NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764 Inc# A0054306V



Philotheca verrucosa Bendigo Wax Flower Photo: J. Petts

Remember it doesn't need to be much, just a photo of something of interest, a species name if known, or other information, or perhaps a little about a project you may have underway. All donations are most gratefully accepted & very, very much appreciated.

The July newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday July 13th. I'll be eagerly looking forward to hearing from our members and friends. So please, please, send contributions in by Monday July 6th. Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Stay healthy, safe & happy in your gardens. Cheers until next time, Jeanine

June news...!

Hello and welcome to our June 2020 edition...

I hope our first winter issue in this year of social distancing finds everyone in fine health and coping with these changing, challenging times.

While gathering restrictions continue to be so "up in the air", we have no real way of knowing exactly when the John Taylor room will be reopened to groups for meetings, and cannot yet confirm when meetings may resume. That said, at this stage, it's unlikely to be before August, and our Spring Plant Expo remains subject to many factors. We hope to bring you more information with our July issue.

This month I have Maureen Runge, Bill Barker & Norbert Ryan to thank for much of our group content. Thank you all! I've put in a bit of a contribution from our garden in Pyalong this time as well. I am hoping the much-needed support continues, as the content of our next 2-3 issues at least, will remain reliant on the generosity of our members and friends.

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Message from APS Vic on 2020-2021 membership fees...

Dear all, APS Vic has decided that we will waive fees, for 2020/21, for members who are suffering financial hardship due to Covid-19. Affected members have the option of applying to APS Vic to waive APS Vic fees for 2020/21 if they are suffering financial hardship from COVID-19. Application should be made via each District Group. District Groups may decide to also waive their fees for affected members. District Group secretaries or treasurers are to forward the list of those asking for a waiver to me as APS Vic secretary. I will then arrange an update of their membership expiry date.

Regards,

Chris Long

Secretary APS Vic

June 2020

Volume 7, Issue 5

Mitchell Diary Dates..

Due to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation, all group meetings, outings and gatherings continue to be suspended until further notice. Advice will be sent via email should conditions change before our next newsletter issue date.

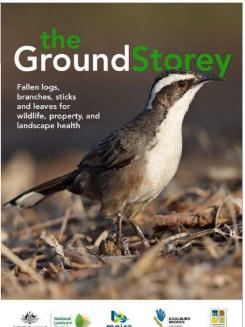
The following dates remaining in the diary are subject to potential postponement or cancellation, being wholly dependent upon government health advice and instruction of the time:

- 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...

'The Ground Storey' is a new 30-page booklet that discusses the importance of fallen logs, branches, sticks and leaves in the environment. Featuring beautiful photography by Chris Tzaros, the booklet delves into why sometimes what we humans can see as 'mess' is the real estate and supermarkets for native fauna. Fallen timber and associated matter plays a vital role in nutrient recycling, reduces the effects of soil erosion, and is the key to having a more diverse and interesting property, that is lived on and visited by native birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. If you would like to receive a copy, email Janis Mentiplay-Smith of GBCMA at: janicem@gbcma.vic.gov.au with your mailing details. Or download the PDF version from: https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/our-region/land_and_biodiversity/ resources publications/the-ground-storey













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 remain suspended until further notice...

Owing to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation:

All meetings, outings and gatherings of APS Mitchell District Group continue to be suspended until further notice.

Further advice regarding APS Mitchell activities will be provided via monthly newsletters and/or email.

In the interim, keep busy in your gardens and around your homes, stay safe and healthy.

We'll be looking forward to seeing everyone hale & hearty in the future, hearing about how your plants have grown, gardens progressed, and any other projects you may have undertaken. We will plan to resume activities as soon as government heath department advice and instruction declares conditions safe for social gatherings and acceptable to resume.



Halgania preissiana Purple Haze' Photo: J Petts

Memberships...

Membership renewal time is here again! This year's form can be found on the back page & please remember to send your completed form in to Christine when making payment. For all membership enquiries, information, or to request a fee waiver (as per page 1) please contact Christine Cram: Phone: 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: aps.mitchell@gmail.com

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

April-May-June garden snapshots ...

Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...

Again for your viewing pleasure this month, we have snapshots from members gardens taken during April, May & June...

Maureen Runge was first cab off the rank following last month's newsletter to send the following photos of her garden in within days of receiving our May issue email. The garden in Kilmore is a mixed garden, with almost all of the native plants within it having been purchased APS Mitchell Spring Plant Expos or monthly meetings ...



