



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

September news...!

Hello, and welcome to our September edition!

Spring has finally arrived and with this year's cool start my Silver Wattles *Acacia dealbata* are just coming into full flower now, deliciously scenting the air on warm days.

This month we return to our regular 3rd Monday of the month evening meeting - details at right and on page 2. If free samples float your boat, do come along and claim a gift pack of latest products from Neutrog on Monday September 18th.

Our Spring Plant Expo & Sale is now mere weeks away. If you are able to support the group, come along and help in any way, it would be very greatly appreciated. Further details can be found below and on page 9.

As well as the Spring Expo, the committee is also continuing to work on organising future guest speakers. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or contacts for guest speakers please speak to a committee member or email APS Mitchell at aps.mitchell@gmail.com. We



Acacia dealbata -
Silver Wattle
Photo: J Petts

would love to hear from you.

Our October edition will be issued on or close to the second Monday (Oct 9th).

Contributions both large and small are always enthusiastically welcomed. In particular, plant and garden images never go astray. Please send

contributions in by Monday October 2nd.
Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or
post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting or our up coming Spring Plant Expo.

Happy spring gardening & cheers for now,

Jeanine :-)

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A little help for our Spring Expo...

With our Spring Plant Expo & Sale just around the corner the committee would like to thank those members who have already put their hand up to help. All contributions great and small are very, very, much appreciated. Thank you!

Many hands make light work and we still need as many members as possible to come along and spread the load. The key help needed is: Setting up on Friday October 13th, help on the day of the Expo, October 14. Also of vital importance is as many flower, nut and seed specimens from as many members, friends even neighbours gardens as possible. One seemingly small thing that makes set up so much easier is to remember to include ID labels with garden specimens, or, if you know your natives, come along for set up and share your knowledge identifying display specimens.

If you are able to help out please let Ian Julian know:
Ph: 0438 270 248 or Email: ianlj395@gmail.com

September 2017

Volume 4, Issue 8

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY SEPT 18th 7:30pm MEETING**
John Taylor Room
Kilmore Library
Sydney St, Kilmore
Guest Speaker:
Helen Lovel from
Neutrog - Fertilisers
FREE SAMPLES FOR EVERY ATTENDEE!
- **SATURDAY OCT 14th APS Mitchell SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE**
Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore 9am - 3pm
- **MONDAY OCT 16th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **MONDAY NOV 20th 7:30pm MEETING & AGM**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **MONDAY APRIL 16th, 2018 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Attila Kapitany -
Boabs & Brachychiton



Garden tour information...

From Neil Humphreys

The information below may be of interest to someone in the group.

This Australian based travel company specialises in tours and cruises to all parts of the world incorporating garden visits. Two of our neighbours here did one of their cruises to Europe and liked it very much. We are looking at a couple of the Asian options. This is definitely not an ad, and I have no interest in the company, just sharing information.

Regards to all,

Neil

Botanica Flower Shows:

Flower and Garden Shows have attracted visitors around the world for centuries. They help motivate and inspire you to challenge yourself in your own garden. Botanica have carefully selected the day you visit each show so you will get the best viewing of the spectacular displays, plus added enjoyment of visiting wonderful gardens around the region with a knowledgeable botanical guide.

For further information visit: <http://www.botanica.travel/> & <http://brochures.apstouring.com.au/books/nqtl/>

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

**Commencing 7:30 pm in the
John Taylor Room,
Kilmore Library,
Sidney 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 Pauline)**

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Members & Visitors are
encouraged to bring along
exhibits for our "Show & Tell"
Flower Specimen Table

Please label plants



September Meeting Monday 18th 7:30pm...

This month we are back indoors at the John Taylor Room for a rescheduled presentation by Neutrog.

In good timing for the spring/summer growing season Helen Lovel will be coming along to give a 45-60 minute presentation (including question time) on fertilisers, Neutrog and their latest products.

