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NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

September news...!

Hello, and welcome to our September 2018 edition!

Spring is here and our Plant Expo & Sale will be upon us in no time at all. The committee are extending our annual plea for volunteer helpers at the Expo, and donations of as many flower specimens that can be found, begged or borrowed. For more information on how to lend a hand please see below right.

Other committee news of interest is that the Book & CD: *Birds of the Lower King Parrot Valley* along with 2 of Dean Nicolle's books: *Taller Eucalypts & Smaller Eucalypts*, are new additions to our group library. To view or borrow any of our book collection, come along to any of our meetings held in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library.

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday October 8th.

Contributions to our newsletter both large and small are always enthusiastically welcomed. Extra plant photos in particular (along with the



Eucalyptus caesia 'Silver Princess' (Melton Botanic Garden 26.8.18) Photo: J Petts

odd article), are this editors delight! Please send your contributions in by Monday October 1st. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening, hope to see you at a meeting or spring event sometime soon.

Cheers until next time! Jeanine ☺

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Spring Plant Expo - Helpers & specimens needed...

Once more the committee is asking for flowers from members gardens (& even friends & acquaintances gardens) to help make our Native Plant and Flower display as diverse and vibrant as it can be. We continue building a collection of fruits, nuts & seeds so also ask if members & friends have interesting additions, please save them for us. Dried specimens can be left with a committee member prior to the Expo, or brought along with fresh flower specimens either on set up day, or early in the morning on Expo day (please label specimens to help out with ID). Our group is operating with smaller committee and member numbers than past years, so assistance from as many members who can spare even a just little time would be a great boon. Helpers will be very, very much appreciated for both setting up on the afternoon Friday October 19th (1 pm onwards) and the day of our Expo - Saturday October 20th (8:30 am to 3 pm). Many hands make light work, spreads the load and is a great way to get to know your fellow members a little better. Come along if you can, we'd love to see you. Please let Ian or Norbert know if you are able to assist: Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au
Ian: Ph 0438 270 248 Norbert: Ph 0428 180 651

September 2018

Volume 5, Issue 8

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY SEPT 17th, 7:30pm MEETING**
John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St, Kilmore (Access via Bourke St entry)
Guest Speaker: Bill Aitchison—Acacia
- **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: Glenn James—"Spidentify"



Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss

Early spring is here with the mix of weather from cold frosty mornings and beautiful sunny days to damp grey days. Makes you just want to get out there in the garden and work – doesn't it! Insects are becoming more noticeable in the garden and many flowers are beginning to appear – watch out for the bird visitors in your wildlife friendly gardens.

Over September and October, local groups are hosting activities in the local area that can improve your knowledge and awareness of our local plants and animals. Wed September 26, there is a spotlight walk along the Goulburn River in Seymour - A great school holiday activity (see pg. 11 for details). Sunday October 7, there is a bird walk at Seymour Bushland Park with Chris Tzaros - a very knowledgeable and entertaining birder. This activity is hosted by Mitchell Shire Council and Seymour Bushland Park Committee (see pg. 11 for details).

There will also be a number of wildflower walks in local reserves – we will let you know about them once dates are set. Activities for Biodiversity Spring are currently being collated by Euroa Arboretum – we will forward details once they are released (see pg. 11 for more details). Gardens for Wildlife (together with APS Mitchell) will also have a display at the Seymour Show – please come along (Friday Oct 5 and Saturday October 6). We will also have a stall at the APS Mitchell – Plant Expo on October 20th in Kilmore. A date for your calendar – the Aussie Backyard Bird Count is on from October 22-28. There is a great app that can help you with the count and contains a useful bird guide. More information next newsletter.

Of course – Dawn and Norbert will continue to have a stall at the Wallan market (weather permitting) – so come along. Membership is \$20 and includes a selection of 6 local plants, a range of booklets and a sign for your gate. New members are welcome.

**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



September Meeting– Monday 17th 7:30pm...

From our September meeting onward, we return to 3rd Monday of the month evening meetings in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library. Bill Aitchison has very kindly agreed (on short notice– Thank you Bill!) to join our group on Monday September 17th to present on *Acacia*. Bill has visited our group twice before: In July 2010 and October 2015. If you read APS Victoria's *Growing Australian* magazine you may have noticed that Bill is a co-ordinator of APS Victoria book sales and writes for the new books page in *Growing Australian*. Bill is also a past President of the Maroondah APS and the Leader of the APS Vic *Acacia* Study Group.

