



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

October news...!

Hello, and welcome to our mid spring edition!

First up we extend a big thank you to the Bendigo Bank—Wallan & Kilmore Community Bank branches for their support of our Expo. See page 2 for details.

Speaking of the Expo... Information on set up day can be found below and for other updated information see page 8. Unfortunately the LaTrobe Indigenous Plant Nursery have made a late apology (due to a work place injury) and will not be able attend this year's Expo. They have promised they will be back with us in 2018.

Elsewhere in the newsletter we have more news from our correspondent abroad and with spring being the time to get out and about we have been advised of a local Property Management Plan course and a Geology Ramble on the Tallarook Plateau which may be of interest to some members— details can be found on the back pages.

Our November edition will be issued on or close to the second Monday (Nov 13th).

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

Please send contributions in by Monday November 6th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy spring gardening, see you at the Expo & cheers for now,

Jeanine :-)



Tetratheca ciliata -
Pink Bells
Photo: J Petts

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Spring Expo Set Up...

Our Spring Plant Expo & Sale is days away, the hall has been booked for 2 days and set up will commence from:

1pm on Friday October 13 at the Kilmore Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street, Kilmore.

Coming along and helping out with an Expo is a great way to get to know your fellow members and with our current reduced membership numbers, it would be very, very much appreciated if as many people as possible could come along and lend a hand. Even if you can only help for a short time or can only bring plant specimens along we'd be very grateful of your time and assistance.

Please remember that plant specimens labelled with their ID is also a huge help and time saver.

For inquires & further information please contact Ian Julian:
Ph: 0438 270 248 or Email: ianlj395@gmail.com

October 2017

Volume 4, Issue 9

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **SATURDAY OCT 14th**
APS Mitchell SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE
Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore 9am - 3pm
- **MONDAY OCT 16th 7:30pm MEETING**
Expo report, Flower Specimen Table, Plant Raffle, Supper & Chat
- **MONDAY NOV 20th 7:30pm MEETING & AGM**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **MONDAY APRIL 16th, 2018 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker: Attila Kapitany - Boabs & Bottle Trees



Thank you Wallan & Kilmore Community Bendigo Bank...

The Australian Plants Society, Mitchell Group Incorporated extends a very appreciative thank you to the Wallan and Kilmore Community Bank branches of the Bendigo Bank.

The Bendigo bank supports local communities and allocates funds towards supporting many community projects and events. APS Mitchell Group are very grateful and pleased recipients of a Community Investment Grant of \$500.00 in support of our 2017 Spring Plant Expo and Sale.

For a not for profit group with a relatively small membership these funds are a great help in covering the costs associated with running our annual Spring Expo which we may otherwise struggle to do.

Our Expo is our feature event for the year which allows us to showcase native plants, promote their diversity, beauty, use and place in gardening. Also to encourage preservation through cultivation, share this with our wider local community and bring like minded souls together for a day to celebrate enjoying native plants.

Wallan & Kilmore
Community Bank® branches



**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



October Meeting: Monday 16th 7:30pm...

For this month's Monday evening meeting we will be following up on our Spring Plant Expo...

Come along to the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library to find out all the ins and outs of how the Expo day went. We are also hoping to have photographs of plants and displays and a slide show to share.

Time will be available for the usual "Show & Tell" Flower Specimen Table so remember to bring something along from your gardens to share with everyone.

As always the evening will conclude with the door prize plant raffle, supper and a chat.

Visitors and Friends always welcome!



Taken in the Cobaw Forest
7.10.2017. Can anyone ID
this Pea Flower please?
Photo: J Petts

Membership update ...

Membership renewals for 2017-2018 have only been trickling in and at present we have 19 paid up members for this current year. **For those members wishing to renew, membership fees are now overdue.** Membership fees can be paid at the upcoming Expo, October meeting, via mail or bank transfer. For details, 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 forms can be downloaded from the APS Mitchell website:

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

September Meeting Report: Neutrog Fertilisers...