Everyone attending on the evening will receive FREE samples of Neutrog's latest products. Helen will also bring along any pre-ordered copies of the book *From The Ground Up* written specifically for Victoria by Jane Edmanson (which will need to be paid for on the night).

To ensure enough free sample packs are brought along please RSVP to Ian Julian By:

Friday September 15th: Ph 0438 270 248 or Email: ianlj395@gmail.com



Grevillea prostrata
Photo: Brian Weir

Memberships ...

For membership enquiries, information and forms and please contact Christine Cram

Ph: 5793 8270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at:

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

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

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

August Meeting Report: Rushworth Excursion...

By Jeanine Petts

Sunday August 27th dawned cold and wet, but as four hardy APS Mitchell members made the journey to Rushworth, the skies began to clear and the sun shone through. By the time we all arrived and met in Rushworth the sky was still reasonably clear with some ominous clouds skirting the distance. Although the air was crisp and the wind biting we received a warm welcome from those at the registration table and the sign in sheet showed a good representation from APS regional groups. Members from Wangaratta, Strathbogie Ranges, Echuca Moama, Bendigo and Mitchell groups had signed up to join the hunt.

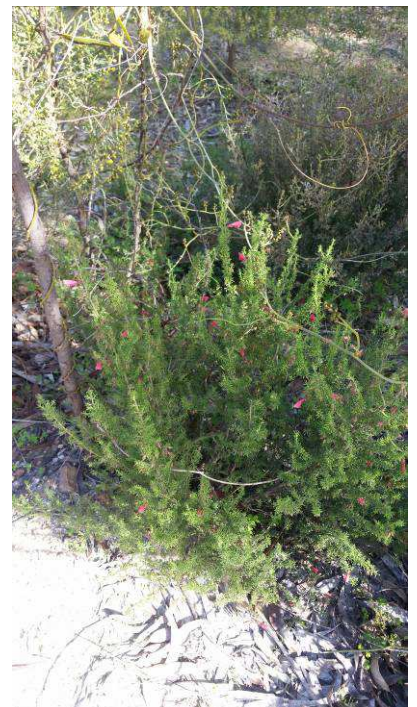
As Brian, Lorraine, Ian & I headed off it was definitely “beanie weather” with Brian joking if we found an ear somewhere on the walk it would be his that had frozen and fallen off. Armed with a map and information sheets listing points of interest and wildflowers we may find, our walk commenced along the old railway that now forms part of a rail trail. First stop was a specially built shed containing one of Rushworth’s original stream traction engines which was in use until the 1990’s in the local timber milling industry. Moving into the forest edge, one of the first plants noticed in flower was Gorse Bitter-Pea *Daviesia ulicifolia*, also nearby was the red flowered Scarlet Mint Bush *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* and what was to be the first of varying forms of *Grevillea alpina*. Another plant which wasn’t in flower that caught our eye at first glance might have been a *Hakea*, but on closer inspection and taking note of the seed pods revealed itself to be *Acacia genistifolia*. Also beside the path was a *Caladenia* species, possibly Lady Fingers, a *Hibbertia* species and a *Pimelea* which looked a little too tall growing to be *Pimelea humilis* so may have been *P. glauca*.

The second point of interest was Growlers Hill Sanctuary, a small fenced and gated wildflower reserve. Here were Grass Trees with old flower spikes that towered above the leaves, the Ploughshare Wattle *Acacia gunnii* which, even though its flowers were finishing the red under parts still created interest, there was also a bright little Beard Heath - *Leucopogon* species in full flower. The vegetation community on this hill was mainly “heathy” with an excellent variety of species including more forms of *Grevillea alpina* for Brian to investigate. We had been noticing that the *G. alpina* in the Rushworth Forest had a few differing leaf forms, also differing flower colour forms ranging from reds through to creams and greens.

