



*Dillwynia sericea*

# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

## February news...!

Happy New Year & welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. I hope everyone's gardens are surviving the varying conditions this summer has been giving us. One plant in my garden that is currently doing well is *Banksia baueri* (pictured right).

At time of writing the committee has just held a planning meeting and changes are afoot. Many ideas are on the table and we will have further details in our March issue pending confirmation. The first and most important change we can tell you is that our venue for meetings is changing (for details see right and page 2). In addition, following an invite from APS Strathbogie Ranges Group, APS Mitchell will be joining the Strathbogie Group at Euroa on the morning of Saturday August 27th (In place of our usual 3rd Monday evening meeting) for a very special guest presentation by the much sought after Leon Costermans.

Lastly I would just like to say that although I may be the person who puts this newsletter together it's content very largely comes from member and committee contributors for which,

I for one and I'm sure all our members and readers are very grateful. The continuing support of all our generous contributors is what really makes this newsletter, so to all of our contributors past, present and future I extend very deep thanks :-).

Our next newsletter is due out on March 14th. All contributions both large and small are very, very welcome and should be sent in by Monday March 7th. Email contributions to:

[wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au) or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening & cheers, Jeanine :-)



*Banksia baueri*  
Possum Banksia  
Photo: J Petts

### Inside this issue:

<i>February &amp; General Meeting Information</i>	<i>Pg 2</i>
<i>Memberships</i>	<i>Pg 2</i>
<i>Standard of the Month</i>	<i>Pg 2</i>
<i>November Meeting &amp; AGM Report</i>	<i>Pg 3</i>
<i>President's Report</i>	<i>Pg 4</i>
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	<i>Pg 5</i>
<i>February Garden Guide</i>	<i>Pg 7</i>
<i>Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc...</i>	<i>Pg 8</i>
<i>Committee &amp; Contact Information</i>	<i>Pg 8</i>

## *Grevillea treueriana...*

*By Brian Weir*

*Grevillea treueriana* from Mt Finke, South Australia. This is one tough grevillea. I grow it as a bush and standard, it has survived frosts to -4c here in Wallan, doesn't mind long dry spells and is not often seen without a flower. Care must be taken when handling because it is extremely prickly but the prickles do not deter the many daily visits by honey eaters.



## February 2016

Volume 3, Issue 1

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **FEBRUARY 15th**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Anne Langmaid on**  
***Eremophila***  
**NOTE NEW VENUE:**  
**THE TRAINERS BAR**  
**KILMORE TRACKSIDE**  
**KILMORE RACING**  
**CLUB, EAST STREET,**  
**KILMORE VIC 3764**
- **MARCH 21st**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker: To Be**  
**Advised.**
- **APRIL 18th**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker: To Be**  
**Advised.**
- **MAY 16th**  
**7:30pm MEETING**  
**Guest Speaker: To Be**  
**Advised.**
- **SATURDAY AUGUST**  
**27th 10:30am**  
**EXCURSION**  
**MEETING: APS**  
**MITCHELL WILL BE**  
**JOINING APS**  
**STRATHBOGIE**  
**RANGES GROUP AT**  
**EUROA for a Guest**  
**Speaker Presentation**  
**by Leon Costermans**  
**Venue To Be Advised**
- **OCTOBER 15th**  
**APS MITCHELL**  
**ANNUAL SPRING**  
**PLANT EXPO & SALE**



## Standard of the Month, February...

By Brian Weir

### *Grevillea leptobotrys* Dryandra Form

In my opinion this form of *G. leptobotrys* is the most stunning and delicate of the many forms of which there are enough to have an entire garden bed of the "Tangled Grevillea".

Coming from Western Australia grafted is the best way to go even though if the conditions are right they will grow on their own roots for a few years. They strike readily from cuttings so if you grow them on their own roots there is no reason not to have a new plant always coming on.  
A fair dinkum head turner.

