

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

February news...!

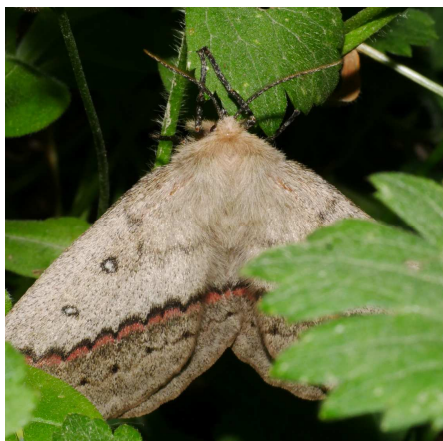
Hello, Happy New Year, and welcome to our first edition for 2019!

I hope everyone's gardens are surviving our hottest season of the year, and a particularly dry one at that.

Norbert has been busy over the summer break and organized our first guest speaker for the year, who, should appeal to both our APS Mitchell membership and Gardens for Wildlife members... Cathy Powers will be making a return visit this month, and you'll find details at right and on page 2. Some of Cathy's moth photography is sprinkled throughout this issue to (hopefully) pique your interest. Cathy is a wonderful speaker, with an absolute wealth of knowledge to share, so please come out & join us.

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

Contributions to our newsletter both large and small are always very welcome! Please send contributions in by Monday March 4th.



Anthela nicotboe (female)

Photo: Cathy Powers

Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or
post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening & I'll be looking forward to catching up with everyone at our coming meetings.

Cheers until next month,

Jeanine ☺

Inside this issue:

*February & General
Meeting Information* Pg 2

Membership Pg 2

*Gardens for Wildlife
news* Pg 2

*November Meeting
Report - AGM &
Spiders Around the
Garden...* Pg 3

Chairperson's Report Pg 11
Treasurer's Report Pg 12
*Gardens for wildlife
Report* Pg 14

*Reminders, APS Vic
Diary Dates etc...* Pg 15

*Committee & Contact
Information* Pg 15

Vale...

It is with much sadness that we inform our members of the passing of Pauline Maloney on Friday February 8th, following a six month battle with bowel cancer.

Pauline has been a long time member of APS Mitchell, as well as a serving committee member and our librarian. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit and kind soul, and will be greatly missed by her friends, family and colleagues.

The committee on behalf of APS Mitchell, pass on our sincerest condolences to Norbert and family.



February 2019

Volume 6, Issue 1

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY FEB 18th, 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: Cathy Powers - Lepidoptera: Moths & Butterflies**
- **MONDAY MAR 18th, 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**
- **MONDAY APRIL 15th, 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**
- **MONDAY MAY 20th 7:30pm MEETING - Guest Speaker: To be advised**
- **SATURDAY OCT 19th Spring Plant Expo & Sale**



Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss



Happy New Year Everyone.

Welcome to 2019 – what a challenge for us to manage this summer with the continued heat and lack of rain.

There have been a number of articles published over the last month that can help you out with managing your garden, as well assisting the animal visitors to your garden. These include:

Sustainable Gardening Australia: <https://www.sgaonline.org.au/articles/water-conservation/>

Connecting Country: <https://connectingcountry.org.au/bird-baths-a-cool-treat-for-birds-over-summer/>

Birdlife Australia: <https://birdlife.org.au/media/its-too-hot-to-handle/>

The overall results of the Aussie Backyard Bird Count are now out – you can read about it at: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/2018-results/> More than 2.7 million birds were counted over 7 days by 76 thousand people. Impressive results!

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



February Meeting– Monday 18th 7:30pm...

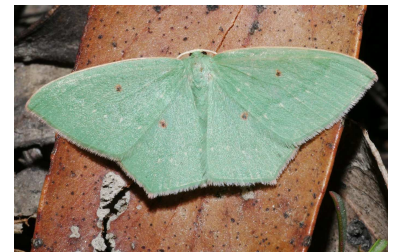
Come along to our first meeting for 2019 to hear about the usefulness of moths in nature & in our gardens, along with how they differ from butterflies...

Cathy Powers, a past APS Victoria President and long time active member of APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Group, will be making a return guest speaker visit to APS Mitchell to present a talk titled: Lepidoptera: Moths and Butterflies.

Cathy is an American by birth, carries dual citizenship, and has lived in Australia since 1976. Cathy has had a long interest in the natural environment, having lived on the eastern slopes of the Brisbane Ranges (south of Bacchus Marsh) for 25 years. Cathy and her husband reside on 30 acres, with the Brisbane Ranges National Park situated on their western boundary. Initially, Cathy's serious interest in nature and photography was with terrestrial orchids. As a naturalist, when conducting fieldwork, other subjects attracted her attention and before she knew it, Cathy was photographing plants and insects. Enthusiasm for Australian native plants led to becoming President of Australian Plants Society Victoria and she was recently honoured to receive Life Membership. Because new things interest Cathy, after being introduced to moth photography, current work involves working with a team on the "Moths of Victoria" books and preparing a booklet on Moths of Brisbane Ranges (Cathy has photographed and identified just under 600 species at home).

