



*Dillwynia sericea*

# NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

## November news....!

Hello, and welcome to our last edition for 2018!

My how the year has flown. Our year is quickly drawing to a close, and we only have one evening meeting and a social gathering left on our calendar (See right & below).

Our usual, no fuss, as brief as possible AGM will precede our November Guest Speaker presentation, and a notice including a formal nomination form can be found on the back page. Filling all our committee positions is vital to the continuance of the group, and we welcome new committee members with open arms. Please give joining our friendly crew consideration if you can. There are many ways to help with keeping our group running, and committee roles are generally easy and don't have to be time consuming, plus –you'll make great friends! If you can help out, contact Ian regarding nominations: Ph 0438 270 248 or Email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday February 11th, 2019.



*Banksia spinulosa* "Candles"

Photo: Jo & Paul Liddy

Contributions to our newsletter both large and small are always very welcome! Please send contributions in by Monday February 4th, 2019, Email to: [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au) or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening & very best wishes for the coming Festive & New Year season.

Cheers until 2019! Jeanine ☺

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## Pre-Christmas Social...

To top off our 2018, the committee is organising a social get together... **All members are invited to join us at a BYO BBQ Picnic Dinner.**

**Where:** 395 Camerons Creek Road, Sugarloaf Creek.

**When:** Thursday December 6th, from 5:30pm onwards (allows for time to wander in the garden).

**What to bring:** BYO BBQ/picnic foods & drink to share. Please also bring your own picnicware – Plates, cups, cutlery etc. A barbeque will be available & there is a swimming pool on site, which, guests will be welcome to use.

**RSVP to Ian:** Ph 0438 270 248

**Email:** [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

## November 2018

Volume 5, Issue 10

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY NOV 19th, 7:30pm MEETING & AGM.**  
**Guest Speaker: Glenn James— "Spidentify"**
- **THURSDAY DECEMBER 6TH - From 5:30pm onwards.**  
**PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - BYO BBQ/PICNIC (Details below left)**  
**RSVP to: Ian: 0438 270 248**
- **MONDAY FEB 18th, 2019 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**
- **MONDAY MAR 18th, 2019 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**
- **MONDAY APRIL 15th, 2019 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**



## Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss

Hello Everyone, Ron Litjens spoke on Faunascaping your garden at the October APS Mitchell meeting. It was a thought provoking and inspiring talk. You can read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is a new publication being launched at Kurunga Nursery on December 1 – 'Habitat'. The book is about wildlife friendly gardening. You can read more about it here: <https://gardensforwildlifevictoria.com/2018/11/07/habitat-a-new-wildlife-gardening-book/>. There are many other interesting books and articles to read under the publications page on the same website.

How did you get on with the Aussie Backyard Bird Count – held in late October? More than 2.6 million birds were counted around Australia – it was a terrific result. More details will be released once Birdlife Australia have a chance to analyse the data. You can always participate next year. Other citizen science projects happening in November are: Frog ID week, which is run by the Australian Museum. For more details see here: <https://www.frogid.net.au/> Wild Pollinator count: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

Gardens for Wildlife are having a break from the Wallan market over the hotter months, but will be back in Autumn (weather depending). We will be at the Kilmore Show on December 1.

Keep a watch on the APS website and the Gardens for Wildlife – Mitchell Facebook page for further updates

**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, Sydney 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



## November Meeting– Monday 19th 7:30pm...

One of our own APS Mitchell members—Glenn James will be taking the floor at our November meeting to present on "Spidentify". Glenn James comes from a background of wildlife where his grandfather worked at Melbourne Zoo for 46 years. After finishing his studies in biological science he found himself following his grandfather's footsteps specialising in reptiles and invertebrates. Working at various places notably Werribee Open Range Zoo, Australia Zoo and Melbourne Sealife Aquarium his passion for all types of wildlife grew.