*Grevillea leptobotrys* Dryandra Form  
Photo: Brian Weir



MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE  
3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
(February to November)  
unless otherwise advised

Commencing 7:30 pm in the  
Trainers Bar  
Kilmore Trackside,  
East Street, Kilmore Vic 3764

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



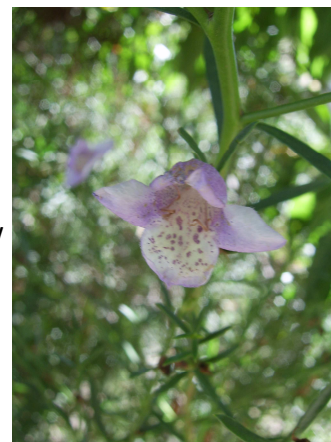
## February Meeting Monday the 15th 7:30pm...

By Jeanine Petts

To start our year we are very fortunate to have both a new venue for our meetings (see left for details) and the privilege of Anne Langmaid joining us to give a presentation on *Eremophila* (Emu Bushes).

Anne is a long standing member and the secretary of APS Keilor Plains Group, also recently taking on the role of Membership Officer for APS Victoria. Anne's main plant passion is for *Eremophila* but also writes of herself as having many other plant interests including volunteering at the Melton Botanic Garden Arboretum which has lead to a new excitement about small Eucalypts as well.

As always supper and chat will follow our evening presentation, so do come along and enjoy what is sure to be an informative and pleasant way to spend a summer evening. Should anyone wish to arrive early and partake of a pre-meeting meal at Trackside, staff in the dining area would be happy to assist.



*Eremophila* "Summer Time"  
Photo: Jeanine Petts

## Memberships...

For membership/renewal enquiries or forms please contact Bill Barker-  
Phone: 5783 3838 (or see Bill at a monthly meeting)

Alternatively visit APS Mitchell's website:

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



# November Meeting Report...

*By Jeanine Petts*

Twenty three members turned out for our November meeting and AGM bringing along with them a delicious array of celebration supper foods to share. Our AGM got going in fairly short order with Neil Humphreys welcoming everyone and delivering the Presidents Report in his inimitable fashion. A full copy of Neil's Report and Bill's Treasurer's Report is on the following pages but a few of additional mentions were..

A thank you to:

- Victoria Morris for all her help with refreshments.
- OPSM for their donation of the Hanging Basket Prize which included garden gloves, men's and ladies sunglasses.
- Mike Williams for all his support of our group and assistance at our Plant Expo with supplying tables and other equipment, his time and expertise in matching ID labels to specimens "so we know what we're displaying".
- Brian and Lorraine for all their work with plant sales.
- Dawn McCormack for keeping Neil "on the straight and narrow".

The floor was then given over to Bill Barker for the Treasurer's Report, memorably Bill's first words were: "We are solvent" and also advised us equity has improved over 2014—2015 by plus \$500.00. Bill then detailed the accounts in full (see page 6 for details.).

Election of committee members was next and the new line up for 2016 is as follows...

President: Vacant

Vice President: Ian Julian

Treasurer: Bill Barker

Secretary: Maureen Runge

General Committee: Leanne Egan, Neil Humphreys, Barbara Mau, Dawn McCormack & Jeanine Petts (also continuing as Newsletter Editor).

The winner of our Plant Expo OPSM prize was in attendance so it was with great pleasure that Ray Barnes was presented with his prize.

With formalities over Mike Williams began his PowerPoint presentation on Plants of the Ayre Peninsula AKA: "The Adventures of Barney & Willy", but unfortunately due to computer difficulties was unable to continue with the slide show. The committee will have to coax Mike back to share tales of the adventure another time.

Mike went on to speak on the recent issues APS Victoria has been having with it's current structure and the need for restructuring. Currently almost all APS Victoria members are members of their local group except for a single Lone Member. Some regional groups are very strong and long lived such as Yarra Yarra Group (currently with 125 members) while other groups have remained small, languished or even become inactive. There has been a proposal to create group zones wherein there may be 3-4 groups with a larger more active group in the zone able to provide assistance to keep smaller groups viable or even grow. Overall APS Victoria membership does tend to stay stable but not necessarily grow and adjusting the structure of APS Victoria to facilitate future growth of regional groups is an issue that needs to be addressed. Mike recommended attending the Annual District Group Forum and encouraged us to have a think about how we as members would like APS Vic to move forward. He also reminded us that as members we do have the power to provide feedback and have a say in the direction of APS Victoria and again encouraged us to do so.

