

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

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Inc# A0054306V

November news....!

Hello and welcome to our November 2020 edition...

Woohoo!!!. Good news, we appear to be getting close to being able to resume group activities and meetings. The committee have scheduled a planning session & hope to make announcements within a week or two (via email), once organising is complete.

Additionally there is the excellent group news that we have a new Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator—See page 2 for details. Welcome on board Gerry!

This is our last newsletter for the year, & I cannot say thank you enough to the virtual village of people who have helped me fill the pages of our newsletters throughout this Covid-19 year of restricted physical contact. The support of our community has been amazing, and all our contributors have my deep, eternal gratitude. We would not have had much of a newsletter without you (names of contributors in photo credits, articles & the contact info page). I will be looking forward to seeing



Goodenia sp. at Monument Hill

Photo: Jan Harrison

everyone, hopefully in the near future & at some point next year.

The February newsletter is due for issue on or within a few days of Monday February 8th. Contributions will remain very greatly appreciated—please send items in by February 1st 2021. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Thanks again, virtual hugs to all, stay safe, well, & may we all enjoy a very social, happy & healthy holiday season.

The very best of seasons greetings to everyone & cheers until next year, Jeanine

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Feedback from an iNaturalist user...

I have started using the app and find it fabulous to identify fungi, insects, animals, and plants of all kinds. It's almost an immediate assistance in funnelling down what you might be looking at and helps open up a whole new world of understanding.

What I love is; that when you snap something on your phone and you submit it, a few hours or days later you get one of their registered boffins verify your finding or suggest an alternative. Since I joined in April 2020, I have input over 37 items, more for my own interest – I haven't discovered anything! and it's a diary of what I saw, where, and when, but I have used it as an identifier countless more times.

Regards, Cynthia

See <https://www.inaturalist.org> for more information.

November 2020

Volume 7, Issue 10

Mitchell Diary Dates..

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic & changing local restriction levels we have yet to re-schedule Meetings, outings and other gatherings. Currently, we await the re-opening of meeting rooms across the Mitchell Shire (potentially in the new year), & further increases in allowed gathering numbers in various settings.

In the meantime, the committee will be undertaking planning in the very near future, & advance advice will be sent via email as soon as event details can be finalized:

- Pre-Christmas Social - Details to be advised.
- Garden Visit to The garden of Dawn McCormack – Details to be advised.
- AGM Postponed until February: Date, Venue & further details to be advised.



Gardens for Wildlife News...

By Ian Julian

We are pleased to announce that our newest member to APS Mitchell, Gerry, has accepted the role of G4W coordinator. The committee extends a very warm welcome to Gerry, and looks forward to working with and supporting him in his new role. We are sure he will be an asset to the G4W program & our group.

Wun (Gerry) Ho resides in Wallan. He received a B.Sc. in Conservation Biology (Hons), working on the range-restricted Fryerstown grevillea (*Grevillea obtecta*) around Castlemaine. Gerry is currently pursuing a higher degree in botany, working on invasive irises in south-eastern Australia. His research on native and introduced species, with contrasting distributions, has given him a keen perspective on the beauty of all plants, but also on the frailty of the Australian flora.

As the new Gardens for Wildlife coordinator, Gerry aims to promote the cultivation of endemic natives in the gardens and backyards of the Shire, both big and small, and to strengthen Mitchell's relationships within and beyond the G4W network.



Pardalote at Monument Hill
Photo: Jan Harrison

**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



Meetings soon to be announced...

Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, & changing local restriction levels we have yet to complete rescheduling of APS Mitchell District Group activities.

The committee will be undertaking planning in the very near future. We will provide updated advice, via email, over the coming weeks - as soon as event details are able to be finalised.

We hope to organise an end of year social activity and will be looking forward to seeing everyone in the not-too-distant future, hearing about how your plants have grown, gardens progressed, and any other projects you may have undertaken.

Until then, stay safe, well & happy in your gardens.



