

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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### March news...!

Hello and welcome to our March & 1st edition for Autumn.

Hasn't our recent rainfall been wonderful. 83mm in the rain gauge at Pyalong has seen an excellent start to Autumn, & for us will mean an earlier than usual beginning of our planting season.

As promised in last month's newsletter we now have a little more information regarding guest speakers. There are 2 new speakers lined up for our March & May meetings, see right and page 2 for further details.

Along with an apology & thank you to two members of long standing (see below), we also have a somewhat overdue thank you to extend to the Bendigo Bank for their Community Grant of \$750 that sponsored and funded part of running & advertising costs associated with the 2019 Spring Plant Expo & Sale. For a small group with limited resources this support is both vital and very much appreciated. Norbert and Dawn were pleased to be able to attend



*Correa glabra*

Looking refreshed & lovely after our recent rains

Photo: J. Petts

last year's Bendigo Bank Community Grant award night to receive the official award announcement (see the photo on page 9).

Our April newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday April 13th. Contributions to our newsletter are always very, very welcome! Please send contributions in by Monday April 6th.

Email : [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto: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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### Apology & omission correction...

The committee extends a deep apology to two of our most stalwart & appreciated members of longstanding; Lorraine & Brian Weir. In last month's reporting of APS Mitchell's 10th anniversary group history, a significant contribution from Lorraine & Brian was inadvertently omitted from mention. Not only did Brian & Lorraine support the group by being long term committee members in various roles, and plant sales co-ordinators for many years, Lorraine also stepped up from the Vice President position taking on the role of President for 2014 when Andrew Robinson needed to step down at the very beginning of that year. Lorraine was responsible, among other things, for instigating the commencement of our newsletter & finding a newsletter editor. For a number of years much of our Spring Plant Expo & Sale was also organised and co-ordinated by Brian. We owe & extend much gratitude & thanks to Lorraine & Brian for their extensive contributions to our group over many years.

## March 2020

Volume 7, Issue 2

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY MARCH 16th, 7:30pm**  
Meeting in the John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St, Kilmore (access via side street entrance).  
Guest speaker: Ian Evans - Collecting *Grevillea* for DNA analysis in the Kimberley & Pilbara WA.
- **MONDAY APRIL 20th, 7:30pm**  
Meeting - Guest speaker to be advised.
- **MONDAY MAY 18th, 7:30pm**  
Meeting - Guest speaker: Mitch Findlanter - Orchid Pollinators
- **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

With Autumn here & recent good rains it's time to begin planting again. Norbert hopes to recommence attending the Wallan market with our G4W stall from April. However, as Dawn will be recovering from surgery he will need a new companion to assist staffing the stall for a time. If you can help out please let Norbert know: Phone or message 0428 180 651.

To help you with garden design & plant selection some great information produced by Moreland City Council can be found on their website. There are guides to gardening with indigenous plants, and a webpage devoted to the subject. Visit the following web address to take a look: <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/environment-bins/gardening-and-food/gardening-indigenous-plants/>

Of particular interest is their Gardening with Indigenous Plants booklet (PDF 973Kb) that has full landscape designs for a courtyard garden, a formal garden, a cottage garden and a bush garden. It also has detailed information of 44 indigenous plants, grasses, shrubs and trees to grow. <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/globalassets/areas/open-space/gardening-with-indigenous-plants-in-moreland-guide-booklet.pdf>



Above: *Xerochrysium viscosum* with visiting Blue Butterfly

Below: *Wahlenbergia communis*  
Photos: 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



## March Meeting: Monday 16th 7:30pm...

For our March meeting Ian Evans will be joining us to present on the topic of collecting *Grevillea* for DNA analysis in the Kimberley and Pilbara WA.

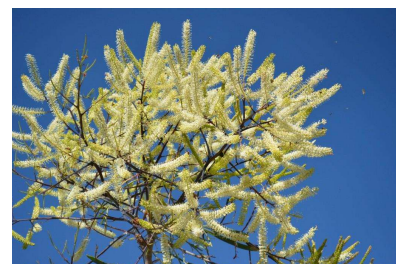
Having grown up on a farm bordering Greater Bendigo National Park – Whipstick Section, about 25 k's North-west of Bendigo, Ian developed an early interest in native plants especially *Grevillea*. After leaving school, travelling, and working in South Australia and north Queensland, this interest grew. Ian returned to Bendigo in 1979, first working in Nurseries before starting his own landscape construction business in 1985. Ian joined the *Grevillea* Study Group in early 1980's and has been growing *Grevilleas* as well as collecting specimens since then.