The evening was topped off with that delicious supper array I mentioned and a good number of free plants for attendees walked out the door for which Brian was grateful not to have to continue watering over the summer months. Special thanks to all those who came along and contributed to the evening (Dawn's decadent chocolate creation was superb!).



Ray Barnes (left) receiving the OPSM raffle prize from Neil Humphreys (right)

---

## *Presidents Report For The Year 2015...*

*By Neil Humphreys*

Another successful year for APS Mitchell is drawing to a close. Our monthly meetings continue to be reasonably well attended and we would expect to continue with this format into the future.

We finish the year with 48 members.

The year started with the February meeting where Neil Macumber spoke to us on "Attracting birds and other wildlife to Australian native gardens". The speakers following were:

March, Graeme Woods - "Hakeas"

April, Cathy Powers - "Australian Orchids"

May, The Pres' - Filled in with a presentation on "Australian Essential Oils"

June, Ian Chivers from Native Seeds - "Native Lawns"

July, Geoffrey Lay - "The Larapinta Trail" (From Alice Springs through the spectacular MacDonnell Ranges)

August, Michael Marmack - "Victorian Alpine Plants"

September, David and Barbara Pye - "Correas"

October Bill Aitchison - "Acacia"

November, The year will be closed by Mike Williams discussing "Plants of the Ayre Peninsula"

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our Newsletter editor, Jeanine Petts, you can review or catch up on any of these presentations by logging into our current & back issue newsletters either online or downloaded from <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/> just go to our Newsletter tab and click on the PDF file.

The committee has tried to arrange daylight trips to external venues however interest from the members has not been strong. We will however continue to explore these options in order to provide some variety to our annual program.

### The Spring Plant Expo and Sale

The highlight of the APS Mitchell year is our annual Spring Plant Expo and Sale. Once again the Expo was an outstanding success with more than 200 attendees more than satisfying the expectations of the sellers.

The group generated a profit of \$1,179.20 from the day.

In addition we had 10 new members join up on the day.

As usual the Expo was supported with a grant from Mitchell Shire for advertising and promotion (\$1,010.00), Coles Supermarket with a voucher for tea, coffee and biscuits and OPSM Whittlesea donated a very generous prize for our raffle.

In addition each seller donated a plant as a door prize.

Committee member Brian Weir has written an excellent piece in the November newsletter thanking those people who supplied cuttings and assisted us in setting up the Expo as well as cleaning up at the end of the day. I too would like to add my thanks to all our helpers.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution your committee has made to this year. Barbara Mau - Vice President, Bill Barker - Treasurer, Maureen Runge - Secretary, Jeanine Petts - Newsletter Editor, Committee Members - Lorraine & Brian Weir, Dawn McCormack, Janis Baker, Ian Julian.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you all for your participation and support through out the year and we wish you all an enjoyable holiday season and a very happy New Year.

Neil Humphreys

President

# Treasurers Report...

By Bill Barker

## **EXPENDITURE**

### **EXPENDITURE - MONTHLY GENERAL**

APS Victoria Membership Fees	851.00	
Speaker's Fees and Gifts	290.00	
Fertiliser for Resale	120.90	
		<b><u>1,261.90</u></b>

### **EXPENDITURE - ADMINISTRATIVE**

John Taylor Room Rental ( 10 Months )	260.00	
Consumer Affairs Fees	53.00	
PO Box Annual Fee	115.00	
Postage and Miscellaneous	47.79	
Gifts	127.98	
		<b><u>603.77</u></b>

### **EXPENDITURE - EXPO**

Memorial Hall Rental	225.00	
Advertising and Flyers and Banner	1,030.20	
Stakes to Fix Banner	58.00	
		<b><u>1,313.20</u></b>

### **TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

**3,178.87**

(Of Which Net Profit attributed to the EXPO: \$1,179.20)

**FINANCIAL MEMBERS FOR 2015: 48**

## **AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS 17/11/2014 to 16/11/2015

### **INCOME \$**

#### **INCOME - MONTHLY GENERAL**

Membership Income		
APS Victoria	851.00	
APS Mitchell	244.00	
Monthly meetings Entry / Raffle	362.00	
Percentage of Plant Sales	104.70	
Miscellaneous Sales		
Fertiliser Sales (10 tubs X \$5.00)	50.00	
		<b><u>1,611.70</u></b>

