NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764 Inc# A0054306V

June news...!

Hello and welcome to our June Newsletter.

Winter is here which means the end of the financial year is not far away and membership renewals will soon be due so our renewal form can be found on the back page. Please remember to send your forms and payment in as promptly as possible.

Organising continues for our Annual Spring Plant Expo and the list of confirmed sellers and displays growing. Donations of

flower and plant specimens along with helpers for set up on the Friday afternoon (October 14th) and on Saturday October 15th will again be needed. If you are able to contribute mark the dates in your diary and let a committee member know. For further information see page 8 and keep an eye on the newsletter for future updates.



Hakea laurina Pin Cushion Hakea Photo: Maureen Runge

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties beyond our control the APS Mitchell Web Page remains out of action until it can be rebuilt on a new platform. This work is generously being undertaken by a volunteer and could possibly take some time so we thank all our members and readership for your ongoing patience.

Our next newsletter is due

out on July 11th. As always, contributions both large and small are very, very welcome and should be sent in by Monday July 4th. Email contributions to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening, hope to see you at a meeting soon & cheers until next month,

Jeanine :-)

Inside this issue:

June & General Pg 2
Meeting Information

Memberships Pg 2

Standard of the Pg 2

Month

May Meeting Report Pg 3

June Garden Guide Pg 6

Reminders, APS Vic Pg 7
Diary Dates etc...

Committee & Contact Pg 7 Information

VNBC Sale Day ...

The Victorian Native Bonsai Club will be holding a Sale Day along with Free Workshops during the Pg 2 morning. Available for purchase on the day will be: Australian Native Bonsai, Australian Native Pre– Bonsai, Bonsai Pots, Tools, Wire, Soil and other related bonsai products.

Saturday August 20th 2016 9.30am- 12pm
Harry Atkinson Centre,
Lake Grove, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg.
\$2.00 entry
www.vicnativebonsai.com.au

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au secnativeclub@gmail.com

June 2016

Volume 3, Issue 5

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- MONDAY JUNE 20th 7:30pm MEETING Guest Speaker: Karen Sutherland -Edible Native Plants OWNERS & TRAINERS BAR, KILMORE RACING CLUB, EAST STREET, KILMORE VIC 3764
- MONDAY JULY 18th 7:30pm MEETING Guest Speaker: Ian Julian -Landscape Restoration
- 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
 3rd Age Clubrooms
 Kirkland Avenue,
 Euroa
- SEPTEMBER Meeting-Proposed Wildflower Walk To Be Advised.
- SATURDAY OCT 15th APS MITCHELL ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE
- MONDAY OCT 17th
 7:30pm MEETING
 Guest Speaker: To Be
 Advised.



Standard of the Month, June...

By Brian Weir

Grevillea plurijuga short-lobe form

This beautiful *Grevillea* comes from the lower mid south of Western Australia towards Esperance.

As a bush *G. plurijuga* has many scrapes that extend up to and sometimes more than a metre long protruding from the bottom of the shrub. It flowers along these scrapes, magnificent pinkish, purple flowers standing erect attracting many honey eaters. It also spot flowers all over the bush. *G. plurijuga* was made to be a standard. This plant is sometimes sold under it's aboriginal name '**Gundulli'**

There is also another form from the northern end of it's range which has a darker flower, finer leaves and the new growth is a lovely eye pleasing reddy/ bronze. This one sells under the name 'Purple Haze'



Grevillea plurijuga short-lobe form Photo: Brian Weir

It will survive frosts to at least -6 . Is best grafted onto *G. robusta* in Melbourne.

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

Commencing 7:30 pm in the
Owners & Trainers Bar
Kilmore Racing Club,
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



June Meeting Monday the 20th 7:30pm...

By Jeanine Petts

If you have an interest in bush foods then our June meeting will be one worth braving the cold and dark to hear Karen Sutherland talk on Edible Native Plants.

Karen was born in country Victoria to a family of farmers and gardeners. Growing her own food from a young age, she has a lifetime of experience in horticulture, with the last 8 years focusing on edible and useful plants in her business, Edible Eden Design.



