

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Inc# A0054306V

April news...!

Hello and welcome to our April '21 edition...

Hip, hip, hooray! March finally saw our first full meeting in 12 months—See the report from page 3. Although the AGM has come & gone, we are still looking for an Assistant Treasurer, and someone to take on the role of Group Librarian. If you can help, please contact Ian on 0438 270 248 or Email:

secretary@apsmitchell.org.au

This month we are extremely fortunate to have two very special guests joining us at our upcoming April meeting - Royce & Jeanne Raleigh. See further information at right, on page 2, and a [detailed bio](#) currently on our website. Photos supplied by Royce & Jeanne feature on this page, & page 2. Do come along to our April meeting to hear about these plants & more.

The May newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday May 10th. Contributions remain very greatly appreciated— if you can help out with items of



Above: *Babingtonia camphorosmae*

Below: *Beaufortia schaueri*

Photos: Royce & Jeanne Raleigh



interest please send them in by May 3rd.

Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

I Look to forward hearing from as many members & friends as possible, & seeing you at our next meeting. Cheers until next time, Jeanine

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Beaufortia purpurea

Photo: Royce & Jeanne Raleigh



April 2021

Volume 8, Issue 3

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- In line with ongoing Covid-19 advice, restrictions may apply or affect APS related events. If in doubt, please [contact us](#) (see contacts list on page 13.)
- Please note: meetings will be held under the requirements of our [Covid safe facility plan](#); Please [read the plan \(from page 16\) prior to attending](#).
- MONDAY APRIL 19th, 7:30pm Meeting - Guest Speaker: Royce & Jeanne Raleigh - Lesser Known Plants for the Garden (for extra info see page 2, & our webpage for a [detailed bio](#))
- MONDAY MAY 17th 7:30pm Meeting - Guest Speaker: To be advised.
- MONDAY JUNE 21st 7:30pm Meeting - Guest Speaker to be advised.
- Save the date: Saturday Oct 16th APS MITCHELL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE



Gardens for Wildlife News...

For those of us interested in citizen science, the Autumn Wild Pollinator Count is on now – You can join in any time between Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th of April. Full details, guidelines and resources are available on the Wild Pollinator Count Website: <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/blog/>

Remember it is important to choose a warm, calm, sunny day to do your count. It is simple to do and only takes 10 minutes.



A Skipper Photo: J Petts

In other recent Wild Pollinator Count network news... Last year the network contributed to some overseas research that has now been published in the British Ecological Society journal: *People and Nature*. The paper titled “Biodiversity citizen science: Outcomes for the participating citizens” is open access and can be read at: <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pan3.10193>

More than 60 different projects around the world participated in the research survey, and Wild Pollinator Count recorded the second highest number of respondents.

Findings included respondents reporting positive changes in all the target outcomes, including environmental behaviours and scientific interest and knowledge.

**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



April Meeting: Monday 19th 7:30pm...

This month we are extremely pleased & fortunate to have Royce & Jeanne Raleigh visiting to present on: “**Lesser Known Plants for the Garden**”.

Royce and Jeanne have had a lifelong interest in gardening, and a long history involved with native plants. They are founding members of Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants - Both having often held executive committee roles with the Wimmera Growers group, and Royce a term of 3 years as President of APS Victoria. After moving to Wartook in 1974 they began turning a sheep paddock into what is now one of the best native gardens in Victoria, regularly hosting visits and tour groups. Growing in the 45 year old, 5 acre garden at Wartook, are 1,000's of plants from all over Australia, including the usual well known genera of; *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea* and *Melaleuca*, but also many not so well known genera like *Beaufortia*, *Regelia*, *Eremaea*, *Dryandras*, *Dampiera* and *Verticordia*. Royce & Jeanne have aimed to develop a garden that will display Australian Plants to all visitors, particularly those gems that don't find their way into the Nursery Trade. There are many wonderful plants that many more of us should be growing.

Do come along for what will be a fabulous talk. A door prize plant raffle & Flower Specimen Table follow the presentation, so please bring some specimens from your garden for display & discussion (label specimens if possible). Supper including tea, coffee & home baked goodies will conclude the evening. Visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings. 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.