#### **INCOME - EXPO**

Grant Mitchell Shire	1,010.00
----------------------	----------

(Continued on page 6)

# Treasurers Report continued...

By Bill Barker

(Continued from page 5)

Voucher for refreshments (Coles Wallan)	50.00	
Entry Fees (216 X \$2.00)	432.00	
Fertiliser Sales (16 tubs X \$5.00)	80.00	
Refreshment Sales (Tea, Coffee, Biscuits)	25.00	
APS Mitchell Plant Sales	410.00	
Percentage of Book Sales (10% x \$638.50)	63.85	
Percentage of Vendors Plant and Art Sales (10% x \$2,600.00)	260.00	
Raffle Ticket Sales	161.55	
		<b><u>2,492.40</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>		<b><u>4,104.10</u></b>

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY  
MITCHELL GROUP INC.

BALANCE SHEET  
for year to  
16 November 2015

	2015 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash Assets (Float/Petty Cash)	50.00
Cash in Bank	2989.36
Bond for John Taylor Room	200.00
Projector (2012)	703.91
Laptop & Program (2013)	676.40
Laser pointer & 2 speakers (2014)	103.65
Tripod screen (2014)	187.15
Existing library books (2014)	142.50
4 announcement signs (2013)	297.83
APS Mitchell library books (2014)	680.20
2 double sided tear drop banner & 1 retractable banner	976.10
1 EXPO banner (2015)	409.09
Products for resale:	
APS jackets (1) (\$50), Fertiliser (12 tubs) (\$60)	110.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>7526.24</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Unpresented cheques (5)	174.77
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>\$7351.47</b>

W.S. BARKER, Treasurer

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

By Barbara Mau

A very warm welcome back to you all, and my very best wishes for a Happy and Eventful New Year!

For many of you the much-needed rain has finally arrived during the month of January and no doubt for some there could have been more. Across Victoria the down pours appear to have been very uneven.

I spent most of January in Adelaide, in the unrelenting heat and no rain at all. Arriving home my garden was exceedingly dry and brown. As it is a no 'artificial' water garden it came as no surprise that the smaller, less robust plants, had tucked in their heads and withdrawn underground. I look forward to their re-emergence when the ground is moister and the biosphere is friendlier!

The first and obvious thing was that the mulched garden beds looking rather thread bare. My garden has received 14ml of rain over the past seven days, so I thought it timely to do some rescue maintenance.

The aims of mulching our gardens' are to maintain soil-moisture, control temperature and to suppress weeds. With summer, and the growing season not yet complete, protecting your plants from drying out is vital. I have written about the advantages of mulching previously but would like to recap on this vital task once more.

### Some readily available varieties of mulches:

**Wood chips** come in the form of Eucalyptus or Tanbark/pine chips. They maintain the soil's water retention capacity and provide good insulation against heat and cold. It is important to use well-aged wood chips, **not fresh**, as the decomposition process of fresh wood chips uses nitrogen from the soil. Nitrogen poor soils undermine strong and healthy plant growth. Fresh wood chips may also leach toxins and tannins into the soil, damaging or killing your plants. Should you have good access to

fresh wood chips, allow them to sit for several months before applying them to your garden. The chips will then further break down, over several seasons, adding structure to your garden soil.

**Sugar cane, Pea straw and Hay** mulches have more attributes than wood chips, however they can be more expensive, break down faster and need replacing more often. The benefits for your plants are that these mulches help retain soil moisture, control soil temperature, also adding humus, nutrients and structure to your soil. Hay can sometime have unwanted weed seeds, but these are quite easy to remove. All three mulches are light and easy to spread.

**Gravel or Scoria** is a once only application, as they do not break down. They provide an excellent thermal barrier against frost, insulating the soil against water loss, heat and cold. Stone mulches provide great drainage and promote seeds germination, but do not add nutrient to the soil. They come in a variety of sizes, and colours for you to choose from.

