

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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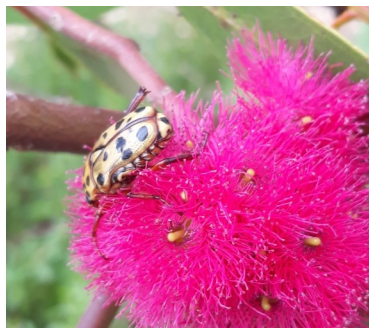
February news...!

Hello and welcome to our February 2021 edition & first for the new year...

Yippee!!! We can now return to hosting meetings in the John Taylor Room, albeit with a Covid safe facility plan in place (please view the plan on the back pages of this newsletter).

Our year will start on February 15th, with a general meeting, including the return of Paul Piko as guest speaker, followed by supper & chat - Yes there will be home baked cake! (see at right & page 2 for meeting details).

Once again I would like to extend my deep thanks & gratitude to those who have contributed to our newsletters (see articles, photo credits & page 12 for names). You all make my task so much easier, often interesting & educational. Serendipitously, this issue has coalesced into one with an unashamedly bent toward conservation & appreciation of our natural resources. We have particular thanks to extend to John Robinson & Carrie Tiffany for permission to re-print John's very relevant article (starting from page 3). Norbert Ryan's



Punctate Flower Chafer beetle on *Eucalyptus lansdowneana*. Photo: J Petts.

article (from page 10) contains excerpts from early conservation literature, that makes for complementary & also thought provoking reading.

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

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Looking forward hearing from & seeing everyone again soon.

Cheers until next time, Jeanine

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AGM time just around the corner...

Yes, it's that time again. Our previously Covid-19 delayed AGM has now been rescheduled to the evening of Monday March 15th, commencing 7:30 pm. Please see the official notice & nomination form on page 16.

Our typical, no fuss, & as brief as possible AGM will precede the March Guest Speaker presentation.

Filling all our committee positions is vital to the continuance of the group, and we welcome new committee members with open arms. So please do give joining our friendly crew consideration if you can.

There are many ways to help with keeping our group running, and committee roles are generally easy and don't have to be time consuming, plus –you'll make great friends!

If you can help out, contact Ian regarding nominations: Ph 0438 270 248 or Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

February 2021

Volume 8, Issue 1

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- In line with ongoing Covid-19 advice, restrictions may apply or effect APS related events. If in doubt, please [contact us](#) (see contacts list on page 11.)

- **MONDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 7:30pm Meeting in the John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St, Kilmore (access via side street entrance).** Guest speaker: Paul Piko - "Searching for Spider Orchids" **Please note:** meetings will be held under the requirements of our [Covid safe facility plan](#); **Please read the plan (from page 15) prior to attending.**

- **MONDAY MARCH 15th, 7:30pm Meeting & AGM - Guest speaker: Ian Evans - Collecting *Grevillea* for DNA analysis in the Kimberley & Pilbara WA.**

- **Save the date: Saturday Oct 15th- APS Mitchell Spring Plant Expo & Sale**



Gardens for Wildlife News...

Shared by Ian Julian from Agriculture Victoria

New poster to raise awareness about Water hyacinth...

New posters to deter people from buying or keeping Water hyacinth are hot off the press!

The posters were designed to raise awareness about Water hyacinth, a highly destructive, aquatic State prohibited weed that is commonly kept and traded as an ornamental garden plant. Water hyacinth is also used around the world as a fresh or cooked vegetable, stock fodder, for weaving furniture and baskets (once dried) and production of fertiliser. Although these uses make Water hyacinth sound like a valuable resource, the truth is that those uses were developed to combat the rapid growth and spread of these plants, which, completely choke waterways in many countries.

By displaying the new posters, Agriculture Victoria is hoping to raise awareness, and prompt people to keep an eye out for and report Water hyacinth. This is an opportunity to raise awareness with a broader group of targeted people in the community in addition to the valuable surveillance work that Weed Spotters do.

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**MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
(February to November)
unless otherwise advised**

**Commencing 7:30 pm in the
John Taylor Room, Kilmore
Library, Sydney Street,
Kilmore Vic 3764**

Entry \$2.00 Gold Coin

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

**Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library**

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Members & Visitors are
encouraged to bring along
exhibits for our "Show & Tell"
Flower Specimen Table

Please label plants



February Meeting: Monday 15th 7:30pm...

How wonderful it is to announce that APS Mitchell is able to return to hosting monthly meetings! Even better, to kick off for the year; Paul Piko will be returning to present on "Searching For Spider Orchids".

Paul Piko is a native orchid enthusiast, and former committee member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society Victoria (ANOSVic). You might have seen some of his flora and fauna photos in the [APS Mitchell newsletters](#).