Garden view at Wartook Gardens
Photo: Royce & Jeanne Raleigh

Memberships...

APS Mitchell membership numbers currently stand at 25. 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, contact information, and current [membership form](#) can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

March meeting report - Top End Grevillea ...

By Jeanine Petts

A small yet still reasonable size group of 12 people turned out for our first meeting of the year. Which, coincidentally, was also the first meeting in 12 months since the Covid-19 pandemic began to take hold, and a year since our guest speaker, Ian Evans, had originally planned to present for us on Grevillea. As Mike Williams had been unable to attend, Russell Wait kindly brought along plants from his specialist Eremophila nursery for sale. The opportunity to purchase plants must have been sorely missed and very keenly appreciated. As although our numbers were small, Russell was kept busy with a goodly amount of trade, both before the meeting started, and later during supper & chat time.

On arrival at the Kilmore Library, we had needed to wait a short while, for the previous group to exit the John Taylor Room before we could set up. Consequently, by the time Norbert called us to our seats to open the meeting, we were running a little later than usual. He advised that as we were a little pushed for time, and in deference to our guest speaker Ian Evans (who had a long drive home), we would start with the main presentation on Top End Grevillea, then follow on with our AGM.

To begin, Ian first shared a little about himself, and explained that he runs a construction business in Bendigo involving fire-wise gardens and stonemasonry. He has been "playing" with *Grevillea* since age 16, then became more seriously involved since 1980. While he grafts *Grevillea* and helps collect specimens for the ANU, he considers himself to be a collector, not an expert. Ian has participated in a multiple specimen collection trips including; travelling to WA in 2016, 2017, the Pilbara & desert areas in 2019, and the topic of this evening's talk – the Top End in 2018. Ian travels with Peter Olde (a volunteer botanist who is based in Sydney) helping contribute 530 *Grevillea* DNA samples lodged for the ANU (Australian National University).

The pair headed out in late July 2018 with a list of *Grevillea* species (plus 1 *Hakea* species) to find for collection. Their second night on the road found them at Alice Springs, with an itinerary including heading up to Darwin, on to Kakadu, Katherine, over into WA to Ord River, Kununurra, Wyndham, then taking in other areas of the WA Top End, across to Broome and Back.

The third night stopover was spent at Devil's Marbles, where the first specimen collection was made: *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica*.

It is not unusual for colour variations to occur where there is a patch of mixed species, and this species is found in both yellow and orange forms. At Elliott NT, both orange and yellow forms of *G. wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* were collected.

Next on the collection list was *Grevillea benthamiana* – the Fergusson River Grevillea. This species grows in a very restricted area and only six plants were found. While visiting the Darwin Herbarium, *Grevillea dryandri* subsp. *dryandri* was collected from a specimen found on the roadside nearby to the Herbarium.

Both *Grevillea longicuspis* and *G. pluricaulis* were located at Berry Springs, and *Grevillea goodii* at Howard Springs. *Grevillea aurea* is also known as the Death Adder Gorge Grevillea and was collected at Kakadu- this species forms a big open tree and is found in yellow or yellow & orange forms.



Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *aprica* Above right: Yellow form Above left: Orange form



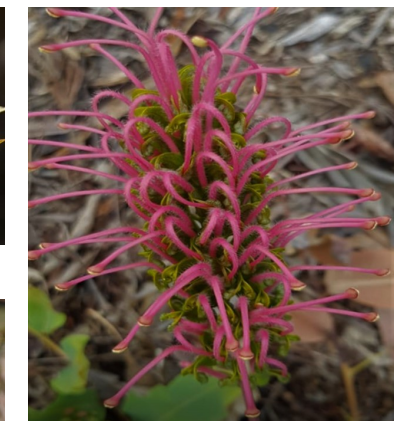
Grevillea benthamiana



Grevillea dryandri subsp. *dryandri*



Grevillea longicuspis



Above: *Grevillea goodii*

Left: *Grevillea aurea*

Photos: Ian Evans



(Continued on page 4)

March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Grevillea angulata is another species with many forms, and this was found in Arnhem Land at an old uranium mine. *Grevillea versicolor* the Nabalek Grevillea, was located on the road to the airport, the flower of this species contains red, green and yellow, hence its name.

