



*Dillwynia sericea*

# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

## September news...!

Hello everyone and a sunny welcome to our September edition.

First up is a big apology to Russell Wait for misspelling your surname name on our Expo page all these past months. We stand corrected and would also like to let everyone know Russell will be bringing Eremophilas along for sale at our Spring Plant Expo & Sale. Remember to put October the 17th in your diaries and come along for a beautiful spring display with plenty of opportunity to pick up some special plants.

Our Inappropriate Planting competition continues with the latest image & commentary sent in by Brian (at right).

Lastly our October newsletter is due out on the 2nd Monday (the 12th). The great photo's, articles, info and items of interest that members share with us are what keeps our newsletter going so please keep all the goodies rolling in :-). Next month's dead line for contributions is October 5th (1st Monday) and



Inappropriate Planting: Eucalyptus planted beneath power lines. Beautifully pruned by SP Aus Net contractors, they can be contacted @hackmedown.com. Commentary & Photo: Brian Weir

can be sent to me at:

[wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au) or

Mailed to PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

Cheers till our next edition, Jeanine

### Inside this issue:

*September & General* Pg 2

*Meeting Information* Pg 2

*Memberships* Pg 2

*Standard of the* Pg 2

*Month* Pg 2

*August Meeting* Pg 3

*Report* Pg 3

*September Garden* Pg 6

*Guide* Pg 6

*Reminders, APS Vic* Pg 7

*Diary Dates etc...* Pg 7

*Committee & Contact* Pg 7

*Information* Pg 7

*Spring Plant Expo* Pg 8

## *Euroa Arboretum Visit...*

Due to lack of interest a formal APS Mitchell Group visit to the Euroa Arboretum has been postponed. Anyone wishing to attend the Arboretum on Sunday September 27th (or any other day) should still feel free to make the trip.

For those planing a visit and interested in making their own way up see opening times at right.

Further information about the Arboretum can be found on their website:

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/introduction/#>

**The Euroa Arboretum is situated at 76 Euroa Main Road Euroa and is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year (366 days on a Leap Year).**

**The Nursery is open on Mondays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.**



## September 2015

Volume 2, Issue 8

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **SEPTEMBER 21st**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speakers: David and Barbara Pye on Correas**
- **OCTOBER 17th APS MITCHELL ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE**  
**Kilmore Memorial Hall**  
**14 Sydney St, Kilmore**  
**See page 9 for further information.**
- **OCTOBER 19th**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker: Bill Aitchison on Acacias**
- **NOVEMBER 16th**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Annual General Meeting & End of Year Celebration. Bring a plate to share.**

## Standard of the Month, September...

By Brian Weir

### GREVILLEA "New Blood"

*Grevillea* New Blood is a tough, low growing, long flowering shrub but as a standard this *Grevillea juniperina* hybrid springs to life, the contrast of flower and foliage is a head turner.

It has flowered through -4°C frosts here and never faulted. Honey eaters make repeat visits continually throughout the day. It also holds its own with the exotics. I can certainly recommend this grevillea.

*Grevillea* "New Blood" Standard  
Photo: Brian Weir



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



## September Meeting Monday the 21st 7:30pm...

By Jeanine Petts

Once again we have some very knowledgeable and informative guest speakers coming along to join us this month.

David and Barbara Pye will be giving a presentation on *Correas*. Both David and Barbara are very active members of APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh and also operate the small hobby nursery Suntuff Natives at Bullengarook. They also have a long involvement with the *Correa* Study Group and have been growing *Correas* since the 1980's.

In their large garden on the side of Mount Bullengarook they grow many different *Correa* forms and are specialists in growing plants suitable for the region that are bird attracting, provide colour and are important to garden ecology.

Do join us for what is sure to be another engaging and interesting evening.



*Correa* Jezabell  
Photo: Jeanine Petts

## Memberships...

Of interest is that we have 48 financial members at present. However several are very close to becoming un-financial. About 17 folks are due this month or early next month. If anyone is unsure they can give me a bell to find out what their current membership status is.

