



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

August 2018

Volume 5, Issue 7

August news...!

Hello, and welcome to our August 2018 edition!

Spring is but a few weeks away, and already Wattle is beginning to flower here in Pyalong. Norbert also tells me that Nodding Greenhoods are out at the moment, "watch where you are walking now" (photo at right).

On the subject of photos... I would like to extend a hearty thankyou to Jo & Paul Liddy for sending in a number of photos from their garden. The first of which can be found on page 8.

The committee has also recently commissioned Jason Caruso to take photos for use in publications and promotions. We owe deep gratitude to Brian & Lorraine Weir for allowing their garden to be photographed and much thanks also to Jason for his services. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for these gems.

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday September 10th.

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



Pterostylis nutans - Nodding Greenhood

Photo: Norbert Ryan

Extra plant photos in particular (along with the odd article), are this editors delight!

Please send your contributions in by Monday September 3rd. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening, hope to see you out & about over the coming months. Cheers until next time! Jeanine ☺

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Wattle Day Celebration Walk & Picnic at Seymour

A Wattle Day celebration is to be held in Seymour at the Australian Light Horse Memorial Park on Sunday September 2nd 2018, from 10:00am to 1:30pm.

Further information can be found in the flyer on page 10 and on the internet at:

<http://www.beam.org.au/events/wattle-day/>

For anyone interested in the history of Wattle Day in Australia, Peter Mitchell has researched and produced an article that can be found on the BEAM website:

<http://www.beam.org.au/post/wattle-day-and-the-changing-seasons/>

Mitchell Diary Dates..

• **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** **THERE IS NO EVENING MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:**

See excursion information below & full details on page 2

• **AUGUST MEETING:**
EXCURSION: Melton Botanic Garden - **SUNDAY AUGUST 26th**, Meet at Kilmore for a 1:00pm car-pooling group departure. Or travel direct to Melton Botanic Garden to meet at 2:00pm
Details page 2

• **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 & AGM.** Guest Speaker
Topic: "Spidentify"



Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss

Dawn and Norbert attended the July Wallan market on behalf of g4w and joined up 13 new members. One new member is a councillor from a neighbouring shire and has expressed interest in bringing Gardens for Wildlife to their shire. Norbert and Dawn plan to continue attending the Wallan market (weather permitting), so providing the weather forecast is favourable, do look out for them – encourage your friends and family to come along and find out more about the scheme.



Gardens for wildlife will also be present at the Seymour Show in October, the Plant Expo and the Kilmore Show in December.

We have also set up a Gardens for Wildlife Facebook page. You can find the page at @g4wmitchell - and like the page. We have liked a number of related Facebook pages and hope their posts will provide great insights in having a wildlife friendly garden.

We are collecting photos of your installed Gardens for Wildlife signs and plan to add to the website. Please send them to g4w@apsmitchell.org.au and we will get them up shortly.

**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



August Meeting-Excursion: Sunday 26th...

Did our May meeting wet your appetite to explore the Melton Botanic Garden? We certainly hope so! Barbara and David Pye are generously making themselves available to meet us at Melton Botanic Garden on Sunday August 26th.

As there is the possibility of car-pooling, 2 meeting points have been organised for the day. If you are interested in car-pooling, meet in time for a 1:00 pm departure from Kilmore at the Library car park. Alternatively, if you prefer to travel direct: Meet at 2:00pm in the FMBG Depot car park on the corner of Tullidge and Williams Streets, Melton. Further details below:

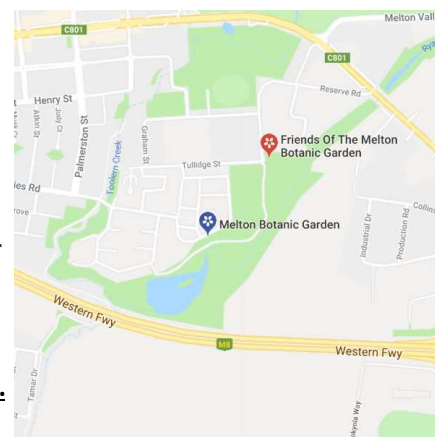
Sunday, 26 August 2018 Departing Kilmore approximately 1:00pm to arrive at Melton
Approximately 2:00 pm. **Meeting points:**

Kilmore: Departing 1:00pm: Kilmore Library /John
Taylor Room Car Park: Bourke Street, Kilmore.