(Continued on page 4)

May-June garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Our second contributor for this month is Bill Barker. Bill shared a photo of *Templetonia Retusa* Cockie's Tongue in the garden. Saying: "It's gorgeous right now".



Templetonia retusa is a member of the Pea Family, and is endemic to southern South Australia and south-western Western Australia, growing mainly in coastal regions. The bright red, eye catching flowers are produced over a long period; winter into spring. A small to medium shrub that grows to 1-2m. Although suited to a dry Mediterranean type climate, it will tolerate some humidity and moderate frost. However, it can be damaged and even killed by severe frosts. It prefers a planting site in well drained soil in full sun to partial shade.

Templetonia retusa - Cockie's Tongues flowering at the end of May. Photo: Bill Barker

Finally for this month, some of the species in flower around the garden at Wattle Gum Forest Farm...

Correa 'Little Cate' is mass planted on one side of the driveway as a border, the patch is currently in full flower, and a favourite spot for Honeyeaters, Parrots and Wrens. Another slightly smaller growing Correa pulchella cultivar; 'Pink Mist' forms another mass planted, pretty low border on the opposite side of the driveway, and is currently in full flower as well. They both tolerate, full sun to shade, frost, and periods of dryness, but will do very well in moist soil. Correa 'Little Cate' grows to 1m high x 1.5m wide, and Correa 'Pink Mist' grows to 0.75m high x 1m wide.



Above: Correa 'Little Cate' used as a border on one side of the driveway & currently in full flower.

Below: Opposite side of driveway & Correa Pink Mist'. Solanum laciniatum in the background to the right of bird bath. Xerochrysum viscosum self-seeded at the base of the bird bath. Photos: J Petts





May-June garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Hakea Laurina 'Stockdale Sensation' is finally making its first and long awaited flowering in the garden. This specimen was purchased from Vaughan's Australian Plants at the APS Spring Plant Expo in 2017. It is a large shrub that will grow to 2-3m high x 1.5-2m wide, and flowers best when in full sun. It is frost tolerant, and drought tolerant once established. Will grow in most soils provided it is in well drained site.













Above: Hakea Laurina 'Stockdale Sensation' buds closed & partially open, fully open flowers and form. (Under planted with Dianella Amoena & Orthrosanthus multiflorus) Photos: Jeanine Petts

Two other Correa in flower are Correa 'Jezabell', (a cross of C. Candy Pink x C. pulchella) that has bright pinkish red flowers and a Correa reflexa form.

Correa 'Jezabell' is pictured at left, above left, and in the foreground of the bottom left photo. It is much smaller growing Correa than C. reflexa, and may reach 1m x 1m, while C. reflexa can be variable may reach up to 2m. Both are frost hardy and will grow in dry shade, although these two specimens are in full sun for at least part to most of the day (depending on time of vear).

Top: Left Correa 'Jezabell'. Right: Correa reflexa Middle: Correa 'Jezabell'

Bottom: Background: Correa reflexa, Foreground: Correa 'Jezabell'

(Continued on page 6) Photos: Jeanine Petts

May-June garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Elsewhere in the garden *Hakea decurrens* Bushy Needlewood is covered in sweetly honey scented flowers, and nearby, the berries of Enchylaena tomentosa Ruby Saltbush are making a bright contrast against its silver blue foliage, and a young Eremophila glabra 'Kalbarri Carpet' is producing its first flowers.

Perennial favourites Epacris impressa red form, and Brachyscome multifida are bright spots of colour.

Meanwhile 2 Anigozanthos flavidus hybrids, a 'Hybrid Pink' & 'Orange Cross' are making a surprise (& late) second flowering after being

dead-headed a month or so back. Both of these specimens were sourced from Goldfields Revegetation.



Epacris impressa red form Photo: Jeanine Petts



Bushy Needlewood Photo: Jeanine Petts



Eremophila glabra 'Kalbarri Carpet' 1st flowering Photo: Jeanine Petts



Enchylaena tomentosa Ruby Saltbush (Growing at base of Hakea Photo: Jeanine Petts decurrens)



Brachyscome multifida Photo: Jeanine Petts

Anigozanthos flavidus Hybrids: Right: Orange Cross Far right: Hybrid Pink Photos: Jeanine Petts





Wallaby Grass & Cypresses...

By Norbert Ryan

Wallaby grass...

