

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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### September news...!

Hello and welcome to our September 2020 & eagerly awaiting more good news edition...

Well, spring has definitely sprung! Judging by the photos and items I've been provided with for this edition, our most wonderful community of native plant loving members & friends have been keeping very busy, & enjoying plenty of garden time. We have again been blessed with a fabulous array of images and information to share with our readership. Our friendly, generous, supportive band of helpers warms my heart & I am very much looking forward to the time when I can thank you all again in person. In the meantime, I send huge virtual hugs, deep, deep thanks & appreciation to those who continue to help me keep our newsletter so full—See back page, photo credits & articles for this edition's contributors names—Bless your gorgeous souls.

Unfortunately, with current uncertainty regarding what Covid-19 restrictions may be in October. The decision has been taken to postpone the hoped for October Garden Visit to



Spring has sprung in the Barker garden  
Photo: B & B Barker

Dawn McCormack's garden until further notice. The committee will provide an update as soon as there is certainty when activities can resume. In the meantime please keep your excellent contributions coming in – Only 2 editions left for the year now. The October newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday October 13th, & contributions received until Thursday Oct 9th. Email to: [wattlelum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlelum@southernphone.com.au)

Virtual hugs to all, stay safe, well, & I'll look forward to hearing from our lovely community. Cheers for now, Jeanine

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### *Did you see the article on Monument Hill in the NCR?*

Did you see a recent article on Monument Hill in the North Central Review issue of September 8th? The article covered work relating to rare and endangered species found on Monument Hill, and newly erected signage describing species.

It is most auspicious & pleasing to announce that one of Paul Piko's photographs graces the new information board. Congratulations to Paul & everyone involved in the ongoing conservation work at Monument Hill. Very well done!!!

The article can be found on line at the following web address:

<https://ncreview.com.au/2020/09/08/endangered-species-in-clear-sight/>

## September 2020

Volume 7, Issue 8

### Mitchell Diary Dates..

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation: The APS Mitchell Group Spring Plant Expo & Sale has been Cancelled. Meetings, outings and other gatherings continue to be suspended until further notice. Advice will be sent via email should conditions change before our next newsletter issue date.

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

- October Garden Visit to The garden of Dawn McCormack is postponed until further notice. The visit will hopefully be rescheduled when conditions allow.
- November—AGM Date, format & further details to be confirmed.



## Gardens for Wildlife News...

Planting a wildlife friendly garden definitely pays dividends in attracting visitors to your garden, as seen locally, & shared by two of our members; Maureen Runge & Paul Piko: The Echidna pictured below left visits Maureen & Hans every year (Photo by Maureen Runge).

Photos of visiting fauna from Paul Piko; Clockwise from top right: "Peek-a-Roo", a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo stopping in for a feed, & a Butcher Bird. (See page 6 onwards for more photos shared by Maureen & Paul).

Please note: Photos by Paul Piko are subject to copywrite. Authority must be sought & given to reprint or use them.  
[www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au).



**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 health department advice and instruction declares conditions safe for social gatherings and acceptable to resume.



*Coronidium scorpioides* -  
Button Everlasting  
Photo: J Petts 15/9/20

## Memberships...

Hopefully everyone has completed their 2020/21 membership renewal & emailed forms along to Christine at [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au) or popped a hardcopy in the mail to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, PO BOX 541 Kilmore Vic 3764. Members should be receiving their quarterly edition of APS Victoria's *Growing Australian* in the Mail during September—If your copy doesn't arrive your membership may have lapsed, & you may need to check your membership status.

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



## Garden snapshots ...

*Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...*

Our first garden snapshots for this month have been shared by Russell Wait...

At right is *Astus subroseus*, Russell advises he collected this in 1995 south of Coolgardie before it was named: Initially it was known as "*sp Baeckea*" and is only found growing over a very small area. The original specimen was located growing in sand, in a depression under Eucalyptus. The species grows to 1.5m high and flowers for about 3-4 months of the year.



Above & below: *Astus subroseus*  
Photos: Russell Wait

The Eremophila pictured below is a plant that came up in one of Russell's friends garden, and it is a hybrid between *E. glabra* (Canning Stock Route form) and crossed with *E. nivea*. The *E. glabra x nivea* is called "Pink Pantha" and grows to just over 2m high and flowers for about 9 months.



