



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

April news...!

Hello, and welcome to our April 2018 edition!

Not only is it a busy time of year out in everyone's garden, but the committee and friends have also been busy behind the scenes too...

The titles in our group library have been catalogued and a listing is now available to view online. For full details see our Library news on page 2.

Planning and organizing for the Spring Plant Expo is also progressing, and the latest information is now included in the newsletter on page 8. We are also still seeking help with building a collection of nuts and seeds (see below).

The eagle eyed among you may have noticed a slight change to the letterhead. Thanks to APS Victoria and Webmaster John King, APS Mitchell now has a new email address:

mitchell@apsvic.org.au Our existing Gmail address will also be continued until further notice, and we will be contactable via both addresses.

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Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday May 14th.

As always, contributions to our newsletter both large and small are enthusiastically welcomed.

Extra plant photos are especially helpful.

Please send your contributions in by Monday May 7th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening & cheers until next time,

Jeanine ☺



Senecio linearifolius
Photo: J Petts

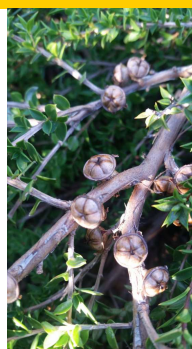
Nuts and Seeds Display...

The committee continues to work toward building a collection of nuts and seeds for display at our Annual Spring Plant Expos.

Ian Julian hopes to build a suitable display table during this year, and we are seeking help from our members and friends to obtain a range of nuts and seeds with which to fill the table.

It would be fantastic if as many differing types of nuts and seeds can be obtained for the collection. If you have, or can collect, nuts and seeds for us, it would be very greatly appreciated.

Dried, bagged and labelled specimens can be brought along to any of our meetings throughout the year and handed in to a committee member.



Leptospermum 'Horizontalis'
Photo: J Petts

April 2018

Volume 5, Issue 3

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY APRIL 16th, 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker: **Attila Kapitany - Boabs & Bottle Trees & their other Australian Relatives**
- **MONDAY MAY 21st, 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **MONDAY JUNE 18th, 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **JULY MEETING: EXCURSION to be advised**
- **AUGUST MEETING: EXCURSION to be advised**
- **MONDAY SEPT 17th, 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **MONDAY OCT 15th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised
- **SATURDAY OCT 20th, 9am - 3pm**
APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore
- **MONDAY NOV 19th, 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker to be advised

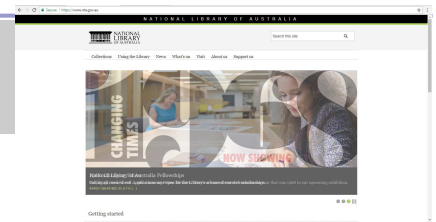


Library news...

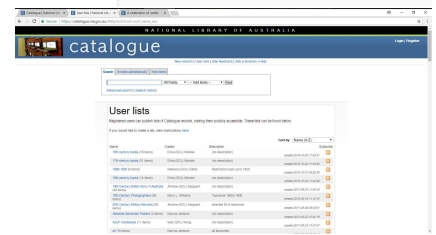
We extend a very big thank you to Pauline Maloney, Norbert Ryan and their family friend (and computer expert) Simon Stuart, who have been hard at work cataloguing all the books in our group library. In addition, an extra thank you goes to Simon for being instrumental in creating an online catalogue of all but a couple of the titles that our library holds. This listing of our group books can now be viewed via the National Library of Australia website by anyone with access to a computer. All you need do is visit the following link:

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/people/77880/lists/10917>

Alternatively, go to the National Library of Australia home page at www.nla.gov.au. Scroll down until you see the Search Catalogue button, click on the search button, then select "user lists" from the menu just underneath the catalogue banner. At User Lists, select **Sort by: (Name A-Z)** from the drop down menu. When the page refreshes, scroll down to **APS Mitchell Inc** (56 items), click on the blue highlighted link and it should take you to our catalogue. Once at the catalogue you can click on each individual book listing to find more information on each title. If you would like to borrow any of our books, just see Pauline at any of our meetings held in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library.