Maguk Gorge in Kakadu National Park was where *Grevillea dryandri* subsp. *dasycarpa* and *Grevillea glabrescens* were found. Moving along to Katherine and Katherine Gorge, Ian and Peter found *Grevillea decurrens* on sand flats while searching for *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *longiloba* – a species that are one of a group of six that are called Caustic Bushes. Handling the seeds of this group causes burns, and a traditional usage for these is creating skin scarring.

Grevillea pungens was collected at Towns River, the species is also known as Flame Grevillea and occurs in both yellow and orange forms. On the way to Towns River *Grevillea heliosperma* was found growing on rocky ridges – it is commonly called Red Grevillea or Rock Grevillea.

The next specimen, *Grevillea pteridifolia* or Fern-leaf Grevillea, in its northern form grows to a large tree of 10m or higher, with solid, strong branches. They regenerate from seed following a fire creating “a bit of a forest” in the process.

After leaving Katherine NT heading for WA, via Jasper Gorge and Keep River National Park, next collections were:

Grevillea mimosoides - another Caustic Bush, on which, a little Mistletoe was found growing (there are specific Mistletoes that only grow on *Grevillea*).

Grevillea dimidiata (a Caustic Bush).

Grevillea leucadendron (also a Caustic Bush) this species is highly scented at night.

Grevillea byrnesii, a species that looks similar to *G. wickhamii*, but is without spines on its leaves.

While walking through a grassy valley in the Keep River National Park, a chance opportunity came to photograph a large flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos in a *Eucalyptus miniata*. The next species collected was *Grevillea refracta* subsp. *glandulifera* also known as Silver



Grevillea angulata



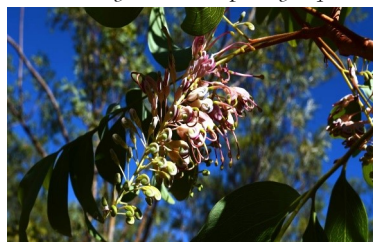
Grevillea versicolor



Grevillea dryandri subsp. *dasycarpa*



Grevillea glabrescens



Grevillea decurrens



Grevillea pyramidalis subsp. *longiloba*



Grevillea pungens



Grevillea heliosperma



Grevillea mimosoides



Grevillea pteridifolia northern tree form.



Mistletoe species in a *Grevillea*
Photos: Ian Evans (Continued on page 5)

March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Oak. This subspecies is identified by its much hairier leaf.

After arriving in Kununurra WA, *Grevillea erythroclada*, the Needle-leaf Grevillea (another of the Caustic Bush group) was spotted opposite the caravan park. Also found in the Kununurra region were: *Grevillea agrifolia*, which, is noted for its blue foliage with white and green flowers, and has the common names of Blue Bush or Blue Grevillea.

Next on the collection itinerary was *Grevillea velutinella*, and a visit to The Grotto (near Gibb River turnoff on the Great Northern Hwy) to find *Grevillea* sp. nov. aff. *dryandri* (a species not yet named). Getting in and out of The Grotto involved traversing 175 steps and a steep pathway all without handrails. Travelling onward to Kalumburu WA via the Pentecost River crossing along Gibb River Rd, the next three species encountered were:

Grevillea prasina that has green flowers and grows to 1.5m high.

Grevillea refracta subsp. *refracta*, also commonly referred to as Silver Oak, and grows over a large range right across the Top End.

Grevillea myosodes, the Mouse Grevillea, so named for its seed pods. The seeds of this species have a wing extending right around the seed.

A side note of interest is that the airstrip at Kalumburu is worth a visit to see WWII planes that are housed there. Another side note, and so that we didn't suffer from *Grevillea* overload, the next slide up was *Calytrix exstipulata*, a species mostly found growing near *Grevillea*.

The next two collections were:

Grevillea microcarpa, one species that doesn't have too many needles on its leaves. However, beware of Green Ants!

Grevillea cunninghamii, which, is not in cultivation.