Cheers,

Bill (Phone: 5783 3838)

General membership information can also be found on APS Mitchell's website:

[http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/?page\\_id=18](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/?page_id=18)



## August Meeting Report “Victorian Alpine Plants”

By Jeanine Petts

Michael Marmack joined us for our August meeting bringing along an impressive kit of panoramic projection equipment which he used to great effect taking us on a visual journey over the High Plains. Firstly Michael gave a little background on himself. Careful to state he is not a Botanist but has a keen interest in native plants, bushwalking, and photography and has regularly combined all three activities. He has been a member of APS Waverley for the past 33 years, is also a long time member of the Waverley Bush Walking Club and over the years has crisscrossed all of Australia. Using older style panoramic equipment along with an SLR camera his presentation images have been taken during back-pack walking tours.

In Michael's experience Victoria and Tasmania are remarkable for their size and differing landscapes. Victoria has desert, temperate rain forests, coastal and alpine regions. The Victorian Alps are quite different from the NSW Alps. In NSW the Kosciusko area vistas are wider with glacial lakes while in Victoria the Alps closed in and more dramatic with steeper slopes.

Springtime comes late in the Alps usually December, January, February with the peak of flowering in January. The images screened were taken during Michael's December 1999 into January 2000 back-pack tour “getting off the beaten track” with a group of 8 walkers. Starting out at Falls Creek the group trekked via Rocky Valley Dam up Heathy Spur taking in the High Plains, Ropers Hut, Big River, up and over Mt Bogong, including Quartz Ridge Spur, Grey Hills and Spion Kopje. In all, 6 days on the trail with 5 overnight camps at times in wet weather gear and along with the usual back-pack and camping gear Michael was also carrying an SLR camera and equipment.

In late December some of the sub alpine plants along the first part of the trek were *Prostanthera monticola* and *Eucalyptus pauciflora*- The Snow Gum whose trunk twists in all direction and has a lignotuber similar to the Mallees. In autumn its peeling bark reveals beautiful trunks of red, gold and silver. On the way to Mt Nelse which is “a bump on the high plain” were:

*Celmisia alpina*- Alpine Daisy

*Ajuga* – 3 different sub species. These alpine *Ajuga* form a flat mat on the ground and have yellow tubular flowers.

*Craspedia* – Billy Buttons.

Roper Hut was the next destination and a mass flowering of *Kunzea muellerii* was seen along the way. This particular *Kunzea* can cover whole mountain sides in a good season and when in flower it is easily identifiable by its honey scent. *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* – Clustered Everlasting was also seen in the area.

The group had a river crossing at Big River which is made using a chain across the river to hold onto as you navigate your way through icy water and across mossy rocks. In the area around T Spur there were *Eucalyptus delegatensis* – Alpine Ash, which cattlemen have used timber from to build slab huts.

Once you get above the snowline only the smaller plants, grasses and shrubs are able to survive the conditions and boggy areas can be jam packed with different species. Some photographed were: *Celmisia sericophylla* – Silky Daisy, *Prostanthera*, *Richea*, Sphagnum Moss, *Scaevola hookeri* and four different Snow Grass - *Poa* species. Also along the trek there is a 150 ft water fall which drops down into Big River.



*Eucalyptus pauciflora* - Snow Gum  
Photo: David Francis

[www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)



*Celmisia sericophylla* - Silky Daisy  
Photo: Russell Best

[www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)

(Continued on page 4)

## August Meeting Report “Victorian Alpine Plants”

By Jeanine Petts

(Continued from page 3)

Further on was the now partially burned Cleeve Cole Hut. Cleeve Cole Hut is of interest because it is not actually a cattleman's hut. It was architect designed and built in 1937 as a refuge hut. Cleeve Cole's father paid to have the hut built after his son died in a blizzard. *Grevillea alpina* and *Hovea lanceolata* were growing in this region. Many alpine bushes tend to have a cushion like habit, keeping a low profile to survive. During his many treks into the alpine region Michael has personally seen and photographed the changes in the landscape since cattle have been restricted from the Alps. What was once bare ground, trodden down and worn by cattle is now steadily recovering. Hells Gap is on the way to the Mt Bogong summit and above the tree line in exposed areas only grass and herbaceous plants grow. Along with a lone Echidna sighted were a number of Butter Cups *Ranunculus graniticola* (four sub species), *Trachymene humilis* (which is in the parsnip family) and the Cushion Bushes – *Scleranthos biflorus* which are bright emerald in colour and form a mat.



