

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Inc# A0054306V

February news....!

Hello and welcome to our 1st edition for 2020.

Wow! A new decade, and what a start it's been. My heart and thoughts go out to all those who have been effected by our widespread and devastating fires. I'm sure everyone, like me, will be hoping for a season free from further devastation & plenty of support for those in recovery.

For those of us living & gardening in a rural region, coping in a drying climate with bushfire seasons now extending into spring & autumn, as well as throughout summer is an ongoing concern. Landscaping for bushfire events is something to consider & you'll find a few related links in the article below.

The committee has recently met, and work is already underway for our 2020 Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale, save the date: October 17th! Leads for guest speakers throughout the year will be being followed up as I write, so we should have more details for this years program in the next newsletter. We're always open &



Eremophila
"Beryl's Gem"
A cultivar developed by Russell Wait. Purchased at the 2019 Expo & has not been without a flower since.
Photo: J. Petts

eager to hear about ideas for topics or available speakers, so do please let a committee member know if you have a suggestion.

Our March newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday March 9th. Contributions to our newsletter are always very, very welcome! Please send contributions in by Monday March 2nd. Email : wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Hope to see you at a meeting soon & cheers until next time, Jeanine

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Landscaping ideas for bushfire prone areas...

While there are no "fireproof" plants, there are plants that are slow to burn, and/or slow the passage of wind down. Along with thoughtful use of planting placement, choice of species and landscaping materials can all assist in reducing fire risks. A few information resources can be found at the following webpages:

CFA landscaping information:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/landscaping>

https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/documents/20143/72271/landscaping_for_bushfire.pdf

APS Victoria also have listing of fire resistant plants:

<https://apsvic.org.au/fire-resistant-and-retardant-plants/>

February 2020

Volume 7, Issue 1

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY FEB 17th, 7:30pm Meeting in the John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St, Kilmore (access via side street entrance).**
Guest Speaker: Phil Clancy - "The flora & history of Monument Hill".
- **MONDAY MARCH 16th, 7:30pm Meeting - Guest speaker to be advised.**
- **MONDAY APRIL 20th, 7:30pm Meeting - Guest speaker to be advised.**
- **MONDAY MAY 18th, 7:30pm Meeting - Guest speaker to be advised.**
- **1st Weekend in October - Garden Visit: The garden of Dawn McCormack Heathcote Junction. Date & details to be advised.**
- **Saturday October 17th, Spring Plant Expo & Sale Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St Kilmore**



Gardens for Wildlife News...

By Jeanine Petts

Information was provided at the November APS Mitchell meeting that reminded us of the importance of reptiles and snakes in our environment. These creatures will be active and moving around in our gardens during the warmer months, and likely finding places to hibernate during the cooler months.



A young Red-bellied Black snake, uncovered while shifting rocks in the garden.

Photo: J Petts

We should all be snake aware, and also remember not to harm them when we see or find them. If you come across a reptile of concern, the best practice is to leave it alone, or call a trained handler if it is in a location where it is best relocated from.

Fortunately we have trained professionals in our area; Snake Safe is a new local initiative that provides snake removal, canine aversion training, demonstrations and other services. Contact Glenn on 0416 562 762 for assistance or further information. There is also webpage and Facebook page to follow:

<https://www.snakesafevictoria.com.au/services>

<https://www.facebook.com/snakesafevictoria/>



A resident Ctenotus Skink in the garden at Wattle Gum Forest Farm.

Photo: J Petts

**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

**Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library**

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 17th 7:30pm...

To kick off our guest speaker program for the year, Phil Clancy will be joining us to present and elaborate on the topic of: "Flora & history of Monument Hill"...

