



*Dillwynia sericea*

# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

## October news...!

Hello and welcome to our October edition!

With the wetter than average season and resulting reduction in frosts *Indigofera australis* has been flowering in my garden for the very first time after struggling here for the last few years. I hope this bodes well for our Spring Plant Expo and members will have a great range of specimens to bring along for our displays.

Members bringing specimens along or to help with Expo Set up on Friday October 14th please note a change of set up start time to 2pm (see below).

The next meeting after our Expo will again be held out doors on Sunday October 30th at Boulton Reserve Tallarook, details at right, also pages 2 and 9.

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

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



*Hardenbergia comptoniana*

Photo: B & B Barker

Hope to see you at the Spring Expo & cheers until next month,

Jeanine :-)

### Inside this issue:

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## Thank you & Spring Plant Expo set up time change...

A very big, warm, heartfelt thank you to those members who have very kindly and generously already made themselves available to help with set up, bring along plant specimens and/or help on Expo Day. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Owing to the Kilmore Memorial Hall being booked for a private function on the morning of Friday October 14th our access and set start up time has been changed to **2pm**. This means our finish time for set up will also most likely extend beyond 5pm but hopefully only until very early evening.

If you are able to come along and help out or provide specimens please let Ian Julian know:

Ph 0438 270 248 or Email: [ianjulian@bigpond.com](mailto:ianjulian@bigpond.com)

## October 2016

Volume 3, Issue 9

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **Saturday Oct 15th**  
9am-3pm  
**APS MITCHELL ANNUAL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE**  
Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney Street Kilmore
- **Sunday October 30th**  
11am Excursion  
**Meeting: Grasses & Wildflower Walk**  
Boulton Flora Reserve Tallarook.  
BYO Lunch & snacks etc. Tea & Coffee Supplied. RSVP to Ian Ph: 0438 270 248
- **Monday Nov 21st**  
7:30pm  
**MEETING & AGM**  
Owners & Trainers Bar  
Kilmore Racing Club  
East Street, Kilmore  
Guest Speaker: To Be Advised



## *Saving two endangered Orchid species...*

*From Paul Piko*

The Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victorian Group) has started a crowd funding campaign to save two orchid species found in the grasslands west of Melbourne. The Sunshine Diuris and the Small Golden Moth Orchid have both come close to extinction and we have been working hard to rescue them and build up their numbers.

Some of the funds raised will cover the costs to grow the orchids from seed. Due to the difficulty of this task, the process starts in the laboratory at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and it takes up to 3 years before the orchids can be planted out in the field. The other major uses of the funds are weed control, and the purchase of companion wildflowers to improve conditions for the pollinators.

There is a lot of information about the orchids and what we are trying to achieve here:

<http://anosvic.org.au/savingscentedorchids>

Please take a look and pass on to anyone you think might be interested. If you can help fund the campaign that would be great!

Regards,

Paul

**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



## *October Meeting Sunday the 30th Boulton Reserve...*

*By Jeanine Petts*

**Reminder...THERE IS NO MONDAY EVENING MEETING THIS MONTH...**

**Our October gathering is once again out doors with a Grasses and Wildflower Walk at Boulton Reserve, Tallarook on Sunday the 30th.** Ian Julian will be leading the walk which follows on from his Landscape Restoration talk held earlier in the year. Come along and see the wildflowers...

Meeting time: 11am, Sunday October 30th.

Meeting place: Cricket Pavilion, Tallarook Cricket Ground. From northbound on the Hume Highway take the Tallarook exit, follow Main road under the railway bridge then take the next right turn into Sanctuary Road and follow to the Cricket Ground.

Duration: 2-3 hours.

Recommended: Good walking shoes and dress to weather conditions, e.g. hat/raincoat, sunscreen.

BYO lunch, snacks, water etc. Tea & Coffee will be supplied.