As always, our regular door prize plant raffle & Flower Specimen Table will follow the presentation, so please bring some specimens from your garden for display & discussion (please label specimens if possible). Our usual supper of home baked goodies and chat time will conclude the evening. Remember: Visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings.



Above: *Grevillea nickhamii* subsp. *aprica*

Below: *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* Photos: Ian Evans



## 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](mailto:aps.mitchell@gmail.com) Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)



## *February Meeting Report— Flora & history of Monument Hill...*

*By Jeanine Petts*

A pleasant summer evening saw a great turnout for our first meeting of the year. Mike Williams brought along a tempting array of plants for sale, and a few of us couldn't resist making purchases ahead of taking our seats. Proceedings began without preamble shortly after 7:30pm, as Norbert swiftly welcomed everyone and invited Phil Clancy to take the floor.

Phil began by sharing that he had grown up living on a property beside Monument Hill Reserve, and spent much of his time exploring the hill and its surrounds. He remarked that he had been out planting trees earlier in the day, and thanked us for the invitation to speak, mentioning that it was great to talk to interested people. Along with time spent on Monument Hill Phil's interest in botany and the natural world was fostered by listening to a radio program presented by Crosbie Morrison (an Australian naturalist, educator, journalist, broadcaster and conservationist) who spoke on all things of the natural world. In addition to the radio show there were journals, magazines and articles in daily papers of the time, which, Phil enjoyed reading.

The word "Reserve" is an interesting term, and the site at Monument Hill has seen change and differing usage over the years. It was originally due to the work of Winifred Waddell who, during the 1940's & 1950's established the Wildflower Preservation Group within Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, and over 70 Wildflower Sanctuaries (the first being at Tallarook), that an area in front of the Kilmore Golf Club was first fenced off. Once the kangaroos and rabbits etc. were excluded, weeds unfortunately took over, which, led to the loss of a number of endemic lilies within the area. Sometimes simply locking up an area doesn't always work in the way originally intended.

Why was the area reserved? It forms part of a precinct of public areas that include; the golf club, racecourse, cricket ground, football ground, reservoir, and land that was set aside to become a Botanic Gardens of Kilmore, which, along with Monument Hill forms part of the catchment for the reservoir. The reservoir area has seen use for swimming and boating, and is still public land.

Over the years a number of battles have been fought to keep the reserve from being sold off for housing development. At one point in time the fenced off area was used periodically for 3-4 days at time as a grazing area



Image provided by Phil Clancy



Google Earth view of Monument Hill & surrounds.

Image provided by Phil Clancy



View once seen from Monument Hill. Image provided by Phil Clancy

*(Continued on page 4)*

## February Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

for cattle in transit. This is why today, there is little in the way of mid-storey species, where once Tree Ferns, Maiden Hair Fern and Indigofera grew they are now no longer seen. There were also Yellow Box, She-oaks and Blackwood on the hill, but these were all taken for timber. She-oak was particularly favoured for use as roof shingles.

1924 was the centenary celebration year of the Hume and Hovell expedition, for which, the Kilmore community reused stones from the Old Kilmore Gaol to build the current monument that the hill is now named for. Photos of the time showed a clear view from the top of the hill across the monument's foundations to the surrounding town and country side, highlighting the lower height of vegetation found on the hill at the time.

Among the Eucalypt species of Monument Hill are also; Broad Leaf Box, Peppermint and Stringybark. When Phil was young he wanted to know more about the plant species of the hill and over time put together 3 pages of identified species, which, is not likely to be a complete list as it is always possible to miss species due to dormancy, transience or simply not being in the right place at the right time. While studying at Burnley Horticultural College Phil obtained a plant collectors license, and produced a pressed botanical specimen collection, and there are species that were found during the 1950's and 1960's that are just not seen on the site anymore.