The presentation will cover where the 'moths' fit in the scientific sense, the differences between moths and butterflies, and the life cycle of moths in general. Also their usefulness in nature and our gardens, as well as trying to dispel some 'old wives tales'. An overview of the moth families and showing some of Cathy's photographic images will also be included.

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.



Chlorocoma tetraspila
Photo: Cathy Powers

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

Alternatively, membership information, forms and contact information can be found at our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

November Meeting Report...Spiders Around the Garden

By Jeanine Petts

Our last meeting for 2018 was quite a busy one, with our AGM included, and coming first on the evening's agenda. Ian opened the meeting promptly, welcoming 28 attendees – possibly record numbers for an APS Mitchell AGM. Quickly getting down to business, Ian moved us through the formal part of the evening at a cracking pace. First up were the various yearly reports, and highlights of Norbert's Chairperson's Report on APS Mitchell's activities throughout 2018 were:

- Gardens for Wildlife program initiated.
- A reliable, new host was found for our APS Mitchell Website & the site successfully transferred to the new host.
- The redesign of our group logo & optimising the artwork to allow use across various media.
- The creation of a systematic library catalogue for all of our APS Mitchell Library books.
- Meeting attendance numbers peaked at 35, and membership numbers at 29, during 2018.
- Various excursions during the year, of which, the stand out was our Visit to Melton Botanic Garden.
- A reasonably successful Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale, which, included 276 floral specimens, all coming from members gardens. At least 70 of these specimens came from the one garden alone: Many thanks to Brian & Lorraine Weir.

(See page 11 for Norbert's full report)

Christine Cram and Barbara Moss followed on with their respective Treasurer's and Gardens for Wildlife reports (see pages 12-14 for full details). Christine pointed out that a bottom-line figure of a loss of \$824.37 for the 2017/18 year was due to a high expense year that included: Professional fees and costs involved in relocating the APS Mitchell website, also fees & costs of redesigning the APS Mitchell logo and the purchase of the new Gardens for Wildlife/APS Mitchell display banner. Highlights mentioned in Barbara's Gardens for Wildlife report were:

- Achieving 60 memberships since June.
- Hosting a display and stalls at the Seymour and Kilmore Shows, the APS Mitchell Annual Expo and a number of attendances at the Wallan Market.
- The development of display materials including flyers, forms, the new banner and a dedicated Gardens for Wildlife page within the APS Mitchell website.

With reports done and dusted, the floor was then handed to Mike Williams, who chaired the election of committee members for 2019, the results being:

President: Norbert Ryan

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Treasurer: Christine Cram

Secretary/Public Officer: Ian Julian

General Committee Members: Bill Barker

Jeanine Petts (continuing as Newsletter Editor)

Pauline Malone (continuing as Group Librarian)

& Welcoming a new committee member to the team for 2019: Victoria Morris

Formalities aside, we moved on to our feature presentation of the evening, and the floor was given over to Glenn James, who introduced us to "Spiders Around the Garden"...

Glenn began with a light-hearted warning that: The presentation may contain images that might frighten some

(Continued on page 4)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

viewers, viewer discretion was advised, as we would be seeing some images of spiders.

Continuing on, and firstly providing a little information about himself, Glenn shared that he has had an interesting career at zoos working with snakes, croc's and other creatures. A resident of Kilmore for the past two and a half years, Glenn lives with his Dog called Ghost, and has had an interest in all creatures pretty much since birth, which, he attributes to his Grand Father James, who worked at Melbourne Zoo for 46 years. James started work at the zoo as a gardener, then became a zoo keeper, and later on, saw out the rest of his career as a maintenance engineer, which, included driving the zoo train, and taking visitors on rides around the zoo. James often brought his work home with him, so Glenn grew up in a family environment with an array of animals being cared for including young Roo's in pouches hanging on the doorknob, and snakes in the house. Little wonder then, that Glenn went on to study Animal Tech, going on to specialise in reptiles and invertebrates. A few of the creatures Glenn mentioned caring for were: Wicket the Tawny Frogmouth, an Eastern Barred Bandicoot, a Saltwater Croc, a Thorny Devil, and a four-foot-long croc called Puss-Puss, which, free roamed the house.

Surprisingly, Glenn met his nemesis in spiders, these elicited a fear he has put great effort into overcoming. Glenn then showed a photograph of himself (taken in Bali), with a Golden Orb Weaver spider sitting on the inside of his forearm, spread out over an area nearly the size of a human hand. An anecdote mentioned was that Golden Orb-weavers spin a neon yellow coloured web, hence their name.