RSVP to [ianjulian@bigpond.com](mailto:ianjulian@bigpond.com) or 0438 270 248

For enquiries and further information contact Ian Julian phone: 0438 270 248



*Indigofera australis* -  
Austral Indigo  
(Tallarook form)  
Photo: Jeanine Petts

## *Memberships...*

Currently APS Mitchell has 31 paid up members with 17 yet to renew.

For membership forms and enquiries please contact Bill Barker Ph: 5783 3838 or Email: [bee.barker@bigpond.com](mailto:bee.barker@bigpond.com)

Alternatively, membership information and forms can be found at the APS Mitchell website:

<http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>



## September Meeting Report... Orchid & Wildflower Walk

By Jeanine Petts

A small group of hardy APS Members (Barbara, Bill, Dianne, Janis, Paul Carroll & yours truly) met Paul Piko at the Dolomite Rise bush block in Hidden Valley, Wallan on what turned out to be a damp, cold Sunday morning.

Before leading us off on our exploration Paul Piko explained that the Dolomite Rise site takes in 3 hills and gullies with a thin arm of remnant bush also extending down near the lake. Due to the day's weather we would be sticking to the top rise, skirting down some of the slope, around to the rear side, then up beside the next gully to return back to the top of the rise. Something to consider while we walked was that only 2 weeks previously at a Pantom Hills walk (which Paul had led) the group had been privileged to find the rare Daddy Long-legs Spider Orchid. While we would not find that particular Orchid here it was worth remembering that on any visit to a site like this you never know just what you will see on the day. With enough eyes looking around you may well be lucky enough to find something rare. A little way into our walk we welcomed a new visitor to our group, Roger, who had travelled all the way from Seymour to come along.

Close by the road, the first Orchid Paul drew our attention to was the Nodding Greenhood, *Pterostylis nutans*. Also nearby were Early Nancy, *Wurmbea dioica* and Janis brought our attention to a Native Oxalis, sharing identification hints: look for a pink tint underneath the leaves and it also has a smaller flower than the weed species.

As we moved away from the road conditions became more sheltered and the light rain eased. The next orchid found was the Maroon Hood, *Pterostylis pedunculata*, these were at the end of their flowering period. Paul had made the time to scout the site a few days prior, leaving markers at a number of spots along the way to locate species of interest. Continuing on we found the Tall Greenhood, *Pterostylis melagramma* which is similar to the Emerald-lip Greenhood, *Pterostylis smaragdyna*. A hint for identification between the Tall & Emerald-lip Greenhoods is to look down the throat of the orchid and you will see green flanges in the of the throat of the Emerald-lip Greenhood.

Continuing around the slope we saw Snake Wattle, *Acacia aculeatissima*, some Sundews, possibly either Pale Sundew, *Drosera peltata* or Tall Sundew, *Drosera Auriculata* and the Scented Sundew, *Drosera Aberans* (Syn: *Drosera Whittakeri*) before locating Mosquito Orchids, *Acianthus pusillus*, these were just about finished for the season but had clearly been flowering in reasonable numbers. We also spotted a small delicate looking rush type plant with very soft leaves, it was not a plant any of us immediately recognised but possibly could have been a Wood Rush, perhaps *Lusula meridionalis*. Paul led us on to the next marked site where we found the Common Bird Orchid, *Chiloglottis valida*, we could see the leaves of these Orchids coming up throughout the site and they are generally found growing among leaf litter. A bit of a hunt then ensued around the next marked site where Dianne's keen eyes were the first to find Pink Fingers, *Caladenia carnea*, they had proved elusive at first but once we found a few we began to spot them showing their faces in fair numbers. The last leg of our walk took us around to the gully side of the slope and back to our starting point. Along the way seeing many of the plants already



*Pterostylis nutans* - Nodding Greenhood  
Photo: Neil Humphreys



*Wurmbea dioica* - Early Nancy  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



*Pterostylis melagramma* - Tall Greenhood  
Photo: Jeanine Petts

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## September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

mentioned and also *Epacris impressa* in two colour forms- white & pink, Grey Guinea-flower, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and Janis found a native daisy, Austral Bear's-ears, *Cymbonotus preissianus*.