An overnight stop was made at McGowan Island Beach Resort, where the name is "stretching it a bit" as it is actually located on a flat, wide, beachfront of a great big bay. For \$50 per night amenities include a tin shed with showers (no hot water available),



Grevillea dimidiata



Grevillea leucadendron



Flock of Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos



Eucalyptus miniata



Grevillea byrnesii



Grevillea refracta subsp. *glandulifera*



Grevillea erythroclada



Grevillea agrifolia



Grevillea velutinella



Grevillea sp. nov. aff. *dryandri*



Grevillea prasina
Photos: Ian Evans

(Continued on page 6)

March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

BYO toilet paper, all with the company of a 4m crocodile sighted nearby. Ian and Peter have established a well-oiled camping routine where; Peter Cooks, Ian sets up, then later on they write up the day's collecting, press, and change press papers of the various specimen samples.

Moving on to King Edward River Falls, where *G. wickhamii* subsp. *wickhamii*, Wickham's Grevillea, had been photographed near the carpark on prior trips, sadly, this time, they were unable to find it. Likewise, a stop at Manning Gorge provided a fruitless search for *Grevillea adenotricha* – this species was last seen in the 1970's.

Another slide popped in to break any Grevillea overload was of "Very Friendly trees" growing in Derby WA; a Coolabah and Boab that have grown around each other. The next slides were of *Grevillea dryandri* subsp. *dryandri* (found in a round-about in Broome), followed by *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* a species that is wasp and moth pollinated, and grows to 4m high.

An essential for the next phase of the journey was a helicopter flight leaving Derby at 6am, to visit Prince Regent River Nature Reserve, with a refuelling stop at Bachsten Bush Camp. *Grevillea* collected on this leg of the expedition included:

Grevillea cravenii – They were lucky to obtain a flower of this species as a fire had been through previously. Fortuitously, this species suckers from a lignotuber after fire.

Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *pallida* (there are 7 *G. wickhamii* subspecies.)

Grevillea latifolia

Time limitations on the helicopter journey meant that they ran out of time to find *Grevillea microstyla*, or *Grevillea maherae* at Sale River.

On the road again, and looping back along the Great Northern Hwy, *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *macrodonta* was found at Fitzroy Crossing. This species can be found in a number of colour forms including red, yellow, pale orange, & bright orange.

Providing another break from Grevillea, the next image shown was of an *Acacia* species



Grevillea refracta subsp. *refracta*



Grevillea myosodes



Calytrix exstipulata



Grevillea microcarpa with Green Ants



Grevillea cunninghamii



Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *wickhamii*



Very friendly Coolabah & Boab Derby WA



Grevillea pyramidalis subsp. *pyramidalis*



Grevillea cravenii



Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *pallida*



Grevillea latifolia

Photos: Ian Evans

(Continued on page 7)

March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

photographed at Halls Creek. From there the *Grevillea* search continued into Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungle Range). Where the next three species were found in Cathedral Gorge:

Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *cratista*

Grevillea psilantha, a low growing grevillea that grows on near vertical cliff faces. It is the only *Grevillea* of its particular flower type for the area.

Grevillea miniata (found on the north side of Cathedral Gorge).

Turning south, a return stage of the WA/NT journey was made via the Tanami Track, with a stop made at Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater Reserve. The Tanami Track is 1,138 kilometres long with 980 kilometres of dusty dirt road. The last two collections were: *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica*, found at Wolfe Creek, and *Grevillea eriostachya* – a desert form with round leaves (still with prickles), was collected along the Tanami Track.

The presentation concluded with a Q & A session, which revealed:

- The Top End trip took 5 weeks. Another excursion to the Kennedy Range had been planned for 2020, however, this was postponed.
- In the Caustic Bush group of *Grevillea*, it is mainly the seeds and or seed pods that can burn skin. Usually, flowering occurs at around 2m high, so the caustic pods are held up out of easy reach.
- The list of specific *Grevillea* species & locations to search was generated from herbarium recorded locations.
- When making each collection, samples are taken of:
A flower
Seed pod
Root sucker.

Notations are also made of the:

Plant habit

Location

Location profile

Other plants that the collected species is growing with.