In this talk, Paul presents some of the orchid conservation activities that are being carried out in Victoria by individuals and organisations such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Bush Heritage Australia and ANOSVic. We will focus on some rare Spider Orchid species from the Goldfields. We will also hear about the discovery of a new location of a seldom seen Red Spider Orchid in Mitchell Shire, and the plans to expand the search for it this year.

The meeting will be held under the guidelines of our [Covid safe facility plan](#). Please read the plan (see back pages) prior to attending, & RSVP to Ian Julian: Ph: 0438 270 248 or email: apsmitchell@gmail.com to assist in managing numbers.

Members & visitors are encouraged to bring along specimens for our evening "Flower Table".



Caladenia clavescens
Photo: ©Paul Piko

Memberships...

We start this calendar year with 24 financial memberships, & are still waiting to solve the mystery of an unknown direct credit \$60 payment, made to the APS Bendigo Bank account on July 24th at 8.16pm from GMCU. Could the depositor please contact Christine Cram on 0458 238 270 & provide a [completed membership form](#) to ensure your details are passed on to APS Victoria (to enable your magazine subscription to be sent etc.). Memberships for the current 2020-21 year were due last July, anyone yet to renew please do so prior to our AGM on March 15th 2021.

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/>

Gardens for Wildlife News continued...

Shared by Ian Julian from Agriculture Victoria

(Continued from page 2)

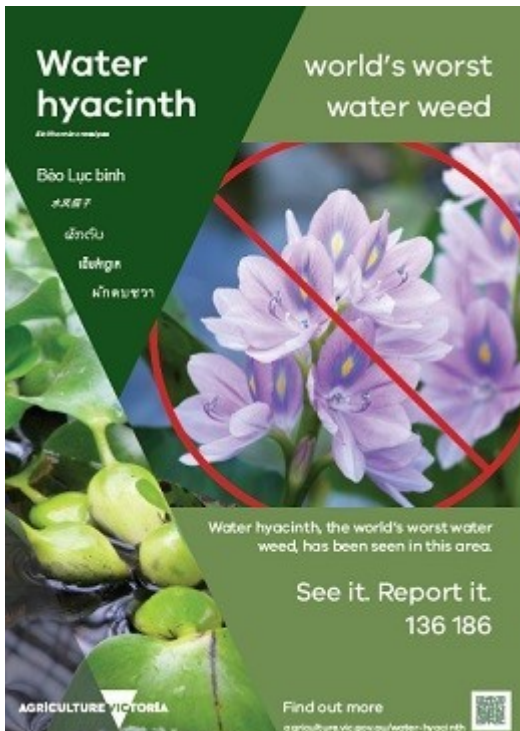


Image : The Water hyacinth poster soon to be on display near recent Water hyacinth incursions.

Posters will be displayed in areas of recent Water hyacinth infestations, such as in Mildura and Swan Hill following backyard detections last year; in and around a market in Melbourne where Water hyacinth was found for sale; and at a café in a Melbourne estate following a detection in the local lake system.

The poster features the two prominent features of Water hyacinth to help people identify the weed: its striking purple flowers and the glossy, bulbous leaves and stems.

It also features the name of Water hyacinth in several languages including (in order): English, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, Lao, Khmer and Thai. These languages were chosen as Water hyacinth is very common in these countries, and people from these countries may be familiar with the plant, but not its weedy status in Victoria.

If you would like a copy of the poster to display in your workplace or local community then please contact Agriculture Victoria Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 or email:

weed.spotters@agriculture.vic.gov.au

To find out more about Water hyacinth, please visit the Agriculture Victoria [website](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/water-hyacinth): www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/water-hyacinth

Some relevant reading suggested by Norbert Ryan...

"This article is especially pertinent for our members as it refers to local areas, policy and existing reserves. We are also supporting a program "Gardens for Wildlife" so roadsides are an important reference point for us. Our group shares the philosophy that the preservation of reserves is vital; it is also currently the subject of debate locally, as some landholders are now complaining to regional newspapers about the fire risk posed by the heavy growth on roadsides this year. The sad reality is that in many instances, roadsides are heavily colonised by escapee pasture grasses, especially Phalaris that seed prolifically and crowd out remnant species." Norbert Ryan

The following article written by John Robinson & originally (first) published in the Spring 2020 issue #79 of the *Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management* magazine: <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/>
<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/state-government-news/issue-79-of-victorian-landcare-magazine-published/>
<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/spring-2020/the-value-of-roadside-remnant-vegetation/>

Reprinted here with permission:

The value of roadside remnant vegetation...

Remnant vegetation on rural roadside reserves may be locally or regionally significant. It may contain rare or threatened flora species and often provides habitat and ecological connectivity in fragmented landscapes. Remnant roadside vegetation also provides examples of native plant communities that may be absent from

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adjoining cleared private land providing a valuable genetic resource and seed bank for seed collection (with appropriate seed collection permits), to help propagate local plants for revegetation projects.