Phil Clancy has spent most of his life in Kilmore, growing up on a family farm close to the Monument Hill, and whiled away lot of time on the hill as a boy searching for what were called "gems of the bush". Along the way developing an interest in Taxonomic Botany, collecting and identifying many of the indigenous plants on and around Monument Hill. Botanical interest led to studying horticulture at Burnley Horticulture College and a career involved in establishing horticultural trades in Victoria, and teaching apprentices and adults through the TAFE system. In addition, Phil has been involved in Landcare and establishing three horticulture/gardening clubs. Having gained a level 5 Diploma in Arboriculture he has also spent time training arborists in ways to manufacture animal habitat in trees. Phil is also a member of the International Dendrology Society and is keenly promoting the re-establishment of a Botanic Gardens in Kilmore. Further, he is keen to see the Monument Hill retained for the purposes of research, biodiversity, education and recreation in a managed way.

Monument Hill is one of our prime areas of significant flora and history where some special native species can be found. Phil Clancy has a lifetime of knowledge and expertise to share, so do come along for what is sure to be an engaging and highly informative evening.



Above: The view once seen from Monument Hill.

Below: Hyacinth Orchid.
Photos provided by Phil Clancy



Memberships...

The mystery of who made a direct deposit membership payment last year without forwarding a completed membership form still continues. If you've made the direct deposit with reference: **Gjsb&Jeb**, please contact Christine & send your completed membership form along asap: Ph: 0458 238 270 Email: aps.mitchell@gmail.com Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

November Meeting Report— WAMA...

By Jeanine Petts

Our November meeting saw a great turnout with 30 people attending our last meeting of the year, which, included a full program consisting of; Our AGM, Guest Speaker, 10th Anniversary celebrations followed by socialising time over wine & cheese.

Norbert called us all to our seats fairly shortly after 7:30pm, welcoming everyone and passing the floor over to Ian to begin our AGM and outline the program for the evening; The last meeting of each year equals AGM time, and, as a special treat to mark 2019 being our 10th Anniversary year, there would be no regular plant raffle, instead, the gift of a plant (*Pycnosorus chrysanthus* Golden Billy-buttons) was available for each attendee to take home. Ian promised a quick AGM of around 15 minutes, after which, Glenda Lewin would speak on the progress of WAMA – the Wildlife Art Museum of Australia that is being established in Victoria's Grampians region. The evening would finish off with a special auction, cutting of an anniversary cake, then time to socialise over wine & cheese.

Ian reminded us of the importance of healthy numbers on committee, and that nominations could be taken from the audience during the elections section of the AGM. Norbert was then invited to provide a President's report and began by advising he was conscious of allowing our special guest speaker as much time as possible so would make his report brief. Among the points covered were:

- One of the benefits of a group like APS Mitchell is the great circle of friends that it encourages & develops.
- Our Gardens for Wildlife program is now in its second year of encouraging the growing of local native species and creating wildlife friendly gardens, which, move away from some of the more typical sterile monocultures using exotic species that are all too frequently seen around our district. Norbert extended special thanks to Dawn McCormack for all her stalwart assistance & support hosting G4W displays at the Wallan Market. In addition to a G4W page on our website there is also a Facebook page.
- Our annual Spring Expo is a principal activity that involves all the committee & a good number of our members with Ian filling the role of primary coordinator. Success equals quality of display, and this year we have Brian & Lorraine Weir to thank, who provided 164 different *Grevillea* species, along with Russell Wait, who also provided a large number of different *Eremophila* species from his own collection & all the other members who brought in buckets filled with flora from their gardens.
- Not all APS groups produce newsletters and Norbert extended thanks to our newsletter editor, and additional thanks to Jeanine & Mike for making their garden & home available for a garden visit in July & the Christmas BBQ in December.
- It is rarely easy to find guest speakers for our meetings and we have worked through the APS Victoria list of Guest speakers a number of times over. Any ideas for new guest speakers are always needed and welcomed.