- Samples for DNA analysis are put into a paper envelope with silica, and the silica needs to be microwaved to be kept dry.



Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *macrodonta*



G. wickhamii subsp. *macrodonta* red form.



Acacia species at Fitzroy Crossing



Grevillea wickhamii subsp. *cratista*



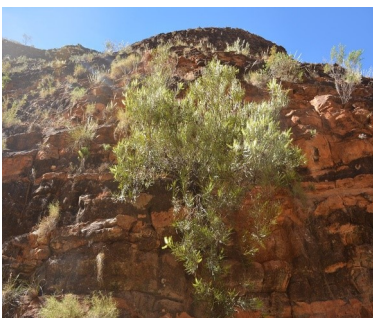
Grevillea psilantha -

Above: In flower

Below: on cliff face showing form.



Grevillea miniata



On the Tanami Track.



Grevillea eriostachya Yellow Flame
Grevillea (desert form)

Photos: Ian Evans

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March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

With the main presentation at a close, we quickly held our evening plant raffle draw before our guest speaker departed. Luckily so, as the winners were: Ian Julian, Maureen Thomas, then, along with a great round of applause, Ian Evans's ticket was the last drawn.

We then moved into an exceptionally brief AGM, with Norbert first up, giving his Presidents Report (see full report on page 10). The main points being:

- This time last year we held an ad-hoc meeting (expanded flower table), owing to a necessary last-minute cancellation by our guest speaker. Little knowing that it would turn out to be our only meeting for the year.
- Major thanks to Jeanine and all the members who sent photos in and enabled the newsletter to be kept going. As the Covid-19 pandemic progressed the newsletter became the only activity keeping our group connected. Thank you to everyone who contributed.
- It was a very difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Spring Plant Expo. However, planning is now underway for this year's Expo. Thank you to Ian Julian for his major role in planning and managing the event.
- The Gardens for Wildlife program was effectively suspended by Covid-19 in 2020. We are very fortunate to have recently gained the support of Gerry Wun Ho, (a new member to our group) who will be facilitating the renewed program. Norbert and Dawn McCormack are planning return to hosting a stall at the Wallan Market, and we are looking forward to growing community interest in native plants.

Norbert closed his report saying that after what feels like 12 months of suspended animation, we are looking forward to a lock-down free 2021, and are now ready to renew and start again.

Christine followed on with the 2020 Treasurer's Report (see pages 10 & 11 for full report), advising that assets are depreciated by 10% each year. Further items of note were:

- A cheque to in donation to BioLinks remains un-cashed.
- \$1,520 from memberships was our primary income source for 2020.
- A Net operating loss of \$427.55 for 2020.
- Paid up memberships currently stand at 25.

In closing her report, Christine asked if someone could please come forward to take on the role of Assistant Treasurer for this year? Just to help out at meetings when Christine and Ian are not able to attend (as they will be spending some time travelling this year and will miss a few meetings).

Ian Julian then took the floor and advised that with the exception of Dawn Barr (who has recently resigned from committee due to other commitments), the remainder of the current committee were all happy to re-stand for this year. A motion to accept the current committee for the remainder of the 2021 year, was put forward to the membership present, which, was then accepted and carried by all present. (see page 15)

With the major official necessities of the meeting over, Ian gave a reminder that our 2021 Expo is scheduled for Saturday October 16th, and advised that to date, most of our usual sellers have agreed to attend.

Next, Anne Rose was given the floor; Reporting on results of activity taken by the local Kilmore residents group (KADRRA), to protect remnant vegetation on the southern side of Kilmore: Last year KADRRA made representations to council regarding a planned new housing development involving Quinns Road; An area that was once under a Vegetation Protection Overlay. In objecting to the removal of the vegetation protection overlay for the area, BEAM joined with KADRRA in making submissions. Peter Mitchell wrote an extensive report recommending that a 30m buffer zone be retained on the western side of Quinns Road. Unfortunately, the objection submissions were not successful, and at this stage, the likely outcome is that the developers may only leave a 7m buffer zone.