Leaving Growlers Hill, we opted for the uphill route via the CFA Lookout tower. Lorraine and I kept our feet firmly on solid ground while both Brian and Ian made the additional climb to take in the views. While on the higher slope we noticed a Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis* and spent a little time discussing its need for a host and also the edible berries. The next section of the walk took us past points of interest including a magnificent, large Ironbark, through an area of Green Mallee Eucalypts still leased and harvested for oil production and a



Daviesia ulicifolia - Gorse Bitter-Pea



Prostanthera aspalathoides - Scarlet Mint Bush

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August Meeting Report: Rushworth Excursion continued...

(Continued from page 3)

short detour to an old remnant miners hut constructed of mud and local stone. The rain had finally closed in on us and light showers were falling off and on. We made it to the halfway mark tea & coffee stop just as the heavens opened and a heavy rain shower came down. Taking shelter under trees while having a cuppa and biscuit we chatted with other walkers until the rain eased again. With time running on and weather remaining wet we chose to take the shorter direct path back to the finish. A few other plants of note were large numbers of Cut-leaf Daisy *Brachyscome* scattered all along the walk, Leopard Orchid *Diuris pardina* and Gold Dust Wattle *Acacia acinacea* which, while not yet in flower was budding up and looking like it wouldn't be too far off giving a glorious display. Arriving back at the registration point to sign out a little before 1pm gave us plenty of time to enjoy a lunch break at the local bakery before the presentation from the guest speaker commenced at 2 pm.

As 2 pm approached we headed to the Shire Hall and found a good number of people had stayed on for the afternoon tea and presentation. A lovely spread of food had been laid out and of course there were tickets available for a plant raffle with around a dozen plants for winners to choose from.

Suzanne Robertson got the meeting under way with a reminder the Echuca Moama Group's Flower Show is being held on the 8th of October and extended a thank you to the Rochester Nursery for donating the raffle prizes. With the floor quickly handed over to Paul Foreman, he began his talk on "Vegetation and Flora of the Goldfields, Victoria's Box Ironbark Country". Paul introduced himself as a consultant with 30 years experience who started working as a forester and went on to work for Trust for Nature, also Bush Heritage, is currently with Blue Devil Consultancy working on a research project and is also involved in the Box Ironbark Ecology Course that has been running for 20 years which is a 3 day in field course.

The Box Ironbark region has a history of gold mining and Paul is interested in the deeper history of environmental changes. Paul asked the question: What do you think when you hear the term "Box Ironbark Country"? Among the answers were: Timber, honey, shale soil and lots of understorey. It is actually difficult to put a finger on exactly what Box Ironbark Country is but the region extends from Chiltern in the east with Bendigo in the middle and across to Stawell in the west. The geology is old sedimentary soils and has a drier environment with the dominant species being *Eucalyptus tricarpa*; Ironbark is also found in New South Wales and South Gippsland but is a different species in New South Wales. In general the Victorian Box Ironbark region is over subdued undulating terrain.



Acacia pycnantha - Golden Wattle



Acacia genistifolia - Spreading Wattle



Grevillea alpina - Cat's Claw

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August Meeting Report: Rushworth Excursion continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Vegetation patterns include Daisies, Poaceae, Myrtaceae, Wattles, Lilies, Fabaceae, *Epacris*, *Xanthorrhoea* and some endangered species. The term endemism (meaning confined or isolated to a particular geographical region) is used in relation to the Goldfields and Box Ironbark regions. The current remnant bushland we see today is mostly on sedimentary country which wasn't suitable for clearing but even this has not been undisturbed.

Mining, settlement and other activities have actually left zero percent fully intact landscape when compared with the pre-settlement landscape, which is a sobering statistic.

The Box Ironbark community is sandwiched between dry Mallee country to the north and the southern cold adapted region. The Box Ironbark landscape contains 10 different sub-communities which have yet to be fully mapped and diversity is often not captured in mapping. Moisture is a big deal in this area and determines the vegetation. Canopy height is a measure and indicator of productivity and moisture availability. Lush, grassy, forb rich communities are found in moist lower lying areas and these are important and rare as they were the most disturbed and cleared areas in the landscape. Higher up slopes are mostly regrowth trees with some understorey. Other areas have been heavily cleared and degraded. Growlers Hill is an example of a healthy vegetation community and includes *Calytrix*, *Leucopogon* and Grass Trees. Old growth Mallee trees reaching 6m are now very rare in the landscape. Different species can be found along roadsides and wetlands can be found in Box Ironbark but are restricted and small. Spring soaks can provide unique species in wet years. Ephemeral species such as Fairy Aprons and Pipewort can be found for 6 months and then dry to dust, not to be seen until another wet season.