This particular presentation has been refined to focus on small wattles, including some that aren't grown and are not yet readily available but should be considered. Bill is a very engaging and knowledgeable speaker, who is sure to provide a wealth of very interesting information on *Acacia*.

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



Acacia dealbata

Silver Wattle

Photo: J Petts

Memberships ...

Hopefully everyone has remembered to renew APS Mitchell (& APS Vic) membership. If your September issue of *Growing Australian* fails to arrive in your letterbox, it may be an indicator your membership has lapsed. Our 2018/2019 membership/renewal form is still available on our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Alternatively, contact Christine Cram: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

August Meeting Report...Melton Botanic Garden Visit

By Jeanine Petts

Sunday August 26th was a bright, fine sunny day in the Mitchell Shire as our APS members headed out to the Melton Botanic Garden. 9 members (in 5 vehicles) made the journey, and though conditions were much cooler in Melton, we were met with warm, welcoming hospitality from David and Barbara Pye, and 2 other Friends of Melton Botanic Garden- Jean & Jen.

Those of us who arrived in good time had plenty of opportunity to explore the FMBG nursery sales area and make purchases before we sat down to enjoy afternoon tea in the FMBG depot kitchen. Nursery sales had recently made the transition to "plastic bag free" so all our goodies were neatly packed into cardboard boxes – recycled ones of course!

One travelling group (who shall remain nameless ;-)) took an extra turn or two on the way, ending up taking an unplanned tour around Melton before arriving in time to share in the lovely spread of cake & biscuits laid out for afternoon tea. Over a cuppa, before we headed out on our tour, David refreshed our memories with a little information about the garden:

The Eucalyptus Arboretum was commenced in 2011 and the works and development of the garden began from the western side. The backbone of the garden is a non-permanent creek, which, extends to, and beyond a lake that also includes an island. The island has been recently cleared of weeds and is being developed as a bird sanctuary. For our tour, we would only have time for, and focus on: The Eucalyptus Arboretum, the SA and WA gardens, and travel as far down as the Koori Student Garden before circling back through a couple of other areas on the way. Currently, there is 2 km of concrete path through the gardens, and it is intended a new road will be put in on the eastern side of the garden, that will also eventually include a new main car park on the east boundary. Before setting off, Norbert presented David with a small gift of a selection of edible supplies for the FMBG pantry, in appreciation for hosting our visit and being so generous with their time & hospitality.

Some of the points discussed and plants noted during our tour were...

Melton Council wins a lot of environmental awards and is quite adventurous with native species in it's street plantings. The trees planted along the concrete path in the garden are older plantings – some being planted 40 years ago. Most other plantings in the interior areas of the Eucalyptus Arboretum are currently a maximum of 7 years old. We entered past the NE bed and a Fuchsia Gum cross: *Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha x stoatei* was among the first specimens pointed out. The Eucalypts in the Arboretum are underplanted with dryland species.

Found in flower during our tour were:

Eremophila lehmanniana

Eremophila maculata x racemosa



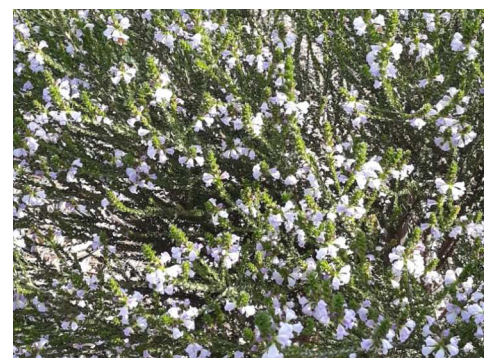
Avenue of older plantings along pathway
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha x stoatei (form)
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha x stoatei
Photo: J Petts



Eremophila lehmanniana
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 4)

August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Eremophila maculata cerise

E. Glabra "Kalbarri Carpet"

Olearia pimeleoides – Showy Daisy Bush (NSW, Qld, Vic & WA)

Senna artemisioides – Silver Cassia

Some other Eucalypts planted in the North East area of the Arboretum are:

Eucalyptus gillii

Eucalyptus lansdowneana

Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp *megalocarpa*

Eucalyptus megacornuta

Eucalyptus minniritchi

Eucalyptus woodwardii – Lemon-flowered Gum (WA species)

An Ironbark planted in the Arboretum took only 4 years to bloom, while Bea & Bill advised that the same species planted in their garden at Hidden Valley 15 years ago, is still yet to flower. In the SW area of the Arboretum the main understorey planting is Salt Bush, which, in this site, tends to grow quite bushy.