In the photo of the E. "Pink Pantha" bush (below), to the left is a grey bush, *Eremophila waitii*. Both *Eremophila* specimens pictured are grafted.

Below & Below right: *Eremophila glabra x nivea* "Pink Pantha"  
Below in left of picture: *Eremophila waitii*

Photos & narrative : Russell Wait



(Continued on page 4)



## Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Next for your viewing pleasure are photos taken by Tim Wollington in Dawn McCormack's lovely garden. As you will see, Dawn & Tim have continued to keep busy and the garden is looking delightful. There are a few *Grevillea* pictured that Dawn would greatly appreciate some assistance recalling the species names (see photo credits). If anyone recognises a species please let us know.



A *Grevillea* with cream flowers



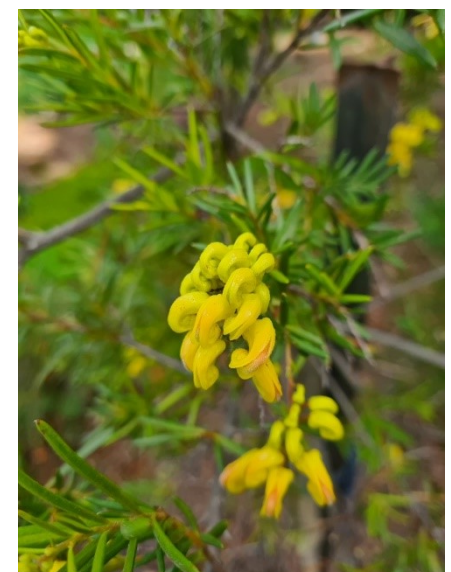
Photos: Tim Wollington



Above & Below: *Grevillea tenuiloba*  
(Standard) Photos: Tim Wollington



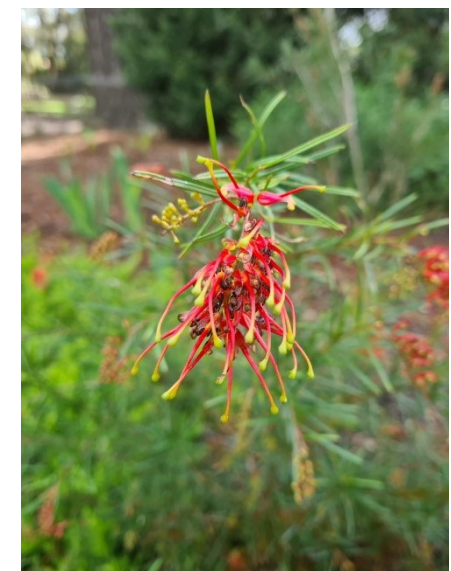
*Grevillea* "Lemon Daze" (Standard)



Photos: Tim Wollington



A *Grevillea* with red flowers



Photos: Tim Wollington



## Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 4)

*Acacia leprosa* is in full flower & looking stunning in Dawn's garden (see below right). The recently constructed ornamental bed has been dubbed "Monument Hill" & the plantings are blooming. A new addition to the garden is an insect hotel.



A Standard *Grevillea* with red flowers



Photos: Tim Wollington



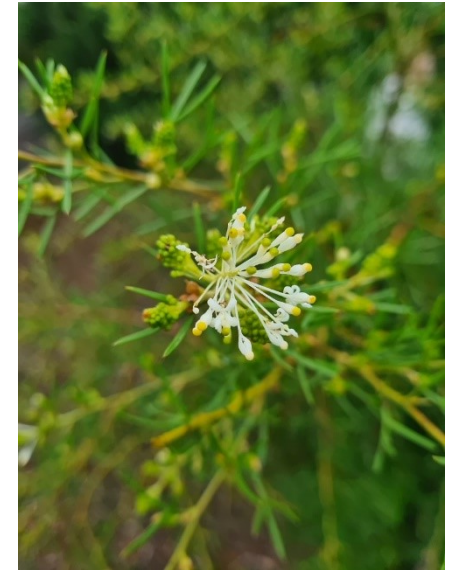
Above: Dawn's "Monument Hill"

Below: A new insect hotel

Photos: Tim Wollington



A Standard *Grevillea* with dainty white flowers



Photos: Tim Wollington



*Acacia leprosa* "Scarlet Blaze"



Photos: Tim Wollington



## Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Paul Piko has spent time taking photos of local native flora & visiting fauna in recent weeks, & is generously sharing more lovely snaps with us this month...