Healthy stands of roadside remnant vegetation benefit adjoining farming land by providing shelter and shade for livestock and wind protection for pastures and crops. The Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group (UMCG) has had a strong focus on protecting areas of significant remnant native vegetation along rural roadsides since its formation in 1988. This has included undertaking weed control projects on roadside reserves with high or medium conservation values, which has required collaboration with local governments as the land manager of local rural roads.

Roadside conservation survey

In 1994, Jim Robinson, a UMCG committee member, initiated a project to assess the conservation values of the former Shire of Kilmore's 300-kilometres of rural roadsides. In conjunction with the shire the group secured an Australian Government Save the Bush (National Landcare Program) grant to undertake the shire's first survey to assess and map its roadsides for their conservation value.

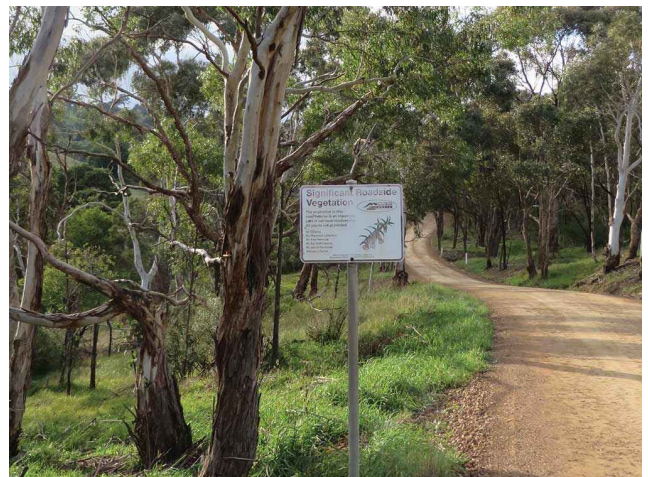
David Laurie, a local botanist and nurseryman from Reedy Creek, was engaged to coordinate the survey. The then Victorian Roadside Conservation Committee's Roadside Assessment Manual provided the assessment method. Volunteers from four local Landcare groups did the driving while David used 'windscreen ecology' to rank vegetation as low, medium or high conservation value. David Laurie's Report on Conservation Values of Roadsides within the Shire of Kilmore (1994) provided a ranking, a brief descriptive summary of each section of roadside assessed and identified weeds, firewood removal and gravel removal as the three main threatening processes for the shire's roadsides. Conservation assessments of rural roadsides managed by Mitchell Shire (the former Shire of Kilmore was amalgamated into Mitchell Shire in 1994) have been undertaken over the past 25 years. Some municipalities, including Mitchell and Macedon Ranges Shires, have also installed signs along rural roadsides to identify strips of significant roadside vegetation.

Old Sydney Road Flora Reserve

David Laurie's report identified a 600-metre section of Old Sydney Road, Wallan, as containing the finest section of roadside remnant vegetation observed during the assessment. He rated it as an irreplaceable example of the original vegetation of the area, noting the almost total absence of weeds and intactness of the native ground flora. "...consideration should be given to gazetting as a flora reserve...Mature trees contain extensive nest hollows. An understorey of wattles and native peas is present. The ground flora is rich in native grasses, forbs, orchids and smaller shrubs. This section is also part of the important wildlife corridor [along Old Sydney Road] between Wallan-



Above: Chocolate lilies along a wildflower walk at Poulterers Lane, Bylands. The towers on Pretty Sally Hill are in the background.



Above: A significant roadside vegetation sign erected by Macedon Ranges Shire along Simons Hill Road in Darraweit Guim.

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Darraweit Road and Stockdale Road,” David Laurie wrote.

A preliminary botanical survey by the UMCG in spring 1995 found more than 50 flora species at the site and subsequent surveys have identified more than 80 flora species, including 16 different orchids. Yam daisy, or Murnong in the Woi Wurrung language of the Wurundjeri people, is common. This tuber with a yellow flower (it resembles a dandelion at first glance) was once a plentiful staple food source before it was rapidly eaten out by sheep, cattle and rabbits after colonisation.

The UMCG has organised many spring wildflower walks along Old Sydney Road and other high conservation roadsides to observe the beautiful wildflowers and increase awareness of the relatively intact, diverse and rich remnant local flora along roadsides. UMCG has also produced a colour brochure on the flora of the proposed flora reserve.

The UMCG sought support for the site to be declared a flora reserve, and support came from parties including the Maribyrnong Catchment Committee set up by the Port Phillip Regional Catchment and Land Protection Board (now Port Phillip and Westernport CMA) which included an action in the Maribyrnong Catchment Action Program (1999) on gazetting the flora reserve. The Mitchell Shire Environment Advisory Committee also included an action in the shire’s previous Environment Strategy (2008) that supported the gazettal of the flora reserve.

The site has still not been gazetted. The UMCG needs to redouble its efforts to ensure the 2.66-hectare Old Sydney Road Flora Reserve is finally gazetted.