As we neared the end of our walk Paul reminded us that the more people we have visiting sites like this the more chances we have of coming across and documenting a very special or rare plant. Repeat visits to the same site are also very worthwhile for the same reasons and with each passing month something different is likely to be seen. Particularly in the case of Orchids as there are usually some species flowering most months of the year. As the rain and wind was closing in again it was no longer conducive to further socialising, so with quick farewells and thanks we headed to the shelter of our respective cars and home.

In closing I would like to add a special thank you to Paul Piko for his extra efforts, generosity with his time and expertise and for braving the cold wet conditions to lead and educate the hardy few.

One last quick reminder...To view Paul Piko's beautiful photography collection visit the following websites:

<http://piko.com.au/photography/>

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/ppiko/portfolio/orchid>



*Drosera aberrans* - Scented Sundew  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



*Hibbertia obtusifolia* - Grey Guinea-flower  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



*Chilodactylus valida* - Common Bird-orchid  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



Wood Rush?  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



*Cymbonotus preissianus* - Austral Bear's-ears  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



*Caladenia carnea* - Pink Fingers  
Photo: Jeanine Petts



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

By Barbara Mau



Chocolate Lilies and Milkmaids  
Photo: Barbara Mau

Let me tell you about the virtues of some of our Aussie Lilies.

With spring well and truly rolling out the carpets of wild flowers through out our nature reserves and bush areas, think how our native lilies blooming in drifts could be incorporated into the domestic garden, or in containers. These plants make wonderful 'infill' beauties that come and go. Some heralding spring, others delight in summer's heat while others head into early autumn.

Lilies add washes of colour and softness with the changing of seasons, especially so when planted in drifts. When ordering your lilies it is wise to order in 50's or a 100 (just as you would order traditional bulbs or tubers) to give the desired 'wow factor'. Not only will the beauty of a spectacular display reward you, but also purchasing by the 100 reduces the cost considerably.

We often catch ourselves out planting where we would like to see a plant growing, (with frequent disappointment) rather than where the plant would love to be. As with all plants it is important to understand their needs and origins. Look at where they have come from, their soil conditions, rainfall, temperature and

other plants that happily share the same ecology. Planting in appropriate and considered location you will be well rewarded with happy and healthy plants. In my garden I grow a variety of **Arthropodiums** for their different virtues in varied locations. Outlined below are some of our local lilies that are very easy to grow and would add to your gardens ever changing tapestry, year after year.

**Arthropodium fimbriatum**, Nodding Chocolate Lily, grows happily in my top garden where the soil is drier, shallow but well drained soil. They grow to 20-80 cm tall and 20-80cm wide flowering from September to January. The flowers are mauve to violet, are soft chocolate/vanilla-scented and appear in clusters on their unbranched stem. They do well in sun or dappled shade. For visual impact, plant **A. fimbriatum** in drifts.

**Arthropodium milleflorum**, Pale Vanilla Lily, is a favourite and grows in a variety of areas in my garden that provides a little shelter from strong wind. **A. milleflorum** grows to 30 cm wide with grey green arching, soft, strappy leaves and sends up flower stalks from late October through to February. The flowers can be pale pink, white or mauve with a delicate vanilla perfume and rise to 1.3 m on branched stems above their foliage. As they are tall **A. milleflorum** look wonderful planted in drifts or grouped among other flowers and grasses. They enjoy well-drained soil, also thriving in more rocky conditions. Plant them in full sun, under the canopy of **Eucalyptus sp.** or in part shade.