Two questions were then asked: Who is scared of spiders? And, can anyone name some famous spiders? Of which, images of the following spiders were shown (some without names): Charlotte A. Cavatica (of Charlotte's Web), Shelob (from Lord of the Rings), Aragog (from Harry Potter) and, Spiderman. Other spider movies such as Arachnophobia, Eight Legged Freaks (which utilized real spider movements, just enlarged), and the 1970's movie: Kingdom of the Spiders were also brought to our attention. It was noted that spiders are mostly portrayed as a creature to fear, and only rarely in a benevolent manner as in Spiderman or Charlotte's Web.

Glenn advised that: Studies have shown, the more we are exposed to something, the less likely we are to fear it. Friends of Glenn's had been ribbing him regarding his fear of spiders. In response Glenn began to research spiders, even going to the extent of purchasing a live spider, a Tarantula (the beginning of his collection), keeping it beside his bed and also purchasing (& reading) a book written by Lynne Kelly, *Spiders: Learning to Love Them*.



Wicket (Tawny Frogmouth)



Thorny Devil



Above: Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Below: Golden Orb-weaver



(Continued on page 5)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Some facts about spiders...

Spiders have been around for over 400 million years and there are over 40,000 described spider species around the world. In Australia, the total number of spider species is around 15,000 to 20,000. With only a small percentage of these (approximately 4,000) that have been named and described.

Two notable species first mentioned were:

The Tasmanian Cave Spider, which, is the last of an ancient lineage that dates back to Gondwana land - It's nearest relatives are found in South America in Argentina. The Tasmanian Cave Spider can grow to the size of a small dinner plate and were depicted in a 2016 feature length film called 16 Legs.

The Australian Tarantula or "Whistling Spider", is another large spider that can grow to 16cm. The story of how the common name "Tarantula" came about, actually dates back 600 years, to the town of Taranto on the Italian southern coast. People of this region thought that the bite of the spider caused a disease called "Tarantismo." Symptoms included a period of melancholy and then death. It was believed that the only way to avoid death was a frenzied, uncontrolled dance, which, was set to music, and called the "tarantella." This spider was named after the town of Taranto, and was called a "tarantola", which, could often be found living in burrows in agricultural fields. Ironically, it turns out that Tarantismo, was in fact, caused by a Wolf Spider.

It is little wonder that so many people around the world are scared of spiders, when tales such as those from Taranto have been around for so long. However, if we are afraid of spiders, we can retrain our brain by watching their behaviour, studying them, and listening to other people's stories on the positive aspects of spiders – this is what Glenn has done, and he no longer fears them, but rather, is now aware.

The next image shown was one of a close up of the face of a Jumping Spider, which, is quite cute and intriguing when seen close up. The subsequent slide shown was that of a Victorian Funnel-web Spider, of which there are 3 species in Victoria, however, none are found in our local area. We were reminded that, understanding an animal, is one of the main steps in getting over the fear of it. This led us into some information on spider physiology, family groups, classes and orders.

One feature that spiders all have are pedipalps, these are appendages found at the front, on either side of a spider's head. They are feelers used to find food, to find a mate, and in males: a spur to inseminate a female. There are five orders within the class Arachnida, with spiders being the order Araneae. Then there are two sub orders (groups) within Araneae: Mygalomorphs and Araneomorphs.

Mygalomorphs are the "big scary" primitive spiders, which, are identified by their fang type. They have downward facing fangs and must "rare up" to



Tasmanian Cave Spider



Australian Tarantula



A Jumping Spider –close up.

(Continued on page 6)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

strike prey in a downward motion. These include the four families of the: Mouse spiders, Tarantulas, Funnel-webs & Trapdoor spiders.

Araneomorphs are all the rest of the spiders (some 55 families), which, have fangs that point inwards, and have a motion that moves to a "pinching point".

Discussion then continued into: How do spiders use our garden in everyday life? They use: Camouflage, different types of webs, and have a number of symbiotic relationships. Spiders use camouflage for two main reasons, firstly, to escape predators, and secondly to sit hidden in waiting. The Lichen Huntsman and a Cryptic Spider were two of a number of examples shown. There are actually hundreds of varieties of Huntsman spiders. Flower spiders are another group which sit in wait. Then there are mimicry spiders, some of which mimic ants, others like the Bird Dropping Spiders, and still more that spray silk on themselves as a disguise. There is also the Harvestmen (not a true spider) that utilise disguise and camouflage.

A single spider can produce seven different types of silk, and each type has different uses. One use is prey capture and there are different types of webs including: tube webs, tangle webs, sheet webs, lace webs, dome webs and single thread, such as that used by the Bolas spiders for "fishing". Spiders use free moving appendages called spinnerets to spin silk into its various usage forms, some of which are:

- Prey immobilisation - Silk is used as "Swaddling" to wrap up prey, and is often combined with venom in immobilisation.
- Reproduction - Male spiders may produce sperm webs. Also, spider eggs are covered in silk cocoons.
- Dispersal - Ballooning or kiting is a process that is used by smaller spiders to float and travel in the air.
- A food source - Some spiders eat their own web, which, is a characteristic of spiders that have a quicker metabolism.
- Nest lining and construction - Tube webs are used by spiders such as trapdoors. Threads radiate out of nest to provide a sensory link to the outside. Silk also is a component of the lids of spiders that use "trapdoors".
- Guidelines - Some spiders that venture away from their shelter will leave a single trail of silk, so they can find their way back home.
- Droplines and anchors - A dropline allows a quick escape. When trying to get away, spiders will cut the line and drop or traverse back up the line.
- Pheromonal trails - Some spiders leave a largely continuous trail of silk that is impregnated with pheromones, which, the opposite sex can follow to find a mate.