Lastly, an excellent array of specimens in flower had been brought in for display & discussion. However, with time getting on, we broke for supper and chat time after passing around selected

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March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

plants from the display – these were:

Prostanthera cryptandroides (supplied by Ian, originally purchased from Mike Williams) - A small shrub growing to around 1m. Flowering occurs during the warmer months of the year. Naturally found growing in New South Wales and Queensland, usually in rocky areas of dry Eucalypt woodland.

Grevillea rhyolitica x *victoriae* (supplied by Jeanine) - A hybrid cross (cultivar name not supplied at time of purchase) forming rounded shrub potentially growing to 1.5m x 1.5m, which, is recommended for a full sun-semi shade site. Red flowers are produced most of the year with the main flush Autumn-Spring. It is frost hardy. (See photo in last month's newsletter).

Marianthus bicolor (supplied by Jeanine) - A Non-vigorous, twining climber growing to 1m x 1m. White flowers with violet streaks October - June. Suits most soils grow in part shade – sun.

Eremophila in flower (supplied by Russell Wait):

Eremophila alternifolia - A small to medium shrub reaching up to 3m high. Grows well in dry areas on a variety of soil types providing there is good drainage. Prefers full sun, and tolerates moderate frosts.

Eremophila scoparia - Is found in SA, WA, Vic & NSW. Also known as the Silver Emu-bush. Grows 1-3m high x 1-1.5m wide.

Eremophila goodwinii - Endemic to northern NSW and into QLD.

Eremophila subangustifolia - A rare endangered species from WA.

Eremophila maculata - AKA Spotted Emu-bush.

Eremophila decipiens - Which, is identified by the long gooseneck shape of the flower pedicel (the stalk of a single flower).



Prostanthera cryptandroides

Image: Peter Woodard

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/1a/Prostanthera_cryptandroides_flower.JPG/330px-Prostanthera_cryptandroides_flower.JPG



Marianthus bicolor Above: Flower

Below right: Growing with a young *Livistona australis*

Photos: J Petts



Eremophila alternifolia

Image: Colin Jennings

<http://anpsa.org.au/e-alt.html>



Eremophila scoparia

Images: AP Brown, KP Richardson, & KR Thiele

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/7267> accessed 9.4.21



Eremophila subangustifolia

Image: John Newton

<http://anpsa.org.au/eremophilaSG/gallery/images/E-subangustifolia.jpg>



Left: *Eremophila decipiens*

Photo: J Petts (WA 2019)



APS Mitchell President's Report 2020...

By Norbert Ryan

During 2020 the Covid-19 lockdowns caused suspension of all meetings and our annual October plant Expo. Thanks to the editorial role of Jeanine, our newsletter has remained the sole activity for our committee this year. In previous years the newsletter has provided a full review of the talks given by guest speakers, so the absence of meetings has been a double blow. However it has been very pleasing to have the support of many members who have filled the void by providing articles and photos to augment the newsletter. Ironically being a La Nina year, we had some of the best flowering seen in years. The beauty of some of these plants was shared by members providing some excellent photos for our newsletter. Our appreciation for the dedication of Jeanine to regularly publish such a nice magazine, cannot be over-emphasized.

The Expo has usually been the major activity of our group. This well-coordinated annual event, normally planned and managed by Ian Julian, was also cancelled. Planning for the expo commences well prior to the event so the uncertainty of COVID lockdowns resulted in considerable anxiety before the decision was finally made to cancel the event. The Expo provides a beautiful display of springtime specimens collected from members' gardens, wonderfully enhanced by contributions from specialist growers such as Russell Waite, Brian and Lorraine Weir and Mike Williams. This event normally provides our chance to showcase native plants to the local community. From my perspective this is sorely needed in this area. Living in Wallan with a growing migrant population and establishment of many new homes, the choice of native plants from local sources is very limited. Coles latest offerings have been Cyprus and Nandina, the latter on a very regular basis, large pots at high price.

On the subject of offering an alternative to exotic garden plants, we commenced the Gardens for Wildlife project two years ago. Again this was effectively suspended over the last year but will be re-invigorated this year. We will recommence attending Wallan Market days, to sell GFW membership and to provide a selection of low-growing indigenous natives, suitable for new gardens. We are fortunate to have gained the support of Gerry Wun Ho, who will be the convenor for GFW; he has recently joined our group, having just completed post-graduate studies in Botany and is now working on conservation projects.