Christine Cram followed on with a brief summary of the annual Treasurers Report (copies of the detailed report were made available to view on the evening). Some of the main points mentioned were:

- We have one outstanding liability: A cheque for a donation made out to the Biolinks Alliance remains unpresented.
- 3 new members joined APS Mitchell this evening, taking our total number of memberships 37, which, now covers 50 people.
- We received a grant from Bendigo Bank towards running our annual Expo.
- The last of our APS Mitchell Jackets has finally sold.
- Two new expenditures this year were:
 - Providing a pizza dinner & refreshments for volunteers following set up on the Friday evening before our 2019 Expo.

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

- o Purchase of a set of booklets published by APS Alice Springs.
- Our expo generated \$1660.10 income, which, is a great result for a small group.
- A bottom line of \$831.05 nett operating profit was accrued this financial year.

Next came our Gardens for Wildlife report, with a few highlights being:

- The program continues to generate interest with membership numbers now at 81.
- A display was held at the Seymour show & approximately 120 plants sold.
- The Gardens for Wildlife Facebook page has 123 followers – Ian encouraged the audience to “like” and “share” the page, and also to comment on “posts”, and contribute garden photos etc.

Mike Williams was then invited to preside over the final agenda item for the AGM; the Committee elections for 2020, with the results being:

President: Norbert Ryan

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: Ian Julian

Treasurer: Christine Cram

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts

G4W Coordinator: Vacant

Group Librarian: Shirley Stone (since resigned due to changes in circumstance)

General Committee:

Bill Barker

Dawn Barr

Victoria Morris

With the AGM powered through in what felt like record time, Glenda Lewin was welcomed to the floor to present on WAMA – Wildlife Art Museum of Australia...

Glenda began by congratulating our group on reaching 50 members, saying it is both a challenge and an achievement. Glenda's connection to our group began 2 years ago when she shared a room with Victoria Morris during a trip to Western Australia. The two discovered a number of things in common, including sharing the same birth year and month, and an ongoing friendship has continued to grow. Glenda then went on to share a little further information about herself, explaining that she grew up in the Grampians region, lived overseas for 20 years before returning to Australia and building a home at Stawell. Further stating that she is not an artist but is passionate about art and nature. The dream of having a Wildlife art Museum in Australia began some time ago, and Glenda mentioned living in the Netherlands and being connected with an art foundation that hosts exhibitions and creates a participating artists “book of experience” each year.

The project began 7 years ago and has quickly moved forward and “morphed” over recent years. The WAMA Foundation is a not for profit organisation that has been formed to oversee and build the project. With a goal dedicated to the creation, collection, and preservation of art inspired by nature the catch phrase for WAMA is “where art meets nature”, along with a quote: “Art has been used by man since the beginning of time as a powerful way to gain a deeper understanding of nature and one-self”.

The purpose of WAMA is to inspire and enrich our appreciation of nature, and we were reminded that we all feel better when we are more connected with nature. In this busy, technological age, our lives have become increasingly faster paced, so that early educators and health professionals now recommend the health benefits of

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November Meeting Report continued...

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taking time out to spend time in nature, stopping to look and listen in the natural world around us. Part of the WAMA vision is providing opportunities for “Nature Play” on the WAMA site as one of a range of enrichment tools.

“Currently, there is no world class arts and cultural experience that showcases Australia’s deep connection with our unique flora and fauna in the region or indeed Australia.” After having met and been introduced to amazing natural history artists both overseas and here in Australia, while simultaneously meeting people such as those found at APS meetings etc., who share a passion for the preservation and restoration of our Australian bush, it seemed perfectly natural that this united synergy of creativity, knowledge and experience could blend. So why not create a Wildlife Art Museum of Australia! In fact, there are already inspirational wildlife art venues in America and England; The American National Museum of Wildlife in Jackson, Wyoming, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, and the Nature in Art Gallery and Museum in Gloucestershire, England.