*Trachymene humilis* - Alpine Trachymene

Photo: Bill Strong

[www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)

The summit of Mt Bogong is nearly 2 km high at 1.8 km and while camping out during the trek get up time was 5 am to be ready for the 7 am start for their all day walks. One of Michael's first jobs in the morning was to scrape his tent free of ice. The return journey travelled via the Grey Hills and Spion Kopje. In this stretch of the trek were: *Brachycome tadgellii* and *Olearia frostii* – Bogong Daisy Bush. In sub-alpine areas were: *Derwentia* – Diggers Speedwell, *Asterolasia* with its starlike flowers and *Orites lancifolia* – Mountain Orites. Michael and the group spent a minus 2°C overnight on the mountain for 1999's “Millennium” New Years Eve, celebrating the event by stringing some balloons and ribbons up among the trees, sharing chocolates and port.



*Orites lancifolia*

Photo: Russell Best

[www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)

On the way to Spion Kopje the Epacris heath was sighted *Epacris paludosa* (paludosa meaning white), also four different species of Swamp Heath - the leaves of each identify the species. *Hovea longifolia* (purple & white forms), *Craspedia* – Billy Buttons and Candle Heath – *Richea continentis* were also seen. *Brachycome tadgellii*, a *Stackhousia* species (prostrate form with yellow flowers), *Brachycome nivalis* (in wet areas), *Cardamine* (from the Brassica family) and *Brachycome decipiens* which have a broad leaf and distinct vein were also seen during the final leg of the journey.



*Brachycome decipiens*

Photo: Russell Best

[www.natureshare.org.au](http://www.natureshare.org.au)