By Jeanine Petts

Around a dozen members arrived for our September meeting and Ian commenced proceedings with a few reminders:

- Our Spring Expo is coming up on Saturday October 14th and advertising is nearly ready, which should be in the local paper from early October for 2 weeks ahead of the Expo.
- We have been successful with our grant application to the Bendigo Bank for some funds to assist in running the Expo. Once the required paperwork is completed we should be receiving the funds shortly.
- Setting up for the Expo will commence from 1:00pm on Friday October 13th at the Kilmore Memorial Hall with help from as many members as possible very much needed and greatly appreciated. We will also need as many flower specimens that can be picked, begged or borrowed as possible too. Even if you are unable to help on the Friday, specimens can also be dropped off at the hall from 1:00pm.
- Membership renewals have only been trickling in with less than 20 members renewing for 2017-2018.

The floor was then handed to Helen Lovel for the evening presentation on Neutrog Fertilisers...

Helen began by noting it was 3 years ago in September 2014 that Helen last visited our group and that most of us had likely heard the full Neutrog presentation but a few things have changed.

Neutrog remains an all Australian family owned business run by Angus Irwin. Next year, in 2018 will see Neutrog reach its 30 year anniversary. The company takes pride in producing products that work and originally started making fertilisers for the farming industry. Current production is 20,000 tonnes per year, 28% of which now caters to the retail market.

Dr Uwe Stroehrer, a microbiologist who has consulted to Neutrog for the last 10 years and guided the development of GOGO Juice joined the team full time from last year. Always having been a "biological fertiliser" company they are currently in the process of some re-branding.

Are all manures the same? Composting has been carried out on the same site since 1988 and work continues to research, explore, experiment, invent, refine and evolve; changing the approach to soil enrichment and create fertilisers that are nutrient rich and bacterially diverse. A method called the Poultus system has been developed which composts 800-1,000 tonnes at a time. Cold air is blown into the heap and it is also inoculated with beneficial bugs (microbes) called eNcase. This makes for a more efficient process, using less energy and also takes up much less production space and doesn't smell.



Poultus System

Image: www.neutrog.com.au

After composting the product is screened to remove foreign objects and then pelletised. The pelletising process uses 65°C steam to kill weed seeds and pathogens while leaving the good bugs intact as they survive up to 75°C temperatures. By the end of the process the moisture content is reduced to 16% so the product always needs to be watered in at time of use. The pellets are made firm and dry to cope with transport and to hold together for use in farm machinery.

Product packaging is fun, bright and colourful but the company works analytically and scientifically to create the range. Bush Tucker is an organic base fertiliser which is chemically boosted and a way was found of locking up the phosphorus content so it is not available or harmful to native plants. It was under development in 2014 when Helen last visited APS Mitchell but is now available and out in stores. Angus

(Continued on page 4)

September Meeting Report: Neutrog Fertilisers continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Stewart and Simon Leake conducted trials and a number of APS Groups and members were also recruited to trial Bush Tucker. When Wendy and Neil Marriott trialled Bush Tucker they reported it "going really well" and now use it on their entire garden.

Neutrog now offer APS Regional Groups the opportunity to "direct purchase". Groups receive special rates and product is delivered to a single nominated delivery point (the committee will need to contact Helen to facilitate this if members are interested). Recommended application rates for Bush Tucker is once per season (every quarter) at 100g per Square meter. Apply under mulch and water in well. In pots use 25g per 8" pot (scale up or down according to pot size). Bush Tucker has 10% nitrogen, 8% potassium and 0.7% phosphorus.