Karen Sutherland Photo: Edible Eden Design

Trained at Melbourne Zoological Gardens and Burnley Horticultural College and a PDC with Bill Mollison, she continues to learn from her own 'garden laboratory' in inner Melbourne, with over 200 edible and useful plants. She loves to write and teach about gardens that connect us with nature and each other.

As Karen is travelling up from Melbourne it would be fantastic to extend a warm country welcome with as many faces as possible to greet her.

Remember, visitors are always welcome, so feel free to pass the word around and bring along a friend.

Memberships...

It's membership renewal time again. Fees become due July 1st 2016.

Our 2016-2017 renewal/membership form can be found on the back page or contact Bill Barker- Phone: 5783 3838 Alternatively, see Bill at a monthly meeting.

③

May Meeting Report... "Hidden Valley Local Flora & Fauna"

By Jeanine Petts

Our evening began with Ian welcoming around 20 people including visitors from Hidden Valley to our May meeting. Before handing the floor over to Paul Piko there was a little group news to attend to.

First up a brief report on the members vote regarding our meeting venue: Ian advised having received 15 votes for continuing meetings at the Kilmore Racing Club Owners and Trainers Bar and 2 votes against. This resulted in voting being declared in favour of the new home base for APS Mitchell meetings as the Owners and Trainers Bar. Ian went on to advise that the APS Strathbogie group have extended an open invitation to APS Mitchell members to attend their meetings (email circulated to members 19/5/2016). He reminded everyone that we will not be holding an evening meeting during August but instead will be joining the APS Strathbogie Group in Euroa on the morning of Saturday August 27th for a presentation by Leon Costermans. Leon Costermans is a renowned Author and Guest Speaker on many topics including Native Trees & Shrubs of South East Australia, Plant Communities of Victoria & the Geology of Victoria.

Paul began his talk on Hidden Valley's Local Flora and Fauna by explaining the evening's presentation would be a "photographic tour". He "got into" Orchids via photography and is not an Orchid grower, so doesn't have any growing advice. Paul has been a member of the Australian Native Orchid Society for 10 years also leading the Terrestrial Study Group and many field trips.

Paul has lived in Hidden Valley for a few years now and as most of his property is cleared land he has been adding native plants to his garden to attract birds. This has resulted in having had feathered visitors to the garden including: Magpie, Galah, Grey Currawong, Kookaburra, Long Billed Corella, Wrens, Willy Wagtail, Red-browed Finch & Eastern Rosella. A good piece of advice is to have some cleared ground for the group feeding Red-browed Finches, and that the Grevillea 'Superb' is a great food for the Eastern Spine-bill and New Holland Honey Eater.

Where are Orchids to be found around Hidden Valley? Some of the sites Paul has visited are:

- Old Sydney Road where there are some Orchids but not many.
- Beckingsale Bushland Reserve (on Darrawiet Road) where mostly Bulbine Lilies were found.
- Poulters Lane (near the truck parking bay), which was visited during spring a wildflower walk 2 years ago. Poulters Lane had more Chocolate lilies but also found there were: Bird-orchids, Tiger Orchids, Sun-orchids and a Beard-orchid.

Looking at an aerial map of Hidden Valley led to the question: What is this chunk of bush above Dolomite Rise? On investigation Paul found the Hidden Valley portion of the bushland is owned by the Arcadia Group (developers of Hidden Valley). The

remaining remnant bushland extending out over privately owned farmland, and the old Heathcote Junction to Kilmore Railway route, which has the potential to become part of a future rail trail proposal.

Dolomite Rise is located in the heights of the North Western sector of Hidden Valley. The remnant bushland takes in hills and gullies which provide for a range of different micro-climates: In the woodland areas the trees are dense enough so that there is less understorey, and different plant species grow on the slopes rather than in the damper, moister gullies. Gum and Box trees are growing on the slopes with a dry understorey and little Orchids. The gullies stay greener, with more moisture, so understorey plants such as Cassinia. Ozothamnus and guite a few species of Orchid grow in these sites.

Some of the local fauna photographed by Paul were the Grey Kangaroo, Swamp Wallaby, Echidna and Wombat.



Wallan/Hidden Valley Google maps satellite image

May Meeting Report...