Beckingsale Bushland Reserve

In 1982 a 5.17-hectare reserve that adjoins Wallan-Darraweit Guim Road was gazetted under a Land Conservation Council recommendation as it provides one of the remaining local examples of bushland that is relatively intact.

The reserve is not pristine. It was grazed by livestock up to 1981, has an erosion gully and a small area of woody weeds. In 1998 the UMCG made a submission to the Place Names Committee to have it named the Beckingsale Bushland Reserve in recognition of local landholder Jim Beckingsale’s instrumental role in its gazettal.

Parks Victoria manages the reserve, which hosts a regular stream of bushwalkers. The UMCG has secured funding for fencing, signposting, an off-road car park and for woody weed and erosion control. The group has also held several wildflower walks and clean-ups at the reserve, organised a botanical survey, installed pamphlet boxes and produced a pamphlet for self-guided walks.

Rubbish and weeds

Illegal rubbish dumping threatens rural roadsides with high conservation values, such as Old Sydney Road. Rubbish



Above: Murnong in flower along Poulterers Lane, Bylands, at a spring wildflower walk in 2014.



Above: Heads down on a wildflower walk at Old Sydney Road Flora Reserve.

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dumping often occurs on roadsides with wide reserves, little traffic, and gaps in the roadside vegetation where vehicles can stop and dump rubbish. The UMCG has organised many Clean Up Australia Day rubbish collections along roadsides with many ute loads of rubbish collected.

According to Claudia James, a UMCG member who lives along Old Sydney Road, rubbish dumping is increasing.

"Before, people used to hide it and you didn't notice it so much, but now it's just blatant. At one Clean Up Australia Day collection we even found a fibre glass swimming pool in the bushes," Claudia said.



Above: Landcare group members with the rubbish they collected from Poulter's Lane, Bylands, on Clean Up Australia Day, 2012.

Weeds, including those imported from dumped garden refuse, are another major issue. Since the mid-1990s the UMCG has secured around \$50,000 of grants for weed control across 30-40 kilometres of high and medium conservation roadsides. This included securing four rounds of Victorian Government Bush Guardians funding, Parks Victoria Volunteer Group Grants (for Beckingsale Bushland Reserve), Victorian Landcare Grants, and Melbourne Water Community Grants.

The main weeds treated were gorse, cape broom, briar rose, hawthorn and other woody weeds. Mitchell Shire has also undertaken weed control along designated sections of the same roadsides targeted by the UMCG for treatment and Macedon Ranges Shire has funded the group to treat weeds along two sections of roadside.

Unused road reserves

Victoria has more than 120,000 hectares of unused road reserves that support native vegetation. They are often overlooked as biodiversity assets despite containing an important proportion of our remnant vegetation.

DELWP provides licences over unused roads for agricultural uses (such as livestock grazing), for up to 99 years to owners of adjoining private land.

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) in its Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation (2011) estimated that about half of the total area of Victoria's unused road reserves have been fully cleared of native vegetation, with a substantial remaining portion in a degraded condition. Despite this, the report found that some unused road reserves contain significant stands of remnant vegetation including an understorey structure with good biodiversity values, as they have been fenced off to exclude grazing by livestock.

The VEAC investigation recommended a comprehensive inventory of road reserves (both used and unused), including site condition and the mapping of significant native vegetation be undertaken. According to VEAC, biodiversity conservation and ecological connectivity should be adopted as management objectives for appropriate unused road reserves.

Many Landcare groups and networks play important roles supporting nature conservation in their areas, including taking action to conserve and protect remnant roadside vegetation. The UMCG continues its work on rural roadsides.

John Robinson is Secretary of the Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group.

For more information email upper.maribyrnong.landcare@gmail.com

November-January garden & nature snapshots ...

Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...

To start this issue's pictorial garden tour, we continue on with photos & information from Brian & Lorraine Weir (as previously promised)...

Grevillea zygoloba is from North of Southern Cross WA. It grows to 2m x 2m, tolerates frost to at least -6c, & has a lovely sweet fragrance.



Grevillea zygoloba



Photos: Brian Weir

Grevillea insignis ssp. *Insignis* grows to 3-4m x 4m, responds well to pruning, & tolerates frosts to -6c. Endemic to the Southern wheat belt of WA. It is a truly beautiful grevillea, which, has soft rusty red new growth. BUT... Is extremely prickly.



Grevillea insignis ssp. *Insignis*



Photos: Brian Weir

Grevillea "Abracadabra"

A Neil Marriott hybrid of *G. georgeana* X *insignis* that may grow to 4m x 4m ("guesstimation"). It Tolerates frost to at least -4c, and has great blue/green foliage. And... With parents like that, guess what?...it's prickly!



Grevillea "Abracadabra"



Photos: Brian Weir

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November-January snapshots continued...

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Grevillea bronwenae (pictured at right) grows to 1.5m x 1.5m, tolerates frost to -3c, & is from the lower SW of WA. A beautiful grevillea with head turning red flowers that is best to grow grafted.