There are a number of symbiotic relationships between plants and spiders.



Victorian Funnel-web



Spot the Lichen Huntsman



Cryptic Orb-weaver

(Continued on page 7)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

The definition of symbiosis is any type of a close interaction between two different biological organisms, and there are four different types of recognized symbiotic relationships:

- Commensalism - Where one benefits and the other derives neither benefit nor harm. For example: a jumping spider moving through flowers that inadvertently pollinates as it travels.
- Mutualism - Where each individual benefit from the activity of the other. An example could be: A flower spider making its home in a rose, feeding on aphids and reducing pest loads for the rose.
- Parasitism - A relationship between species, where one organism, the parasite, lives on or in another organism, the host, causing it some harm. There are a number of instances where spiders become victims of a parasite, some liveable with, and others a fatal relationship. Examples of this are: Species of mites that infest spiders. Also, parasitic wasps that lay their eggs inside spiders, which, hatch into larvae that consume the spider from the inside out.
- Amensalism - Any relationship between organisms in which one is inhibited or destroyed while the other remains unaffected. One example given was that of deforestation, where humans clear-fell an area and destroy habitat.

One thing to remember regarding habitat destruction, is that displaced creatures like spiders will seek shelter elsewhere, and hopefully we can learn to coexist.

Glenn advised it is a good idea to know your common garden spiders. We then went on to discuss and view images of some species that can be found in our region, among them were:

White-tail spider - these species don't always have a white tale. The story of their venom being the cause of necrosis is not true. It all depends on an individual's immune system and if a spider was carrying bacteria. Glenn advised that if you are bitten by a spider to draw a circle around the wound, and if you see any swelling or feel unwell to visit a doctor or hospital.

Black House Spider - this spider hunts Redbacks and White-tails, and is one of the species in Glenn's live collection.

Garden Orb-weaver - these are a great spider to take the time with a cup of tea, coffee or a beer in hand, and sit in the garden watching while they build their web and nest. An Orb Weaver web can span 2 meters across.

Daddy Long-legs - this group of spiders are characterised by long legs with a small body. It is a myth that they are too small to bite humans, however their venom is harmless to us. That said, they do hunt and kill Redback Spiders.



Mites on a spider



White-tailed Spider



Black House Spider



Garden Orb-weaver

(Continued on page 8)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

Banded Huntsman - although in the image shown, this spider was seen resting on a person's hands, Glenn doesn't advise handling spiders, they are best simply observed. There are a number of different Huntsman species, and two others mentioned were the Brown Huntsman, which, is a social spider that lives in family groups, and the Grey Huntsman, which, like the Banded Huntsman are solitary spiders.

Redback Spider - is one of the most iconic spiders. Since the development of an anti-venene in 1956, there has not been a death from a Redback Spider bite in Australia.

Woodlouse Spider – a slater eating spider.

Before moving on to demonstrate the “Spidentify” app, the remaining images shown were that of a Wolf Spider, the Orange Banded Huntsman and a Jumping Spider.

Out of the nearly 4,000 described species of spiders in Australia less than 200 species are dangerous to humans. “Spidentify” is a relatively new app that was developed by Minibeast Wildlife, and is a highly useful tool for identifying and providing information on Australian spiders. Once you open the app and get to the home screen, you will see sections titled New kids on the block (newly identified spiders), Identify Spiders (the ID tool), and a Digital Field Guide. The process to identify a spider is as follows (also see images at right):

First select “GET STARTED”, this brings up an ID introductory screen, advising there are nine main steps to progress through – Touch on the round green button with the black arrow to begin...

Step 1 is choosing a location – our demonstration selected “VIC”. To move through to the next question, the NEXT> button (at bottom right) needs to be selected. There are also options to select <BACK (bottom left) or START OVER (bottom middle).

Step 2 is choosing a habitat - our demonstration selection was “Garden”.

Step 3 is to choose the Microhabitat - our demonstration selection was “Outdoors” with the sub-selection “In a web”.

Step 4 is a screen to select Body shape, and is a two-part stage: A swipe right or left section to choose abdomen shape, and a button slide section to select posture. Our demonstration chose “Circle” shape, and “Average” posture.

Step 5 is to select “Leg Shape”, and was also to two-part stage choosing “Leg length” and “Leg thickness”. The demonstration selections were: Leg length: Average and Leg thickness: Very thin.