A further question posed was: How can we utilise the Monument Hill Reserve? A car parking and picnic area has been set aside and developed at the base of the hill in a section that was once used as a caravan park. Works have been carried out to make the area a safe place to picnic in, with the area cleared, pruned and any trees of concern trimmed for safety. Designating a dedicated picnic and parking area was done to help protect other botanically significant areas of the hill.

Horse riders use the hill and this does create weed management issues with unwanted species being brought in via dung and soil structure damage. Orienteering is another activity that has been held on the hill. In the past the local orienteering group ran competitions on the hill and produced an orienteering map of the area. The contours and ridges of the site make it seem a much bigger area than it actually is. Those same ridges and gullies help give the location its biodiversity.

One plant found on Monument Hill that is peculiar in that, it is neither a costal, nor montane, nor grassland species is *Eucalyptus Obliqua* AKA Messmate. The name is derived from its leaf shape; describing the

Kilmore Monument Bush area plant list		A	B
Name	Common name		
<i>Acacia aculeatissima</i>	Scrambling Wattle		
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle		
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood Wattle		
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Juniper Wattle	In flower 50m north of Monument 7 Aug 99	
<i>Acacia measmii</i>	Black Wattle		
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood Wattle		
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle		
<i>Acacia anserinifolia</i>	Bidgee-widgee		
<i>Acacia echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr		
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots		
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	Common Maidenhair-fern		
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak		
<i>Amymma pendula</i>	Drooping Mistletoe		
<i>Arthropodium milleforium</i>	Pale Vanilla-lily	4th Dec 1999	
<i>Asperula sp</i>			
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace Fern		
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath		
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	River Rose		
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea		
<i>Bracteantha viscosa</i>	Sticky Everlasting		
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue pin cushion		
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine lily		
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids		
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria		
<i>Caladenia alba</i>	White Caladenia		
<i>Caladenia angustata</i>	Musky Caladenia		
<i>Caladenia caerulea</i>	Blue Caladenia		
<i>Caladenia catenata</i>	Pink Fingers		
<i>Caladenia clavigera</i>	Clubbed Spider-orchid		
<i>Caladenia deformis</i>	Blue Fingers	????	last seen 1971
<i>Caladenia dilatata</i>	Green-comb Spider-orchid		
<i>Caladenia patersonii</i>	Common Spider-orchid		
<i>Caladenia reticulata</i>	Veined Spider-orchid		
<i>Calceolaria cyanea</i>	Blue Tinsel-lily	????	
<i>Calochilus paludosus</i>	Red Beard-orchid		
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	Purple Bearded-orchid		
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia		
<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	Chinese scrub		
<i>Centella cordifolia</i>	Centella		
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern		
<i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	Autumn Bird-orchid		
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper		Chionochoila pallida * ????
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa		
<i>Craspedia glauca</i>	Billy buttons		
<i>Cymbonotus preissianus</i>			
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	Hop Bitter-pea		
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black Anther Flax-lily		
<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily		
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Dichondra		
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	Nodding Chocolate Lily		
<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>	Chocolate Lily		

<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	Handsome Parrot Pea		
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea		
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	Hyacinth Orchid		
<i>Diuris fastidiosus</i>	Proud Diuris	????	last identified 1
<i>Diuris longifolia</i>	Wallflower Orchid		
<i>Diuris maculata</i>	Leopard Orchid		
<i>Diuris pedunculata</i>	Snake Orchid		
<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Tiger Orchid		
<i>Drosera peltata ssp auriculata</i>	Tail Sundew		
<i>Drosera planchonii</i>	Climbing Sundew		
<i>Drosera whittakeri</i>	Scented Sundew		
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath		
<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>	Peppermint Gum		
<i>Eucalyptus gonicalyx</i>	Broad-leaf Box		
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box		
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua var</i>	Messmate		
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum		
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark Gum		
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum		
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart		
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Blue Wax-lip	????	
<i>Glossodia minor</i>	Small Blue Wax-lip		
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine		
<i>Gonocarpus tetragyna</i>			
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>			
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Sarsparilla		
<i>Helichrysum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting		
<i>Helichrysum rutidoteis</i>	Pale Everlasting		
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Curled Everlasting		
<i>Helichrysum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting		
<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>	Bundled Guinea-flower		
<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>	Hovea		
<i>Hydrocotyle sp</i>			
<i>Hypericum japonicum</i>	Matted St John's Wort		
<i>Hypoxis glabella</i>	Yellow Star		
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo		
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running postman		
<i>Lepidosperma sp</i>	Sedge		
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	Scaly Buttons		
<i>Leptorhynchus tenuifolius</i>	Wiry Buttons		
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Bearded heath		
<i>Lobelia gibbosa</i>	Tall Lobelia		
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle mat rush		
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush		
<i>Luzula campestris spp. agg.</i>	Field Woodrush		
<i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	Bushy Clubmoss		
<i>Lycopodium laterale</i>	Slender Clubmoss		
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass		
<i>Microseris scapigera</i>	Yam-daisy		
<i>Microtis biloba</i>	Onion-orchid		
<i>Microtis oblonga</i>	Sweet Onion-orchid		
<i>Myriocephalus stuartii</i>	Roached egg daisy	????	
<i>Olearia</i>	Daisy-bush		
<i>Oxalis comiculata</i>	Yellow Wood-sorrel		
<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Austral Storks-bill		