In these difficult "stay at home times" it is worth looking more closely at what's around in the local environment. Our property in Hidden Valley backs onto a very degraded, steep hillside; this is privately owned land but zoned conservation, presumably due to the steepness of the land rather than on the basis of significant remnant flora. This area was once a sheep paddock and now it's overpopulated with kangaroos, so only the toughest of species have survived. One of the predominant grass species on this slope occurs in small clumps or miniature tussocks. This species is smaller than Wallaby grasses that I have seen for sale and is potentially ideal for garden or even lawn use, much less conspicuous than Poa species that are favoured in bushgarden settings. The book Flora of Melbourne by Marilyn Bull provides a detailed description of the range of Wallaby grasses or Rytidosperma species. However, this text emphasizes that the Wallaby grasses may exhibit different features depending on environment and in response to the impact of heavy grazing. There are 19 species described in this book and they can be separated largely on the structure of the flower head. The local species illustrated is R. geniculatum, the distinguishing features are it occurs as a slender stemmed tussock, sometimes with a bend near the base (hence the naming implying "bent knee"). Height varies from 20-40cm. The flowers occur in panicles containing 4-6 spikelets, the outer coat or glumes extend beyond the lemma which is covered in hairs.

Cypress dieback...

Earlier this year, before the drought ended, this previously intact perimeter Cypress plantation (illustrated) started showing signs of stress. Now over 40 trees in close proximity have started to die and there are three distinct areas affected on a 5 acre boundary. There have been 4 fungal infections identified as causing this disease and 25 conifer species of the Cupressaceae family are vulnerable. Cypress canker is the most serious of these infections and is caused by *Seiridium* sp. which has been detected in Victoria for approximately 50 years. Although boundary plantings of this type are common, incidents like this will result in major expense for clean-up operations. In my own property we removed 17 (healthy) trees forming a northern barrier. Aside from the limits to planting anything else within their vicinity, these trees created a mini cold zone and we saw little winter sun in that area. In terms of being an effective wind barrier these dense hedges actually cause uplift of wind, and no abatement in strength a short distance beyond this barrier. A native plant barrier causes more filtering and reduction in wind strength well beyond the plantation.



Die back in local Cypresses.



Central branches appear dry before infection spreads to external limbs.



Heavily grazed slope showing Rytidosperma geniculatum, as sole flora, regrowing from dry base after rain.



Tussock of Rytidosperma geniculatum, height 25cm, flower heads visible.



Seed head panicles of *Rytidosperma geniculatum*. In mature seed head note long glumes and very hairy lemma (water damaged, central awn not visible) .



Rytidosperma geniculatum Stem showing very fine rolled leaves and characteristic bent stem.

All photos: Norbert Ryan

iNaturalist...

Message From Chris Clarke APS Vic President

iNaturalist is a wonderful citizen science community and data base. You may be aware of Natureshare - a site for observations of wild things in Victoria that was initiated by the late Russell Best - past APS Vic research officer. All Natureshare observations are now being migrated to iNaturalist. All the people who added observations of flora and fauna on Natureshare can easily have them transferred to iNaturalist – by setting up an iNaturalist log in then e-mailing to have the transfer done.

People who didn't use Natureshare can easily create a new log in at iNaturalist and start posting photos of wildflowers, birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, fish, gastropods – whatever wild thing takes your fancy. It is easy to use and is a great way to learn more about our flora and record sightings from our APS trips. You can join the "Natureshare" project for your Victorian observations.

Experts on iNaturalist will confirm your identification or add an ID if you have not. If you are confident of the species you can verify other people's identifications. You can add questions and comments and send messages to other users.

With plants – flowers and leaves really help.

With fungi – the underside gills are important.

I find it helps if your camera has GPS but you can pick the spot you saw things on the map yourself if you are sure – or use a phone photo with GPS.

Once verified your observations are uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia and become an important part of our scientific record of all living things in Australia. So far there are over 1 million observations in Australia. A very important resource.

You can search iNaturalist by the map, the species, the person posting, or just browse.

This is spot to explore iNaturalist - https://inaturalist.ala.org.au

Here are the Natureshare project observations for Victoriahttps://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/natureshare-victoria-australia

If you join you might want to give a hand confirming the Natureshare IDs!

Cheers.

Chris Clarke

APS Vic President

WAMA Donation Drive...

Message From Mike Stevens WAMA



ELP BRING THE WAMA PROJECT TO LIFE

WAMA Donation Drive



Help create a unique wildlife and art precinct at the edge of the Grampians.