Pictured at right is Common Heath *Epacris impressa*, our Victorian Floral Emblem. It is found in a range of colours including white, pinks & red.

Some of our other local species including: A *Hibbertia* & *Hovea*, a few *Pterostylis* Greenhood Orchids, a *Drosera* Sundew, & one of our native lilies *Wurmbea dioica* Early Nancy are pictured below.



*Epacris impressa* pink & white forms



*Pterostylis nutans*



*Pterostylis pedunculata*



*Hibbertia obtusifolia*



*Hovea heterophylla*



*Drosera* sp.



*Wurmbea dioica*



*Pterostylis melagramma*



Wedged-tailed Eagle

Photos: Paul Piko

N.B. These photos are subject to copywrite & authority is required for their use. [www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au)

(Continued on page 7)



## Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 6)

Along with Kangaroos, some of the birdlife Paul photographs in Hidden Valley include: Wedge-tailed Eagle, Kookaburra, Magpie, Cockatoo, New Holland Honey-eater, Butcher Bird, Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, & Crimson Rosella. Not all are pictured in this edition, as a few more shots are saved to share in our October newsletter.

Last, but by no means least for this month, are two more garden view images from Maureen's delightful garden in Kilmore. Pictured at bottom row; A white form of *Hardenbergia violacea* currently looking stunning in full bloom, & an *Acacia* just budding up.



© Paul Piko

Kangaroos - Mother & Joey

Photo: © Paul Piko [www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au)



© Paul Piko

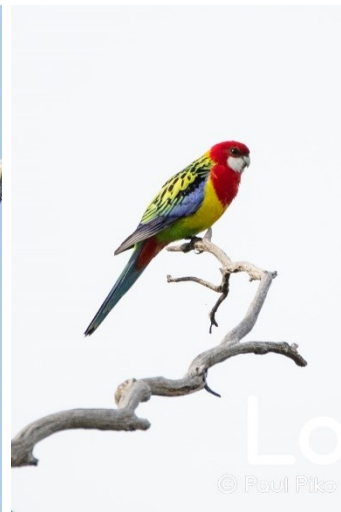
Kookaburra

Photos: ©Paul Piko [www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au)



© Paul Piko

Rainbow Lorikeet



© Paul Piko

Eastern Rosella

Photos: ©Paul Piko [www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au)



© Paul Piko

Crimson Rosella



Garden Views - *Hardenbergia violacea* white form



An *Acacia* in bud

Photos: Maureen Runge



## Yellow Rush-lily...

By Norbert Ryan



*Tricoryne elatior* Picture 1. Flowers open in full sun, this early morning photo (late February) shows partially opened flowers plus developing seed capsule also note the twisted dead flower enclosing its ovary, to the left of a cluster of seed capsules. Photo: N Ryan

### ***Tricoryne elatior* or Yellow Rush-lily**

*Tricoryne* is a genus that is native to Australia and New Guinea, 6 of the eight species occur in Australia. They are classified in the Asphodelaceae family of perennial herbs that includes *Dianella*, *Bulbine*, *Xanthorrhoea* and succulents such as *Aloe*. The genus name is derived from the description of the fruit which is divided into three segments literally "three clubbed"; *elatior* implies height.

*T. elatior* grows to 40cm with a short, thick rhizome, growth is tufted and the wiry stems are slightly grooved with a few flat leaves towards the base, smaller on upper branches. The flowers consist of three petals and three similarly coloured sepals, the six stamens have feathery appendages below the anther. The remnant dead flowers twist spirally around the ovary.

This species is of widespread occurrence throughout Australia, except NT, in open woodlands, grasslands and heaths. It is a relatively inconspicuous plant, appearing grass-like but subsequently noticed for its bright yellow flowers that occur for an extended period during spring and summer. In The Flora of Melbourne it is suggested for use in mass planting or planting in drifts, other descriptions recommend its use as ground cover or in rockeries. However seedlings are not commonly listed among species available from indigenous nurseries, with the exception of the CRISP Nursery in Ringwood. Greening Australia lists the species as being difficult to grow from seed, instead propagation from rhizomes is recommended. However seeds are available from Nindethana Seed Company WA and smoking is recommended to aid germination.