2 of 3 pages of species listings

Images provided by Phil Clancy

(Continued on page 5)



## February Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

“miss-mated” leaf at its base joining the petiole, hence “Messmate”. Following a CFA controlled burn 8 years ago the Messmate are currently growing back. The soil of the area is gravelly, silty clay, that is not particularly fertile and relies on the tree canopy for cooling. On a hot day it can be 15c cooler under the trees.

Another endemic plant of interest to the hill is the Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium punctatum*. It has red-brown stems with no leaves, so the question was posed; Where is its chlorophyll & where does it obtain nutrient from? The answer being; It accesses nutrient via mycelium. Another feature mentioned is that it is a bush tucker plant, with the rhizomes being used for food.

Some other management issues for the hill are the tracks and erosion on the hill that have been created by 4WD vehicle users and trotting horse trainers running horses up gullies for training exercise. Also, Gorse and Pine infestations have needed to be cleared from the hill in the past. There was once a nearby pine plantation grown as fundraising for one of the local schools and seeds naturally spread into Monument Hill. Contractors were employed to remove the Pine trees and logs have been laid across gullies to manage both erosion issues and to provide habitat. Other management concerns are weed species *Pittosporum*, and that large old growth Eucalypts are beginning to be lost due to the effects of climate change.

Further native species mentioned growing on Monument Hill were:

*Cassinia* sp. Which, are early coloniser species that will disappear as they become shaded out.

*Hardenbergia violacea* – It was recommended that gardeners should grow the local form as cultivars have the potential to hybridise within our local species communities.

*Daviesia latifolia* Hop Bitter-pea – has attractive leaves and is a very tough plant.

Numerous fungi are also part of the biodiversity. It is not known how many fungi are in our bush, but they play an important role in the hill's habitat.

Returning to the topic of making trees safe, Phil advised that the idea is not to cut trees down, rather, retain them for habitat. Among examples given of creating or enhancing habitat were: 600 nest boxes funded by rotary were placed on properties around the edges of previously fire effected areas of Kilmore. Nest hollows can also be artificially cut into trees. Placement is important and nest boxes are placed or hollows created up at a height of at least 4m from the ground. Phascogales, Pigmy Gliders and Ringtail Possums are residents of



*Eucalyptus obliqua* leaf  
Image: Phil Clancy



*Dipodium punctatum*  
Hyacinth Orchid  
Image: Phil Clancy



Logs & branches left on ground for erosion control & habitat  
Image: Phil Clancy



*Daviesia latifolia* Hop Bitter-pea  
Image: Phil Clancy

(Continued on page 6)

## February Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Monument Hill that benefit from additional nesting sites. A further initiative cited was an experimental relocation of a nearly dead Blue Gum tree that had needed to be removed by VicRoads. The tree was shifted into Monument Hill, and Phil related that during the process of relocation a Wood Duck nest fell out of the tree, however, the good news was that almost immediately the tree was in its new home 2 Kookaburras began utilising the tree, overall it has turned out to be worthwhile experiment.

