see interesting aberrations such as natural hybrids in the wild.

A number of great places to see orchids in Victoria are: West Wail Flora & Fauna Reserve, Bungal State Forest, Mount St Gwinear, Peninsula Gardens Reserve in



Thebymitra antennifera
Rabbit Ears



Pyrorchis nigricans
Red-Beaks or Undertaker
Orchid
Photo: Cathy Powers



Elythanthera brunonis
Purple Enamel Orchid
Photo: Cathy Powers

(Continued on page 5)

April Meeting Report - "Australian Orchids" Continued...

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 4)

Rosebud and the Brisbane Ranges have over 100 species of orchids. It is really worth getting out and taking a look at our orchids as you never know what you may find and there are different orchids in flower during much of the year. Two lucky amateur photographers in 2009 found *Caladenia pumila* which up until then had been considered extinct.

Some orchids can be grown from tubers and the Orchid Society has a Tuber Bank. Tissue culture on agar is also being tried as a growing method for orchids but this requires expertise. Finally APS Books sell a range of books on Orchids for anyone interested in further reading and Cathy also has a website choc full of beautiful images and information on orchids:

<http://www.banjarah.com/>

Autumn Orchids in Mitchell Shire...

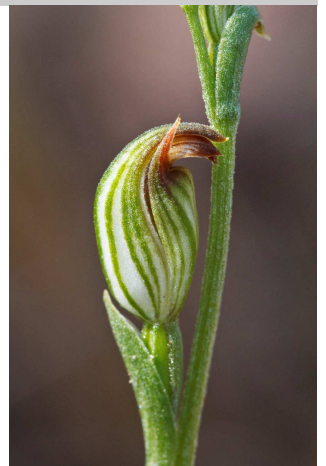
By Paul Piko

Summer is normally a quieter period for native orchid flowering. During autumn we usually see more orchids begin to bloom. For some species this is their time to shine. However the very dry conditions in the Mitchell Shire have made it trickier to find orchids in flower this autumn. Fortunately I found two species to photograph along Old Sydney Road and at Monument Hill.

Parson's Bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, usually has one or two white flowers on a stem 25cm high. Sometimes the flower has a pink tinge.

The Inland Red-tip Greenhood, *Pterostylis parviflora* sp. aff. 2, is related to the aptly named Tiny Greenhood but as yet has not been categorised as its own species. "sp. aff." means "species affinity" which indicates that the plant is similar to a named species but usually shows enough characteristics to set it apart. When enough evidence has been gathered, and enough paperwork and review completed, the "sp. aff." may be officially identified as a stand-alone species. This greenhood grows up to 35cm high, with up to a 10 flowers, each measuring a centimetre. The tips of the petals, lateral sepals and galea have a distinctive red-brown colour.

Hopefully with some rain we will see the winter flowering orchids blooming in greater numbers than the autumn ones.



Pterostylis parviflora sp. Aff. 2
Inland Red-tip Greenhood



Eriochilus cucullatus
Parson's Bands
Photo: Paul Piko



Pterostylis parviflora sp. Aff. 2
Inland Red-tip Greenhood
Photo: Paul Piko

Save the date...

APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 17th, 2014
9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore



Native Plant & Flower Displays



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

Mike Williams - Assorted Plants

Russell Waite - Assorted Plants

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Set up on Friday October 16th, also on Saturday October 17th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc. Please speak to a committee member if you are able to assist.

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

By Barbara Mau



Nicotiana suaveolens - Austral Tobacco
Photo: Barbara Mau

Well, I'm not sure about everyone else but I have found this autumn's planting quite labour intensive. Despite the recent rains my garden beds are still quite hard and dry a few centimetres' below the surface. With mattock in hand I have been digging adequate planting holes, adding a little reservoir of water before planting my *Arthropodium milleflorum*, Pale Vanilla Lilly, *Dianella amoena*, Matted Flax Lily and *Nicotiana suaveolens*, Austral Tobacco. As a result of the dry spring and summer I had to 'pot them on' and nurse them through summer waiting for better planting conditions.

Now is the time to have a bit of a tidy up and I have been cutting back many of the indigenous grasses and trimming the hedged walkway of *Goodenia ovata*, Hop Goodenia, which has over whelmed the *Leiocarpa panaetioides*, Woolly Buttons. As the Woolly Buttons require full sun, and mine battle with a degree of shade produced by branches of *G. ovata*, it will never be a congenial mix. I am

considering moving the charming little *L. panaetioides* with their tiny grey green leaves and profusion of yellow flower heads. Flowers appear in spring and continue through summer and autumn. It is also time to dead head *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Common Everlastings and cut back your *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, Clustered Everlastings, to encourage new, strong growth for the next season flowers.