Getting started



**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



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

Following on from last year's popular talk on native succulents, Attila Kapitany returns to present on "*Bottle Trees and Boabs – trees for our times*". Apart from Attila's expertise with succulents, he also has grown thousands of bottle trees commercially (both wholesale and retail) for almost 40 years, and has written a book on the topic. The talk will explore these majestic and spectacular giants of the Australian continent, and much of the presentation will show trees in habitat and cultivation, with regular references to support their incredible potential in landscape gardening and design.



Photo courtesy of Attila Kapitany

Many people are aware that Australia has the Queensland bottle tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*), but there are several other species within the genus that also develop bottle-shaped trunks, such as *Brachychiton compactus*. This is a much rarer and much more spectacular species, primarily in that its flowers are large and the canopy luxuriant. In addition, other species, including even rarer new species, will be shown. The Queensland bottle tree, the main feature of the talk, is remarkably cold and frost tolerant and able to grow in poor soils and with very little additional water. Attila will show how a Queensland tree can be suitable this far south and give a remarkable insight into a range of aspects about bottle trees few people are aware of.

Once again Attila will be bringing plants for sale along with his range of books and is also happy to provide expert advice and sign copies of his books. Do come along and join us for what is sure to be another lively, highly informative and entertaining presentation, and remember...Visitors & friends are always welcome!

Memberships ...

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

Phone 5793 8270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at:
mitchell@apsvic.org.au

March Meeting Report...Gardens for Wildlife

By Jeanine Petts

For the second month in a row, it was an absolute pleasure to walk into the John Taylor Room and find it abuzz with people. Plenty of members, guests & visitors had turned out for the evening, and both Mike Williams and Brian and Lorraine Weir brought along plants for sale. A home baked supper had been provided by Dawn (many thanks Dawn) & yours truly, giving us the choice of Dawn's famous fruit cake & my own 5.5 cup fruit cake (the recipe can be found at the end of this report) to enjoy with a cuppa.

Norbert called us all to our seats fairly promptly, quickly getting the meeting underway and introducing our guest speaker, Cathy Olive, who is currently Project Manager at the Euroa Arboretum. Norbert also explained that Cathy has worked as an Extension Officer for the DEPI, and over the years, has assisted many landholders across the region.

Cathy began the presentation by giving a little background information on the Euroa Arboretum. The 27 hectare site the Arboretum now covers was donated to the people of Euroa by Vic Roads in 1992. It was used as a machinery and materials storage site during the construction of the Hume Freeway bypass. Prior to being utilised by Vic Roads the land was once a sheep station. Following community public meetings at the time, the Euroa Arboretum Committee of Management was formed and is responsible for developing the Arboretum we see today.

One of the aims of the Arboretum is connecting people to nature, and this is reflected in the Euroa Arboretum motto: "Growing Back the Bush". Along with being open to the public the Arboretum provides a number of services including: A nursery, the "Bush Crew" which is available for hire providing site visits to landholders and land management advice. There are also education services for school groups, landholders and gardeners including:

- Bush Kinder (play in the bush for a day)
- Healthy Hectares (workshops/information days for landholders)
- Gardens for Wildlife

"Gardens for Wildlife" is a new program introduced to the Arboretum last year. The impetus to develop a program came after Cathy met Iona Mitchell from the Tasmanian DPIPW (Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment). With no funding, Iona had developed the Gardens for Wildlife scheme for Tasmania that now reaches hundreds of landholders and covers properties adding up to well over 2000 hectares. It is a simple "online" only program that encourages people to incorporate wildlife friendly elements into their gardens such as: Leaving bowls of water out, leaving fallen debris, not mowing quite as much, growing local plants and other design ideas. Their participants sign up online, and for a small membership fee receive a sign for their letterbox, an information booklet and access to a website providing information, advice and other online member privileges.