The illustrations 1-3 are from plants growing in open grassland in Hidden Valley, in an area previously used for grazing. The flowers are fairly numerous, long-lasting, occurring in groups of 2-10 per branching stem. The fruit capsule containing 4-6 seeds, remains green for an extended period even when ripe, seeds are black.



*Tricoryne elatior* Picture 2. Numerous flowers late in season, when fully opened appear as 6 petals, actually 3 petals, 3 sepals Photo: N Ryan

Reference sources: *Flora of Melbourne* (Marilyn Bull); Vicflora; Wikipedia; and Greening Australia.



*Tricoryne elatior* at Pyalong 30.12.2018  
Photo: J Petts



*Tricoryne elatior* Picture 3. Mature plant virtually indistinguishable from surrounding grasses. Tufted growth, slightly grooved stem, short leaves towards base. Photo: N Ryan



## *A thankyou message from WAMA...*

*Email from Glenda Lewin WAMA*

**Sent:** Thursday, 20 August 2020 12:28 PM

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

**Subject:** Thank you for your donation to WAMA

Dear Australian Plant Society - Mitchell,

I am writing to thank you for your much-valued donation. Your donation has contributed to all WAMA has achieved this year.

Donations to WAMA have enabled the construction of the predator proof fence, engagement of Mike Maka to create colourful murals on our two site huts, and the creation of two online exhibitions (see [Biggest Science Experiment – the Expo](#) which launched on 15 August and Nature Nurturing Art which will go live at [www.wama.net.au/art-exhibition](http://www.wama.net.au/art-exhibition) on 1 September) and match a \$48,000 grant from DELWP for the establishment of an endemic Grampians garden at site.

Your support has allowed WAMA to engage with Landscape Designers and Architects to create schematic representations in preparation for applying for the Planning Permit to proceed. Indeed, this is an exciting development as we move ever closer to realising the WAMA Vision.

In addition, the Lewin Family Foundation has matched your donation, bring the total donations since the launching of this matching campaign at Dunkeld in November last year to over \$120,000.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and, as COVID restrictions are lifted, we welcome you to visit the WAMA site and see for yourself these exciting developments.

Warm regards



Glenda Lewin  
WAMA Patron



**WAMA**  
WHERE ART MEETS NATURE



## *WAMA presents Nature Nurturing Art...*

*From WAMA*

WAMA presents *Nature Nurturing Art*, an art exhibition celebrating the connectivity between art, science and the natural environment.

Over 30 artists from across Australia who are deeply inspired by nature will show their works in WAMA's very first [online art exhibition](https://www.wama.net.au/art-exhibition)



The exhibition has been curated by long-time WAMA supporter and well-known Ballarat based art curator, **Merle Hathaway**.

Her passion and drive to bring art inspired by nature to the forefront of our cultural awareness has been the catalyst for bringing this collection together.

*'I am intrigued by artists who may spend years exploring particular aspects of life such the shimmer of light on water, or shadows in the bush at night. Photographers may wait hours to capture 'that shot'. Artists may return again and again to places of significance to them to absorb and convey its essence. In this exhibition we, the viewer, have the privilege of peeping into the worlds of 30 plus artists whose work is deeply inspired by nature. It is a delight to organise this exhibition for WAMA'*

- Merle Hathaway

Please enjoy the collection at [www.wama.net.au/art-exhibition](https://www.wama.net.au/art-exhibition) and share this invitation widely ...  
... and like us on Facebook and Instagram



## 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,  
Christine Cram,  
Glenda Lewin/WAMA  
Ian Julian,  
Dawn McCormack & Tim Wollington,  
Maureen Runge,  
Paul Piko,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Russell Wait,  
Victoria Morris.

### 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.

**October 3-4 - Pomonal Flower show CANCELLED.** Very regrettably, COVID-19 has forced the [Grampians Group Committee](#) to cancel this year's flower show

<https://apsvic.org.au/event/aps-grampians-pomonal-flower-show-2020/>

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

Details & Registration forms are available online at:

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

6 gardens available to visit over the weekend of the 24th & 25th of October.