There is a Shire management plan in place for Monument Hill Reserve and while a number of planned activities and tasks have been completed there are still further works and goals to be achieved. One of the tasks that has been completed is the successful removal of a Bugle Lily (*Watsonia*) infestation. The cleared area was then replanted with native species. However, fires have since burned out the replanting. There are some issues with regard to the reservoir, which has considerable bare earth around it that would benefit from plantings of semi aquatic native species and restricting horse access to prevent ongoing soil and erosion damage. Currently during periods of heavy rain inward water flows scour the dam and sends clay silt out down through gullies to the edge of the golf club.

There is still plenty of work to be done and we need local community to see the value in Monument Hill, and to encourage community to become engaged and participate in developing the reserve to be more than it currently is. Phil cited the Euroa arboretum as a positive example and outcome of what can happen when the local community can come together to enhance and protect natural assets. Monument Hill has the potential to be better used and a lot to offer in the realms of recreation values, conservation, scientific research etc.

A Q & A session formed the last segment of the presentation during which, the main question asked was: What's the way forward? The answers being (in point form):

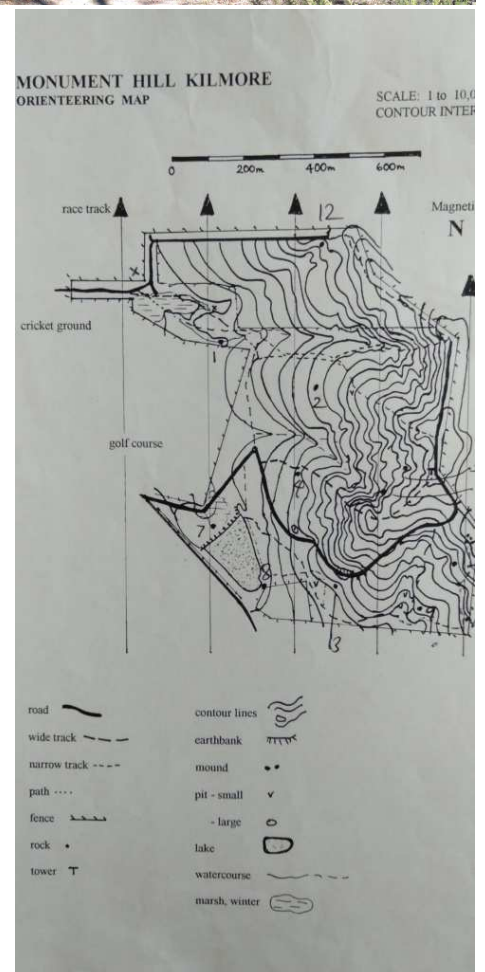
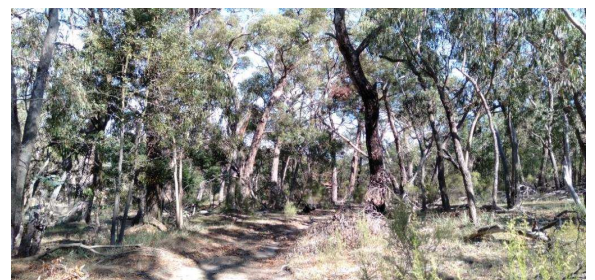
- Identify things that could be better
- Preserve existing habitat
- Manage the removal of wood
- Further erosion control work – specifically dealing with ruts and track management.
- Better defined walking tracks



Above: View across reservoir showing silting/ bare earth.

Below: Track through Monument Hill

Photos: Phil Clancy



Orienteering map of Monument Hill

Image provided by Phil Clancy

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## February Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

- Marking & recording plants species of interest – perhaps with a QR code reading system/app.
- Further weed management – Sweet Vernal Grass is currently a problem
- Improve control of feral animals & domestic cats
- Address sediment inflow & outflow from dam – Engage community participation in revegetating the area around the dam.
- Attract complimentary/educational activities – For example Bush Kinder. The area would be ideal to introduce students to the effects on habitat, its vulnerability, conservation and natural values.