After gaining some funding to develop and establish a program for the Goulburn Broken region in 2017, Cathy also looked at another gardens for wildlife program, which, is run by the City of Knox in Victoria. The City of Knox program has grown to be quite a large program that supports full time employees who provide site visits and design advice to land holders. However, a program of Knox's size and scope is a bit too big for a small community based organisation like the Euroa Arboretum to replicate. Aiming to keep it simple, yet able to be available and expandable across our region, the Tasmanian scheme was adapted (with permission from DPIPW) as the basis for the program now being run from Euroa. Rather than reinvent the wheel, Euroa Arboretum were also allowed to adopt a version of the letterbox sign originally developed by DPIPW. Where the Tasmanian sign displays a Red

(Continued on page 4)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Robin, the Euroa Arboretum program sign uses a Superb Blue Wren, and also incorporates the Euroa Arboretum logo and motto.

The program is all about encouraging people and sharing information to help make gardens friendly places for wildlife to visit and live. Membership costs \$20 and includes; a timber boxed gift starter pack containing a small selection of local plants, a Sustainable Gardening Booklet, an 8 point brochure and an enamelled Garden for Wildlife letterbox sign. Membership also provides a 10% discount on 4 to 5 garden talks and workshops held throughout each year. Previous talk topics included; Ponds and Billabongs (Philip Johnson), Garden Design (Louise Costa), Pollinators (Karen Retra) and there are upcoming workshops on botanical art scheduled for April.

In keeping with fostering local connection, Euroa Arboretum commissioned Yooralla-GATE Seymour to make and supply the timber gift boxes. The gentlemen involved in designing, developing and building the timber boxes have also found the project enjoyable, rewarding to be part of and taken great pride in the work.

Currently, the Gardens for Wildlife membership packs have been taken along to local markets and 70 people have signed up to the program to date. Ian Julian invited Cathy along to talk to our group and also canvas the idea of APS Mitchell joining with Euroa Arboretum in assisting to support and extend the program through the Mitchell Shire. With this in mind, Elyse Kelly (Environmental Officer at Mitchell Shire) had also come along for the evening, and was invited to join in discussion with Cathy & the members present. Elyse, Councillor Rob Eldridge and other councillors are interested in supporting a Garden for Wildlife program within the Mitchell Shire, and see the program as a way to engage and involve people across the shire. They would be happy to work to assist APS Mitchell in sponsoring the program across the region.

With the Mitchell Shire experiencing a lot of new population growth, many new and existing residents are keen to establish wildlife friendly, environmentally conscious gardens and are seeking information and advice. Bringing the Gardens for Wildlife program to our area is one of the ways that could be beneficial to our group and to local gardeners.

The question was asked of all our members present: If APS Mitchell members would like our Committee to follow through to take on sponsorship of the program locally? An affirmative show of hands indicated this is something our membership would like so see the group support. Further discussion continued with some ideas put forward as to how and what form that may take. Among the suggestions were:

- Making the start up packs available at our monthly meetings
- Adding a local aspect to the start up packs by including our APS Mitchell Newsletter and sourcing plants for the packs from local native plant growers
- Taking start up packs to the Wallan market
- Running an information stall with start up packs available at our Spring Plant Expo
- Sharing information across our membership and the wider community via: Newspaper articles, word of mouth, our newsletter, Facebook, Website, and Twitter etc.

(Continued on page 5)



Gardens for Wildlife

Image: Euroa Arboretum

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/gardens-for-wildlife/>

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

With the time for talk drawing to a close, it was mentioned that we can adapt the program model to suit our shire, community and group. The Knox City program originally started small but once people joined in, neighbours started spreading the word, friendly competition developed, and as demand and support for the program grew, it gradually developed to what it is today. Along with other multiple benefits of APS Mitchell sponsoring the Gardens for Wildlife program, there is also potential for our group to be able to access funding to bring in exciting new guest speakers, and the possibility of support from the Shire regarding use of venues.