**Lawn clippings** can be used, **very sparingly**, and will add nutrients to the soil. If applied too thickly the clippings will matt and water will not penetrate, thereby creating a desert underneath.

### Something you may not have thought of!

When next you re-mulch your garden beds add a layer of hay or pea straw first and cover that with a good layer of wood chips of your choice. The two layers will keep the soil moist and protected from heat and cold. The hay/straw will break down before the chips and be adding to your soil's good structure, humus and nutrients. The chips continue to do their work, taking longer to break down, while your plants are reaping the benefit of the composting straw.

I cannot complete this column without praising the virtues of *Nicotiana*

*suaveolens*, Austral tobacco, now classified as rare, near endangered, in Victoria. This beautiful, sweetly scented, herb is important to our moth population and has not flinched in this summer's dry heat. Under these excessive conditions, on my exposed west-facing hillside garden, it is as prolific, and regal, as ever. Flowering since early spring it will finally go to bed when the first frosts arrive this winter.

*N. suaveolens* is a perennial herb, with a basal rosette of large, mid green, oval leaves. It bears numerous white tubular flowers on stems 30cm to 1m tall. They love growing in well-drained rocky soils. In the wild they grow in small communities on escarpment shrub-land. *N. suaveolens* look wonderful when planted as a backdrop to lower growing companions, and against a dark green background of a hedge or shrubs, perhaps *Correa glabra*, that will illuminate their white nodding bonnets. In the evening and early morning they reward you with beautiful perfume, what could possibly be more seductive?

Until next time, I wish you all a most joyous and productive month in your garden.



*Nicotiana suaveolens*, Austral tobacco  
Photo: Barbara Mau



## Reminders, A P S Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

### Thank you

- For the various contributions of articles, answering pesky questions, event information, photo's, feedback, proof-reading, researching & providing other information as needed and general support...

#### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Bill Barker,  
Ian Julian,  
Barbara Mau,  
Maureen Runge,  
Lorraine & Brian Weir,  
Mike Williams .

### A P S VIC DIARY DATES...

**March 16-20** - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show participation with RHSV Carlton Gardens.

**April 9 & 10** - APS Geelong Plants Sale. 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd (formerly Purnell Rd), Lovely Banks. Melways: 431D6 . Off street parking, entry \$2 per Adult or \$5 per car, children free.

**April 16** - APS Victoria District Group Conference, Whitehorse Centre, Nunawading.

**APRIL 23** - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park. 10 am - 3:30 pm.

**May 1** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale & Propagation Demonstrations. Corner Brougham St & Main Rd, Eltham. Melways 21J7 10 am - 3 pm.

**May (date to be advised)** - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, 9 am - 1 pm, Uniting Church Car Park, Bacchus Marsh. Sale features Genus *Hakea* with a large number of unusual species. A full list is available approximately one month prior to sale. Pre-orders can be sent to the secretary:

[apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com](mailto:apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com)

**September 3** - APS Wilson Park Plant Sale. Wilson

Botanic Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick. 9 am - 4 pm.

**September 3 & 4** - Bendigo Native Plants Group Flower Show. Rotary Gateway Park 26 High St, Kangaroo Flat.

**September 10 & 11** - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plants Expo. Venue to be advised. 10 am - 4 pm both days.

**October 1 & 2** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show. Pomonal Hall. 9:30 am - 5 pm

**October 8-9 2016** - FJC Rogers Seminar in Hamilton "Native Terrestrial and Epiphytic Orchids".



## 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: Vacant

Vice President: Ian Julian 0438 270 248

Secretary: Maureen Runge

Treasurer/Memberships:  
Bill Barker 5783 3838

Committee: Janis Baker, Leanne Egan, Neil Humphreys,  
Ian Julian, Dawn McCormack, Jeanine Petts.

Group Librarian: Barbara Mau

Plant Sales: Brian & Lorraine Weir 5783 2912

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434

## Query Corner...

*This section is for members & readers questions, wish lists, has anyone got? Does anyone know? Where can I find, can any one identify this plant? Etc...*

*Just send your queries in (include a photo if needed), your query will be included in the next newsletter and hopefully one of our readers may be able to respond.*

### 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.**