Eucalyptus youngiana, although not in flower retained striking, large fruits developing on the tree.

Other species putting on a fantastic display were:

Thryptomene strongylophylla (found north of Perth)

Hypocalymma xanthopetalum

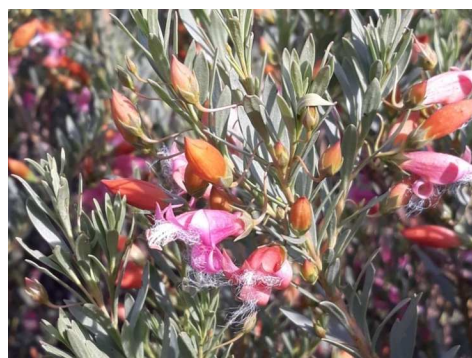
Dampiera salabae

Banksia ashbyi



Eremophila maculata cerise

Photo: J Petts



Eremophila maculata x racemosa

Photo: J Petts



Eremophila glabra "Kalbarri Carpet"

Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus woodwardii – Lemon-flowered Gum (Buds)

Photo: J Petts



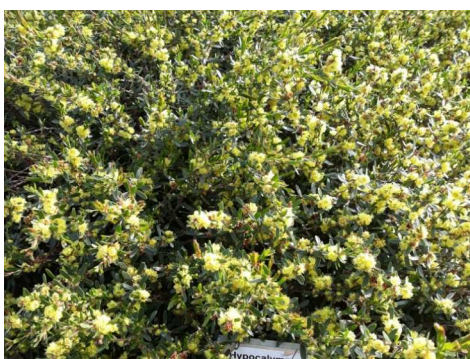
Thryptomene strongylophylla

Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus youngiana Developing fruits

Photo: J Petts



Hypocalymma xanthopetalum

Photo: J Petts



Dampiera salabae

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 5)

August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Hakea invaginata

Diplolaena sp Jurien Bay

Eucalyptus pyriformis

Lechenaultia formosa – Both orange & red forms

Eucalyptus preissiana subsp *lobata*

Banksia praemorsa – yellow & red forms.

Verticordia staminosa

Grevillea magnifica

Grevillea flexuosa

Acacia denticulosa – Sandpaper Wattle

Lechenaultia biloba

Acacia glaucoptera – was not in flower, however, the striking foliage form and colour was eye catching in its own right.

Halgania preissiana “Purple Haze”

Pimelea physodes (Grafted)

The WA and SA garden areas feature a top layer of four inches of river sand used as a much. The grade of sand grains used are large enough not to blow away in winds and allow rainwater to percolate through, yet still assist in keeping moisture in the soil layer below. Another point noted was that multiple specimens of particular species are regularly planted. This has fortunately resulted in differing colour forms in some species occurring in the garden.

Continuing on from the WA & SA garden we walked past the South



Hakea invaginata

Photo: J Petts



Banksia ashbyi

Photo: J Petts



Diplolaena sp Jurien Bay

Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus pyriformis

Photo: J Petts



Lechenaultia formosa Orange

Photo: J Petts



Lechenaultia formosa Red

Photo: J Petts



Banksia praemorsa Yellow

Photo: J Petts



Banksia praemorsa Red

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 6)

August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

African Garden and Indigenous People's Garden before stopping briefly at the Koorie Student Garden. This garden was developed for, and is used by indigenous students. At one point there were log seats throughout this area but unfortunately these have been stolen by vandals for firewood, as have large logs that were once in place at the ceremonial pit area.