Stylidium sp. 'Trigger Plant
Monument Hill
Photo: Jan Harrison

Memberships...

A message from Christine - **Is this You?...**

Did you direct credit \$60 membership to the APS Bendigo Bank account on July 24th at 8.16pm from GMCU? If so, can you please contact Christine Cram 0458 238 270 to ensure your details are passed on to APS Victoria (to enable magazine subscription to be sent etc.).

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

Phone: 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer:

mitchell@apsvic.org.au Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website. <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

Oct-Nov garden & nature snapshots ...

Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...

Both our local bushland & gardens have been putting on a fabulous display this spring. This month a feast for our eyes comes from the gardens of Maureen & Hans Runge, & Brian & Lorrain Weir, while Jan Harrison, Bill & Bee Barker, & Paul Piko have been busy wildflower spotting—Thank you all very much for your wonderful & very much appreciated contributions...

Pictured in flower from Maureen's garden are: *Isopogon formosus* Rose Coneflower (top right), *Calothamnus quadrifidus* One-sided Bottlebrush (middle right), *Chamelaucium uncinatum* Geraldton Wax (below right), a *Prostanthera* sp. (Ed. I think) (bottom left), & and an inquisitive Echidna visitor (below).



Isopogon formosus - Rose Coneflower

Photo: Maureen Runge



Echidna visitor

Photo: Maureen Runge



Calothamnus quadrifidus One-sided Bottlebrush

Photo: Maureen Runge



Prostanthera sp. ?

Photo: Maureen Runge



Chamelaucium uncinatum Geraldton Wax

Photo: Maureen Runge

Photo:
(Continued on page 4)

October-November snapshots continued...

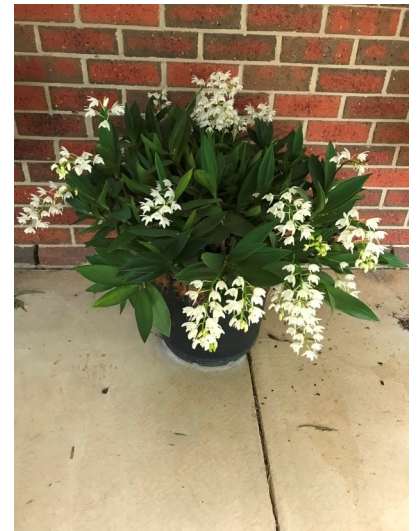
(Continued from page 3)

Next for our viewing pleasure is part of a generous series of photo contributions courtesy of Brian & Lorraine Weir, along with a little accompanying information...

First are two potted native orchid specimens that are kept "hiding under the verandah from frosts". Brian isn't sure precisely which species other than 2 different forms of *Dendrobium* Rock Orchids. (Ed. Possibly *D. speciosum* forms, but I'm not sure either.)



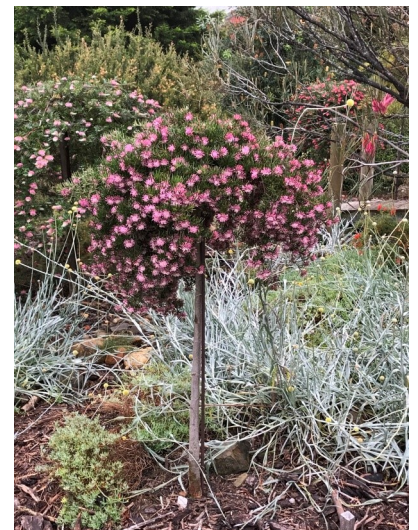
Dendrobium sp.



Photos: Brian Weir

Grevillea confertifolia or Grampians Grevillea is sometimes also referred to as the Strawberry Grevillea. It has a prostrate habit growing to 2m, or can be grown as a standard, and will tolerate frosts down to -10c.

Grevillea iaspicula, the Wee Jasper Grevillea is from SE NSW. It makes a great screening plant and is suitable to grow near a path; "NO PRICKLES"! It tolerates heavy frosts and pruning is recommended for shape.