A feasibility study was undertaken, which, outlined both the challenges across the Grampians area and also benefits that WAMA could bring to the region. Three primary challenges identified of the region are: A narrow and fragile economic base, an underdeveloped tourism economy & a need to improve understanding of the region’s natural and cultural heritage. Benefits of WAMA will be: bringing significant economic and social benefits to the region, by adding to and strengthening tourism offerings of the region. Also, sharing and making information available on the region’s natural and cultural heritage will strengthen local & regional pride in these assets.

The Grampians have an opportunity for exponential growth in the tourism sector. However, most of the current tourism activities involve bushwalking or climbing, and the question was asked what can be offered for the less agile or less abled? WAMA will be able to provide such an option.

So, what exactly is WAMA? WAMA will be located on a 16ha site, featuring the establishment of a wildlife art and nature precinct in the Grampians, with a combined focus on art, flora, fauna and education.

The centrepiece will be a dedicated world class gallery and art museum to display art inspired by nature, and host specially curated exhibitions of the world’s best wildlife art, exhibitions and cultural events to showcase the grandeur of the region and its artists, including sculpture in the landscape, exploration of indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and contemporary cultures.

The gallery will be set within botanic gardens and wetlands, and be a home to rare Australian plants and animals. Precincts will be created displaying unique, rare and endangered local and Australian flora. There will also be a fauna sanctuary and reintroduction programs, in which, work is already underway with 2 species of Potoroo and the Southern Brown Bandicoot being cared for to utilise the site as a pre-release “hardening area” in future release programs. Ecosystem restoration works also form a part of the site works program, and education programs will integrate art, science and nature through experiential learning. Work has begun with an architect to design the education centre, however, it is envisaged that most educational activities will be outdoors, such as; nature walks & nature play (kindergarten play days etc.).

The 16ha site is located 6km out of Halls Gap, on the road to Pomonal, is adjacent to the Grampians National Park and was purchased 7 years ago. Glenda quickly learned from Neil Marriott that biodiversity on the site was very high. The land had been under cultivation for many years, with one area used as seeding block for tobacco growing. There are also aged Eucalypts on site, and part of the property has Trust for Nature covenants, so is now protected into the future. The site’s bushland supports 3 distinct Ecological Vegetation Classes; Riparian Woodland, Heathy Woodland, Lateritic rise Grassy Woodland, along with wetlands including 2 dams on the site

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November Meeting Report continued...

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A view from the WAMA site. Image provided by Glenda Lewin

that are man-made. A previous owner had dammed a passing stream in 1989, which, is ephemeral and rich with biodiversity.

Plans for the site divide the 16ha into 3 primary zones; The first being the Gallery precinct and botanical garden that will also include a café, meeting rooms and artist's studios. The second main area is the wetlands and waterways, and will include birdwatch huts and sculptures. Endemic gardens and a sculpture park will be created within the grassed areas. The third primary zone covers the covenanted woodlands, and will include boardwalks, observation and information points.

Glenda had recently walked the covenanted area with Neil Marriott during October, and although the site was still very dry, they found many plants in flower – some quite wonderful, and among those mentioned and shown in slides were:

Coronidium scorpioides – Button Everlasting

Thelymitra antennifera – Rabbit-eared orchid

Diuris orientis – Wallflower Orchid

Grevillea gariwerdensis – Grampians Spider Flower



Image provided by Glenda Lewin

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November Meeting Report continued...

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Conospermum mitchellii – Mountain Smoke Bush

Goodenia blackiana – Black's Goodenia

Platylobium obtusangulum – Common Flat-pea

Pimelea humilis – Dwarf Rice-flower or Common Rice-flower

Community connection is at the heart of the project, and over the last 7 years many and varied events and visitors have been hosted on the WAMA site. An example given was the "Ground Breaking Event" held in 2014, that included a smoking ceremony and tree planting, which, Glenda described as "exciting" and was attended by politicians and other interest groups.