Grevillea excelsior the Flame Grevillea (pictured far right). I'm loving this one, although everybody has been telling me to cut it in half. But that's not gunna happen! The wind will eventually lop it, but till then I am enjoying.



Grevillea bronwenae
Photos: Brian Weir



Grevillea excelsior - Flame Grevillea

Next of our members snapshots contributions for this issue, much to our great pleasure, Jan Harrison has been keeping up with her photography habit both around the garden & of course at Monument Hill...



A pretty *Grevillea*

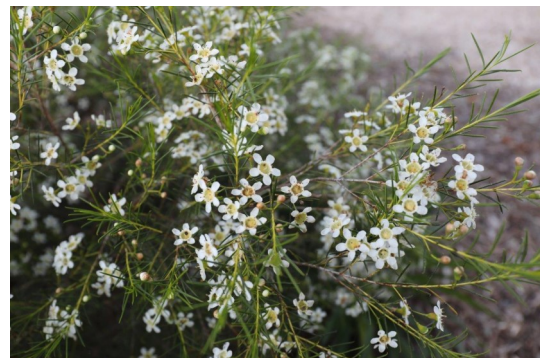
Photo: Jan Harrison



Dipodium pardalinum -
Spotted Hyacinth Orchid at
Monument Hill
Photo: Jan Harrison



Above & left : A *Callistemon*
Photos: Jan Harrison



Chamelaucium sp.? -

Photo: Jan Harrison



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November-January snapshots continued...

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The final collection of images for this issue, are photos of pollinators in the garden shared by Jan Harrison, along with photos shared by Paul Piko, which, share a relevance to Gardens for Wildlife. Paul has also provided some brief commentary...



Above, above right & below right: Pollinators in the garden

Photos: Jan Harrison

Dianella berries are a favourite food of Rosellas.



Crimson Rosella

Photo: ©Paul Piko



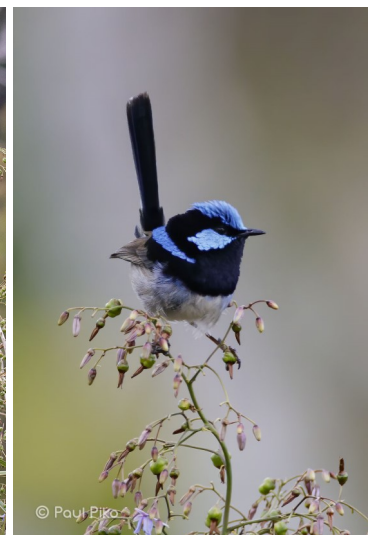
At Kilmore's Monument Hill and within Hidden Valley, I saw that a number of the rare Spotted Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium pardalinum* had been grazed or damaged by animal/human traffic. Fortunately, they fared better in less open areas.



Dipodium pardalinum Spotted Hyacinth Orchid
Photo: ©Paul Piko



Eastern Rosella
Photo: ©Paul Piko



Superb Fairy Wren on *Dianella*
Photo: ©Paul Piko

The dianella flower stalks are also useful perches for smaller birds like the Superb Fairy Wren. Even grass can support a Superb Fair Wren.

Superb Fairy Wren on grass
Photo: ©Paul Piko



Conservation early last century...

By Norbert Ryan

Conservation early last century: Extracts from "SAVE AUSTRALIA a plea for the right use of our flora and fauna" edited by Sir James Barrett; Macmillan and Co Ltd London 1925

I have often wondered how much appreciation of the natural environment occurred in the early days of life in Australia. This ex-library book, found among our book collection, goes some way to answering this question. It consists of a disparate series of articles describing the reservations, the fur trade (including the fur seal trade), the impact of foxes and rabbits, the spread of invasive weeds, the effect of bushfires, land clearing and water conservation and, on a state basis, the protection of flora and fauna. The figures for decimation of native animals for the fur trade are particularly depressing, and authors include mention of the wanton shooting of koalas occurring even within reservations.

There is a sentimental desire to see that our globe is not rendered poorer by the elimination of something which can never be replaced, viz., some species of plant or animal, destroyed wilfully or from ignorance.....There is really only one sound safeguard, viz., an enlightened public opinion.

The 1923 annual report of the National Parks' Section of the Town Planning Association issued figures for the export of skins of Australian animals for 1919-1921:- Opossum 4,265,621; Ring-tailed Opossum 1,321,625; Koala 208,677; Wallaby 1,722,588. Representations were made to the Minister for Trade and Customs to have existing regulations enforced and more stringent regulations enacted.

The shipment of wild birds from Australia to other countries is a practice to be condemned on every reasonable ground.... On the 19th April 1923, the Medic sailed from Melbourne for England with a large cargo of birds, a large proportion of these died on the journey. These and other facts have been laid before the Minister for Trade and Customs, and it is to be hoped that very soon official action will be taken to prevent the traffic in wild birds.