Some of the other products in the Neutrog range are:

- Sudden Impact for Roses - also available in a liquid form.
- Sea Doo
- Who Flung Dung – is mulch that comes complete with fertiliser.
- GOGO Juice – Pro-biotic liquid with seaweed which inoculates the soil with good bacteria. Generally use fortnightly but can be used weekly. Ideal to water in other fertilisers in the range with it. It will also help to reduce thatch in lawns; the good bugs will feed on and "gobble up" the thatch.
- Gyganic – for fruit and citrus and specially developed to improve fruit size, flavour and quality.
- Seamungus – is a premium product and will feature on Better Homes and Gardens (channel 7) on October 20th along with GOGO Juice. It can be dug through soil and have plants planted in straight away. The product will hold 70% of its weight in moisture and is recommended for use pre summer and pre winter.
- Rapid Raiser – is a general purpose year round fertiliser and is Helen's favourite for use on the farm.
- Strike Back for Orchids – available in pellet form (use monthly) and also in a liquid form (use fortnightly). It is safe for *Dendrobium* species.
- Kahoona – for acid loving plants: Camellia, Rhododendron, Gardenia, Azalea etc.
- Sudden Impact for Lawns – comes in a crumble form so it washes down properly and easily into a



Visual response of *Grevillea Poorinda* 'Royal Mantle':
Left to Right, Control, 1 kg/m³ and 3 kg/m³ of Bush Tucker
Image supplied by Evette Franklin, Neutrog.



Visual response of *Anigozanthos flavidus* 'Landscape Lilac':
Left to Right, Control, 1 kg/m³ and 3 kg/m³ of Bush Tucker
Image supplied by Evette Franklin, Neutrog.

(Continued on page 5)

September Meeting Report: Neutrog Fertilisers continued...

(Continued from page 4)

lawn. It is not suitable for native plants.

- Rocket Fuel – designed specifically for use with vegetable and fruit growing.

Sudden Impact started life as a potato and onion fertiliser and was developed in conjunction with the South Australian Rose Society. After 3 years of trials on 300,000 roses the product is now endorsed by all rose societies around Australia.

Neutrog learned and know the benefits of working as closely as possible with keen, key groups of gardeners in developing new products. Another group with which trials have been done is the Rare Fruit Society of South Australia. Their members extensively trialled Gyganic and the group now endorses the product.

Recently a Rare Fruit Arboretum has been set up at Neutrog's Kanmantoo site in South Australia. 120 rare fruit species were planted out and the Arboretum was officially opened just last week.

In closing Helen distributed free 1.5kg buckets of Bush Tucker to everyone in attendance and advised that Neutrog love people to stay in touch, provide feedback and spread the word about their products.

People can keep in touch with Neutrog by following on facebook or signing up for the Pooh Bah Club. More details can be found at www.neutrog.com.au, emailing info@neutrog.com.au or telephone 08 8538 3500.



Image supplied by Evette Franklin, Neutrog.

Plant Bio: *Xylomelum angustifolium*...

By Jeanine Petts

Xylomelum angustifolium

Family: Proteaceae – The Protea family

Pronunciation:

Xylomelum: zy-loh-MEL-um *angustifolium*: an-gus-tee-FOH-lee-um

Derivation of name:

Xylomelum comes from the Greek words for wood (Xylong) and fruit tree (melon), in reference to the large, woody fruit. *angustifolium* comes from Latin meaning narrow leaf.

Common Name: Sandplain Woody Pear

Xylomelum angustifolium is an ornamental small erect tree or shrub with a smooth grey trunk growing from 2 meters to 7-10 meters high. Endemic to the south west of Western Australia it bears stiff linear leaves .6-1cm wide x 8-15cm long which end in a rigid point. Showy creamy-white flowers usually appear December to February, although flowering can commence as early as September. Following flowering it develops the large, grey, woody, ellipsoid fruits which grow to 9cm long for which it's common name is earned.

Naturally found growing on sandplains, it prefers excellent drainage, sandy-sandy loam soils, full sun and requires a well mulched soil. The woody fruits are picked for the cut flower industry, it is useful as an ornamental small shade or shelter tree, an informal hedge and can be a showy container plant. Being drought tolerant once established it is suitable for hot dry situations, will cope with moderate frost to -4°C and also responds well to heavy pruning.

Propagation is from fresh seed which usually germinates quite readily: 4-6 weeks from sowing. Seed is sown directly in pots (1 per pot) or directly in situ.