A final word from Cathy Olive drew our attention to a sample Gardens for Wildlife starter pack that had been brought along for display. Included in the plants in this particular pack were:

- *Pultenaea humilis* – Dwarf Bush-pea (The belts of granitic sand over clay subsoil that are found across the Strathbogie ranges through Euroa, Violet Town and extending down to Seymour are known for supporting many different species of Pea-flowers.)
- *Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustissima* – Narrow-leaf Hop-bush
- *Kennedia prostrata* – Running Postman, Scarlet Runner
- *Clematis microphylla* – Small-leaved Clematis
- *Acacia implexa* – Lightwood, Hickory Wattle

The door prize plant raffle rounded out our evening, but with a new development. From this month on, Norbert advised we will be focusing on a particular plant family genus for each month's prizes. To start off, *Eremophila* had been chosen, and Mike Williams stepped forward to provide a little information...

Eremophila, AKA Emu Bushes, are predominately found across Central Australia. However, there are 14 species native to Victoria. Although suited to hot dry sites, *Eremophila* can also tolerate temperatures as low as -4 to -5c. For our March meeting, the prizes on offer were:

- *Eremophila* Kalbarri Gold – An *E. glabra* form
- *Eremophila* Bev Rice – Another *E. glabra* form
- *Eremophila drummondii* – Named for James Drummond, a West Australian Botanist
- *Eremophila calorhabdos*

The lucky winners for the evening were: Dianne Carroll, Pauline Maloney, Barbara Moss and Ian Julian.



Pultenaea humilis Dwarf Bush-pea
Photo: Cathy Powers <https://natureshare.org.au/photos/561a28fbcd2a890d9500049b>



Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustissima
Narrow-leaf Hop-bush
Photo: Chris Lindorff
<https://natureshare.org.au/photos/55003066ed2a8994a900017d>



Gardens for Wildlife Starter Pack
Photo: Jeanine Petts

(Continued on page 6)

March Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)



Eremophila drummondii

Photos: A.P. Brown, A. Doley & M. Hancock

Eremophila drummondii

Images: A P. Brown, A. Doley & M. Hancock
<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/7200> Accessed on: Friday April 6th, 2018.



Eremophila calorhabdos

Photo: M Fagg

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2012/eremophila-calorhabdos.html>

Images from <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> used with the permission of the Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Parks and Wildlife (<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/help/copyright>).

Lastly, the promised recipe...

5.5 Cup Fruit Cake



Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain flour with 2 tsp baking powder (or 1 cup SR flour)
- 1 cup currants
- 1 cup shredded or desiccated coconut
- 1 cup brown sugar (firmly packed)
- 1/2 cup Pistachio kernels (raw)
- 1 cup milk

Method:

Grease and line a small loaf tin, preheat oven to 180c (170c fan forced).

In a medium bowl combine flour and baking powder & stir with a fork or spoon until well mixed. Mix in remaining dry ingredients and stir until combined. Mix in milk & stir until mixture is evenly moistened.

Pour mixture into prepared loaf tin and bake for approximately one hour or until cake is golden and evenly cooked (skewer comes out clean).

Cool in tin on a wire rack for 10 minutes, then remove cake from tin & allow to cool further.

Slice & serve buttered if desired. The cake can be eaten warm or cold.

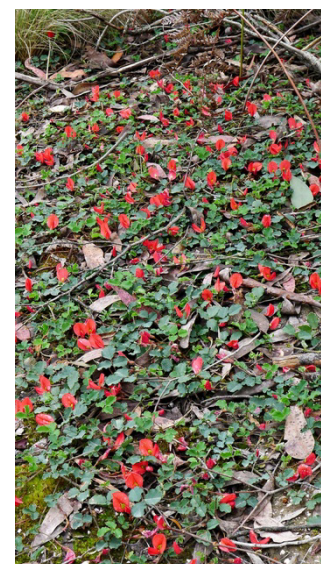


Clematis microphylla

Small-leaved Clematis

Photo: David Francis

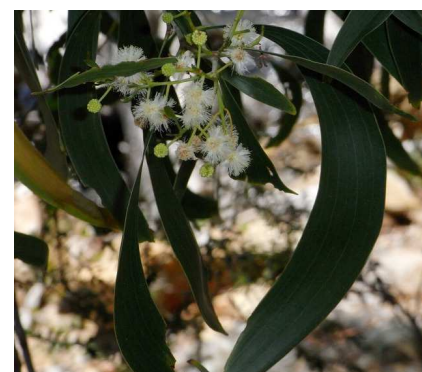
<https://natureshare.org.au/photos/53c3c36be35eb1e53100003a>



Kennedia prostrata - Running Postman

Photo: David Francis

<https://natureshare.org.au/photos/53b39865e35eb1298401342c>



Acacia implexa - Lightwood

Photo: Russell Best

<https://natureshare.org.au/photos/53b3985fe35eb12984011cb0>

Long-leaved Box commencing flowering...