The remainder of our tour took us close to the lake and view the island. We then looped back around past the Acacia Walk, alongside Ryans Creek, taking in Indigenous plantings before returning to the FMBG Depot via the Indigenous Grassland and back through a different side of the Eucalyptus Arboretum. Items of note mentioned on the way were that: Ongoing works in garden still follows the plan designed by Mike Smith; one of the newer beds is devoted to *Eremophila*.

Differences between Red Gum forms were also pointed out and discussed— The remnant local form of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is quite twisted and lower growing than the Plains form that has also been planted at the garden over the years. Management of the Indigenous Grassland area was also touched on, there are two areas of native grasses, one is managed by mowing and the other is trialling burning off as a control method. Mowing is usually done after introduced



Olearia pimeleoides – Showy Daisy Bush
Photo: J Petts



Senna artemisioides – Silver Cassia
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus preissiana subsp *lobata*
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus preissiana subsp *lobata*
Photo: J Petts



Verticordia staminosa
Photo: J Petts



Grevillea magnifica
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus camaldulensis local Melton form
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus camaldulensis Plains form
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 7)

August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

species of *Vulpia* have germinated but not yet seeded. Following mowing, the local grasses are left to grow on and seed. We also noticed bat boxes, Musk Lorikeets and some plants of note on the last leg of our journey were:

Acacia paradoxa

Olearia pannosa subsp *pannosa*

Pimelea sp. – from Eyre Peninsula

Eucalyptus calycogona – Square-fruited Mallee (2 colour forms)

Eucalyptus caesia – Silver Princess

Eucalyptus websteriana – Webster's Mallee (WA)

Eucalyptus torquata – Coral Gum

Eucalyptus gardnerii

Eucalyptus wyolensis – Wyola Mallee (SA)

Acacia aphylla

Eucalyptus rhodantha – Dowerin Rose (WA)

Marianthus ringens

In closing, I would like to once again thank Barbara, David, Jean & Jen for their time and hospitality on the day.

If you have not already visited Melton Botanic Garden, it is a highly worthy addition to anyone's "must do" list. I for one will be making regular visits down to Melton from now on, to see the garden grow and evolve through the seasons and years. The Melton Botanic Garden is chock full of inspiration, beautiful plants and well worth the trip! If you are planning a visit and would like to purchase plants, email ahead to the FMBG nursery for opening times: nursery@fmbg.org.au



Acacia denticulosa - Sandpaper Wattle Photo: J Petts



Acacia glaucoptera
Photo: J Petts



Pimelea physodes (Grafted)
Photo: J Petts



Olearia pannosa subsp *pannosa*
Photo: J Petts



Pimelea sp. Eyre Peninsula
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus nyolensis
Photo: J Petts



Eucalyptus rhodantha - Dowerin Rose Photo: J Petts



Marianthus ringens
Photo: J Petts

Eucalyptus ovata - Swamp Gum...

By Norbert Ryan

***Eucalyptus ovata* or Swamp Gum**

The name “ovata” relates to the broad, almost oval shape of leaves especially in their intermediate form, before adult leaves develop. There are 10 species of gums commonly referred to as “swamp gums”. However, of these *E. ovata* is the most common and widely distributed, occurring in much of southern Victoria and Tasmania. It favours poorly drained sites and wetter areas along streams and in gullies. Adult trees range in height from 6-25 m, have an open crown, with rough bark at the base; upper branches shed a light, loose bark to reveal a creamy-grey smooth surface, giving a variable pattern of colouring. The most immediately recognisable feature is the appearance of the leaves, these are dark green and shiny, often with wavy edges. Buds occur in clusters of up to 7, the caps are conical and general have a sharp outline to give a diamond-like profile. Fruits contain 3-4 valves occurring slightly below the rim and the fruit has a funnel-like or truncated wine-glass profile. This species is common in Forbes-Morandring Road and Mt William area.