Registration will be required.

Online lectures available 1 week prior to the weekend, accessed via password for registered attendees. Cost: \$25 per person

**For further information**

**contact: Email:**

[fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au](mailto:fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au)

**Phone: Miriam 0409 600 644**

**Free community screening - The Story of Plastic.**

**Available any time during September -** This event has

been organised by Mitchell Shire Council's Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer. For bookings, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-story-of-plastic-virtual-film-screening-tickets-116850654453>

The Story of Plastic takes a sweeping look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash, rivers and seas clogged with waste, and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing. Together, let's #BreakFreeFromPlastic

## 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)

Website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

### Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651  
Vice President: Dawn McCormack  
Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248  
Email: [secretary@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)

### 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.**

## 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



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## *Other Events...*

*Shared by Victoria Morris*

Friends of the Botanic Gardens are about to open their annual exhibition that will be online this time, plus a talk (see webpage & information below), which, is on plant based art. The exhibition is free to view and work is for sale:

<https://www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/2020/05/08/the-15th-art-of-botanical-illustration/>

### **The 2020 Art of Botanical Illustration: An overview of our 2020 Virtual Online Exhibition - Talking Online with Susan Foran**

**Wed, 23 Sep 2020**

**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

The Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition was first held in 1992, a sublime collection of some of the very best botanical illustration around the world, that enjoys a faithful following among Melbournians and botanical art lovers. For the first time in its 28 year history, the biennial Exhibition will be held online in light of COVID restrictions. Enjoy this virtual tour hosted by Susan Foran, our Botanical Illustrators, to hear the background of the artworks and artists included in our fabulous Exhibition. The winning artwork of the Celia Rosser Award will be shown alongside the Honourable Mentions. This is a FREE event.

**Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 22 September at 5 pm.**

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/30721-the-2020-art-of-botanical-illustration-an-overview-of-our-2020-virtual-online-exhibition-talking-online-with-susan-foran>

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. Among previous topics have been Companion Planting and Carnivorous Plants. A little information on 2 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>

### **The Australian Garden. Recreating this 2013 Gold & Best in Show: winning RHS Chelsea Garden at the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens - Talking Online with Phillip Johnson.**

**Fri, 18 Sep 2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Sustainable landscape designer Phillip Johnson generated rare garden-related headlines when his 'Australian Garden' took out the Best in Show award at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2013, with his extraordinary design for a garden designed to connect humanity back to the beauty of nature. This incredible design is not only a stunning display of Australian native plants, including rare and endangered natives from Gondwana, it is an exemplar of sustainability with water-wise design and habitat creation. Phillip's garden brings together horticultural science, breathtaking aesthetics, and a deep desire to connect people to the unique qualities of Australian nature. A standout feature of the design was the Waratah Studio along with a billabong that was surrounded by 300 tonnes of Scottish rock.

Phillip now has the joy of recreating this Australian Garden right here in our own backyard on an expanse of disused golf course adjacent to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden (formerly the National Rhododendron Garden). This garden will develop and promote beautiful Australian natives that will survive and thrive in a sustainable way, in varied and challenging conditions so everyone can experience the amazing, unique variety of Australian natives, to be connected to Australian nature, no matter where they live. Phillip is working with Parks Victoria to fund the project and will work closely with Parks Victoria to maintain the garden for the first ten years of its life. The Victorian government has released \$1 million as part of its Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program and it's anticipated that the project will kick off early 2021.

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 17 September at 5 pm.**

### **Habitat Gardening - Talking Online with AB Bishop, Horticulturist, writer and conservationist**

**Wed, 4 Nov 2020**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

In a world where suburban nature is declining and diversity is shrinking, AB Bishop will discuss why it's time to look at our garden with new eyes. She believes that our gardens should be a place for our own enjoyment and also provide a means of contributing to the health and sustainability of our local environment, the two not being mutually exclusive. AB will show what critters we need to encourage to our gardens and how to design, plant and maintain fauna-friendly landscapes. Learn about what plants suit what creatures and why, and how to factor in the shelter, nesting, food and water requirements of different types of wildlife.

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**Bookings essential to receive Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 3rd November at 5 pm**

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