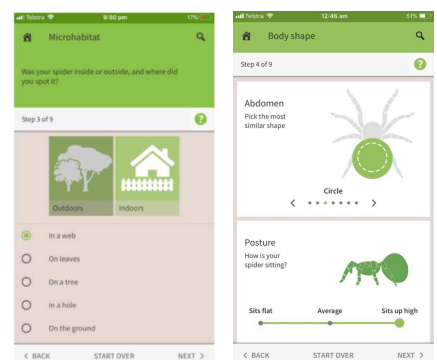
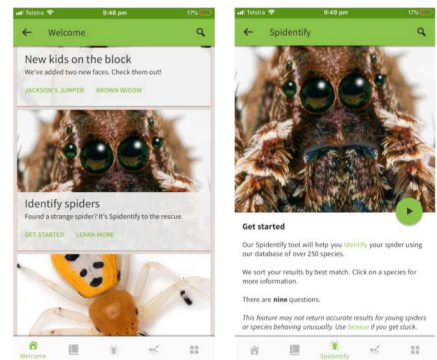
Step 6 involves selecting “Colour”, this is also done in a two-step process: A slide bar choosing either: One colour, Two colours, or Many colours. Then



Banded Huntsman



Woodlouse Spider



(Continued on page 9)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

scrolling and selecting colour or colours. The demonstration selections were “Two colours” and: Black and Red.

Step 7 contains a scrolling section to select body pattern from a number of options. The demonstration selection was “Central band”.

Step 8 brings up a section to select “Features”, our demonstration scrolled to select “Shiny body”.

Step 9 is to select “Behaviour” and asks the question: Does your spider do any of the following things? There is an option list to scroll and through and choose from, and more than one behaviour feature can be selected. Our theoretical “demonstration spider” was simply sitting unmoving in it’s web and the selection chosen was: “None/Unsure”. At this point a green button around a black arrow appears and if pressed leads to a page with a selection of suggested “Top matches”. The top result of this scrolling list for the demonstration selections was: Redback Spider. Selecting the spider of choice will then take you to a screen which, provides information on a bite rating and venom, general information, a description including; distribution, hunting method and a web description, and a section on behaviour that includes further details on; temperament, bite and similar species.

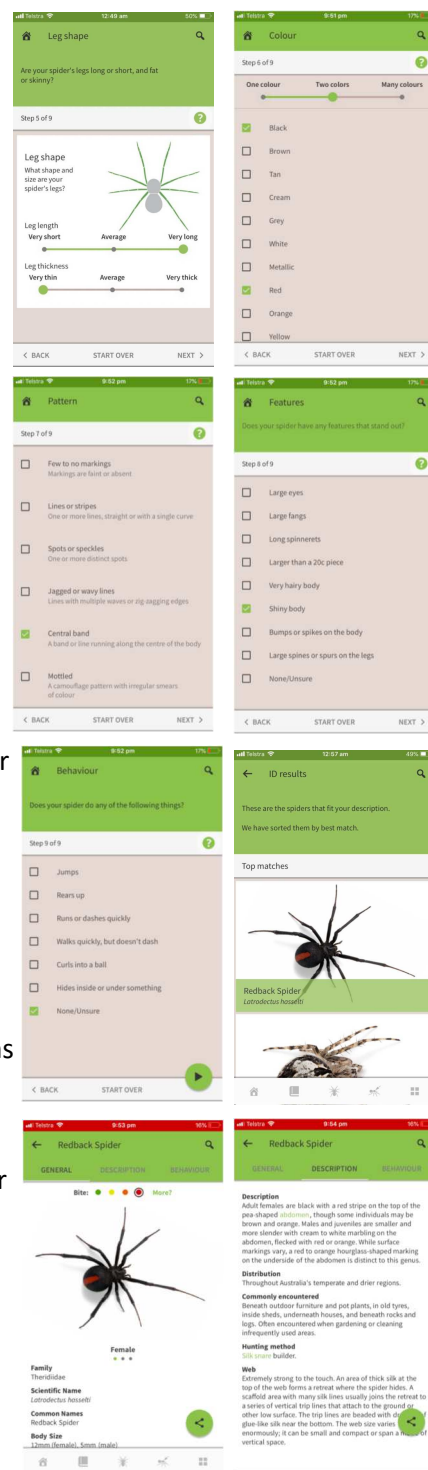
With our mystery spider “spidentified”, Glenn closed the presentation saying that, while he didn’t expect anyone to love spiders as much as he now does, he at least hopes that this presentation would leave us with a healthy respect for them. Photo credits for the presentation were also brought to our attention, which, included: Nathan Jones, Alan Henderson, Caitlin Henderson, Australian museum, Jurgen Otto, Robert White, Greg Anderson, Lynne Kelly, Adam Parsons and Hue Cordy.