Happy to wrangle Australia's most dangerous and venomous snakes and jump on the back of a 15ft Saltwater Crocodile he was always afraid of one thing.... Spiders... Through education and determination he fought to overcome his fears. Now 15 years later Glenn houses many spiders including one of the worlds deadliest. Come and learn about common 8-legged arachnids and see how they work with some of Australia's most beautiful array of native plants.

We have an additional treat for attendees at our November meeting: **There will be some Mitre 10 15% off vouchers available for collection at the meeting.**

As always, the presentation will be followed by our Door Prize plant raffle, the flower specimen table (remember to bring something along from your garden) and conclude with supper & chat.



Resident spider - to be identified? Perhaps an Orb Weaver species?  
Photo: J Petts

## Memberships ...

For all 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](mailto:aps.mitchell@gmail.com)

Alternatively, membership information, forms and contact information can be found at our website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

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## *October Meeting Report...Faunascaping Your Garden*

*By Jeanine Petts*

It was great to see 21 people come along for our mid spring meeting. Mike had brought along a great selection of plants for sale as well, which, gave us first pick of the range of plants that were to be brought along to the Spring Plant Expo. Norbert opened the meeting by advising the agenda for the evening would be: First our guest speaker, followed by Mike with a brief spot of information on native Pea Flowers, and Ian would also provide a little information on our upcoming Spring Plant Expo & Sale.

Moving swiftly into introducing our guest speaker, Ron Litjens, Norbert mentioned that Ron has had a career in science, holds a PhD in Nuclear Physics, has worked for Kodak in process improvement and is now running his own business in the field of process improvement. Ron is also an environmentalist and currently the chair person of three different Landcare groups: Strath Creek Landcare Group, Yea River Landcare Group and the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management.

Before handing the floor over to Ron, Norbert also made mention that our Gardens for Wildlife program has now reached the 50 members mark, and is APS Mitchell's biggest initiative.

Ron began his presentation by thanking our group for the invitation to speak, and stating he is "not a gardener", so the talk would be "fauna-centric". Ron went on to say that he has worked with Euroa Arboretum and Cathy Olive to set up their Garden for Wildlife project.

"Faunascaping" is a word made up by Ron, and he has been told that if you use new a word with "authority", if it catches on and people like and continue using it, it may well end up in the Oxford Dictionary. Ron joked that he would be using "faunascaping" with authority tonight and went on to ask:

Why would you want to "faunascape" your garden?

Some reasons might be that you:

- Wish to increase bio-diversity
- Are a latent zookeeper
- Like frogs
- Like birds
- Like seeing a variety of fauna

A further question to think about is: What do you mean by garden? A ¼ Acre, a Bush Block, a 15acre lot, or a balcony garden etc. Gardens come in all different sizes, types and situations.

Ron has a 29acre bush block in Flowerdale, and 14 years ago started "faunascaping" by working from a list of "Gazetted Weeds", focusing on removing 1 weed species per year. In 2009, the Black Saturday Bushfires went through the property and in the process, also killed out the remaining weed species on the property. 2 years ago, Ron also purchased a 4acre abandoned factory site in the Yea township. The 4acre plot was a grassy site with a few trees and weeds including *Agapanthus* and *Prunus* species, etc.

The next question posed to consider when "faunascaping" is: What fauna do you wish to attract? Is it:

- Frogs – you may wish to include a "Frog Bog"
- Birds

*(Continued on page 4)*

## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

- Animals – such as Possums, Phascogales etc.
- Reptiles
- Insects

Ron advised, we should feel free to modify “faunascaping” ideas to suit our own particular gardens.