**Arthropodium minus**, Small Vanilla Lily. This tiny lily is a must if you have smaller grasses in your garden. **A. minus** looks wonderful planted together with Knead Wallaby Grass, **Rytidosperma geniculatum** and Minnie Daisy, **Minuria leptophylla**. The Small Vanilla Lily grows to 20-30cm tall and 10-20 wide. It has little drooping purple flowers born on a single unbranched stem and flowers from August to December. It requires well-drained soil, will tolerate dry conditions.

Grow in full sun or part shade.

**Arthropodium strictum**, Chocolate Lily, is a lovely addition to the garden bearing chocolate, or caramel scented flowers, of violet or deep pink, on single erect stems 0.2-1.2 m tall. **A. strictum** look striking when planted as a background plant, or in colonies and drifts, among native grasses and or other garden plants. They enjoy well-drained soils with full sun or part shade.

**Bulbine bulbosa**, Bulbine Lily is versatile and easy to grow. It enjoys moist, heavy soils, to seasonally wet and shallow soils over rock, plant them in full sun or part shade. **B. bulbosa** will put on a great flower show in spring and will flower throughout the year with additional summer and autumn rain. They have yellow star like flowers on upright stems growing to 20-50cm tall. The foliage is erect, bright green to grey green onion like leaves. Plant them close together for an eye-catching display. They self-seed readily, create new, informal drifts in your garden adding ongoing yellow shots of colour among other plants throughout the year.

**Burchardia umbellata**, Milkmaids. This lovely small perennial herb grows from a



*Burchardia umbellata* - Milkmaids  
Photo: Barbara Mau

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## Garden Guide- What's to do in October continued...

By Barbara Mau

corm, flowers white with pink centres and is honey scented. 20-65 cm tall they can form carpets among smaller plants, they also make a lovely display in containers. Flowering from September to November they require moist, well-drained soil and grow in full sun or part shade.

***Dianella amoena***, Matted Flax Lily. Should you be considering growing Dianellas why not grow this nationally endangered one that you can purchase through most indigenous nurseries. This lovely lily is not as tall as many other species and grows to 45cm. The flowers are soft violet and sweetly scented. They produce small blue to off white berries in late summer. ***D. amoena*** requires well drained, to seasonally wet, fertile, sandy loam, to cracking clay soils, in full sun or part shade. Give them a space in your garden where they can spread by their rhizomes and form colonies that will attract native bees and butterflies. There are only small populations left nationally, with very small numbers in each known group...so if you have a nice space give them a go.

***Tricoryne elatior***, Yellow Rush Lily. Most of the year this small perennial herb is a sprawling, semi erect clump of grey green grass, spreading by its rhizomes. ***T. elatior*** is long flowering, from

September to February. It has masses of small star-like, yellow flowers held on branched stems 30-50cm above the foliage. ***T. elatior*** makes a beautiful display when mass planted in informal drifts, rockeries or as a container plant. It requires moist or dry well drained soils, in full sun or semi shade.

***Wurmbea dioica ssp. dioica***, Early Nancy is the flower heralding spring, taking its common name from being the first lily to emerge annually. Growing to a height of 5-30cm it is honey scented, with white starry flowers that have a little purple band towards their centre. There are generally numerous flowers zigzagging at the top of the single stem. They flowers from July to September. Early Nancy loves moist well-drained or seasonally wet soil, performing well in full sun or part shade. Like all small flowering plants Early Nancy looks wonderful when planted in drifts among your grasses and other small plants.

Do enjoy the great pleasures of spring gardening and take time out to wander through some of our local reserves to see this seasons magnificent display of flowers. Until next time, Happy Gardening!

Bibliography: Bull M. 2014. *Flora of Melbourne, A Guide to Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Hyland House Publishing



*Wurmbea dioica* - Early Nancy  
Photo: Barbara Mau

## Garden Views...

From Maureen Runge



*Isopogon*

Photo: Maureen Runge



Garden View

Photo: Maureen Runge

## 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 & Bee Barker,  
Neil Humphreys,  
Ian Julian,  
Barbara Mau,  
Paul Piko,  
Maureen Runge,  
Marj Seaton.