Grevillea Wakiti Gem is a hybrid presumed to be from *Grevillea tetragonoloba* x *gaudichaudii*. It makes a beautiful standard or low graft, & tolerates frosts to at least -4c (probably lower).

Grevillea confertifolia Grampians Grevillea Natural form (prostrate) above left, grown as a grafted standard above right. Photos: B Weir



Grevillea Wakiti Gem
Photo: Brian Weir



Grevillea iaspicula Wee Jasper Grevillea. Photos: Brian Weir

(Continued on page 5)

Oct - Nov snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Grevillea Bluey

A chance seedling that came up in our garden. Possibly a cross from *G. nivea* and *G. dryandroides* ssp. *hirsuta* (my guess). At the moment it has a prostrate form, & hope it stays that way. Frost tolerant to -3c (so far).



Grevillea Bluey



Photos: Brian Weir

Grevillea calliantha Foote's Grevillea.

A delightful plant as a low graft in a rockery or as a standard. Its natural range is just North of Perth. It will tolerate frosts to -3c, however, flowers burn at -2c.



Grevillea calliantha



Photos: Brian Weir

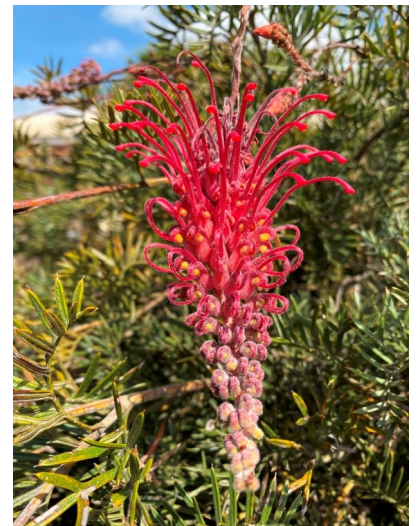
Grevillea Pick 'O' the Crop.

Is a Neil Marriott hybrid between *G. bipinnatifida* X *G. thyrsoidea*. A great low growing plant 0.5m X 1.5m (best grafted) or a magnificent standard.

The image (at right) was taken at sunset after a thunderstorm -Magic light but only lasted 5 minutes.



Grevillea calliantha



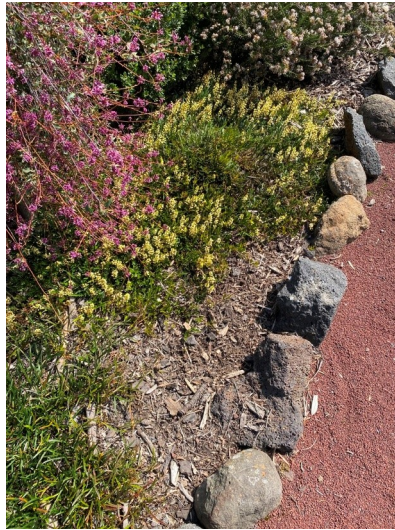
Photos: Brian Weir

(Continued on page 6)

Oct - Nov snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Grevillea cirsiifolia grows to 0.1m X 2m and is a very unusual ground cover from the south of WA. It tolerates frosts to at least -6c. (*G. quercifolia* and *G. acerata* photo bombing at top left.)



Grevillea cirsiifolia



Photos: Brian Weir

Grevillea quercifolia grows to 0.5m X 3m & is from the SW of WA. A low sprawling shrub or a standard as pictured (best grafted). Tolerates frosts to at least -4c.

Grevillea treueriana, Mt Finke in SA is where this beaut' comes from. Grows to 1m x 1m, & is Frost tolerant to at least -3c. A prickly plant, but well worth the occasional bloody finger when weeding under or around.



Grevillea quercifolia

Photos: Brian Weir



Grevillea treueriana

Grevillea ripicola reaches 3m X 4m & is from the SW of WA. It tolerates frosts to at least -6c. There are 2 forms; a red and a yellow.