If you are interested in bringing fauna to your garden there are a couple of citizen science programs that you may also find of interest, and wish to become involved in. The first is the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, which, is facilitated by Birdlife Australia and held in October each year. It is easy to participate, and involves observing and recording the birds in your back yard (or other area) for a 20 minute period, then submitting an observation count. All the observation records are then collated, and the resulting statistics and information is made publicly available. In the 2017 count, over 72,000 people participated, counting nearly 2 million birds. Ron suspects that most bird survey participants would come from urban areas. Further statistic results from the 2017 count were: The Rainbow Lorikeet was the most sighted bird Australia wide with the top 10 birds being:

- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Noisy Miner
- Australian Magpie
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Galah
- House Sparrow
- Silver Gull
- Welcome Swallow
- Common Myna
- Red Wattlebird

In Victoria the top 3 were:

- Australian Magpie
- House Sparrow
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



(Continued on page 5)

Image: Aussie Bird Count results 2017

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/2017-results/>



## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Ron pointed out that this top 3, fall in the category of “bully birds”, which, will bully and chase off other species. In Yea, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos are considered “nuisance birds”.

The second citizen science program mentioned was the Wild Pollinator Count. This count is held twice per year, in spring and autumn, and involves watching a particular flower for 10 minutes and recording the flower’s visitors. (See our page 2 Gardens for Wildlife news for a weblink to further information.)

Something to be prepared for when you attract fauna visitors to your garden is: What those visitors will do in your garden or back yard... There will be lots of, eating, drinking and yes, even fornicating in your garden! For example: If you attract butterflies, expect & be prepared for caterpillars to end up munching the leaves (and or other parts) of your plants.

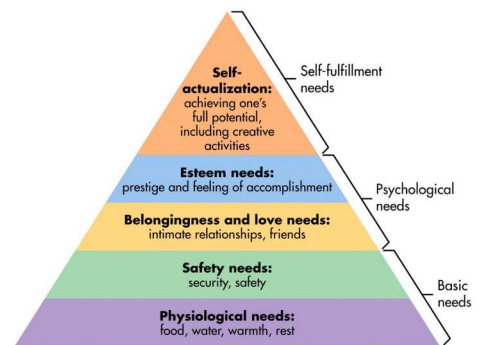
Maslow’s Triangle was brought to our attention, which, is a triangle graphic showing what motivates us humans. Ron doesn’t know what the self-fulfilment and psychological needs of fauna may be, but all basic needs are similar, so can also be applied to attracting animals etc. (see image from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html> )

Taking a cue from the bottom of Maslow’s triangle, the key to attracting fauna is to meet basic physiological and safety needs by providing: Food, water, shelter, safety and security.

Water in the garden...

Ron’s 29 acres of bush block is located on a spur where little water is naturally available, so a birdbath was installed. The birdbath ended up quite deep and needed a branch across it, also rocks placed in it to provide a safe perching point and prevent drownings etc. Initially, a solar powered fountain was also included in the bird bath, which, the birds would flock to. So many birds used to be attracted to the fountain that they would block the solar panel and stop the fountain running. When the fountain stopped the birds would fly off again, so, of course the fountain would then restart. The result was birds constantly flying in and out to such a degree that they became confused and “psychotic”, eventually necessitating the removal of the solar fountain.

Even without the fountain, this water source creates a focal point for bird & other fauna watching. Birds can come and go so quickly that Ron and his wife would often end up arguing about what species a particular visitor might have been, so motion sensing cameras were purchased and set up. These cameras have been a great addition, providing a photographic record that makes identifying visiting species much easier. The cameras have been set to take 3 photographs each time they are triggered, and have removeable SD cards that Ron and his wife swap and check each evening –



Maslow's Triangle

Image:

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>



Birdbath, solar fountain & visiting Robin

Photo: Ron Litjens



Birdbath & White-winged Choughs

Photo: Ron Litjens

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## October Meeting Report continued...