Among groups working and connected with the site and project are: Jallukar Landcare, Greening Australia, the regional CMA, APS Groups, birding groups and interested individuals including an Orchid specialist (there are hopes to re-introduce an endangered Leek Orchid), and Neil McCumber – who is a neighbour of the site and has identified 120 bird species on the WAMA property. A 2ha site has been identified on the WAMA property where an indigenous native grassland will be established with seed collected by volunteers across these organisations. Use of a greenhouse has also been donated to this purpose.

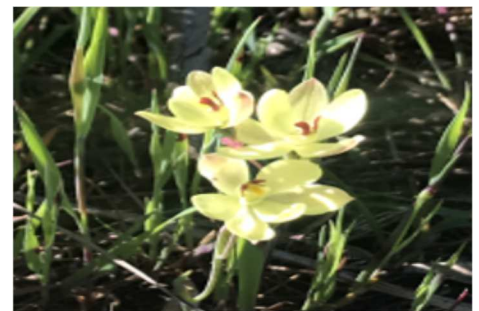
A timeline of milestones to date, and future objectives for the project was shown:

- Since 2017 & ongoing – Education program formalised and implemented; School nature program trialled in schools. Nature Play Days on site for ages 3-15 years (25 families involved as at last October).
- 2018 – WAMA21 vision announced, to be funded by community donations, fundraising and private philanthropy.
- 2018-2019 – "Where Art Meets Nature" exhibitions held in Melbourne and Inverleigh.
- Winter 2019 – Partnered with Building Architects to commence designing a 2.3 million dollar building & a Landscape Architect appointed to design associated landscaping and infrastructure.
- Spring 2019 – Commenced erecting vermin proof fencing.
- 2019-2020 – Jallukar Landcare, Greening Australia and the regional CMA, APS Groups & volunteers combine to re-vegetate 2ha native grasslands site.
- Summer 2020 – Building and landscape design to be announced.
- Autumn 2020 – Native tree & grassland revegetation to commence.
- Spring 2020 – Development of Endangered Wildlife Sanctuary, focusing on the re-introduction of the Long-nosed Potoroo and the Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- Summer 2021 – Building to commence on the WAMA Art Gallery, function rooms & café.

To date the project has not been successful in gaining government funding, and the original feasibility study proposed a \$30 million wildlife precinct and gallery. The WAMA foundation will now be forging ahead with a \$6



Coronidium scorpioides - Button Everlasting Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin



Thelymitra antennifera - Rabbit-ears Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin



Diuris orientis - Wallflower Orchid Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin

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October Meeting/Expo Report continued...

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million privately funded facility, which, is why fundraising projects are happening to support the strategy.

There is a connected, networked world of people supporting the project (including APS Groups). Among the list of National and International endorsements and supporters are:

Robert Purves AM,

Sasha Griffin AM, Professor of Art History ANU

National Gallery of Australia

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand

Australian Geographic

Zoos Victoria

Museums Victoria

Parks Victoria

Jallukar Landcare and APS Grampians Group

American National Museum of Wildlife Art

Artists for Nature Foundation UK/Netherlands

Oregon High Desert Museum

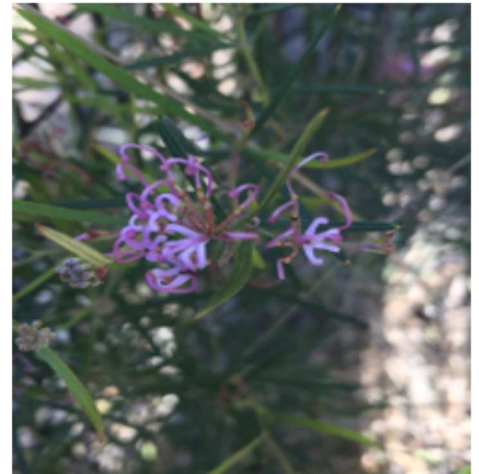
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Eminent artists William T Cooper AO, John Wolseley

Volunteering is key and core to the project. Currently there is a volunteer base of over 100 volunteers, and the turnout on works days is variable, with anywhere from 10-50 individuals participating on a day. There is also a Facebook page with 1,000 followers, and every like and share is appreciated, encouraged and helps.