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

**October 15 & 16** - South Gippsland Native Plant Sale & Flower Shoe. Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreation Reserve. 10am-4pm

**October 22** - APS Echuca Moama Native Plant Society Native Flower Showcase. Echuca Uniting Church Hall, Hare Street, Echuca. 9am- 4pm.

**October 22 & 23** - Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale RBG Cranbourne. 10am-4 pm. (Mel 133 K10).

**October 22 & 23** - APS Ballarat Annual Spring Flower Show,

Book & plant sales. Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4:30pm.

**October 22 & 23** - Open Garden. Graham & Maree Goods, 2197 Geodetic Rd, Wail East. Saturday 9:30am-5pm. Sunday 1pm-5pm Adults \$10. Enquiries phone: 0427 832 249

**October 29 & 30** - Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants 40th Anniversary & APS Vic Quarterly Meeting "Mallee to Mountains" Starting 8:30 am Saturday. Enquiries: Royce Raleigh Ph: 03 5383 6200 Email: [royce@wartookgardens.com.au](mailto:royce@wartookgardens.com.au)

### OTHER EVENTS...

**October 16** - Mt Piper Nature Ramble, Jeffries Road, Broadford. 10am-12:30pm For full details see the BEAM website: <http://www.beam.org.au/events/mount-piper-nature-ramble/>

RSVP: Peter Mitchell  
Ph: 0468 795 954  
[mitchell.moss@inet.net.au](mailto:mitchell.moss@inet.net.au)

**October 23** - Monument Hill Nature Ramble, 128 Monument Road, Kilmore 10:30am-1:30pm For full details see the BEAM website: <http://www.beam.org.au/events/monument-hill-ramble/>



## 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: Ian Julian 0438 270 248

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

Plant Sales: Brian & Lorraine Weir 5783 2912

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434

## Query Corner...

Many thanks to Barbara Mau and Marj Seaton for advising the pictured plant is a Chickweed, possibly *Stellaria media* or *Cerastium glomeratum*, commonly known as Mouse-Ear Chickweed. Marj also advises "It self seeds very readily.

Once you have it, you will find it hard to eliminate" and included some extra information from Wikipedia: "Stellaria media, chickweed, is a cool-season annual plant native to Europe, but naturalized in many parts of North America. It is used as a cooling herbal remedy, and grown as a vegetable crop and ground cover for both human consumption and poultry."

Photo: Jeanine Petts



### 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.**



*APS Mitchell*  
*Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale*  
*October 15th, 2016*

*9 am - 3 pm*

**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 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

Neil's Native Plants - Specialising in plants not often found in nurseries

Russell Wait - Eremophilas (Emu Bush)

Vaughn's Australian Plants - Rare & Unusual Native Plants

**Volunteers needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display, Setting up on Friday October 14th (from 2pm), also on Saturday October 15th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc.**

**Enquiries & further information please contact Ian Julian: Ph 0438 270 248**

**Entry \$2.00 (Children free)   -   Door Prizes   -   Raffle sponsored by OPSM**





*APS Mitchell*  
*October Meeting*  
*October 30th, 2016*  
*11 am*  
*Wildflower Walk*  
*Boulton Flora Reserve Tallarook*



Come see the Wildflowers

Bring your Lunch

Tea and Coffee supplied

Good walking shoes recommended.

RSVP to [ianjulian@bigpond.com](mailto:ianjulian@bigpond.com)

or 0438 270 248

Directions—from Hume Highway northbound

Take Tallarook exit , follow Main Road until you go under the rail bridge.

Take next right, Sanctuary Road and follow to the Tallarook Cricket Ground

Meet at the cricket pavilion.

Enquiries and further information contact Ian Julian Phone : 0438 270 248