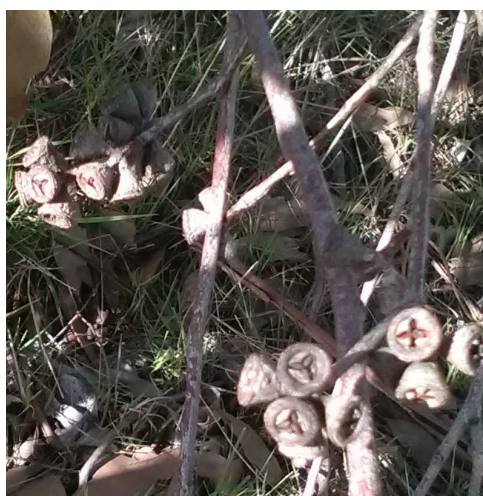
NB these notes are drawn from details provided in the texts of Nicolle and Costermans.



2. *Eucalyptus ovata* Juvenile leaves: Are a dull green colour and larger and more oval than mature leaves.



1. *Eucalyptus ovata* Mature tree: Fairly open crown, persistent bark at base upper branches a variable grey-cream



3. *Eucalyptus ovata* Fruit: 3-4 valves below rim. In profile has a funnel-like shape.



4. *Eucalyptus ovata* Leaves: Are dark green and typically have a wavy profile, this may be a variable characteristic and is more pronounced in younger trees.



5. *Eucalyptus ovata* Buds: Described as diamond shaped in profile.

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 a1000 Hills Nursery, David Laurie - 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:
 Bill Aitchison,
 Christine Cram,
 Ian Julian,
 Jo & Paul Liddy,
 Barbara Mau,
 Barbara Moss,
 Barbara & David Pye &
 Jean & Jen from FMBG,
 Norbert Ryan.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

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 13 & 14 - South Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Flower Show, South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreation Reserve. 10am - 4pm both days.

October 20 & 21 - FJC Rogers Seminar -

Goodeniaceae. Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact ficrorgersseminar2018@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.

2019 date to remember:

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

Other events see page 11... 

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

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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.

Grevillea lanigera Mt Tamboritha



Photo: Jo & Paul Liddy

Other Events...



Wednesday September 26 - Spotlight walk along the Goulburn River in Seymour - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. A school holiday activity for families: Join BEAM Mitchell Environment Group for a spotlight stroll along the Goulburn River Walk for 1-2 hours at night, looking for owls, possums and gliders – and spiders. Meet at the Boat Ramp, New Crossing Place, Lions Park, Manners Street, Seymour. Please bring suitable clothes and footwear and a torch. For more information, contact Peter Mitchell at: beam.inc@hotmail.com or phone 0468 795 954 <http://www.beam.org.au/events/night-walk-along-the-goulburn/>

Sunday October 7 - 10:00am - 12:30 pm. Bird walk at Seymour Bushland Park with Chris Tzaros - a very knowledgeable and entertaining birder. The Seymour Bushland Park Committee of Management together with Mitchell Shire Council are pleased to bring renowned wildlife ecologist and nature photographer Chris Tzaros to the Seymour Bushland Park for a community bird watching event. Meet in the car park off Goulburn Valley Hwy at 10am. Please wear suitable attire and bring drinking water and a thirst to learn about the beautiful birds of our region. This event is part of Council's support of BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count.

Biodiversity Spring Activities are currently being collated by Euroa Arboretum. Events and information for 2018 activities will be regularly updated at <http://www.biodiversityspring.com/>

If you would like to access last year's program to get an idea of some of the events held take a peek at the website: <https://biodiversityspring.wordpress.com/>

Biodiversity Spring is a celebration of our agricultural landscapes, natural environment and the flora and fauna in it. It has been run for over a decade, and this year has been expanded to include both healthy living and indigenous events across both the Goulburn Broken Catchment and the North East Catchment areas. For the ninety-one days of Spring, from September through to November a range of organisations and community groups will showcase what they are doing in our areas and show you just how amazing, interesting and creative we can be.

This year DELWP are proud to support the Biodiversity Spring calendar of events and in so doing help Victorian and our border residents better connect with and value nature. A healthy environment for healthy people connecting with nature are key themes in Victoria's new Biodiversity Strategy 'Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037'.

Biodiversity Spring 2018 is packed with spotlight walks, bird watching, ecology courses, basket weaving and many other activities. The events are FREE (unless noted) and everyone is invited to come along and participate. So Spring into Spring. You know you want to.



Eucalyptus websteriana

Photos: J Petts Melton Botanic Garden 26.08.2018



Halgania preissiana 'Purple Haze'



Eucalyptus torquata