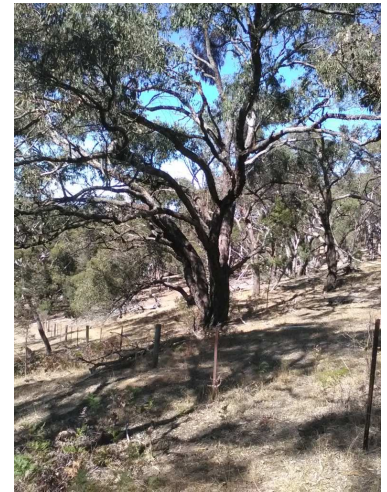
By Norbert Ryan

The Long-leaved Box, *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* could be considered as the ugly duckling among the box-type gums. They are generally an untidy tree, reaching a maximum of 16m with short, twisted trunks and rough, often scaly, dark grey bark persisting on all limbs. The wood is considered useless even for firewood; it's difficult to split and is slow-burning.

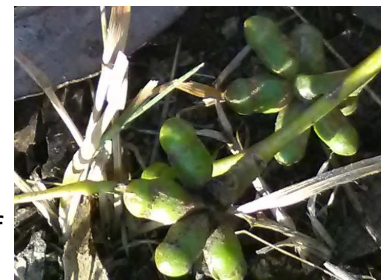
This species grows on steep, dry slopes often in conjunction with Red Stringybarks and Narrow-leaved Peppermints. The name *goniocalyx* is apparently derived from "gonio" or angle and relates to the angled sides of the buds (Nicolle).

The following notes relate to illustrations:

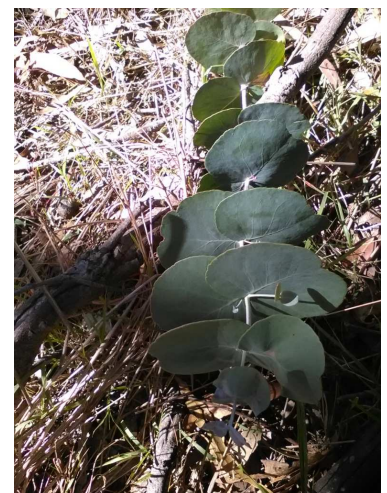
1. Note the dark appearance of groups of these trees (slopes of Pretty Sally)
2. Buds occur in a flattened peduncle in groups of 7 with two fine ridges on the surface and a prominent conical operculum.
3. Juvenile leaves have no stem and are opposite, rounded and waxy and light grey in colour
4. Mature fruit tends to fall during summer and the expected clustering in groups of 7 is not seen beyond the early stages of maturity. The fruit has barely protruding 3-4 valves (in this location all trees had fruit with only three valves showing).
5. The flowers are very attractive against the dark foliage and have an exquisite honey-like nectar. Buds are abundant this year and flowering has just commenced. Mature leaves are dark green and long, measuring from 10-24cm x 20-40mm



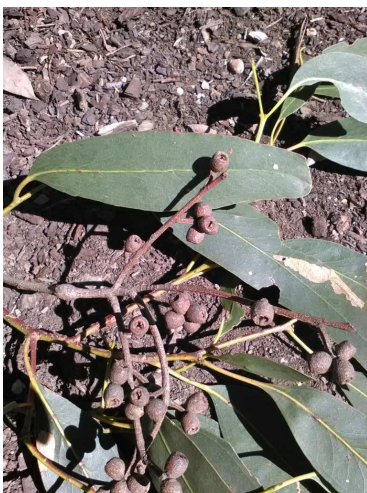
1. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*
Photo: Norbert Ryan