Sometimes the seeds of these ephemeral plants can wait years for the next cycle. There are also grassland communities in Box Ironbark country such as those at the Murchison Golf Course and around Tabilk. Grasslands are possibly found in part due to aboriginal management (burning practices). The evolution of Australia is increasingly dry in this interglacial period with woodlands currently dominating in the Box Ironbark region. In the past steppes or grassland would have been dominant during glacial times. In the northern Box Ironbark area dry Mallee species are found while in the southern Box Ironbark area more cold adapted plant communities occur. 2000 years ago Mallee dominated where today we have Box dominated communities.

In summary: The remnant bush we see today has undergone many changes and has largely been cleared for timber harvesting, mining and farming. Pond systems and drainage lines have been drained and changed, with changes in the hydrology causing erosion and water loss to the vegetation systems.

The bushland we see today is one of degradation and dysfunction, but there are things that can be done



Xanthorrhoea sp. - Grass Tree



Hibbertia sp. - Guinea Flower

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August Meeting Report... Rushworth Excursion continued...

(Continued from page 5)

to help with restoration:

- Make water more retentive by leaving cut regrowth on the ground to retain moisture and slow the travel of water through the landscape. This also provides habitat and places for seeds to come to rest and germinate.
- Allow natural regeneration.
- Burning is another tool to use as grasslands need grazing, slashing or burning to maintain health and not be taken over by woodland.
- When collecting firewood it is best to cut firewood from regrowth and leave older growth trees intact.

Anything is possible in the Box Ironbark region; it is the crossover between the southern cooler regions and the northern country. It is important to stop moisture escaping and rebuild the soil and understorey health. With our climate changing the time to repair the landscape is now.

With the presentation concluded and the day coming to a close, the raffle was drawn with Lorraine and Brian taking a turn at good luck and ending up coming away with 2 new plants for their collection. Tea, coffee and a second bite of afternoon tea was available before we said our farewells and headed home.



Leucopogon sp. - Beard Heath



Acacia gunnii - Ploughshare Wattle



Diuris pardina - Leopard Orchid



Brachyscome multifida - Cut-leaf Daisy

Plant Bio: *Keraudrenia integrifolia*...

By Jeanine Petts

Keraudrenia integrifolia (*Seringia integrifolia*)

Family: Malvaceae – Mallow Family

Pronunciation:

Keraudrenia: ker-au-DREN-ee-a

integrifolia: in-teg-ree-FOH-lee-uh or in-teg-rih-FOH-lee-uh

Derivation of name:

The genus *Keraudrenia* was named for Pierre Francois Keraudren, a 19th century French physician and naturalist, *integrifolia* comes from Latin meaning with leaves that entire or undivided leaves.

Common Name: Common Firebush

Genus *Keraudrenia* has gone through a number of revisions with more recent taxonomic revisions of closely related genera resulting in a number of *Keraudrenia* species now being included in the genus *Seringia*.

Seringia (*Keraudrenia*) *integrifolia* is a small rounded inland desert shrub growing to around 1m and is found in WA, NT, SA, NSW and QLD. However, the forms found in WA and NT differ slightly from those found in other states.

Although commonly found on desert sand dunes and in disturbed sites it does tolerate a variety of soil types if in a well drained, sunny position. It has oblong leaves around 3 cm long and bears stalked clusters of purple or bluish-mauve star shaped flowers in the upper leaf axils from February to December. A very attractive colourful plant when in flower which is best suited for a drier climate. It is frost hardy and will grow in temperate conditions where good drainage and full sun is provided. Propagation is from cuttings.