The important influence of education of the public was emphasized by many of the authors. The Gould League was credited with reducing the childhood activity of birdnesting (collection of eggs).

Gould visited Australia in 1838, revelled in his experiences, and marvelled at the perversity that sought to introduce common birds from Europe to displace more interesting birds here. Our native birds are mainly specialists in the Eucalypts in their many and varied forms. Clear off the native trees, and the native birds depart. Plant oaks, elms and pines, and they become the haunt of introduced birds, but not of native birds..... If we have native trees, we shall have many native birds. Therefore in all tree-planting let us have a generous percentage of native trees.

The next feature of interest surprises many Australians is that Australia is pre-eminently the land of songbirds. Home-sick pioneers looking forward to returning "home," often found little of interest in their strange surroundings. They formed "Acclimatisation Societies," and sought to introduce the loved things of their youth, caring little for the more interesting forms displaced here. They began or at least encouraged, the idea of "scentless bright blossoms," in the land of the wattle and boronia, and songless, bright birds in the land of the Australian magpies and the harmonious thrush.

There were strong arguments in support of increasing the number of reservations "to save much that is interesting and valuable in Australia". The argument to support more parkland in the Dandenong Ranges was ultimately successful as the area reserved now approaches 35.4 km², approximately 9,000 acres.

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Conservation early last century continued...

By Norbert Ryan

(Continued from page 10)

Few Australians realize what a unique piece of beauty a fern gully is; no other part of the world has such a thing. We have frequently allowed the destruction, in a year or two, of the growth of centuries. ..A bad example of the lack of foresight may be noted near Melbourne. The beautiful Dandenong Ranges, with their wooded heights, fern gullies, lyre birds, and bell birds. At the western end of the ranges, fortunately we have a reserve of 530 acres; but it should have been 10,000 acres. Then we should have had a national recreation ground, of which we could have been proud, and the lyre bird would have been safe. Instead of that, we have allowed the survey of numerous "gridirons" and "choice residential allotments" of 50 feet or so are for sale. The result is a series of ugly, badly-planned, and often insanitary villages.

The outer suburbs are nearly all shown to be badly supplied with lung spaces. In greater Melbourne (population about 800,000) some of the inner suburbs are good, but not one of the outer; most of the latter are bad. All the capital cities show a list of suburbs which have reserve areas of about 1 per cent!

At that time the existing parks in Victoria included the following: Some National Parks and (acreage): Wilson's Promontory (101,700); Mount Buffalo (26,000); Wyperfield (16,000); Fern Tree Gully (530).

There were pleas to restrict the inappropriate clearing of forest country, leading to silting of rivers and catchments. Cleared ground often reverting to bracken coverage.

We have the power to see that the rising generation Is no longer imbued with the idea that the forests are something to be destroyed, or that the best occupation for leisure hours is to go out with axe and fire-stick and demolish trees. We need to instil into our children, a love for the forests, a sense of their value, a true idea of their necessity.

It is high time that Australians woke up to what has been going on for years in the mountains at the head of the principal rivers almost everywhere in Victoria, to the crass folly of forest destruction-to the waste which is being perpetuated.. It is a melancholy fact that, after the "forest grazier" has had his will and destroyed all the large trees, the benefits for him in grass are short lived.

The text about the flora of Victoria described the range of ecosystems that occur, the beauty of the forests, the small Eucalypts of the Mallee, interspersed with beautiful flowering shrubs. The flowering plants of the Grampians and the Buffalo plain were also highlighted. At that time the following references were also recommended:

The Native Flowers of Victoria EE Pescott; A Census of Victorian Plants Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria; The Handbook for the Melbourne meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, 1900 CA Topp; Victorian Year-Book for 1904, G Weindorfer; The Victorian Naturalist vol XXV (1908) AJ Ewart.

There was of course an appreciation for native flora in the early days of Australia as witnessed by the excellent paintings for that era, illustrated in the texts "Collecting Ladies-Ferdinand von Mueller and Women Botanical Artists' by Penny Olsen; and "Women of Flowers-Botanical Art in Australia from the 1830s to the 1960s" by Leonie Norton.

The final comment comes from Albert Lind Victorian Minister of Lands and Forests, in a forward to the text "Native Trees of Australia" by J.Wales, circa 1930. No one can study the flora of this beautiful country of ours without realizing what a wonderful heritage we have. This book will help to create a flora conscience and stay the hand of the vandals who despoil Nature's gifts.

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,
Ian Julian,
Jan Harrison,
Wun Ho,
Barbara Mau,
Paul Piko,
John Robinson,
Norbert Ryan,
Carrie Tiffany (Editor
Victorian Landcare
Magazine),
Brian & Lorraine Weir.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

In line with ongoing advice on COVID-19 (coronavirus), restrictions may apply or effect APS-related events.

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.

March 13 & 14 - APS Warrnambool host APS Victoria COM meeting

April 17 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale: 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks.