Our regular plant door prize came next on the agenda with 3 *Prostanthera* on offer along with an *Eremophila* from Russell Wait. The lucky winners were: Victoria, Robyn, Dawn B & Marie. Lastly, flower table specimens shown and discussed for the evening were:

*Grevillea* cultivar

*Eucalyptus synandra*

*Eryngium ovinum* Blue Devils

*Calocephalus citreus* Lemon Beauty Heads

*Pelargonium rodneyanum* Magenta Stork's-bill

*Correa glabra* (see page 1)

*Xerochrysum viscosum* Sticky Everlasting (see page 2)

*Mentha australis* River or Australian Mint



A named *Grevillea* Cultivar (name forgotten) brought in by Norbert Photo: J Petts



Left: *Eucalyptus synandra*  
Below left –Right:  
*Eryngium ovinum*  
*Calocephalus citreus*  
*Pelargonium rodneyanum*  
*Mentha australis*  
Photos: J Petts





## Wahlenbergia species...

By Norbert Ryan

The genus *Wahlenbergia* was named in 1812 in honour of Professor Wahlenberg, a Swedish botanist. Although the genus includes a very attractive group of Australian plants, *Wahlenbergia* are not unique to Australia, in fact, the genus has almost worldwide distribution. However, of approximately 200 species, the greatest variety are found in Africa and Australasia. There are 22 species in Australia. This genus belongs to the Campanulaceae family; other Australian genera in this family include *Pratia*, *Isotoma* and *Lobelia*. The Campanulaceae or "bell flowers" have the following features: they are small herbs rather than shrubs; may be perennial or annual and sometimes have rhizomes; the petals are joined at their base to form a tube and the ovary of the flower is located below the point where the petals attach, these characteristics form the "bell" shape of the flowers; they generally have five blue to purple petals; the leaves are simple and flowers are borne on the end of upright stems; cut stems exude a latex; the fruiting capsule may contain up to 50 seeds; and polysaccharide storage is based on the compound inulin rather than starch, furthermore some species have medicinal qualities.

In "The Flora of Melbourne (Bull)" there are nine species of *Wahlenbergia* described. Two of these; *W. victoriensis* and *W. gracilentia* are annual species and the latter often has only a single, lightly branched stem. The perennial species are *W. communis* (Tufted Bluebell), *W. gracilis* (Sprawling Bluebell), *W. graniticola* (Granite Bluebell), *W. gymnoclada* (Naked Bluebell), *W. luteola* (Bronze Bluebell), *W. multicaulis* (Tadgell's or Branching Bluebell) and *W. stricta* (Tall Bluebell). These species range in height from 10-60cm, vary in flower size and timing and in the basal leaf structure. A popular species for gardens is *W. communis*, this has very narrow short leaves, flowering time is from October-March, thus it presents a beautiful splash of colour for a long period, this period extended if lightly watered over summer. The leaves die off in very dry conditions but multi stemmed foliage re-emerges in winter from an extensive rhizome structure. The flowers close with failing light and open in broad sunlight.

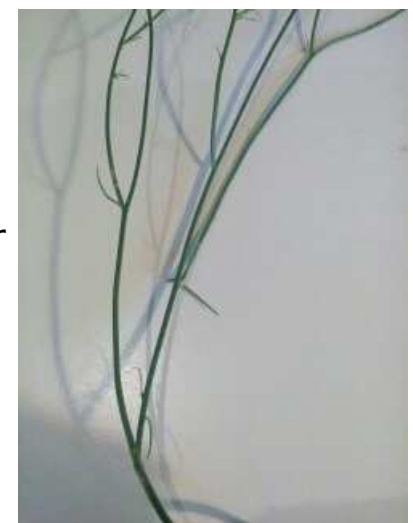
*W. stricta* is also commonly grown, it has slightly larger flowers of 30mm width; it can be distinguished from *W. communis* by the flowering period from August- January, and leaves that are thicker, ranging from 1 to 13mm width. *W. multicaulis* flowers from September to May, the base leaves have thick margins and form a tuft. *W. gracilis* has



*Wahlenbergia communis* growing in a drift on edge of gravel path.



*Wahlenbergia gracilis* showing tangled foliage and small flower 6mm width.



Illustrating narrow leaves of *Wahlenbergia communis*

Photos: Norbert Ryan

(Continued on page 9)



## *Wahlenbergia species continued...*

*By Norbert Ryan*

*(Continued from page 8)*

foliage that is similar to *W. communis* but the growth is taller and more tangled, the flowers are quite tiny, ranging from 2-6mm.