*(Continued from page 5)*

they love making lists so now have a comprehensive record of all the fauna that uses their bird bath. Some of the bird species observed and photographed have been:

New Holland Honeyeater

Grey Butcherbird

Pied Currawongs (in family groups)

Rosellas (also in family groups)

Nankeen Kestrel

Red-browed Finch

Sacred Kingfisher

Grey Currawong

Another bonus of using a motion sensing camera is that they take photo's after dark, also providing a record of nocturnal visitations. Different species among these nocturnal visitors have been: Ringtail Possum, Brushtail Possum, Sugar Glider, Agile Antechinus, Brushtail Phascogale (at least 7 visit), and a Southern Brown Tree Frog that has been nicknamed Wally. Now Wally is not big enough to trigger the camera by himself, so each night time photograph is an opportunity for Ron and his wife to play their own version of "Where's Wally".

A reliable, safe water supply will inevitably bring wildlife into your garden. However, it needs to be:

- Clean
- There all the time
- Deep enough not to completely evaporate during a summer day
- Safe

Something else to remember is that water is for washing as well. Along with birds, animals wash too. "Mr Prickles" (an Echidna), is a regular visitor to a dam on Ron's property, he wades in, washes and scratches in the shallow waters edge.

A bird bath placed at ground level will be used by birds and animals. However, a note of caution to remember with all bird baths: A water source becomes a Bio-hotspot, also attracting predators such as cats etc. If you set up a water supply, a variety of clever predators will turn up as well, so consideration of how to manage these will also be needed.

Food in the garden...



Possums & ...Where's Wally?  
Photo: Ron Litjens



Mr Prickles bathing  
Photo: Ron Litjens



Birdbath & Predatory Cat  
Photo: Ron Litjens

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## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

The greatest food supply is plants, but there are some things to remember: Many people often inadvertently set their gardens up for Honeyeaters alone. However, Honeyeaters can number among the aggressive bully birds, and other species such as Wrens and Thornbills will disappear. A good idea is to have a *Hakea* and *Grevillea* corner in your garden for the more aggressive birds, and plant different food sources in other areas. Within the bird family, there are a range of different beak types. Each different beak type indicates what sort of food a particular bird species eats.

One food source discussed was Psyllids and the shelters they create: Lerps, which, Pardalotes feed on. Psyllids suck sap on Eucalyptus leaves, primarily they are after protein from the sap, but Eucalyptus leaves are also high in sugar. Psyllids must continually suck sap to obtain enough protein and then extrude the sugar they take in. The sugar they extrude forms the house or shelter they live under, which, is pure sugar. Pardalotes, when feeding on Lerps, rip this "house" off, leaving the psyllid beneath it unharmed.

When butterflies come into a garden, this also means plenty of caterpillars too. Caterpillars will be eating leaves in your garden and also becoming food for birds and other creatures in your garden. The Emperor Gum Moth caterpillar & Gumleaf Skeletoniser (moth larvae) are 2 examples. A main point to remember is: If you provided the food source, be prepared for the various animals to eat it!

### Shelter and security...

For many of our native fauna, shelter and security is found in tree hollows. Natural tree hollows can take 80 or more years to develop, so nest boxes can be an alternative. Following the 2009 fires, residents of Yea and surrounds were provided with a range of nest boxes donated from the City of Knox Men's Shed. Now, these were a range nest boxes made in different, shapes, sizes, with different hole placements and sizes. Each different box is designed for a particular species and it is very important to monitor any installed nest boxes.

After installing a number of nest boxes and providing requisite monitoring, Ron and his wife followed some very interesting findings. A nest box designed for Rosellas proved to have an interesting list of residents. This nest box's first resident turned out to be a White-throated Tree Creeper. Continuing on through the first year, further residents were an Owlet Nightjar, a baby Brush-tailed Possum - nicknamed "The Chubster". Chubster kept returning until he outgrew the Rosella nest box, in fact the last photo taken of Chubster showed him stuck trying to get in the box. Fortunately, he was able to extract himself, never to return. Through this all, there was "no Rosella in sight". After Chubster departed the next resident was a Ringtail Possum. Every year now, the cycle of changing residents continues.