Reference:

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

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/2330>

<http://www.australianplants.com/plants.aspx?id=1121>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xylomelum_angustifolium

<http://westgrow.com.au/product/xylomelum-angustifolium/>

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

Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed. Murray Ralph ISBN 978 0 646 42866 6

Latin for Gardeners Lorraine Harrison ISBN 978 1 74331 275 9



Xylomelum angustifolium

Photos: A. Carr & M. Hancock

Xylomelum angustifolium

Image:

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/2330>

Photography by: A. Carr & M. Hancock.

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: Wednesday October 4th, 2017.

Foreign Correspondence part II...

From Victoria Morris



These photos are taken on my favourite walk around the village I live in the UK - Leafield, in the Cotswolds, about 16 miles NW of Oxford. Most days I am home, I walk out of the end of the village, onto a green lane; Pay Lane is an ancient lane, now a restricted byway for walkers, horse riders and cyclists, running through woodland towards Ramsden, a nearby village. I turn right across the front of a farmhouse on a local road and then right again up Akeman Street, once a major roman road, this brings me on onto the open ridge Leafield is situated on, and affords me wonderful views for 30 miles or so on the left across the stony fields. On down to another green lane - Ridings Lane, leading me between dry stone walls in various states of mossy disrepair and ancient hedgerows, through fields, still reflecting their medieval origins in size and name on the old maps I have, back to the end of the village.

Right now there are sloes, hips and haws and a bumper crop of blackberries thanks to all the rain we have endured earlier in July/August, along with hazel nuts, acorns and so on, keeping the wildlife happy and busy. Lots of fungi including giant Puffballs which are very tasty! The walk is 4.5 miles and takes about 1 1/2 hours. Not sure what the fungi are but a pretty Magpie Moth and Comma Butterfly as well.

The last two shots are of the 20th anniversary AGM and BBQ party of the Leafield Community Woodland project I started, hence the mole hill cake and campfire we recently held to celebrate the occasion in a suitable woodland location. Anyone interested can check out our website

www.leafieldwoodlands.co.uk

Looking forward to returning to Lancefield! And catching up with you all soon.

All the very best,

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

Russell Wait - Eremophila (Emu Bush) specialist

The Plant Hut - Selected native plants

Vaughn's Australian Plants - Rare & unusual native plants

Weiryi (Brian & Lorraine Weir) - Grevillea Standards

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

Supported by:

Wallan & Kilmore
Community Bank branches
 Bendigo Bank

Volunteers would be very greatly appreciated to assist with:

Donations of specimens for floral display & Nuts & Seeds display, Setting up on Friday October 13th (from 1pm), also on Saturday October 14th (from 8am) 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:

Michael Cincotta,
Christine Cram,
Evette Franklin,
Ian Julian,
Helen Lovel
Barbara Mau,
Victoria Morris,
Brian & Lorraine Weir

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

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.

November 25 & 26 - APS

Ballarat host quarterly gathering "Late Spring in Ballarat—Expect Anything and Everything". At the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gate 4, Gillies St, Ballarat.



Other Events continued pages 10-11...

Committee & Contact Information

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

	Committee Members	
President:	Dawn McCormack	
Vice President:	Vacant	
Secretary:	Ian Julian	0438 270 248
Treasurer/Memberships:	Christine Cram	5793 8270
Committee:	Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney, Jeanine Petts, Norbert Ryan.	
Group Librarian:	Pauline Maloney	
Plant Sales:	Brian & Lorraine Weir	5783 2912
Newsletter Editor:	Jeanine Petts	5785 1434

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts
Email: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

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



reFraming Nature
2017

Natural History Art Exhibition
7-22 October 2017
Daily 10am – 4pm

DOMAIN HOUSE
Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne
(150m East of the Shrine of Remembrance)

Entry by gold coin donation.
All artworks, cards and prints for sale.