Grevillea diffusa grows to 0.5m X 2m, and is from the Central Coast in east NSW. Beautiful delicate little flowers, very unusual. Tolerates frosts to at least -6c.

(More from Brian & Lorraine next issue.)



Grevillea ripicola

Photos: Brian Weir



Grevillea diffusa

(Continued on page 7)

Oct - Nov snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 6)

Jan Harrison has been enjoying walks in the Monument Hill Reserve, along with a new interest in native plants & photography...

(Ed. I have made my usual "guesses" at ID & if anyone can confirm a correct or full ID please do feel free to advise.)



Gompholobium buegelii or possibly an introduced species?

Photo: Jan Harrison



Pimelea humilis - Common Rice-flower

Photo: Jan Harrison



Daviesia latifolia - Hop Bitter-pea

Photo: Jan Harrison



Drosera sp. - Sundew

Photo: Jan Harrison



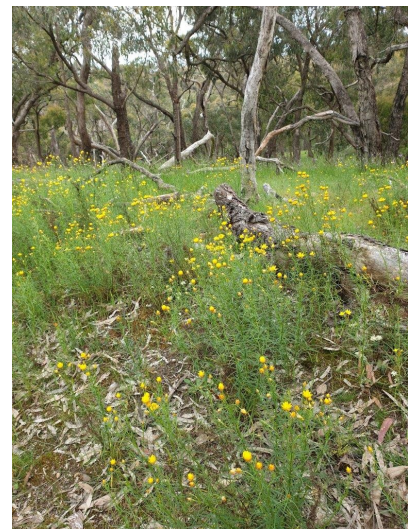
Burchardia umbellata - Milkmaids

Photo: Jan Harrison



Glossodia major - Wax-lip Orchid

Photo: Jan Harrison



Xerochrysum viscosum - Sticky Everlasting (mass flowering)

Photo: Jan Harrison (Continued on page 8)

Oct - Nov snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 7)

Bee & Bill Barker report that:
"Wildflowers spectacular this year - especially Sun-orchids, *Wahlenbergia*, *Brunonia*, other orchids, and acres of Chocolate Lilies. And we'll have lots of fringe lilies in a little while".



Brunonia australis - Blue Pincushion
Photo: B Barker



Diuris sp. - Photo: B Barker



Thelymitra sp. - Sun-orchid
Photo: B Barker

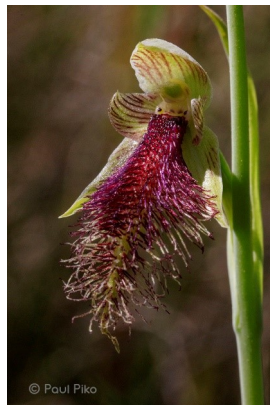
Lastly, from Paul Piko, another array of lovely local orchids recently in flower:



Caladenia pusila
Tiny Fingers
Photos: ©Paul Piko



Caladenia transitoria
Little Bronze Caps



Calochilus robertsonii
Purple Beard Orchid



Chiloglottis valida
Common Bird Orchid



Diuris sulphurea
Hornet Orchid



Microtis unifolia
Common
Onion-orchid
Photos: ©Paul Piko



Thelymitra ixioideis
Spotted Sun-orchid



Thelymitra nuda
Plain Sun-orchid



Thelymitra pauciflora
Slender Sun-orchid



Thelymitra peniculata
Trim Sun-orchid

Oct - Nov snapshots continued...



Thelymitra peniculata Trim Sun-orchid
white form

Photos: ©Paul Piko www.piko.com



Caladenia carnea Pink Fingers



Caladenia moschata Scented Caps

Weed Warning - *Disa bracteata*...