April 24 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception

Centre, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.

May 1 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds Gardens, Arthurs Seat Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10 am - 3.30 pm

May 8 - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, but yet to be confirmed.

May 8 & 9 - Cranbourne Growing Friends hold a weekend plant sale in the gardens from 10am - 4pm. Check www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au for plant list and to ensure that the sale is going

ahead prior to the sale.

June 2021 - APS Vic COM Shepparton. Date & details to be advised.

June 26 & 27 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10am - 4pm.

Sept 4 - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.

September 11 & 12 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.

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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: 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 ...

Please remember to 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

Diary Dates & Other Events continued...

(Continued from page 12)

September 25 & 26 - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.

October 2 & 3 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

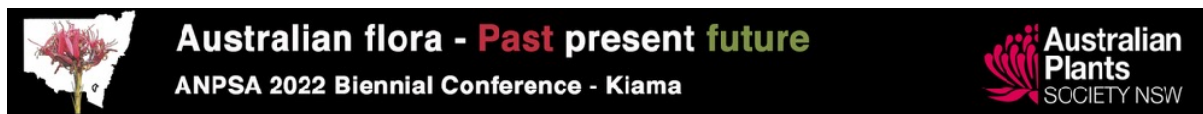
October 9 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations. 9 am - 4 pm.

October 16 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

October 23 & 24 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am - 4 pm.

November 13 & 14 - Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula

November 20 & 21 - Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.



September 11 – 16, 2022 - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website:

<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

September 26 to 30, 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

October 15 & 16, 2022 - 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

VNBC Bonsai Exhibition
Opening March 19th 2021:
www.vicnativebonsai.com.au


BONSAI EXHIBITION

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS AS BONSAI

Special Opening Night
 March 19th 2021
 5:30pm to 8:30pm
 March 20th 2021
 9am to 4pm

Preston Shire Hall,
 Corner of
 High St & Gower St,
 Preston

Adults \$5, Children under 16 free



Callistemon viminalis

VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB 2021

Australian native plants and bonsai related items for sale.
 For further information contact: seccnativeclub@gmail.com

Meetings are held at: Harry Atkinson Centre, Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764
Inc# A0054306V

APS Mitchell Group Inc. Annual General Meeting

The Australian Plants Society Mitchell Group Inc. Annual General Meeting delayed from November 2020, will be held on Monday March 15th 2021, commencing at 7:30pm in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library, Sydney Street, Kilmore. This will be followed by the general monthly meeting.

Nominations are being called for the following committee positions.

	President		General Committee
	Vice President		Group Librarian
	Secretary		G4W Coordinator
	Treasurer/Memberships		Newsletter Editor

(Tick applicable nomination, One nomination per form)

Name of nominator:

Signature:

Name of seconder:

Signature:

Name of nominee:

Signature:

☐

I confirm that I am a financial member of APS Mitchell Group Inc.

Address:

Telephone:

Nomination forms can be received by the secretary via mail to: PO Box 541 Kilmore Vic 3764 or email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au by the 12th of February 2021, or presented at the Annual General Meeting.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



COVID Safe Plan For APS Mitchell Group Inc. Organisation

PURPOSE

Mitchell Shire Council requires a COVID-19 Safe plan for groups and organisations who wish to return using Council owned or managed facilities. The following plan supports a safe approach for building use. Council welcomes the inclusion of any special guidance from your peak bodies and associations where this has been provided.

SCOPE

This plan applies to all people entering the KILMORE LIBRARY JOHN TAYLOR ROOM building located at 12 SYDNEY STREET KILMORE in line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions identified by the Department of Health and Humans Services.

PLAN

3.1 Pre-Return Risk Assessment

Prior to people attending the site a Risk Checklist must be completed identifying how the requirements for physical distancing and people density will be maintained. A checklist to enact the plan is attached in Appendix 1

3.2 Considering groups needs

Organisers will discuss potential vulnerabilities with all group members and encourage individual participants to consider their own risk and need to attend. The group may need to consider supporting different members depending on their circumstances. Circumstances may have changed post COVID-19, for example they may now have additional carer's responsibility or family members with specific health risks.

Social and physical vulnerabilities that might affect a person attending the facility include:

- Immune-compromised: may limit attendance or may require additional controls
- Social isolation: managing return to social settings may not be easy for some people
- Need to assist family with child minding or other activities

Our plan for managing our members is:

- Sending Covid-19 safe plan to all members with the meeting groups notice
- A copy of the Covid-19 Safe plan with the meeting registration book
- Limit numbers to current DHS prescribed restriction number's
- Update all members as circumstances change

Any person who is unwell should not enter the building. This includes presenting with cold or flu symptoms including fever, runny nose, coughing, sore throat, aches or diarrhea. People with symptoms will be asked to leave.