We were then invited to take a look at some live specimens (in secure jars) at the end of the evening, and the opportunity to ask few questions from the floor was taken up by a few audience members, with some of the resulting information being:

- If you are bitten by a spider, do not wash the wound, as the bite site will need to be swabbed to check for venom etc. This is particularly relevant if you do not already know the identity of the spider.
- There is no need to kill a spider, they have a job to do.
- Q: What percentage of spiders hunt during the day? A: Most are nocturnal and hunt at night.
- Usually the larger the eye of a spider is, the more nocturnal the spider is likely to be.

The floor was then handed over to Mike Williams for a brief presentation on *Grevillea*:

Grevillea are part of the Proteaceae family and are found in all states Australia. They are also found in New Guinea, New Caledonia, Sulawesi and other Indonesian islands. There are more than 360 species and sub-species, also numerous cultivars and hybrids.



(Continued on page 10)

November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 9)

Three species found in New Caledonia are *Grevillea exul*, *Grevillea gillivrayi* and *Grevillea meisneri*. *Grevillea elbertii* and *Grevillea papuana* are found in Sulawesi Island Indonesia, while *Grevillea baileyana* and *Grevillea glauca* are found in both Papua New Guinea and Queensland Australia.

Other genera of the Proteaceae family native to Australia are: *Adenanthos*, *Banksia*, *Buckinghamia*, *Dryandra*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon*, *Lambertia*, *Macadamia*, *Persoonia*, *Petrophile*, *Stenocarpus*, *Sterlingia*, *Synaphea*, *Telopea* and *Xylomelum*. While *Protea* & *Leucadendron* are both South African genera.

An anecdote mentioned was that some West Australian species of *Dryandra* have been reclassified by botanists into *Banksia*.

The *Grevillea* species featuring as plant raffle prizes for the evening were:

- *Grevillea pectinata*, which, grows to 0.5-2m x 2.5m and has interesting fan-shaped leaves.
- *Grevillea synapheae* that grows to 0.5-1m x 1m.
- *Grevillea nudiflora*, which, is a prostrate plant with a spread of 1-2m.
- *Grevillea patentiloba* is found around Esperance and grows to 2m x 2m. It is a very attractive plant. However, don't be fooled by its looks, as it is quite prickly.

Lastly (before adjourning for supper), specimens brought in for the flower table were passed around and discussed. Among the species were:

- *Melaleuca diosmifolia* – a coastal plant growing to 2m.
- *Melaleuca wilsonii* – a plant with a variable growth habit that can be from 1-3m
- *Melaleuca fulgens* – this specimen was a red flowered form, but there are 3 other colour forms: orange, purple and hot pink.
- *Myoporum floribundum* – a white flowered plant that lives up to its name, having profuse small white flowers.

Note: Images included through pages 4–9 courtesy of Glenn James. Refer to page 9, paragraph 5 for photo credits.



Grevillea pectinata

Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_pectinata



Grevillea synapheae

Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_synapheae



Grevillea nudiflora

Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grevillea_nudiflora



Grevillea patentiloba

Image: <http://bic.ala.org.au/species/http://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2896970#gallery>

2018 Chairperson Report ...

By Norbert Ryan

Our regular activities for the year include monthly meetings with a guest speaker. The major project each year is the running of a plant expo in October. In addition to these scheduled activities we have also resolved to undertake a pro-active program of significance, the "Gardens for Wildlife" (G4W) project. Issues that have been resolved this year include transfer of the Mitchell APS to a more reliable website and the improvement in quality of our local branch logo, to a standard fit for use in advertising material and for preparation of a banner for the G4W program. The management of these changes has been handled by Ian and Barbara. A more systematic cataloguing system for our library holdings, using a system provided by the National Library, has been introduced with the guidance of Pauline. The newsletter from our group is of a very high standard, this work is performed by Jeanine who has to devote a lot of time to this excellent publication.

For the evening meetings during the months February-May and September-November peak attendance has been 35. We made the decision to avoid holding meetings in the coldest months when we cannot guarantee adequate attendance, instead favouring daytime activities over these months. Amongst the highlights in talks was the joint presentation by Barbara and David Pye. This couple had opened a commercial nursery after completing other careers, then "retired" and moved to a major role in the establishment and running of the Melton Arboretum. We were privileged to have a guided tour of these very substantial gardens on a subsequent Sunday afternoon. These gardens are growing in an environment not dissimilar to Kilmore and are an inspiration as to how spectacular native gardens can be.

Our other winter activity was to join a council-run community tree planting project, planting understorey species in a small reserve within one of the newer subdivisions in Kilmore.

The introduction of the Gardens for Wildlife scheme has been a major initiative for our group, coordinated by Barbara. The philosophy behind this project is to encourage local residents to appreciate our natural environment and to try and extend habitat by establishing gardens that favour wildlife. The style of planting is to encourage a move away from the sterile environment of manicured lawns and English Box hedges to gardens that have more natural character, featuring tussock grasses, local understorey species and rocks, logs and a water source. To date we have recruited 60 members via attending local shows and Wallan Market days. Ongoing contact with these members via email offers access to a range of useful websites; advertises meetings and provides information about sales and availability of indigenous plants.