(Continued from page 3)

Among the Orchids and other native species covered during the remainder of the evening's photographic tour through a year were:

July

Nodding Greenhood – *Pterostylis nutans* photographed July 2015 at Mt Piper and also found at the Dolomite Rise site in September 2015. This is a "really common" Orchid and can be found growing in colonies out in big numbers July-October.

Emerald-lip Greenhood – *Pterostylis smaragdyna* can be identified by its "green tongue".

Tall Greenhood – *Pterostylis melagramma* has its peak flowering time September-October-November and was also found at Dolomite Rise.

September/October

Pink Fingers – Caladenia carnea photographed at Monument Hill and found at the Dolomite Rise site.

Golden Moths - Diuris chryseopsis

Common Bird-orchid – *Chiloglottis valida* is an Orchid which can be quite variable in colour. Good numbers were found at the Dolomite Rise site in 4 spots growing in the drier to moist middle ground.

Maroon Hood - Pterostylis pedunculata is found on slopes of cooler grassland sites.

Pink heath – Epacris impressa was found at Dolomite Rise on a western slope.

Wax-lip Orchid – Glossodia major also found at Dolomite Rise.

Snake Wattle - Acacia aculeatissima

Guinea flowers - Hibbertia

Sundews - Drosera

Mat-rush - Lomandra

Leopard Orchid – Diuris pardina (Dolomite Rise)

Sun-orchids which have a single leaf and a flowering stem with buds at the top:

Spotted Sun-orchid – Thelymitra ixioides

Slender Sun-orchid – Thelymitra pauciflora a patch of 50 or so were found in grass in a vehicle turn-around area.

Plain Sun-orchid - Thelymitra nuda

Salmon Sun-orchid – *Thelymitra rubra* which have a pink flush to the bud and were found at the Beckingsale site.

Musk Caladenia – Caladenia moschata has white flowers with a blush of colour underneath, dark purple hairs and a musky odour.

Apple-berry - Billardiera scandens

Sticky Everlasting – Xerochrysum viscosum

Donkey Orchid - Diuris orientis

Eastern Bronze Caladenia – *Caladenia transitoria* is a small Orchid with a 1cm flower which only flowers for a few days.

Purple Beard-orchid - Calochilus robertsonii









Diuris chryseopsis Golden Moths

Epacris impressa Pink Heath



Calochilus robertsonii Purple Beardorchid



Caladenia moschata Musk Caladenia Photos: Paul Piko

(Continued on page 5)

May Meeting Report...

(Continued from page 4)

Tiger Orchid – *Diuris sulphurea* Leopard Orchids flower during the start of October and Tiger Orchids flower at the end of October.

November

Hyacinth Orchids – Species *Dipodium* **which** are leafless with stems that appear stick like. These pre-flowering stems can be spotted from November.

December

Spotted Hyacinth-orchid – Dipodium pardalinum is a rare, endangered Orchid with a flowering period December, January and possibly in to February. Usually found in Western Central Victoria, Paul has now found it both at Monument Hill and Hidden Valley.

Rosy Hyacinth-orchid – Dipodium roseum can flower from November to May.

<u>April</u>

Parson's Bands - Eriochilus cucullatus

Tiny Greenhood – Pterostylis parviflora sp.2 is only 2-3mm in size.

<u>May</u>

Small mosquito Orchid - Acianthus pusillus

Also in May, you will find leaves of Orchids and Sundews coming up. Nodding Greenhood can be identified by their crinkly leaf.

Usually there are some Orchids out in flower at most times throughout the year but last year was too dry for many species to flower. Often it can take repeat visits to a site to discover further species. Some species of Orchids flower for months while others only flower for a few days and some like the Sun Orchid are temperature sensitive which only flowers on warm sunny days with temperatures in the mid 20's.

In closing Paul advised of an upcoming crowd funding to watch out for. The appeal is being developed to save 2 endangered Western Melbourne species of Orchid: The Sunshine Diuris – *Diuris fragrantissima* which is found in the Laverton Grasslands and along the Sunshine Railway and the Small Golden Moth Orchid – *Diuris basaltica*. The Department of

Environment Land Water & Primary Industry will be matching donations to the appeal dollar for dollar and crowd funding donors will receive rewards for their donation.