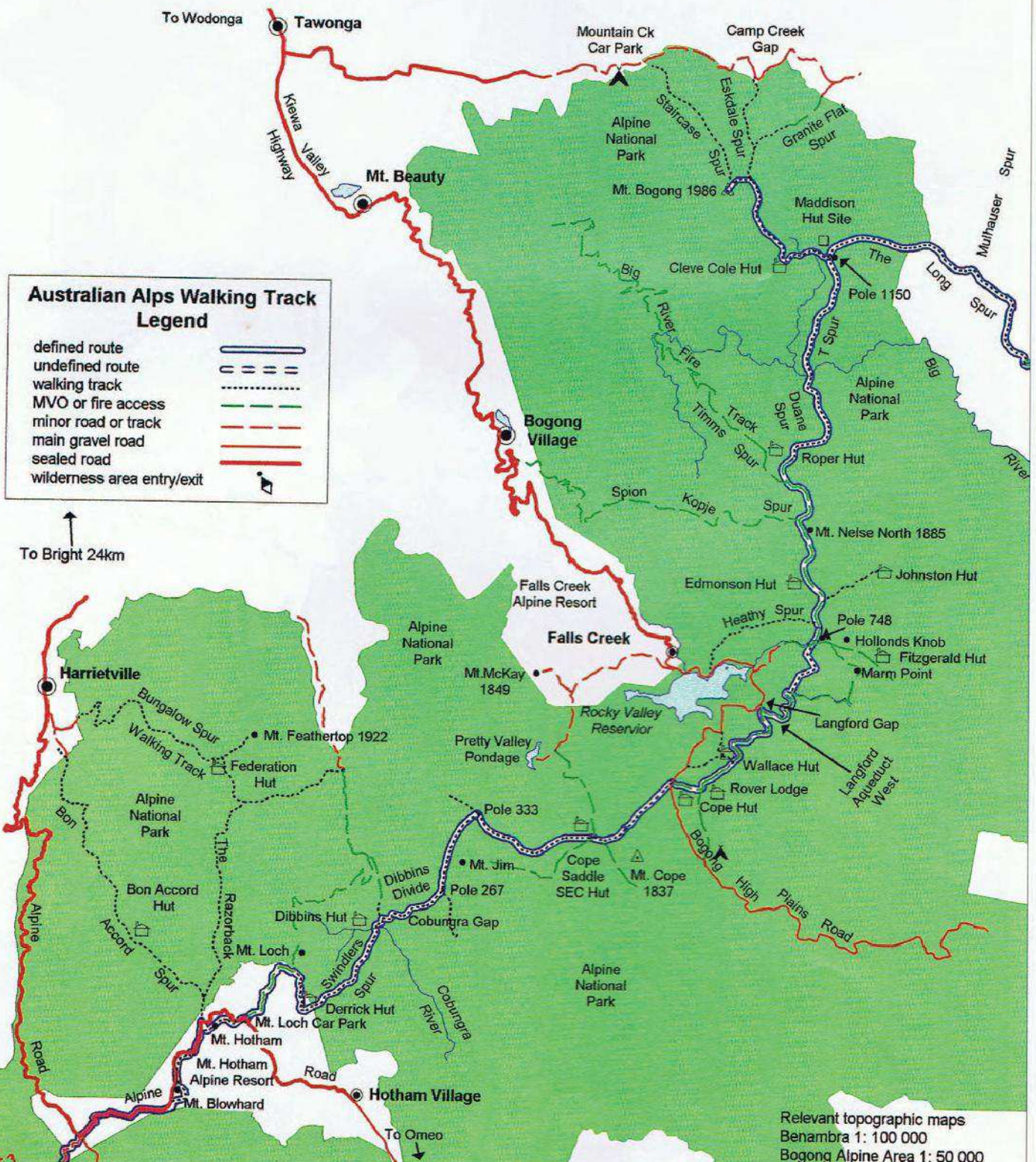
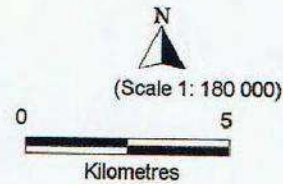
Michael Marmack has made an impressive twenty trips over the Bogong High Plains with his last 21 – 22 Km walking tour completed in 2009 at the age of 84. His final tour was recorded with digital photographic equipment. If anyone would like to see more of Michael Marmack's visual tours please let Barbara Mau know so we can extend an invitation for next years speakers list.

**NOTE: For reference a map of the area mentioned is included on page 5.**



# Australian Alps Walking Track

## Map 6 Mt. Hotham - Maddisons Hut Site 47km





## Garden Guide- What's to do in September...

By Barbara Mau



*Acacia acinacea* - Gold Dust Wattle  
Photo: Barbara Mau

Finally.....warmer days with a little more needed rain!

I was on Mt Piper in late August and saw a lone *Wurmbea dioica*, Early Nancy, announcing the first days of spring. In the garden many plants are on the move and many are beginning to flower.

If you have loved the wattles throughout the winter there is one that is only just starting to produce its showers of golden blooms. So should you be restricted in garden space, but would love to fit in a wattle, then *Acacia acinacea*, Gold Dust Wattle, may be the one for you. Gold-Dust Wattle only grows to 1.5m tall x 2m wide and thrives equally well in full sun and dappled shade. It has lovely arching branches lined with small mid green leaves. From late winter through to late spring it's branches are laden with golden flower balls. Should you be lucky enough to have the room, planting a grove of these wattles will reward you with a show stopping display each year.

September and October are a good time to start planting before the hotter weather is with us. I thought you might like to try one or two endangered species that are easy to obtain and grow, and of course by adding them to your garden keeps the species in

existence.

If you have thought of planting *Dianellas* why not try the lovely endangered *Dianella amoena*, Matted Flax-Lily, which is smaller than other *Dianellas*. It forms dense clumps of stiff, grey green, strappy leaves. In spring and summer clusters of blue perfumed flowers appear above the foliage. *D. amoena* grows to 20-30cm tall x 30cm wide, thrives in full sun or dappled shade, and does well in basalt or sedimentary soil. I have some growing in my garden and each warm summer's afternoon the delightful little blue banded native bee visits busily collecting swags of pollen!