This plan has been communicated to all affected members of the group.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 15)

3.3 Return to facilities

3.3.1 Physical distancing measures

Physical distancing measures mean that people from separate households must be more than 1.5 metres from each other. In addition, a minimum space of 2 metres x 2 metres is required for every person in any room they access.

Spaces (e.g. corridors) where there is a potential for people to come in contact with each other may exist in the building. It is acceptable that people walk past each other in these spaces as the amount of time they are together is minimal. However, they are not to stop in these spaces and, if possible, the movement of members should be managed so that people will not physically brush past each other in this space.

Rooms in the building and the maximum number of people allowed (subject to current restriction limits on total numbers):

Room Name	Size (width X depth)	Max people (width x depth/2)
John Taylor Room		Max 40 people

Signs will be placed into any room where the maximum occupancy is less than the maximum allowed into the entire facility to advise that people are to wait until the room is vacated.

Cleanliness

Cleaning arrangements for the building are to be documented.

On entry to the building it is advised that every person wash their hands with soap and water or carries hand sanitiser to apply at entry. Everyone should avoid touching their faces.

For this building, at the end of every session any equipment and all tables and chairs used by the members need to be cleaned by the meeting organiser using soap and water with washable or disposable cloths. Spray and wipe is also satisfactory for cleaning.

Chairs with soft covers will, where possible, not be used as these are difficult to wipe down.

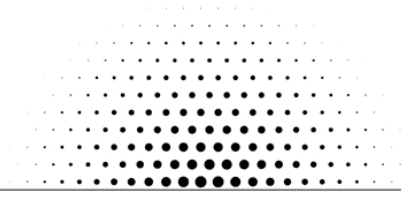
Council clean as per schedule arranged with the Contracts Management Coordinator at Mitchell Shire Council. This this has been communicated to each building manager.

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Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 16)

COVID-19 Infection

If a member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the following process will apply:

- Notify members who may have had contact with the person per DHHS guidance
- Ensure the privacy of the individual is maintained
- Seek assistance from Council contact
- Inform Council to arrange a deep clean of the building

3.6 Breach of the policy

Everyone will be treated with respect and it is expected that members will adhere to guidelines to physical distancing to help minimise the risk of COVID-19 being spread. Should someone test positive who attended a meeting space their privacy will be maintained, however Council will need to support a contact tracing regime to inform others.

3.7 Legal Sources of policy

- [National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles](#)
- [NCCC COVIDSafe plan](#)
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (VIC)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2017 (VIC)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC)*

Appendix 1 – Checklist (to be completed for each session and retained by user group)

Before activity

- ☐ Date and time of activity _____
- ☐ Activity type _____
- ☐ Rooms used (e.g. hall and kitchen) _____
- ☐ Responsible person name (must be present throughout activity)

The following available:

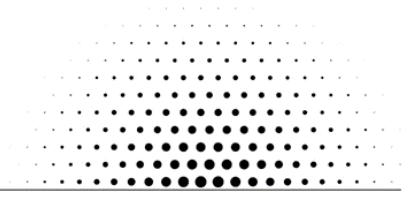
- ☐ Advice on COVID-19 available to everyone –
e.g. www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19
- ☐ Specific vulnerabilities determined and vulnerable group members encouraged to participate in other ways or to make arrangements with organisers for any special requirements to facilitate attendance
- ☐ Room sizes and number of people in each room signed

(Continued on page 18)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 17)

- ☐ Places where it will be difficult to maintain 1.5m spacing identified
- ☐ Signs for 1.5m and COVID-19 displayed
- ☐ Attendance sheet available and completed by all people entering facility
- ☐ Consideration for leaving doors open to allow access through doors without touching
- ☐ Advised patrons to hand wash/ hand sanitise as soon as they enter the building (consider leaving the outer toilet door propped open to avoid touching)
- ☐ Soap and water or disinfectant spray and disposable cloth (e.g. paper towel) available to clean surfaces touched
- ☐ Gloves available

Other risks to be managed (please list, use reverse of sheet if more space required)

During activity

- ☐ Encourage participants not to bring belongings into centre (less to contaminate and clean)
- ☐ All attendees have been asked if they are unwell or have a temperature
- ☐ All attendees have been asked to wash their hands upon entry
- ☐ All attendees have provided their contact information on attendance sheet
- ☐ All attendees have been informed about safe distancing (1.5m)
- ☐ All attendee have been advised of other risks to be managed (please see list, use reverse of sheet if more space required)

After activity

- ☐ All items used (including tables and chairs) washed with soap and water or sprayed and wiped with a disinfectant. This is the responsibility of the meeting organiser
- ☐ This form and the attendance sheet completed and stored in a centralised location (e.g. office) – to be made available upon request

Plan completed by:

Name	Ian Julian
Role	Secretary APS Mitchell Group Inc.
Contact Number	0438 270 248
Email	apsmitchell@gmail.com
Date	28-01-2021
Signature	<i>Ian Julian</i>