Take advantage of the <u>Lewin Gift Match Challenge</u> to double your donation and bring the WAMA project to life!

It's an exciting time at WAMA with some real progress made on site. It's the perfect time to get on board and provide your support to this unique destination project. The momentum has just begun!

The Lewin Gift Match Challenge is a \$500,000 challenge where every dollar donated will be kindly matched by the Lewin Family Foundation in a bid to raise \$1m for the WAMA Foundation.

Make your tax-deductible contribution go even further by making your donation before June 30, 2020.

Funds raised through the Lewin Gift Match Challenge will go directly to the development of the wildlife art gallery, education and multifunctional facility plus contribute to the landscaping of the surrounding botanic gardens and wetlands.

Some of our recent achievements include:

- The predator proof fence is now complete, protecting our precious covenant areas from pests in preparation of our first native wildlife reintroductions.
- We have recently planted our native grasslands area, contributing to the restoration of the Grampians' unique biodiversity. The native grassland forms an integral part of our landscaping whilst providing habitat for grassland dependent species.
- Planning and seed propagation for our Grampians Endemic Gardens is well underway. The 2-hectare garden will showcase the majority of over 70 endemic flora species native to the Grampians

The Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus (top right)* and Southern Brown Bandicoot *Isoodon obesulus (bottom right)* will both be released onto the WAMA site. The newly installed predator-proof fence will protect them.

There is no better time than now to support WAMA. Together with your contribution we look forward to the developments we continue to make to realise the WAMA vision.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mike Stevens WAMA Foundation Board Director Philanthropy Team

To make a secure donation please follow the link: https://wama.net.au/donate/





Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events



Thank you

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO:
Barbara Mau,
Bill Barker,
Christine Cram,
David & Helen Laurie,
Ian Julian,
Janet Hand,
Maureen Runge,
Norbert Ryan,
Peter & Joan Broughton,
Sonia Sharkey,
Victoria Morris.

A P S 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.

September 5 &6 - Open Garden Scheme Bill Aitchison & Sue Gymer's garden, 13 Conos Crt, Donvale.

September 12 & 13 -

Australian Plants Expo hosted by APS Yarra Yarra, Eltham Community Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm. Bendigo Plant Sale, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman

19 & 20 September - APS

Drive, Kangaroo Flat (Bendigo). 9:30am-4pm.

October 3-4 - Pomonal

Flower show. Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm. Special Guest Speaker: Jane Edmanson. For details visit:

https://apsvic.org.au/event/ aps-grampians-pomonalflower-show-2020/

October 10 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca. 9am-4pm

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

Please note: Owing to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation, registrations for the FJC Rogers Seminar are currently on hold until a decision is made regarding whether this event will go ahead on time & in what format.

For further information contact:

Email:

fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au Phone:

Miriam 0409 600 644



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Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764 No. A0054306V

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au
Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: lan 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 Co-Ordinator: 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

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

For inclusion in the next Newsletter please forward contributions prior to the first Monday of each month.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

(Please ☑ whichever applies) Application ☐

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764 Inc# A0054306V

2020/21 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM — July 1 to June 30 This is a combined membership form for APS Vic and APS Mitchell

Please use this form instead of the form sent out with the APS Victoria newsletter For insurance purposes people who join APS Mitchell must also join APS Victoria Inc.

OR

Renewal

	Title:	Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss				
	Surname/s:					
Given name/s:						
Postal Address:						
Town/Suburb:						
Postcode:						
Telephone:						
Em	ail Address:					
(Please I	☑ whichever	annlies)				
Membership Type:			Fees: Note: Membership Year = July 1—June 30			
			APS Victoria	APS Mitchell	Total	
	Single		\$35.00	\$10.00	\$45.00	
	Couple/Family (2 adults & 2 dependents)		\$40.00	\$12.00	\$52.00	
			\$26.00	\$10.00	\$36.00	
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	Which Group?	:		☐ Student \$10.00		
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I/We agre	e I agree to be	bound by the Rules and Bylav	ws of the Societ	ty.		
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Payment by: (1) Bank Transfer to BSB 633-000 Account No. 159982271 (Bendigo Bank)						
Please include your <u>surname and post code</u> as reference/transaction details						
Or (2) Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC.						
Posted to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764						
Or(3)Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (3 rd Monday of the month						
	7:30pm John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St Kilmore)					

Enquires: Christine Cram Ph: 0458 238 270 or email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au