Rosellas liked the Sugar Glider nest box, although its entry hole was a bit too small. Each year they return in summertime and nibble the hole a little larger during every visit. Meanwhile, a Sugar Glider takes residence in a Phascogale nest box (Phascogale nest boxes have an entrance hole in the

Parrot  
Finch  
Honeyeater  
Insect eater  
Carnivore  
Bird of Prey



Bird Beak Types  
Image: Source unknown



"The Chubster" on his last visit.  
Photo: Ron Litjens

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## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

rear). Ron has found that simply having a place where animals feel safe is enough for them, and individual species will find what suits them.

Another anecdote was the building of a nest box designed for Powerful Owls. This box measured 1m x 750mm x 750mm and was inspired by a display by the City of Melbourne. It was big and cumbersome, needed a wheelbarrow to move it and a winch to get it hoisted in place. After all this...No Owl! Ron's neighbours call it "Ron's Folly", but Ron says "Taj Mahal".

Nest boxes bring wildlife in, but one downside is that they can attract bees and other undesired residents, which, is one of the reasons why nest boxes require monitoring. There are also boxes specifically designed for Bats, these boxes have entry slits at the bottom and grip strips underneath the entry. Bats are a very beneficial creature to attract to your garden as they eat large numbers of mosquitos.

Not all birds nest in hollows, some birds build nests and are often opportunists. A few of Ron's observations are:

- Thornbills like prickly, mid-storey bushes.
- A Grey Shrike Thrush nesting in an upturned bike helmet.
- Black aggie pipe placed in rafters attracts nesting Pardalotes.

Shelter can be provided to attract insects, making or buying and providing a "Bee Hotel" is one option. Blue-banded Bees are a species that may be attracted. The females build or burrow into wood or mud to nest. Males however, are left to fend for themselves. Instead of nesting they have large jaws and use them to fix onto twigs and stems. Some other Bee species huddle together in groups.

Location...

Another point to consider when "faunascaping" is the location and local environment. For example: Ron has never seen an Eastern Rosella in open grassland. There are different species that will inhabit woodland as opposed to grassland. A further example is: On a wooded property you will see Grey Fantails, but not one Willy Wagtail- as Willy Wagtails are residents of open grassland.

Further location factors to consider are local migration and geography. During the period Ron was travelling to and from Euroa and Yea to work at the Euroa Arboretum, he observed that: Blue-faced Honey Eaters were in Euroa, yet not found in Yea. Likewise, White-plumed Honeyeaters were found in Euroa, but not in Yea. In short, be aware of the range and habitat of the particular species you are trying to attract.



Bat Box (Melton Botanic Gardens 26.8.18)  
Photo: J Petts



Blue-banded Bee  
Photo: Warren & Gloria Sheather  
[https://austplants.com.au/Blue-banded-Bee-\(Amegilla-cingulata\)](https://austplants.com.au/Blue-banded-Bee-(Amegilla-cingulata))



Location & Connectivity - Consider where you are in the landscape & how/where you are connected.  
Photo: Ron Litjens

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## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

### Connectivity...

Connectivity within a landscape is also a factor that needs to be taken into account when “faunascaping” your garden. Bio-corridors are important as some species will not cross an open or cleared area etc., so vegetation links are needed. In Yea, Ron has been encouraging and assisting local residents to “green up” and plant up their gardens in order to bring fauna in. They have been trying to gain council approval to establish a bio-link corridor to nearby remnant vegetation. Unfortunately, Yea Council said no, claiming such plantings would adversely effect roadside mowing. Strangely enough, plantings keep appearing (complete with tree guards etc.) and mowing around the plantings continues without issue.

In summary, Gardens for Wildlife programs provide a range of ideas to help with “faunascaping” and as long as you provide food and shelter, the wildlife will come – They want what we want: Food, shelter and water.

In closing, a brief Q & A revealed a little more information regarding birdbaths...