My 18 months old *Correa glabra*, Rock Correa hedge has had its first trim and is shaping up nicely. Should you be thinking of establishing a new dense hedge for your garden you could consider this indigenous shrub. Plant them 1m apart to create a truly drought and frost resistant hedge. *C. glabra* has small, oblong, dark green leaves, and will reward you with abundant lime green, tubular flowers over many months, usually May through to September. These hardy, compact shrubs enjoy heavy pruning, a dry, well-drained sunny position and will grow to 1.5-2m.

It is not long now before the onset of winter when Acacias and Grevilleas will begin emerging to delight us all. Until next month, Happy Gardening to you all!



Chrysocephalum apiculatum - Common Everlastings & *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* - Clustered Everlastings
Photo: Barbara Mau



Correa glabra - Rock Correa
Photo: Barbara Mau



Goodenia ovata - Hop Goodenia
Photo: Neil Humphreys

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:**
Neil Humphreys,
Barbara Mau,
Paul Piko,
Cathy Powers,
Maureen Runge,
Lorraine & Brian Weir

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

June 20 - APS Victoria COM Meeting hosted by APS Victoria at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, (RBGC), 10 am. Special General Meeting, 12:30 pm. Agenda: adoption of proposed rule changes.

September 5 - APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick. 9 am - 4 pm.

September 5 & 6 - Bendigo Native Plants Group Flower Show, Rotary Gateway Park, 26 High Street, Kangaroo Flat.

September 12 & 13 - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo at Eltham Community &

Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham (Melways 21 J6). 10 am - 4 pm both days.

September 19- & 20 - APS Colac/Otway Group hosting quarterly and APS Victoria AGM.

September 19 & 20 - Angair (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Wildflower and Art Show), Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan St, Anglesea. 10am - 4:30 pm. Small entry fee.

October 3 & 4 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30 am - 5 pm.

October 17 & 18 - South Gippsland Native Plant Sale & Flower Show, Gippsland

Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha. 10 am - 4 pm. Enquires: Coral 5664 2221

October 24 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Echuca Uniting Church Hall, Hare St, Echuca.

November 15-20 - 28th ANPSA Biennial Conference, Canberra. "Bush Capital, Garden City". Website: anpsa.org.au/conference2015/.



Take a look at the following attached flyers for information on two great events in May at The Flour Mill Euroa...

Committee & Contact Information

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

Committee Members

President:	Neil Humphreys	0439 563 057
Vice President:	Barbara Mau	
Secretary:	Maureen Runge	
Treasurer/Memberships:	Bill Barker	5783 3838
Committee:	Janice Baker, Ian Julian, Dawn McCormack, Jeanine Petts, Brian Weir, Lorraine Weir.	
Group Librarian:	Barbara Mau	
Plant Sales:	Brian & Lorraine Weir	5783 2912
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.

Query Corner?

Thank you to everyone who has donated sturdy larger jars and vases for our Plant Expo Kit. Still more are needed so feel free to save, collect & bring more along to monthly meetings.

Alternatively contact a committee member to organise collection or send an email to:

apsmitchel@gmail.com



Correa pulchella "Little Cate"

Photo: Jeanine Petts

FRIENDS OF THE SEVENS INVITE YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF THE BROCHURE
"BIRDS OF THE SEVEN CREEKS, EUROA- AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE"

Tim Low - author, biologist and bird-watcher will launch the brochure
Saturday 16th May from 6pm onwards - The Flour Mill, Kirkland Avenue Euroa



Tim Low- author, biologist and bird-watcher
will launch the brochure.

Local ecologist, Lance Williams, will
present on the nature and significance of
the birds of the Seven Creeks, Euroa.

Tim will present on the uniqueness of
Australian birds, particularly in the context
of his latest book "Where Song Began"
Come along and join in the celebration.
There will be copies of Tim's book for
sale... a great chance for book signings!
Festive food is provided

Saturday 16th May from 6pm onwards
The Flour Mill, Kirkland Avenue Euroa
RSVP - Shirl 0427 246 900



Friends of the Sevens

THE EUROA ARBORETUM PRESENTS

CLEVER COUNTRY GARDENS

DINNER SERIES

6 PM AT THE FLOUR MILL EUROA

\$30 for two course meal and presentation

Bookings at www.euroaarboretum.com.au or at The Hub

AUTUMN FRIDAY 29TH MAY

2 HABITAT GARDENS

Frog bogs, butterflies and insect habitat & the fundamentals of the food web.

Cathy Olive - Project Manager
Euroa Arboretum



Euroa Arboretum
Growing Back the Bush

#EUROAARB #OUREUROA #EUROATALKS