From Paul Piko

Paul Piko has advised that there have been reports of the introduced weed orchid *Disa bracteata* being sighted in "hundreds near Mt Piper". Unfortunately it appears to be a prolific season for this introduced pest plant. The following is a reprint of an article on this problem weed provided by Paul in November 2014...

Disa bracteata is a South African orchid that is classified as a weed in Australia, sprouting in spring and flowering from October to December. There are multiple flowers on each plant, each able to produce one thousand minute seeds that are viable up to seven years.

D. bracteata self-pollinates and can reproduce via seed or vegetatively via tubers. It can spread up to 10 kilometres per year, outcompeting native orchids, lilies and grasses.

This weed occurs across southern Australia and is present in the Mitchell shire. To prevent its spread it is best to first bag the plant to limit seed distribution. Then remove the plant from the ground, being careful to also remove the tubers, of which there can be up to three, measuring 20mm. It should then be incinerated.



Disa bracteata Flowers
Photos: ©Paul Piko



Disa bracteata Plant
Photos: ©Paul Piko

Spring 2020 Wild Pollinator counting has begun...

From Wild Pollinator Count

Time to count!

You can **join in** by watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes sometime in our count week.

- You don't need to be an insect expert.
- You don't need fancy gear.
- You may be surprised by what you see!

The Spring 2020 Wild Pollinator Count started Sunday 8th November running until Sunday 15th November. You can do as many 10 minute counts as you want, any time during the count week, from anywhere in Australia!

Find out [How to Count](https://wildpollinatorcount.com/count-pollinators/) at: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/count-pollinators/> Remember, each count must focus on one flowering plant. Find out more about the science behind our method on our [FAQ page](https://wildpollinatorcount.com/pollinator-counting-faq/): <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/pollinator-counting-faq/>

You don't need to take photos to submit a count, but you're welcome to share them with us if you do – you can do this via email or via our [iNaturalist project page](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wild-pollinator-count): <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wild-pollinator-count>

If you're new to identifying different types of flower visitors, check out our handy tips and [online resources](https://wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/) at: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/> including [our handy guide to some of the most common insect](https://wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/#bee-fly-or-wasp-2/) groups you will see (free to download!).

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/resources/bee-fly-or-wasp-2/>

All counts must be submitted via [our online form](https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/): <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations/> The form will stay open after the end of the count week, to give you plenty of time to submit.

Hope you enjoy the spring, stay safe and happy counting!



<https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

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:

Barbara Mau,
Bill & Bee Barker,
Brian & Lorraine Weir
Christine Cram,
Cynthia Lim,
Ian Julian,
Jan Harrison,
Maureen Runge,
Paul Piko,
Norbert Ryan,
Victoria Morris
Wun Ho.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

In line with ongoing advice on COVID-19 (coronavirus), many APS-related events may be cancelled on short notice.

APS Victoria will endeavour to keep event status updated on the APS Victoria website:

<https://apsvic.org.au/events/>

Or check with the event organiser.

November 21 - APS Vic AGM

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm via Zoom.

If you wish to attend: Email an expression of interest to secretary@apsvic.org.au and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

2020 - 13th FJC Rogers

Seminar on 'Mint bushes & allied genera' - Garden Visits November the 28th & 29th:

Everything will be BYO – lunch, snacks, drinks, sanitiser and masks.

Garden visit registration form (Excel) is downloadable from the website:

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020>

Seminar Plant Sales: The plant sales will take place at one of the gardens with credit card, non-contact facilities. The plant sale list will go up online in Mid November.

Raffle: Some wonderful prizes and tickets will be on sale over the weekend with

the prizes displayed at the Barfield garden. There will be a draw at 3pm each day over the garden visit weekend.

There are promotional videos on the seminar website: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020> Information on gardens can also be found contained in the latest **FJC Rogers newsletter** that is accessed via the *Newsletter* tab.

For further information contact:

Email:
fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au

Phone:
Miriam 0409 600 644

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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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, 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 Coordinator: Volunteer position open. 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.