Ron’s bird bath is placed on an upstanding log (stump) and establishing it has been a process of trial and error. The birdbath is rather deep, and sometimes birds couldn’t get out. Sometimes birds would just dive right in. Rocks have been added at different depths, and a branch has been added across the water and tied back to a tree beside the bath. Ron has made sure that this branch is not big enough for a cat to travel along it. Ron uses a bucket to keep water up to the bath, and makes sure to empty it out and refresh the water regularly. All sorts of containers and methods of refilling can be used for birdbaths, Ron cited seeing a wheelie bin set up under a gutter overflow as another example.

With the main presentation drawn to a close Mike was invited to the floor to share a brief presentation on the Fabaceae family - Pea flowers:

In taxonomy, plants are organised into a hierarchy of orders, groups and families (also called clades), and down into genera & species. A Clade is a noun used in *Biology* meaning a taxonomic group of organisms classified together on the basis of comparable features traced to a common ancestor.

There has recently been a revision of the Fabales (nitrogen fixing legume group), and both Wattles (previously in Mimosaceae) and Senna (previously in Caesalpiniaceae), have been moved into the family Fabaceae. Essentially, plants producing pea pods that did not necessarily produce a “pea type” flower and were previously included in other families have been merged into Fabaceae and are now re-classified across 3 sub-families. (Ed. Note: For a good detailed explanation see: <http://anpsa.org.au/peas1.html> )

The Australian genera now considered in the Fabaceae family are: *Acacia*, *Aotus*, *Bossiaea*, *Chorizema*, *Crotalaria*, *Daviesia*, *Desmodium*, *Dillwynia*, *Erythrena*, *Eutaxia*, *Gastrolobium*, *Glycine*, *Gompholobium*, *Goodia*, *Hardenbergia*, *Hovea*, *Indigofera*, *Jacksonia*, *Kennedia*, *Mirbelia*, *Oxylobium*, *Pultenaea*, *Senna*, *Sphaerolobium*, *Swainsona*, *Templetonia*.

Of Australian Fabaceae, most species are found in Eastern States, and there are also a lot of Pea Flower species found in Western Australia. The five following species discussed were the evening raffle prizes:



*Kennedia procumbens*

Image source unknown

(Continued on page 10)

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## October Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 9)

- *Kennedia procumbens* – Does not like frost, but will survive in a frosty area if planted underneath other plants. It is suited to hanging baskets or a pot in a sheltered site.
- *Dillwynia hispida* – This species should have orange or red flowers. Mike suspects that a particular specimen he purchased was mislabelled and might actually be a *Eutaxia microphylla*
- *Chorizema diversifolia* – Is a light climber or scrambler.
- *Eutaxia microphylla* – A local plant that will grow under trees, survives hot, dry, low rainfall conditions and is also frost hardy.
- *Gastrolobium sericeum* – Black flowered form

Before moving on to the evening flower table specimens, Ian spoke briefly on our 2018 Spring Expo- giving a reminder, request for helpers, and an update regarding set up times, stall holders and volunteer activities etc. See page 12 for Ian's report on how the event turned out.

Lastly, some of the evening flower specimens were:

- *Grevillea flexuosa* – Can grow to 3m x 10m and will tolerate pruning.
- *Grevillea "Moonlight"* – Originally from Merv Hodge in Queensland. This species also grows quite large and tolerates pruning.
- *Callistemon "Endeavour"* – Can grow up to 6m high.
- *Calytrix tetragona* – Is found in the Grampians and locally- in the Tallarook ranges
- *Astartea "Winter Pink"*
- *Eremophila drummondii*
- *Eremophila decipiens*
- *Eremophila maculata*
- *Chorizema cordatum*