Overall, the *Wahlenbergia* bluebells are very versatile to use in native gardens. *W. communis* spreads very easily to form drifts on banks and pathways and will also be useful planted amongst grasses, it evidently spreads well from seed too, ultimately popping up at distance from the area of mass planting, (perhaps an undesirable feature). The long duration of flowering is a beautiful addition to a native garden. From an environmental aspect, they attract native bees. Despite the development of cultivars of various shades and double flowers, this spectacular, tough little plant is yet again an example of another indigenous species neglected for use in the average suburban garden.



This image illustrates multiplicity of bell shaped seed heads, and note tufted form of growth of *Wahlenbergia multicaulis*.



Young plant of *Wahlenbergia stricta*, thicker leaves compared to *W. communis*.



*Wahlenbergia multicaulis*, seed production of one capsule.



Tube stock of *Wahlenbergia stricta*, note substantial rhizome that confers perennial survival of plants during dry conditions.

All photos: Norbert Ryan

## 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,  
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Kate Boulton – Wallan,  
Kilmore & Broadford  
Bendigo Community Bank  
Lorraine & Brian Weir,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Phil Clancy,  
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](mailto: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.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

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### Committee Members

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Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248

Email: [secretary@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto:secretary@apsmitchell.org.au)

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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](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)

## Bendigo Bank grant awards evening...



Norbert Ryan & Dawn McCormack gratefully receiving a Bendigo Community Bank grant 2019 to support the APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale.

MANY THANKS BENDIGO BANK!!!

Photo: Kindly provided by Kate Boulton of Wallan, Kilmore & Broadford Community Branches of Bendigo Bank.

### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts

Email: [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto: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 & Special Events...

AN EXHIBITION BY AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY-VIC  
17 FEBRUARY-17 APRIL 2020

# AUSTRALIAN PLANTS REVEALED

65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science

**Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery**  
32 Greenwood Avenue  
Ringwood

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS REVEALED:

65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science

**Entry:** Free

**Open:** Monday-Friday 9am-5 pm, Saturday 12 noon-4pm  
Closed public holidays

**Event webpage:**  
<https://apsvic.org.au/event/banks-solander-exhibition/>

**Contact:**  
[exhibitions@apsvic.org.au](mailto:exhibitions@apsvic.org.au)

In April 2020 it will be 250 years since the East Coast of Australia was first sighted from the Endeavour when Lieutenant Cook, his crew and passengers saw Point Hicks in East Gippsland.

This exhibition will feature six of the actual plant specimens and 30 images of other plants collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770. The collection was taken to London for scientific classification and study.

The exhibition will also recognise the vast Indigenous uses of these plants and celebrate the long history of Australia's original custodians.

Two lectures will be given on Saturday afternoon 28 March 2020 by Prof. Tim Entwistle and Bruce Pascoe.

See website for more details.

Images from Sandra Sanger collection.

18 FEBRUARY-18 APRIL 2020

# AUSTRALIAN PLANTS REVEALED

An Exhibition Highlighting Banksias and Unique Australian Flora

**Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery**  
1190-1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road  
Kalorama VIC 3766

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY VICTORIA INVITES YOU TO KARWARRA

**Entry:** Free

**Open:** Tues-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun 1pm-4pm

**Closed:** Mondays, days of Total Fire Ban and during extreme weather

Karwarra is set on two hectares at picturesque Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges. Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery is devoted to displaying a diverse range of Australian plants in a landscaped setting. Visit at any time throughout the year for plenty to see and enjoy, with many plants flowering in each season.

Karwarra has a well-stocked plant nursery and staff can assist with the selection of plants suitable to your particular needs.

The display at Karwarra is being held in conjunction with the exhibition "Australian Plants Revealed: 65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science" at Federation Estate, Ringwood.

There will also be two talks at Ringwood on Saturday 28 March 2020 at 2pm by Prof. Tim Entwistle and Bruce Pascoe.

See website for more details.

**Event webpage:**  
[apsvic.org.au/event/banks-solander-exhibition/](https://apsvic.org.au/event/banks-solander-exhibition/)

**Contact:**  
[exhibitions@apsvic.org.au](mailto:exhibitions@apsvic.org.au)