Melton Botanic Garden: 2:00 pm: Meet at the
FMBG Depot car park on the corner of Tullidge and
Williams Streets, Melton.

Please RSVP to Norbert (Ph 0428 180 651) advising
if you will be travelling directly to Melton or to
indicate if you would like to car-pool, and can either
provide or would like a lift.

**Please note: This excursion is in place of our usual
3rd Monday of the month evening meeting: There
will be no evening Meeting for the month of August.**



Memberships ...

Membership renewal fees fell due on July 1st. If you are yet to renew, please do so ASAP. APS Victoria increased fees this year, and added an option to include a national Australian Plants magazine subscription. Our 2018/2019 membership/renewal form can be found on page 9. For enquires and further information please contact Christine Cram: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at: mitchell@apsvic.org.au or visit our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

July Meeting Report...Supporting National Tree Day

By Jeanine Petts

Sunday July 29th didn't have the greatest weather forecast, but none the less, a small band of hardy APS Mitchell members headed out to participate in the National Tree Day planting activity held at Grassy Street Reserve in Kilmore. On arriving at Grassy Street Reserve, I must admit to being somewhat relieved to find that, although the skies were overcast, rain had not yet found us. A good number of other vehicles and people were also arriving, so it wasn't long before I met up with Norbert, the organiser Viviana, and we were soon joined by two other APS Mitchell members: Bill and Louise "Lou". A little later on we were also pleased to find another APS Mitchell member: Andrew, who had come along with a group from the Kilmore International School.

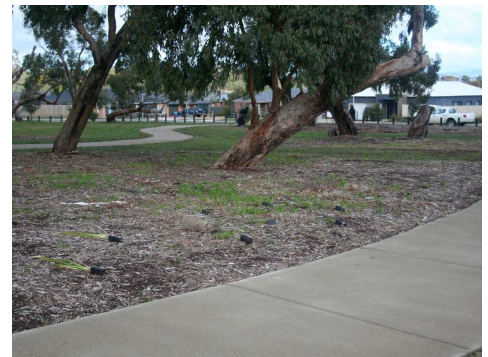
Viviana and a couple of helpers had busied themselves with organising and laying out Tube-stock ahead of our planting session. After making sure everyone had signed the requisite attendance sheet on arrival, approximately 40 attendees were called together for a brief induction and planting demonstration. Viviana welcomed volunteers from APS Mitchell, Guides, Kilmore International School, Pretty Sally Garden Club, residents from nearby streets and thanked us all for attending. Viviana went on to explain that Grassy Street Reserve (in a new housing estate) had been recently handed over to the Mitchell Shire. A number of established Manna Gums and Narrow-leaf Peppermint Trees existed on the reserve and large areas had been mulched. With the only other vegetation on the site being grass and some weeds, the focus for the day was to plant understorey species. This was being done to increase biodiversity and eventually provide habitat for local fauna.

For the benefit of those that might be unfamiliar with planting techniques, it was demonstrated and explained that: when planting, first any mulch needed to be cleared from the planting spot. The reason for this is that if a plant is planted into mainly mulch there is a greater risk of the young plant drying out and less likelihood of survival. The next steps demonstrated were: to dig a hole a little more than the depth of the plant tube, gently ease the plant out of the plastic tube, place the plant upright in the hole and gently backfill with soil, making sure there was a little local soil covering the top of the plant's potting mix once the plant was properly in the ground – again, this was recommended as a way to help slow drying out of the newly planted specimen. A final instruction was to replace the mulch and leave the empty tube beside the newly planted specimens so as to help prevent the young plants being stepped on. The empty tubes would be collected at the end of the session.