Reference:

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>

<http://www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au/living/plants/keraudrenia-integrifolia>

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/46819>

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5023>

<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1071/SB15028>

<https://northwestplants.net/2015/08/16/keraudrenia-integrifolia/>

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Keraudrenia~integrifolia>

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/22862>

Australian Native Plants: Propagation, cultivation and use in landscaping. John W. Wrigley & Murray Fagg. ISBN 1 876334 30 4

Latin for Gardeners Lorraine Harrison ISBN 978 1 74331 275 9



Keraudrenia integrifolia

Photos: I.R. Dixon & L. Sweedman

Keraudrenia integrifolia

Image:

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5023>

Photography by: I.R. Dixon & L. Sweedman. Image used with the permission of the Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Parks and Wildlife

(<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/help/copyright>).

Accessed on Saturday, 9 September 2017.

Foreign correspondence...

From Victoria Morris



I went up to the Dales and Yorkshire Moors to visit family and friends recently and went for a lovely walk at Ribblesdale.

The Sulber Nick trail is in the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve. It is limestone country and the mosaic of limestone rock is both attractive and rich in grassland species. I love the delicate harebells and yellow rattle.

It just so happened that the 'Flying Scotsman' steam train was running a day excursion to Carlisle and I had the full benefit of this historic train steaming across the landscape below.

Further across towards Scarborough, the moors were purple/pink with the heather in flower - a glorious sight. I also did the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, you walk up one river, over the Fell and down another, many waterfalls and torrents, the river the colour of dilute blood, stained with peat off the moors. Forgot my camera, sorry, probably a relief as I am not the world's best photographer...! Kirkby, Lonsdale and the surrounding area is beautiful and well worth an explore.

All the best for now,
Victoria



Images: Victoria Morris

APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 14th, 2017

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

Kilmore Art Society - Art by local artists

Kilmore Mitre 10 - Garden accessories & Native plants

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Russell Wait - Eremophila (Emu Bush) specialist

Vaughn's Australian Plants - Rare & Unusual Native Plants

Entry \$2.00 (Children free) - Door Prizes - Raffle

Volunteers are needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display & Nuts & Seeds display, Setting up on Friday October 13th (from 12pm), also on Saturday October 14th 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

Reminders, APS 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:
Christine Cram,
Neil Humphreys,
Ian Julian,
Barbara Mau,
Victoria Morris,
Brian & Lorraine Weir

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

September 16 & 17 -

"Springtime in Bpangerang Country" Quarterly gathering and AGM. Hosted by APS Wangaratta

September 23 & 24 - Bendigo Native Plants Group

Australian Flower Show. Kangaroo Flat Primary School, 60 Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat. Plants, pottery and book sales. 9:30am-5pm. Entry \$3

October 7 & 8 - APS

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

October 14 & 15 - Friends of the RBGV Cranbourne Gardens, Spring Plant Sale.

10am - 4pm
 (Melways 133 K10)

October 14 & 15 - Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants partake in the Horsham Spring Garden Festival

October 14 & 15 - South Gippsland Native Plant and Flower Show. South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreation Reserve. 10am - 4pm. Plant & book sales. Entry \$4 adults.

October 21 - ANPS East Gippsland Spring Spectacular; Lucknow Hall, Great Alpine Rd, Bairnsdale. 9am-3pm. Plant sales, bonsai and other demonstrations.

October 21 & 22 - APS Ballarat District Group Spring Plant Show & Sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens. 10am-4:30pm.

October 28th - Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Echuca Uniting Church Hall, 9am-4pm. Awesome display of Australian native plants, plant sales, displays from Birdlife Australia, Landcare, Moama & Echuca Botanic Gardens & morning teas.



Committee & Contact Information

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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.

Grevillea alpina at Mt Ida ...

Brian & Lorrain found this "rippa" of a *Grevillea alpina* growing on the slopes of Mt Ida. The biggest *G. alpina* flower they've seen...