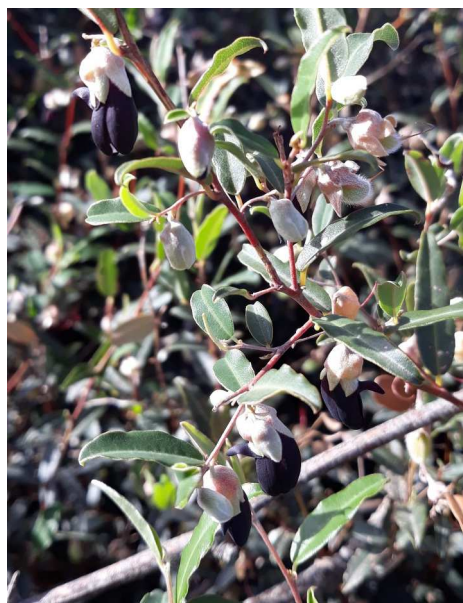
*Dillwynia hispida*

Image: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/bfd4765b-382e-4cee-af88-89e209d6fa71>



*Chorizema diversifolia*

Image source unknown



*Gastrolobium sericeum* – Black flowered form

Photo: J Petts



*Eutaxia microphylla*

Image source unknown



## Yellow Box - *Eucalyptus melliodora*...

By Norbert Ryan

The name *E. melliodora* is based on the Latin for smell of honey, a characteristic for which this species is renowned; Yellow Box honey being one of the most popular flavours amongst the honeys produced from Eucalypts. Mature trees can range from 10-30 metres and they are widespread, ranging from east of the Grampians and extending into NSW and southern Queensland. Usually found in moderately fertile, better drained hilly areas. Forms can vary between different regions, typically the adult tree has persistent fibrous, yellow-grey bark at the base with the upper trunk smooth and grey-yellow in colour but in some forms the fibrous bark can cover most limbs. Adult trees are generally straight trunked with a dense crown and are favoured for plantations and in parkland because they have no tendency to drop limbs, wood is strong and durable and is favoured for fencing and firewood. The leaves are comparatively short for Eucalypts, a factor that makes them more easily identifiable. The leaves on juvenile trees are elliptical and much greyer than the surrounding adult trees and have a drooping habit (see illustrations). In the local area, Yellow box are found in mixed populations with Candlebark, Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Broad-leaved Peppermint, Swamp Gum and River Red Gum. They occur along Forbes Morand Rd, Old Lancefield and Lancefield Rd.

NB these notes are drawn from details provided in the texts of Nicolle and Costermans



### *E. melliodora*– Juvenile trees

Adult trees are often surrounded by a cluster of juveniles, of varying tones of grey-green, occurring as compact rounded shrubs with down-turned leaves.



***E. melliodora*– Buds:** Occur in groups of 3-7 on terminal panicles or in leaf axils. Adult leaves shown are heavily infected with psyllids (lerps are the protective sugary coating, here some appear blackish caused by a sooty mould. (Peripheral vein of adult leaf is located well inland from edge)).

***E. melliodora*– Juvenile leaves** are grey-green in colour and elliptical in shape



### *E. melliodora*– Fruit

The disc is well below the rim, 4-5 valves visible only in older, very mature fruit; contrast with more recent fruit in background.



### *E. melliodora*– Adult tree:

Medium height, persistent fibrous, grey-yellow bark on lower branches, upper trunk and branches smooth, yellow hue.



***E. melliodora*– Juvenile form** showing pendulous leaves.



Photos: Norbert Ryan



## Expo 2018 Report...

By Ian Julian

Overall APS Mitchell Expo 2018 was a successful show with visitor numbers similar to that of Expo 2017. We had a consistent flow of visitors all day, although the opening rush was slow due to many people not out and about due to rain and a cold morning. The overall number being 194 visitors; with locals from Kilmore: 90, Wallan: 30, Broadford: 29 and Wandong: 16. The most distant visitors being a couple from Charleville, another from Wodonga and numerous people came from nearby and various Melbourne suburbs.