Presented by



Gate Lodge, Observatory Gate (Opposite the Shrine),
100 Birchwood Ave, Melbourne VIC 3004 Australia
www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Property Management Plan Course

Presenter - David Stewart (Small Farm Services Victoria)



Details

When: 11, 18, & 25 November 2017 (three consecutive Saturdays)
Time: 9:30am until 4pm each day (9am registration on Day One)
Where: Romsey Hub, 96-100 Main Street, Romsey
(VicRoads map 60 D7)
Cost: Free (lunch included)
Map: Free laminated aerial property map will be provided
Note: Attendees must provide soil test results from their property

What's the course all about?

Based on the six-day FarmPlan21 course, the course has been condensed down to a three-day course. It provides an opportunity for landholders to develop a property plan based on ecological and economic factors. The property planning process includes an assessment of a property's assets/features, and natural resource management issues, while considering how best to improve a property's productivity, sustainability and biodiversity values. The following topics are covered:

Understanding & assessing your property's natural features, assets & issues

- Soil types/characteristics/health, land classes/capability, erosion, & pest plants/animals

Property infrastructure & layout

- Water supplies/storage, land class fencing, & infrastructure

Pasture & stock management

- Stock & pasture health, productive/cost effective grazing systems

Creating an attractive, environmentally sustainable property

- Improving a property's landscape & biodiversity values, managing waterways, & revegetation

Who can attend?

The course is limited to landholders from Macedon Ranges Shire and Mitchell Shire with properties of four hectares and above. Places on the course are limited to 15 properties. However, more than one person per property can attend. Note - attendees must be able to attend all three days of the course and provide soil test results from their property.

Soil tests

For details on where to get a soil test done, contact the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network via upper.deep.creek.landcare@gmail.com or phone 5782 0184 (John Robinson). The soil test results of attendees will be interpreted during the soils component of the course, on day two.



Bookings

Bookings online via: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/property-management-plan-course-romsey-nov-2017-tickets-38378376758> Bookings are on a first-come-first-served basis and required well before the course to enable laminated aerial property maps to be produced for the properties of attendees.

When booking the following details are required:

- name(s), email address & phone contacts (of all people from the property who will attend the course)
- property address (& postal address if different)
- property ID number (from Shire's Rates Notice) – for an aerial property map to be produced
- property size (in hectares) - if more than one property, provide the above details for each property
- any special dietary requirements (for lunch).

This course has been funded by an Australian Government National Landcare Programme grant.

Geology ramble on the Tallarook Plateau

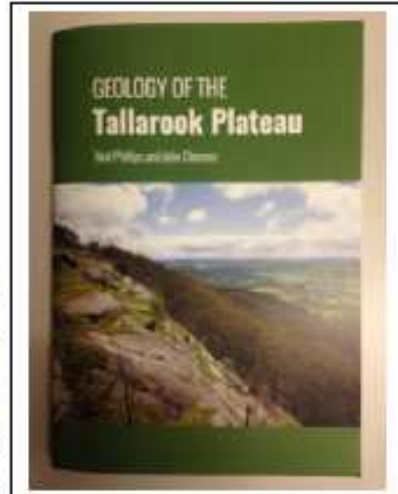
Presented by South West Goulburn Landcare

14th October 2017

10am – 2pm

675 Landscape Road, Tallarook (start point)

This walk and talk will be conducted by Neil Phillips, Geologist and Professor; University of Melbourne who has undertaken comprehensive studies of the Tallarook granites and their uniqueness over 3 decades.



He will be discussing the various features and formations of the Granites and Hornfels and where they meet across properties on Landscape Road.

This will be a physical activity traversing several properties, suitable closed shoes, hat and clothing required.

BYO lunch and water to eat / drink while navigating the terrain.

*Due to the nature of Landscape Road – 2wd vehicles should access the site from Ennis Road end.

Parking will be to the west of the property driveway where we will access the site through the top gate; the SWG Landcare sign will be at this gate.

RSVP: Sonia Sharkey, SWG Landcare facilitator 0409 515 630 or swg_landcare@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