The Board and Leadership group are also all volunteers and are a passionate and enthusiastic team. It is never easy raising funds and they are still working to prove the project's worth, however, the project is on its way. The Vermin Proof Fence is currently being erected, a bore has been dug, which, fortunately is freshwater, and a consultative group of WAMA volunteers are working with a design team to build the gallery and associated spaces.

In closing, Glenda stated that it is an exciting and unique time and opportunity to be part of, and we are fortunate to still be in time to protect and enhance these natural assets. WAMA would appreciate support in any way anyone can give it. Some support options are: Join up as a member, buy an art calendar or other merchandise, donate, attend an event or function, follow, like and share the WAMA Project Facebook page. (Further information can be found at <https://wama.net.au/>). We were also given the opportunity on the evening to collect a new WAMA Brochure, and/or



Grevillea garinverdensis
Grampians Spider Flower
Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin



Conospermum mitchellii
Mountain (or Victorian) Smoke-bush
Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin



Goodenia blackiana - Black's Goodenia
Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin

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October Meeting/Expo Report continued...

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purchase this year's fundraising National Geographic Art Calendar 2020 with artwork by James Hough (pronounced "Hoff"), or one of two books; one, an historical art essay by Sasha Griffin AM, Professor of Art History ANU, and the second; a book that was produced for the 2014 WAMA exhibition, in which, each exhibiting artist writes the story of how, why and what they do. Lastly, questions were taken from the audience. The first question was asked with regard to the dam – Q: Is any work reintroducing indigenous aquatic life to the dam to be carried out? The answer being: Yes, there are aims to restore & create rich aquatic diversity, and two of the experts providing guidance on this are Professor Sasha Griffin and Rob Yule from Landcare. A further question relating asking why a education program was started, revealed that more than 2000 students regularly visit the Grampian, so the interest is there and passing traffic numbers are huge.

The next feature of our evening was the "surprise auction", and the item very generously donated by Glenn James and Bunnings was a 245lt compost tumbler with a value of \$149. Before the auction got underway, Glenn took the opportunity to remind us that snakes would now be very active, potentially moving around in our gardens etc, and advised he is keen to see that people not go out and kill snakes. Glenn is now running a snake and reptile education business and also works with Anthony Calleja who is our local snake catcher, and runs a free service for our region (details on page 2). The auction got underway with a starting bid of \$60 and quickly progressed to some tight but amical bidding between Glenda & Russell. Russell persisted and was called winning bidder with the hammer falling on a final bid of \$90.

Last up for the formal part of the evening Ian returned to the floor and gave the following speech entitled "Ten years of Mitchell APS", reprinted as follows:

"Ten years ago in the year of Black Saturday APS Victoria looked at starting a local group in Mitchell Shire, and a group of people met with Mike Williams, then APS Vic new group officer. There was a feeling that starting new group might be too much post the bushfires, however the opposite was the feeling and was to be seen as a good idea.

Now the group being ten years old having 47 members demonstrates how strong the group is. There are acknowledgements to be made to a number of people:

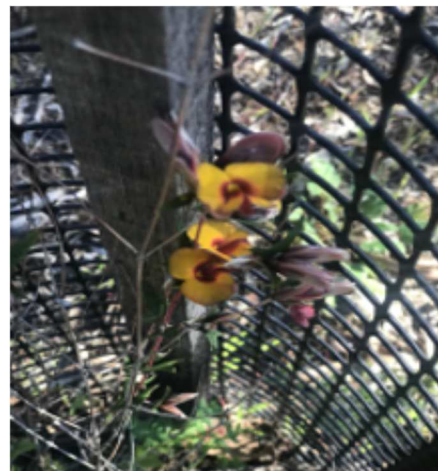
The past presidents of the group: Julie Mudd, Andrew Robinson, Neil Humphreys, Ian Julian and now Norbert Ryan. Secretary, Maureen Runge.