This has been the first year that I have been directly involved in the preparation of our annual Plant Expo. The involvement of a small group of volunteers is incredible. The behind the scene activity includes advertising and coordination of exhibiting nurseries by Ian. The transport of tables and specimen containers from the Yarra Yarra APS in Eltham was performed by Mike. This year the labelling and display of 276 specimens required a lot of work on the day prior. Special thanks to all those who volunteered on both days especially Mike, Jeanine, Barb, Dawn, Bill, Christine, Victoria and to many others who volunteered on the expo day, including Anne and Dianne and to Tracey for the local commitment of the Mitre 10 Garden section. This is now a popular event both locally and for the broader APS community. Inclement weather restricted numbers a little this year but there was a steady flow of visitors throughout the day. The commercial nurseries were pleased with overall sales and all have indicated a willingness to return next year. It is important to mention that the high number of exhibits owes a lot to the contribution of Lorraine and Brian Weir from their spectacular Grevillea and Correa collections at their garden in Wallan. Brian has been unable to attend meetings recently due to health issues. It is noted that from their garden alone, the collection of Grevilleas exceeded 70 species. In 2019 the Expo will be held on 19th October so keep that date clear. Also for those younger members in full-time work, consider taking a flexi day on the 18th to help with set-up.



Expo 2018
Photo: J Petts



National Tree Day 2018, Council
Reserve Veivhill Rd, Kilmore
Photo: J Petts

2018 Treasurer's Report...

By Christine Cram

Australian plant society Mitchell Group Inc.

Balance Sheet for the Year to

November 13th 2018

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash Assets (Float Petty cash)	68.70
Cash in Bendigo Bank	4380.13
Projector (2012) (D)	541.65
Laptop & Program (2013) (D)	518.65
Laser pointer & 2 speakers (2014)	78.20
Tripod screen (2014)	143.50
Library books	866.00
4 Announcement signs (2013) (D)	229.20
2 double sided & 1 retractable banners (2012) (D)	751.10
Spring plant EXPO banner	290.00
2 APS jackets	90.00
Gardens for Wildlife banner	638.00
Total current assets	8595.13

LIABILITIES

Liabilities	0.00
Total current liabilities	0.00

EQUITY **8595.13**

INCOME

Membership	1270.00
Monthly meetings	342.60
Percentage of plant sales @monthly meetings	52.40
Percentage of book sales	55.00
Fertiliser	25.00
Grant (Bendigo Bank)	600.00
EXPO	787.15
Gardens for Wildlife	1753.00
TOTAL	4885.15

(Continued on page 13)

2018 Treasurer's Report continued...

By Christine Cram

(Continued from page 12)

EXPENDITURE

Membership	980.00
Speakers fees	314.00
Monthly meetings (room hire)	179.00
EXPO – room hire	450.00
- trailer hire	180.00
- Birds Australia	60.00
Gardens for Wildlife	508.75
Department of Justice	56.90
PO Box annual fee	132.00
Website	738.83
Redesign Logo	330.00
Miscellaneous expenditure and petty cash	131.30

TOTAL	4060.78
--------------	----------------

NETT OPERATING LOSS	824.37
----------------------------	---------------

Financial members	29
-------------------	----

C. M. Cram, Treasurer

2018 Gardens for Wildlife Report...

By Barbara Moss

Gardens for Wildlife successfully launched mid 2018 with Louise Costa speaking on Sustainable Gardening and providing terrific examples from her own property.

During this year the program has signed up more than 60 members. We have been represented at the Wallan Market each month through Spring and late Winter, weather permitting. Many thanks to Dawn and Norbert who have looked after the G4W stand.

G4W also had a display at the Seymour Show in the environmental area. We had plants for sale as well as a display of a wildlife friendly garden and membership information. I would like to thank Cath and Kim from the Euroa Arboretum & David and Helen from Valley of a Thousand Hills nursery – Reedy Creek for display plants & plants for sale & Sonia Sharkey from SW Goulburn Landcare & Jeanine for help with Bee Hotels. Peter Mitchell, Jeanine, Ian, Dawn and Norbert also helped out on the display.

We were also present at the APS Mitchell Plants Expo with a small display and membership information.

We have developed display material – that includes the banner and brochure. G4W has a page on the APS Mitchell website. We have developed a Facebook page and send out occasional e-newsletters. G4W also submits a short article for the monthly APS Mitchell newsletter.

It has been an exciting few months and I would like to thank APS Mitchell – particularly Ian, Jeanine, Norbert and Dawn as well as Elyse from Mitchell Shire Council for their support and handouts for new members. Finally I would like to thank Cath Olive from Euroa Arboretum for the support in getting the program up and running in Mitchell Shire.