Questions from the floor rounded out the presentation with one question being: What is the equipment Paul uses? Answer: A Cannon 60D with an articulating screen, which is used on manual settings with a remote release. Paul is often fighting wind and prefers to use natural light.

Paul also generously donated one of his beautiful photographic calendars to our plant door prize raffle which was won by one of our Hidden Valley visitors. The charmed luck of a certain lucky APS Mitchell member (who shall remain nameless ⓐ) had everyone laughing and smiling as she joyously took home a door prize raffle plant for a third month in a row. Other attendees were not left out as Neil Humphreys generously brought in some plants that were free for the taking on the evening.

More of Paul's photos and products can be found at www.piko.com.au/photography



Diuris sulphurea Tiger Orchid



Diuris pardina Leopard Orchid



Eriochilus cucullatus Parson's Bands



Dipodium species, Probably a D. roseum –Rosy Hyacinth-orchid



Dipodium pardalinum Spotted Hyacinth-orchid



Pterostylis parviflora sp.2 -Tiny Greenhood **Photos: Paul Piko**

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

By Barbara Mau

More wonderful drenching rain for our gardens, and how the plants, weeds included, revel in the nitrogen-laden atmosphere. Artificial watering never has quite the same effect!

With the long drawn out summer now behind us, followed by good autumn rain and relatively warm soil, many plants in my garden have been tricked into thinking that spring is just around the corner. Spring-flowering varieties have already emerged, Arthropodium milleflorum, Pale Vanilla-Lily, Leptorhynchos squamatus, Scaly Buttons and Rhodanthe anthemoides, Chamomile Sunray are now flowering months ahead of their usual time. These plants will self-seed happily, more often in the gravely or granitic-sand pathways, rather than the garden beds. On many levels I find this most useful as it saves me having to germinate their seeds in seed boxes, picking them out, nursing, watering and hardening them off. When the small plants growing in my pathways and are mature enough, I wait for a good rain shower, dig them up the following day and replant where I wish them to

Conversely, Chrysocephalum apiculatum, Common Everlastings, Goodenia gracilis, Slender Goodenia, Leiocarpa panaetioides, Woolly Buttons, Olearia ramulosa, Twiggy Daisy-Bush, Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides, Button Wrinklewort and Wahlenbergia communis, Tufted Bluebell have continued their summer odyssey right into winter. We have had two frosty nights so far but they seem indifferent to the ice on their blooms so far. The ground must be sufficiently warm to sustain their flowering for some time yet.

Four weeks ago I decided to take a chance and sow the seeds for a native lawn. The weather, still warm then, had been ideal to prepare an area of ground at the rear of our house designated for this purpose. Over the summer months I had systematically eradicated the weeds

from the area and removed any larger stones and rocks. The ground was then levelled using a landscaping rake. Landscaping rakes are a great addition to gardening equipment and make easy work when soil, sand, mulch or gravel needs to be smoothed out. These rakes can be purchased at Bunnings.

Native grass seed require 20 degrees C to germinate and the young seedlings are slow to establish. Any weed invasion, particularly flat weed, can seriously challenge the young native grasses when they have to compete with the hungry exotics. The area to be planted for my lawn required 2 kilos of mixed seed (100 square meters requires 1.5kg of seed). I purchased a mix of three seeds: Festuca rubra, Creeping Red Fescue Grass, Microlaena stipoides, Weeping Grass and Rytidosperma spp. Wallaby grass. These I had ordered online from Native Seeds, nativeseeds.com.au.

To sow the seed I simply used a broadcasting by hand method, followed by lightly raking over the surface in two directions to cover the seeds with approximately 5 to 10 mm of soil. A week after the first of good rain I noticed a few seeds emerging. It has been three weeks now and my lawn area has a tiny green fuzz over it, although germination is a little uneven. It is the Wallaby and Weeping Grasses that are germinating. the Red Fescue Grass will wait until spring to appear. Directions for establishing a native lawn do appeal to you to be patient, not one of my virtues I am afraid! However slowly, slowly, my patch of loamy red soil is turning greener. With luck this spring the maturing seedlings should be in good shape to deal with the advancing warmer weather and 2017 summer.