Introduction and instructions over we spread out and went to work on the morning's task. It was a simple matter of



Grassy Street Reserve Kilmore 29.7.2018
Photo: Lou Hall



Tubes laid out ready & waiting
Photo: Lou Hall



At work & laying out more tubes
Photo: Lou Hall



Planting demonstration
Photo: Jeanine Petts

(Continued on page 4)

July Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

picking a starting point and then working our way from previously laid out plant to plant. As I worked my way around I had the pleasure of meeting and working alongside a young girl by the name of Eden, her brother Cameron and their father Nick. I also met another young lass by the name of Dennie, who was attending with her grandmother (and I believe they were connected to the Pretty Sally Garden Club). While moving from one area to another, at various times I worked near, and was also able to chat with Andrew, Bill, Lou, Norbert and many others.

Digging holes in various spots around the reserve showed just how variable the soil of the site and conditions actually were. In some situations, the soil was sodden heavy clay, in other spots loose and friable, and in a number of other places I came across compacted mixed soils that appeared most likely to be fill and shifted soil from construction work. The areas where I found construction fill were the most difficult to dig in, and there were a number of planting holes that I needed to try a few different spots in the vicinity to be able to get a decent hole dug.

As they say: "many hands make light work" and it was definitely the case on this morning. It seemed like hardly any time at all had passed before all the plants were in the ground and the volunteers were gathered together again by Viviana for a group photograph and quick survey.

In approximately one and a quarter hours roughly 40 volunteers had planted 660 plants. There wasn't a species list available on the day but I did notice the following species while I worked:

Acacia sp. Wattle

Dianella sp. Native Flax-lilies

Indigofera australis Austral Indigo

Lomandra sp. Mat-rushes

Melicytus dentatus Tree violet

Themeda triandra Kangaroo Grass

It may have been a cold July day, but it did thankfully remain dry for the duration of our time spent at Grassy Street Reserve. I can only speak myself, and I personally felt it was a rewarding experience to get out, get my hands dirty planting for a very worthy cause and give back a little to our local community and environment in the process. Hopefully the day inspired a few future gardeners to develop an interest in native plants and I'll look forward to returning to the reserve and watch its development and progress.



Starting point chosen & work underway
Photo: Lou Hall



Many hands at work
Photo: Lou Hall



New plants in the ground
Photo: Lou Hall



Planting completed after just 75 minutes
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 5)

July Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

In closing I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all those who came along and supported the National Tree Day event. Seeing so many people across differing ages and community groups participate and show interest in planting native species was a pleasure to be part of and behold. Keep the great work up!

Indigofera australis – An open, spreading to erect shrub with soft, pinnate, bluish-green leaves and elliptical leaflets. Growing to 1-2 m across, it bears sprays of mauve – pink or sometimes white pea flowers. It is a graceful understory plant that grows in full sun to shade, will flower well in sun or shade and suits most well-drained soils, excepting wet sites. Traditional uses included crushing roots to make fish poison and a blue dye was also made from the flowers.

Melicytus dentatus – This often upright, rigid, spiny shrub bears masses of highly perfumed tiny, yellow, bell-shaped flowers. Growing from 2-4 meters high by 1-2.5 m wide, it has green oblong to narrow oval leaves. Flowering usually occurs during August to November and the flowers are followed by greenish – purplish berries that are a food source for both birds and lizards. It prefers full sun to semi-shade and requires a well-drained soil, but can be adaptable to different soil types. A hardy, frost tolerant plant that provides shelter for birds.

Themeda triandra – A dense, tussock forming perennial grass that grows .3-1 m x .2-.6 m. Decorative green-purplish, flower panicles are held on arching stems and dry to golden-brown to rusty-brown when the seed is ripe. Grows in full sun to semi-shade and is adaptable to most soils providing they do not remain too dry or too wet. The species is a major component of grassland communities on basalt plains and provides food for grazing animals. Traditionally stems and leaves were used to make string and nets and the seeds ground to make cakes.



Indigofera australis - Austral Indigo
Photo: J Petts



Melicytus dentatus - Tree Violet
Photo: J Petts



Themeda triandra - Kangaroo Grass Photo:
Giorgio De Nola www.naturshare.org.au

Narrow-leaved Peppermint...