Treasurer, Bill Barker

Past committee members: Bill Barker 10 years, Barbara Mau, Janis Baker, Neil Humphreys, Brian and Lorraine Weir, Dawn McCormack.

The plant sales by Brian and Lorraine Weir.

All of the members have served in many roles to support the group.



Platylobium obtusangulum

Common Flat-pea

Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin



Pimelea humilis - Dwarf Rice-flower or

Common Rice-flower

Photo: Courtesy of Glenda Lewin

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 9)

2019 also saw the sad passing of Pauline Maloney, our group librarian who catalogued the library where it can be accessed online at National Library Australia.

The expo has gone from strength to strength culminating a very successful 2019.

The guest speakers and topics have been many and varied.

A special thank you to Jeanine Petts our newsletter editor who puts an enormous amount of work and brings much publicity to the group, with the newsletter eagerly awaited by many throughout the state of Victoria.

Last but definitely not least, it's a pleasure to call on Mike Williams to cut the 10 year birthday cake (many thanks to Victoria Morris), but before he does I would like it to be acknowledged for his part in our success with a small token of our appreciation. A very big Thank you Mike Williams".

Mike Williams was then gifted a bottle of wine, and a special tool was provided (see picture) to cut the gorgeous and very fitting cake made by Victoria Morris. Whilst cutting the cake, we all received heartfelt congratulations and a "well done!" from Mike.

Mike Williams was one of the main instigators in the establishment of our APS Mitchell District Group, and was responsible for the placement of an advertisement in local papers asking for expressions of interest, to which, a number of people responded. Mike then went on to facilitate the early meetings and has continued to mentor and support APS Mitchell ever since. From the initial gathering, the group was formed and held its first official meeting in October 2009. As touched on earlier, there were some concerns regarding if starting a group was appropriate so soon after the Black Saturday fires. Fortunately, our founding members felt that establishing a local native plant society could provide a distraction, and something positive for bushfire survivors and residents throughout the region, which, would also give some fun and an opportunity for friendships. Thanks to them, and all the members friends, and interested persons involved since, I think we can say that we have developed into a group that we can all be pleased with and proud of; A group where many friendships have evolved, we have had and do have fun, and even manage to share a love of native plants and learn a little along the way. Here's to another 10 years everyone! May we continue to go from strength to strength.



Cutting of the 10th Anniversary cake.

Pictured left - right:
Mike Williams,
Norbert Ryan &
Ian Julian

Photo: J Petts

Eremophila collection & nursery...

By Jeanine Petts

Many will have met Russell Wait and even purchased an *Eremophila* or two (or more) from him at our APS Mitchell Spring Expo & Plant Sales. But, did you know that he runs a small nursery at his property 3½ km north of Riddells Creek?

The committee recently asked Russell if we could share some information on the nursery and he has kindly provided the following information and included images...

Russell grows *Eremophila*, some standard *Grevillea*, and does occasionally have a small quantity of other species. Held in his garden is the Botanical Collection of *Eremophila* for Plant Trust that he has held for approximately 25 years.

The nursery is located off the Kilmore road at 11 Tranter Close (first on left), and is open by appointment. Visitors will need to telephone first to arrange access. Mobile reception in the area is very poor, so the landline is the preferred & most reliable method of contact. To contact Russell telephone: 03 54287956 Mobile: 0428 388 211



Nursery stock



Some of the *Grevillea* standards



Eremophila latrobei White form. "Even though it is a QLD form it does quiet well down here and is one of the best growing *E. latrobei* I have. From the rain the other day it is flowering like all *E. latrobei*, which, flowers about 14 days after a rain. This is a grafted one as they need to be grafted down here". Russell Wait



"*Eremophila glabra* (from the Canning Stock Route) X *nivea*, which, came up in my friends garden. Some of the proceeds of the sale of the label (there are others as well) goes to the Eremophila Study Group and will be put into further research into *Eremophila*. It is a shrub that gets to 2m high and needs to be pruned to keep its shape, and flowers for most of the year. It will probably grow on its own roots but does better grafted". Russell Wait

A few *Eremophila* currently in flower
All Photos: Russell Wait

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

- For the various contributions of articles, answering pesky questions, event information, photos, feedback, proof-reading, researching & providing other information as needed and general support...