The advantages of growing a native lawn is less watering compared to a 'normal lawn' is required, and usually summer rains are sufficient. Mowing too is much less, only 5 or 6 times a year.

Some food for thought, and until next time, cheers and 'Happy Gardening'!



Newly seeded native lawn. Photo: Barbara Mau



Rhodanthe anthemoides - Chamomile Sunray Photo: Barbara Mau



Goodenia gracilis - Slender Goodenia Photo: Barbara Mau

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO: Bill Barker, Ian Julian, Barbara Mau, Paul Piko, Maureen Runge, **Karen Sutherland & Libby Harper (Edible Eden Design) Lorraine & Brian Weir.**

A P S VIC DIARY DATES...

June 25 & 26 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show and plant sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. Ballarat Botanic Gardens. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. Entry Free, includes a cup of hot tea or coffee.

July 23 & 24 - Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale. RBGV Cranbourne Gardens. 10 am -4 pm.

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 Sale (no Expo this year). **Eltham Senior Citizens** Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.

September 17 & 18 - 3rd Quarterly Meeting and AGM, Hosted by ANPS East Gippsland. Bairnsdale Bowls Club, Cnr Wallace & Grant Sts. Bairnsdale. AGM at 4 pm.

September 17 & 18 - ANGAIR (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Wildflower and Art Show) Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan St, Anglesea. 10 am - 4:30 pm. Small entry

October 1 & 2 - APS

Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show. Pomonal Hall 9:30 am - 5 pm

October 2 - Wartook Gardens Open Garden. 2866 Northern Grampians Rd Wartook. Adults \$10



OTHER EVENTS...

August 20 - VNBC Sale Day. Harry Atkinson Centre, Lake Grove, Coburg Lake Reserve. 9:30 am - 12 pm \$2 Entry www.vicnativebonsai.com.au secnativeclub@gmail.com

September 24 & 25 - Yea Garden Expo. Yea Race Course Entry \$5 children free. 10 am - 4 pm both

Committee & Contact Information Garden view...

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764 No. A0054306V

aps.mitchell@gmail.com Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President. 0438 270 248 Ian Julian

Vice President: Barbara Mau 5781 0984

Secretary: Maureen Runge

Treasurer/Memberships:

Bill Barker 5783 3838

Committee: Janis Baker, Leanne Egan, Neil Humphreys,

Dawn McCormack, Jeanine Petts.

Group Librarian: Barbara Mau

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Newsletter contributions:

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

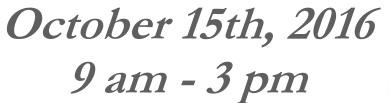
For inclusion in the next Newsletter please forward contributions prior to the first Monday of each month.

A recent view in Maureen's garden...



APS Mitchell

Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale



Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays

BirdLife Australia Display

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 (Supplied by D & S Fowles)

APS Victoria - Books

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

John Forrester - Anigozanthos (Kangaroo paws) & a small range of

Callistemon (Bottle Brush) & Scaevola (Fan-flower)

Kilmore Art Society - Art by local artists

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Russell Wait - Eremophilas (Emu Bush)

Vaughn's Australian Plants - Rare & Unusual Native Plants

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Setting up on Friday October 14th, also on Saturday October 15th 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.



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2016/17 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM – July 1 to June 30

This is a combined membership form for APS Vic and APS Mitchell

Please use this form instead of the form sent out with the APS Victoria newsletter – *Growing Australian*For insurance purposes people who join APS Mitchell must also join APS Victoria Inc.

Membership Year = July	
	Total
\$10.00	\$42.00
\$12.00	\$47.00
\$10.00	\$34.00
\$10.00	\$50.00
☐ Single \$10.00	
☐ Student \$10.00	
Δ•	\$
<u>. </u>	Ψ
the Society.	
Date: /	,
	APS Mitchell \$10.00 \$12.00 \$10.00 \$10.00 □ Single \$10.00 □ Family \$12.00 □ Student \$10.00

Enquires: Bill Barker ph: 5783 3838 or email: bee.barker@bigpond.com