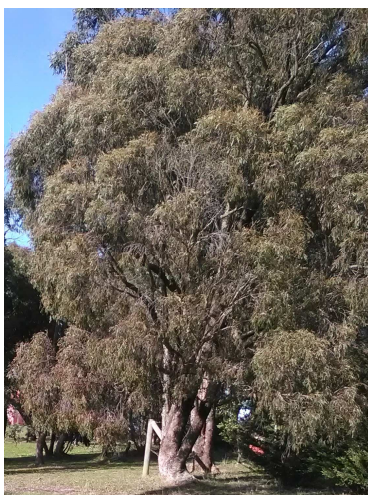
By Norbert Ryan

Narrow-leaved Peppermint *Eucalyptus radiata*

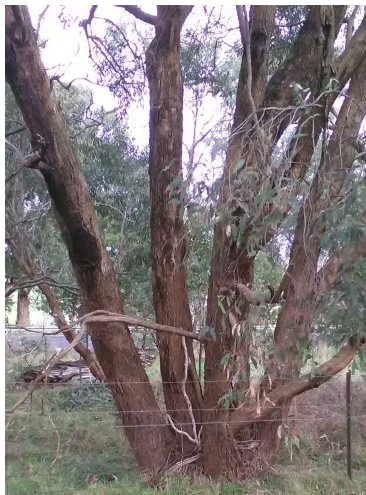
E. radiata is named from the appearance of the flower buds, they occur on peduncles in groups of 11-20 that seem to radiate from the centre of the clump. This species is common in the cool, wetter regions of central and southern Victoria. The form of these trees can be quite variable, size extends from 10-45m, occurring as very tall trees in mountain areas. Some forms have a very attractive weeping appearance, e.g. along Lancefield Rd Kilmore. All branches carry a rough, finely fissured bark, grey to brown in colour. The leaves are a dull green, comparatively short lanceolate form. A feature of the leaves is that the lateral veins occur at a slight angle to the mid vein, appearing to run more or less parallel to this rib.

The characteristic peppermint smell of the crushed leaves aids in identification; the lovely fresh smell can be quite noticeable after rain. The active ingredient of Eucalyptus oil, cineole is present in very high yield in extracted leaves, in the vicinity of 70-80%. In 1854 this property was exploited by Bosisto, with the first commercial extraction of oil being harvested from *E. radiata* in the valley of the Dandenong Creek. The oil glands or dots are very obvious when leaves are viewed with transmitted sunlight.

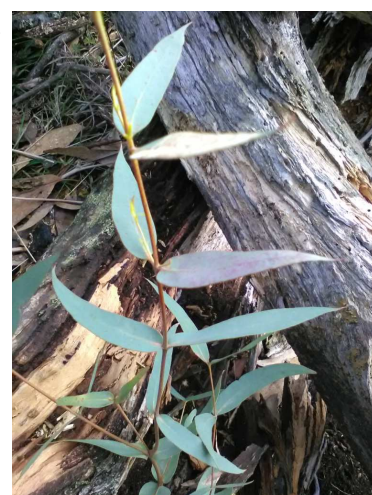
NB these notes are drawn from details provided in the texts of Nicolle and Costermans.



1. *Eucalyptus radiata*
Mature tree with dense canopy, note weeping habit of branches



2. *E. radiata* Trees frequently have several main trunks. Note the persistent finely fissured grey-brown bark.



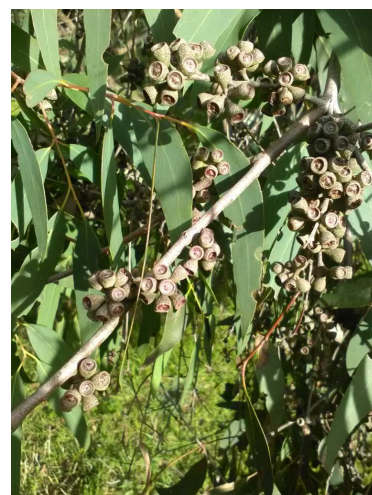
3. *E. radiata* - Juvenile leaves
Opposite, sessile (no stems), lanceolate leaves. Position of leaf pairs rotates along the stem. (cf., in Manna Gum leaf pairs tend to be more parallel in arrangement).



4. *E. radiata* Adult leaves viewed from below in bright sunlight, showing numerous oil dots (reflecting the high oil content). Note the lateral veins are at a very acute angle to the mid vein, running for considerable length. In other local species the lateral veins are at a much less acute angle and are much shorter.