Gardens for Wildlife starter box.
Photo: C Olive Euroa Arboretum



Wingia lambertella Brisbane Ranges
Photo: Cathy Powers



A view from Louise Costa's Garden, with visiting Blue-faced Honeyeater
Photo: Louise Costa

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,
Barbara Mau,
Barbara Moss,
Cathy Powers,
Norbert Ryan,
Mike Williams.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

March 2 - APS Maroondah hosts APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting and one day event at Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. (Coincides with Mullum Mullum Creek Festival).

March 16 & 17 - Cranbourne Friends Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am–4 pm.

March 19 - APS Geelong. Maria Hitchcock OAM will speak about correas. Visitors are welcome. The Ballroom, Hamlyn Park, 1 Carey St, Hamlyn Heights. Starting at 7.30 pm. For more information call Bruce McGinness on Ph: 5278 8827.

March 27-31 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show. Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens. APS Vic will have a presence. To assist contact Dallas & Bernard Boulton: Ph: 9729 1538 Email:

Bernard.boulton@bigpond.com

April 13 - APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am–4 pm.

16 April - APS Geelong. Dr Dean Nicolle will speak about eucalypts. Visitors are welcome. The Ballroom, Hamlyn Park, 1 Carey St, Hamlyn Heights. Starting at 7.30 pm. For more

information call Bruce McGinness on 5278 8827.

September 30 - October 4 - ANPSA 2019 Conference – *Blooming Biodiversity*. Hosted by Wildflower Society of Western Australian in Albany, WA. Pre- and post-conference tours between 21 September to 11 October. Key Speakers include Professor Stephen D Hopper AC and Gregory John Keighery. Details: www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au. Bookings opened January 2019.

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, Victoria Morris.

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

Thalaina clara...

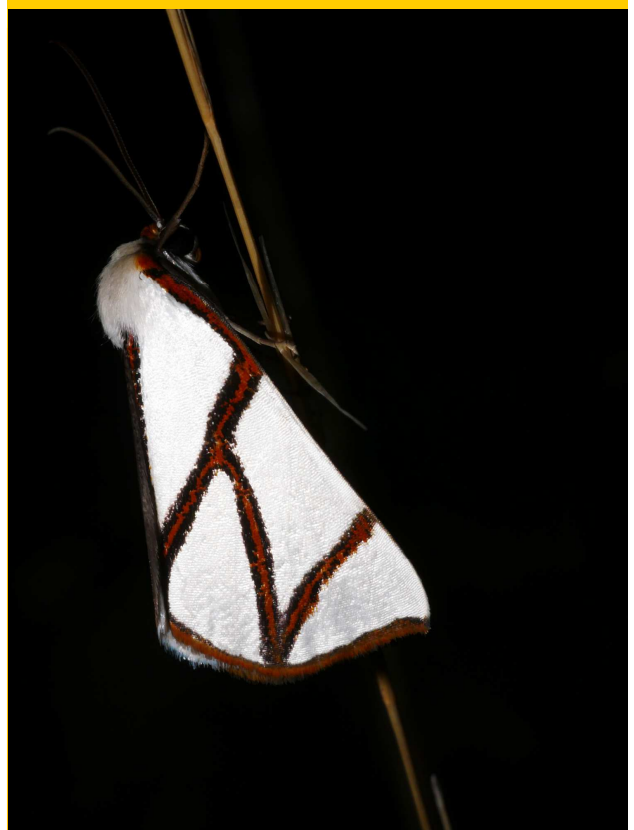


Photo: Cathy Powers

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...



Celebrating the Art, the Roses, the History and Culture of Kilmore

April 13th-14th, 2019

**Quality Paintings, Photography, Woodwork, Glass Art,
Jewellery, Timber and Metal Sculpture**
Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street Kilmore

Exhibition Hours: 10am – 4pm Sat 13 & Sun 14 April
Admission: \$7 (Concession \$4)

Exquisite art, delicious local food and opportunities to buy art.
www.kilmoreartexpo.com or Andrea 0428 410 041

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Silkies Rose Farm 550 McDonalds Road Clonbinane Morning or Afternoon on Sat 13 & Sun 14 April Magnificent Roses and Garden Talks Contact Diana: info@rosesalesonline.com.au</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Busking Competition Locations on Sydney Street Kilmore 10am to 3pm Sat 13 April only On the day, buy your voting slip (for \$1 each), enjoy the music on the street, then vote for your winner Contact: buskingkilmore@gmail.com</p> </div>
--	--



**Kilmore
Historical
Society**

Explore Kilmore's History
Sat 13 or Sun 14 April starting at the Court House, Sydney St.
Guided Tour for your **Registered Bus/Coach Group**.
Walking Tours of Streets and Buildings by the Kilmore Historical Society.
For Info or to register your Coach Group email roseking_55@hotmail.com



Kilmore is Victoria's Oldest Inland Settled Town
Coordinated by Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell and Kilmore Art Society