We still managed again to have to have an impressive display of flowers from plants from all over Australia. The largest number being 102 *Grevillea* species, with another 128 species making a total of 230 collected from local gardens. A complete list will be available on the APS Mitchell website. Two couples were wanting to know where the hothouse was located that was used to collect all of the samples, they were very surprised to learn that all the flowers were grown in local gardens. Maybe next year we need to have a photo show of local gardens? Overall the feedback was very positive. APS Mitchell extends a very large thank you to APS Yarra Yarra & Mike Williams, whom without, our Expo would not be as impressive. I would also like to thank all the members who helped with the set-up and pack-up. Even with visitor numbers similar to 2017 plant and book sales were strong. We thank Janet Hand from BirdLife Australia for attending again, she helped make an impressive display alongside "Gardens for Wildlife" and the sculpture art display.

The door prize winners were Jenny Brunton, Evan Morgan, Wanda Crosbie, Lynne Santamaria, Lance Phillips and Ian Wood. One of last year's winners was back with a photograph of her prize in full bloom she was a very happy return visitor, who left with an armful of new plants for her garden.

Our biggest thanks go to the local Wallan & Kilmore Community Bank branches, for a Community Grant of \$600. The grant helps greatly with the setup costs, and without a sponsor we would not have an Expo. Thanks also to North Central Review for the promotion in the Green Thumb spring feature.

And finally through the stall holders that attended:

Peter Broughton-Ironstone Park Nursery, Mike Cincotta from La Trobe Indigenous Nursery, new this year David Laurie Valley of Thousand Hills Indigenous plants, Karen from Goldfields Revegetation, Tracey from Kilmore Mitre 10 and Mike Williams from Yarra Yarra APS - all indicated that they will return for Expo 2019.

**Save the date - Expo 2019, Saturday October 19.**



*Grevillea drummondii*



*Lechenaultia formosa*



Photos: Ian Julian

## 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,  
Glenn James,  
Ian Julian,  
Jo & Paul Liddy,  
Ron Litjens,  
Barbara Mau,  
Barbara Moss,  
Maureen Runge,  
Mike Williams,  
Norbert Ryan.

### APS VIC DIARY DATES...

**December 1** - Committee of Management meeting . Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

### 2019 dates to remember:

**April 27, 2019** - APS Geelong Australian Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. 8:30am-5pm BBQ, Tea, Coffee & refreshments, book sales, children's activities and a great selection of native plants.

**The ANPSA 2019 Conference** hosted by Western Australia will be held September 30th to October 4th 2019, in Albany WA.

*Isopogon* in full flower

Photo: Maureen Runge



## Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

Website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

### Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248

Email: [secretary@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto:secretary@apsmitchell.org.au)

Treasurer/Memberships:

Christine Cram 0458 238 270

Committee: Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney,  
Jeanine Petts.

Group Librarian: Pauline Maloney

Plant Sales: Volunteer position open

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434

Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Barbara Moss

Email: [g4w@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)

## Garden photos from Maureen...



*Grevillea* in the garden

Photo: Maureen Runge

### 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.**



*Dillwynia sericea*

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[mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

## APS Mitchell Group Inc. Annual General Meeting

The Australian Plants Society, Mitchell Group Inc. Annual General Meeting 2018 will be held as part of our monthly general meeting, commencing 7:30 pm on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2018, in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library Sydney Street, Kilmore.

Nominations for the following committee positions are currently being sought:

(Please tick applicable nomination)

<input type="checkbox"/>	President	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group Librarian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant Sales
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer/Memberships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter Editor

**Name of Nominee:** ..... **Signature:** .....

☐ I Confirm I am a financial member of Australian Plants Society, Mitchell Group Inc.

**Address:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

**Name of Nominator:** ..... **Signature:** .....

☐ I Confirm I am a financial member of Australian Plants Society, Mitchell Group Inc.

**Name of Second:** ..... **Signature:** .....

☐ I Confirm I am a financial member of Australian Plants Society, Mitchell Group Inc.

Nomination forms can be received by the Secretary via mail to: PO Box 541, Kilmore, Vic 3764 (by November 16, 2018), via email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au) (by November 19, 2018), or presented at the Annual General Meeting.