Local Nurseries open for business ...

During this time of Covid-19 isolation, please remember & support our local native nurseries...

Valley of 1000 Hills Nursery (David & Helen Laurie)
Supplying indigenous tubes stocks.
150 Reid Rd, Reedy Creek.
Open Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Phone: 03 5784 9286

Ironstone Park (Peter & Joan Broughton)
Specialising in rare, unusual & hard to find native plants.
Lot 33 Paling Rd, Heathcote.
Open by appointment: The garden is looking fabulous with many unusual natives worth looking at. Call Pete on: 0419 878 950 if you would like an appointment or arrange to have plants dropped off.

Russell Wait - Eremophila specialist
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.
11 Tranter Close, Riddells Creek.
Open by appointment: Visitors 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.
Telephone: 03 54287956 Mobile: 0428 388 211

Other Events...

Shared by Victoria Morris

Friends of the Botanic Gardens 15th annual *The art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition* is online & currently open until the 1st of December 2020. The exhibition is free to view and work is for sale:

<https://tabi.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/>

Due to Covid-19, the FRBG are running a number of interesting talks online. If you choose to become a Friend, there is a reduced rate for country members. A little information on 3 of the upcoming events is listed below, & for the full list of online talks, details & online booking visit:

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events>

A couple that may be of interest to Native Plant Enthusiasts...

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/30812-a-box-full-of-garden-helpers-keeping-bees-in-the-suburbs-talking-online-with-caroline-durre>

A Box Full of Garden Helpers: Keeping Bees in the Suburbs – Talking Online with Caroline Durré

Mon, 16 Nov 2020

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Caroline will take us into the world of bees to explore their world, their life-cycle and how we can work with them to achieve happy hives and happy gardens. Caroline will provide us with all the background knowledge needed to start beekeeping, what garden is appropriate for bee keeping success and improving pollination efficiency. Whether you approach it from the point of view of conservation, entomology, crop pollination or simply a love of honey, beekeeping is an engaging pursuit and a fascinating window on the natural world. Come bee part of our buzz!

Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00

Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.

Bookings close 11 December at 5pm

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/31164-the-acacia-project-illustrating-the-rare-endangered-and-unusual-acacias-of-the-rbgm-talking-online-with-pam-mcdiarmid>

The Acacia Project: Illustrating the Rare, Endangered and Unusual Acacias of the RBGM - Talking Online with Pam McDiarmid

Sun, 13 Dec 2020

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Commonly known as Wattle, Acacia is the largest genus of vascular plants in Australia with almost all the known 1070 species occurring naturally on our continent. Our FRBGM Botanical Illustrators, the Whirlybirds, established The Acacia Project in 2019 to document and depict the most rare, endangered and unusual of these trees or shrubs. Twenty four artworks have now been produced by these talented artists and specimens collected to be donated to the National Herbarium of Victoria. Aptly on National Wattle Day, Pam McDiarmid, creator and manager of this highly valued project, will talk to us about the process that's been involved in bringing this project to life and celebrate these fire-resistant shrubs that form the second most common forest after Eucalypts.

Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00

Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.

Bookings close 11 December at 5pm

Other Events...

Shared by Victoria Morris

Pre-Christmas Card and Calendar Sale is now on until 29 November 2020.



A first ever pre-Christmas card sale which gives the chance to purchase some unusual and rare cards that show original works by our member artists.

Visit the BASA website: <https://www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com/Online-Card-Sales> to see the online shop stocked with hundreds of cards to view, select purchase.

Buy some for yourself or perhaps package several up in a ribbon as a unique Christmas present for someone. All cards come with an envelope.

Also available is a 2021 calendar filled with beautiful work created during COVID lockdown. For the first time we have a BASA calendar produced using paintings from our COVID forums.

Please help spread the word about the card and calendar sale to your friends, work colleagues and families.

(Note from Victoria: Money goes direct to the artists & 10% to BASA - A good thing at the moment.)