Also growing in my garden is a little ground cover that seems perfectly happy sharing space and romping through the *Kennedia prostrata*, Running Postman. I'm talking about *Cullen tenax*, Tough Scurf-Pea, which is endangered in Victoria. *C. tenax* is a slender, trailing, herbaceous plant with dull green leaves and small upright clusters of soft purple flowers appearing in spring through summer. Growing to 15cm tall x 50cm wide, it makes a wonderful rockery plant. *C. tenax* enjoys heavy basalt soil, prefers a sunny aspect, but also tolerates some dappled shade.

The endangered *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*, Button Wrinklewort is a little plant well worth growing and would very look at home in any cottage garden. *R. leptorrhynchoides* is a low, erect, herbaceous plant flowering from spring through summer. It has small, soft, bright green leaves and bright yellow button flowers. When planted in a group they will form a lovely soft ground cover. They prefer full sun in well-drained soil, some moisture in Summer is beneficial. As a bonus, Button Wrinkleworts make a beautiful display as a container plant.

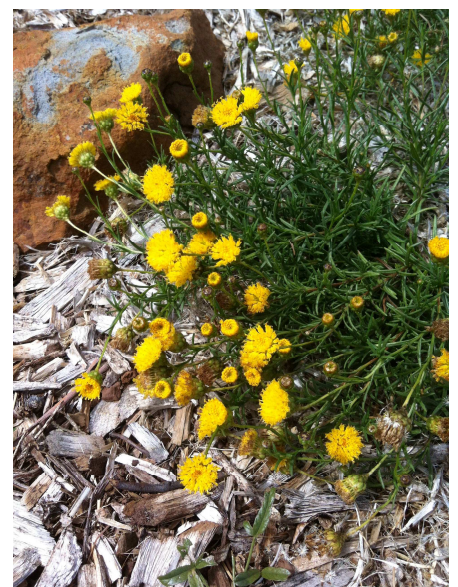
If you think you might like to give any of the above listed, easy to grow plants, a go, they can be purchased from either Western Plains Flora, at Wildwood, or Gold Fields Nursery in Bendigo. So until next month....Happy Spring Gardening!



*Dianella amoena* - Matted Flax-Lily  
Photo: Russell Best



*Cullen tenax* - Tough Scurf-Pea  
Photo: Barbara Mau



*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides* - Button Wrinklewort  
Photo: Barbara Mau



## Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

### Thank you

- For the 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:

Janis Baker,  
Bill Barker,  
Neil Humphreys,  
Barbara Mau,  
Peter Mitchell,  
Maureen Runge,  
Russell Wait,  
Lorraine & Brian Weir

#### APS VIC DIARY DATES...

**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.

**September 26 & 27** - RBG Cranbourne Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale, from 10 am to 4.00 pm at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Cash or cheque only.

**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/](http://anpsa.org.au/conference2015/).

**October 8-9 2016** - FJC Rogers Seminar in Hamilton

"Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids".

#### LOCAL EVENTS...

**September 27** - Nature Ramble around the base of the Mt Piper (Jeffries Lane Broadford) looking for wild flowers that can put up with the dry spring and listen to the sound-scapes created by the birds at Mount Piper. 11 am—12:30 pm. BYO lunch and stay on for a more invigorating walk up Mount Piper after lunch. Full details on the BEAM website at <http://www.beam.org.au/events/nature-ramble-at-mt-piper/>



## Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.  
PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764 No. A0054306V  
Email: [aps.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:aps.mitchell@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

#### 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](mailto: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...

Maureen has sent in this beautiful image from her garden of this standard Grevillea but doesn't remember the name. Can anyone identify it?



*APS Mitchell*  
*Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale*  
*October 17th, 2015*



*9 am - 3 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 - Anigozanthos (Kangaroo paws) & a small range of  
Callistemon & Scaevola

Kilmore Art Society - Art by local artists

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

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Russell Wait - Eremophilas



**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.**