A BIG THANK YOU TO:
Christine Cram,
Dawn McCormack,
Glenn James,
Glenda Lewin,
Ian Julian,
Norbert Ryan,
Phil Clancy,
Russell Wait,
Victoria Morris.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

February 17 - April 17, 2020 -

Australian Plants Revealed - An exhibition highlighting unique Australian flora collected by Josepha Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770. Held at the Gallery of Maroondah Federation Estate 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. 9am-4pm Mon-Fri & 12 noon-4pm Saturdays, with 2 Keynote lectures:

March 28, 2020 from 2pm—
Bruce Pascoe: *Aboriginal plant uses for sustenance & medicine*. Prof. Tim Entwistle: *Sir Joseph Banks' cabinet: botanical bounty of the Endeavour's Voyage to New Zealand & Australia*. For further details see the

September & December editions of *Growing Australian* or email:

exhibitions@apsvic.org.au

March 14-15 - Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale. Australian Gardens Cranbourne, Near Kiosk 10am-4pm.

March 25-29, 2020 - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

March 28, 2020 - APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting hosted by APS Maroondah.


April 4, 2020 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale.

'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. A BBQ, refreshments, book sales, children's' activities & a great selection of native plants.

April 18, 2020 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd Eltham. 10am-4pm

May 2, 2020 - APS Mornington Plant Sale, Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat. 10am-3:30pm.

October 24-25, 2020 - 13th FJC Rogers Seminar on 'Mint bushes & allied genera'.

Other & Special Events
see following pages... 

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651
Vice President: Dawn McCormack
Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248
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Treasurer/Memberships:
Christine Cram 0458 238 270
Committee: Bill Barker, Dawn Barr, Jeanine Petts, Victoria Morris.
Group Librarian: Volunteer position open
Plant Sales: Volunteer position open
Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 0409 029 603
Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Volunteer position open. Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Flowering in the garden in February...



Halgania preissiana - A suckering shrub that copes with frost, extended dry periods to constantly moist soils.

Photo: J Petts



Eremophila calorhabdos - Has an interesting upright habit and is both frost and very drought tolerant.

Photo: J Petts

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts

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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 & Special Events...

Invitation to the Official Opening of: Australian Plants Revealed

Join us for the opening celebration of:

Australian plants revealed

65,000 years of traditional knowledge and 250 years of science

6 to 8pm Thursday 27 February

Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery

A significant exhibition of botanical specimens from the Melbourne Herbarium that provides insights into the historic, cultural and scientific uses of plants. Included are six of the actual specimens collected by naturalist Joseph Banks and botanist Daniel Solander on the Endeavour voyage 250 years ago, as well as an in depth look at the Indigenous uses of Australian native plants.

To be officially opened by the Mayor of Maroondah, Cr. Mike Symon with an Acknowledgement of Country by Auntie Irene Norman, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Elder. Guest speakers include Chris Clarke, President of the Australian Plant Society Victoria and Prof. David Cantrill Executive Director Science, Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria.



RSVP essential: gallery.attendant@maroondah.vic.gov.au Ph: 9298 4553

Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery
32 Greenwood Avenue
Ringwood VIC
9298 4553
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Open Saturdays 12 to 4pm

Exhibition dates: 17 February to 17 April

Presented by the Australian Plants Society-Victoria Inc. and supported by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.