5. *E. radiata* Immature flower buds (flowering expected October-January). Note multiple buds seem to radiate from a central point. Buds are club shaped with a slightly pointed cap.



6. *E. radiata* Abundant cup-shaped fruit measuring only 4-6mm, with a depressed disc containing 3-4 valves.

Photos: 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

Gardens for Wildlife



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

Valley of a 1000 Hills Nursery - Indigenous & native plants

Vaughan's Australian Plants - Rare & unusual native plants



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

Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au

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:

Jason Caruso,
Christine Cram,
Louise Hall,
Viviana Halley,
Ian Julian,
Jo & Paul Liddy,
Barbara Mau,
Barbara Moss,
Barbara & David Pye,
Norbert Ryan,
Brian & Lorraine Weir.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

August 18 & 19 - APS Foothills hosts APS Victoria Quarterly Gathering and AGM.

September 1 - APS Wilson Park Australian Native Plant Sale. Wilson Botanic Park, 668 Princes Hwy, Berwick 9am-3pm No entry fee.

September 8 & 9 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd Eltham, 10am-4pm. See www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

for plant lists.

September 22 & 23 - Bendigo Native Plants Group Australian Flower Show. Kangaroo Flat Primary School, 60-80 Olympic Pde, Kangaroo Flat Bendigo.

To be confirmed

October 6 & 7 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall, 9:30am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday

October 20 & 21 - FJC Rogers Seminar - Goodeniaceae. Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact figrogersseminar2018@gmail.com or Royce Raleigh: Ph 5383 6200

October 27 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca. 9am-4pm. Entry \$2.

October 27 & 28 - Aps

Ballarat District Group Spring Plant Show and Sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens. 10am-4:30pm. A display of flowers and foliage and a large range of plants for sale. Hand painted floral art, books sales and other stall holders.

October 27 & 28 - Cranbourne Friends RBG Spring Plant Sale 10am-4pm.

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

Email: 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

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.

Little Drummer Boy *Grevillea lanigera* Dwarf Mt Tamboritha form



Photo: Jo & Paul Liddy



Dillwynia sericea

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

2018/19 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM – July 1 to June 30

This is a combined membership form for APS Vic and APS Mitchell

Please use this form instead of the form sent out with the APS Victoria newsletter

For insurance purposes people who join APS Mitchell must also join APS Victoria Inc.

(Please ☒ whichever applies) **Application** ☐ **OR** **Renewal** ☐

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Title: | Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss |
| Surname/s: | |
| Given name/s: | |
| Postal Address: | |
| Town/Suburb: | |
| Postcode: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Email Address: | |

(Please ☒ whichever applies)

| Membership Type: | | Fees: Note: Membership Year = July 1—June 30 | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|----------------|
| | | APS Victoria | APS Mitchell | Total |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single | \$35.00 | \$10.00 | \$45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Couple/Family (2 adults & 2 dependents) | \$40.00 | \$12.00 | \$52.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student | \$26.00 | \$10.00 | \$36.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Organisation | \$44.00 | \$10.00 | \$54.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I have paid/pay my APS membership when joining/renewing with another district group. Which Group? : | | <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Include only applicable APS Mitchell Fee: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Optional Australian Plants Subscription | 4 issues: | | \$15.00 |
| Total Due: | | | | \$ |

I/We agree I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Society.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Signed: | Date: / / |
|----------------|----------------------|

I agree to my name being included in a membership list circulated for members' private use: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Payment by: (1) Bank Transfer to BSB 633-000 Account No. 159982271 (Bendigo Bank)

Please include your surname and post code as reference/transaction details

Or (2) Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC.

Posted to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764

Or (3) Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (3rd Monday of the month 7:30pm John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St Kilmore)

Enquires: Christine Cram ph: 0458 238 270 or email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Other Events...



Wattle Day

2 September 2018

Welcome in Spring
with Wattle Day at
Light Horse Memorial
Park.

10am - 1.30pm
A Walk to Anzac Hill
and a picnic lunch.
All welcome.

rsvp
0428 339 989
by 25 August 2018



Goulburn Valley Hwy, Seymour
www.lighthorsepark.org.au