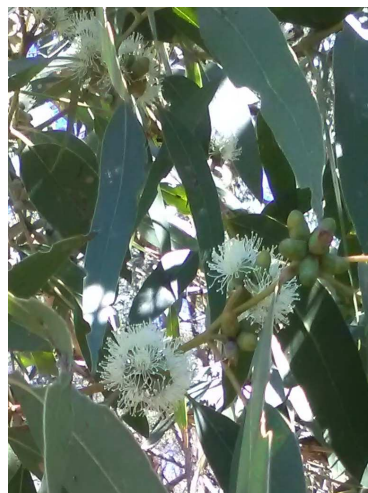
2. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*
6 Buds sit on one plane, 7th sits vertically
Photo: Norbert Ryan



3. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*
Juvenile Leaves
Photo: Norbert Ryan



4. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*
Mature fruit
Photo: Norbert Ryan



5. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*
In flower
Photo: Norbert Ryan

APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 20th, 2018

9 am - 3 pm

Kilmore Memorial Hall

14 Sydney St, Kilmore



Native Plant & Flower Displays



Plant & Book Sales



APS Victoria - Books

Goldfields Revegetation - Native plants

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

Kilmore Mitre 10 - Garden accessories & Native plants

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks



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

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display & Nuts & Seeds display, Setting up on Friday October 19th (from 1pm onwards), also on Saturday October 20th 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,
Ian Julian,
Elyse Kelly,
John King,
Pauline Maloney,
Cathy Olive,
Jake Petts,
Norbert Ryan,
Simon Stuart.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

April 21 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant . Sale at "Wirrawilla" 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. Entry \$2 per adult or \$5 per car: children free. 8:30am-5pm. BBQ, tea, coffee & refreshments, book sales, children's activities and a great selection of native plants.

April 28 - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham 10am-4pm

May 5 - APS Mornington Peninsula. Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd. 10am - 3:30pm

May 12 - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. 9am-1pm

June 16 - APS Mornington Peninsula hosts APS Vic Committee of Management meeting. Bentons Square Community Centre, Bentons Rd, Mornington. 9:30am. Afternoon walk along Balcombe Estuary Boardwalk Circuit.

June 16-27 2018 - ANPSA 2018 Kimberly Tour - Kununurra to Broome. Details from Nicky Zanen: nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0401 975 191

June 30 & July 1 - APS Ballarat District Group Winter Flower Show and Sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens. 10am-5pm
October 20 & 21 - FJC Rogers Seminar - Goodeniaceae. Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com or Royce Raleigh: Ph 5383 6200



Other Events see page 10...

Committee & Contact Information

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

Committee Members

President:	Norbert Ryan	0428 180 651
Vice President:	Dawn McCormack	
Secretary:	Ian Julian	0438 270 248
Treasurer/Memberships:	Christine Cram	5793 8270
Committee:	Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney, Jeanine Petts.	
Group Librarian:	Pauline Maloney	
Plant Sales:	Volunteer position open	

Elaeocarpus reticulatus Blue Olive Berry...

By Norbert Ryan

According to Costermans, this is a small tree growing in the understorey in Eucalypt forests, at lower altitudes in Wilson's Promontory and throughout East Gippsland. Leaves are darker on the top surface with raised veins (hence reticulatus), with finely toothed margins.

Abundant flowers occur in November and are very attractive and numerous, hanging in racemes and each resembling a fringed lamp shade.

During flowering time the tree was surrounded by butterflies.



Photo: Norbert Ryan

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.

Other Events...

Victorian Native Bonsai Club Inc 2018 Exhibition

April 14 & 15, 9am to 4pm

Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive,
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Adults \$5, children under 15 free.

To contact the Club,
Email: secnativeclub@gmail.com
Vic Native Bonsai Club

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



Leptospermum laevigatum

- Please note that sales will be available at the VNBC 2018 Exhibition with a great range of stock and bonsai related items for sale.
-