We look forward to a lockdown free 2021, with the presumption of renewing and enhancing our annual activity program. The ongoing involvement of our long-serving committee is essential to our success.

APS Mitchell Treasurer's Report 2020...

By Christine Cram

Australian plant society Mitchell Group inc.

Balance Sheet for the Time Period to

March 11th 2021

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash Assets (Float Petty cash)	75.25
Cash in Bendigo Bank	5170.38
Projector (2012) (D)	438.75
Laptop & Program (2013) (D)	420.12
Laser pointer & 2 speakers (2014)	63.36
Tripod screen (2014)	116.23

Treasurer's Report 2020 continued...

By Christine Cram

(Continued from page 10)

Library books	707.76
4 Announcement signs (2013) (D)	185.67
2 double sided & 1 retractable banners (2012) (D)	608.40
Spring plant EXPO banner	234.90
Gardens for Wildlife banner	516.78
Total current assets	8537.60
LIABILITIES	
Biolink alliance (uncashed cheque)	100.00
Total current liabilities	100.00
EQUITY	8437.60
 INCOME	
Membership	1520.00
Monthly meetings	111.10
Percentage of plant sales @monthly meetings	21.20
Auction	90.00
Gardens for Wildlife	20.00
TOTAL	1762.30
EXPENDITURE	
Membership	1155.00
Speakers fees	50.00
Monthly meetings (room hire)	220.00
Refunds for double payment of membership	57.00
EXPO 2019 Raffle Prize	70.00
Gardens for Wildlife	83.00
Department of Justice	59.20
PO Box annual fee X2	270.00
Miscellaneous expenditure and petty cash	103.00
Ventraip Australia	122.35
TOTAL	2189.55
NETT OPERATING LOSS	427.55

Financial members	25
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C. M. Cram, Treasurer

Little Desert Nature Lodge...

By Victoria Morris

Dear Fellow APS members, I thought I would share the following favourite place with you.

I wonder if any of you know of or have stayed at the Little Desert Nature Lodge near Nhill?

I have stayed there on numerous occasions, usually when driving over to Adelaide from Lancefield over many years. It has recently changed hands and the present couple who are running the Lodge are local folk and deserve any support after what turned out to be a very difficult start to their tenure due to the covid 19 pandemic.

For me, the Nature Lodge is perfectly placed for a night's stop over on the long drive to Adelaide and back. As I slowly drive up the long drive inside the Reserve, I pass through the vermin proof fence and electric gate and pull up outside the Reception office. A warm welcome awaits from whoever is checking you in, as well as the resident Emu, George, who has been around for as long as I can remember.

Having dropped my stuff in the garden room I have booked, changed footwear, and after a much needed cup of tea, I grab my camera and head out onto the walking paths within the Reserve. I can find my way easily to the two bird Hides and armed with a thin seat pad for comfort, I find my favourite is empty, sneak in and settle down in the tiny two seater Hide just by a small man-made water pool with lots of twigs and shrubby bits around. Two hours later and stiff as... (lady of a certain age) I have been in Paradise. 22 species of bird plus several I have not identified, all coming and going non stop to drink and bathe. For me, this is the best antidote to hours in the car, along with any stress in the brain department. It is just a delight to see these desert birds so close and oblivious to my presence.

Walking back through the sandy landscape with its low scrubby cover and spindly trees, there is much to observe and look out for in the plant department. Occasionally, long ears pop up to watch as kangaroos abound - if you will pardon the pun, many come in close to the Lodge in the dusk to graze on the lawns. Birds are calling and you sense the movement but they are difficult to spot, so the Hide really is the answer.

Back for a freshly cooked steak and salad and a beer, with cheery fellow guests around.

However, the starry skies are fabulous and the only sounds at night are natural ones, I sleep very well and wake up refreshed and ready to head off once more.

It is for me, a very special place.

Accommodation is varied and reasonably priced to suit everyone from camping and campervan sites to dormitories for school visits, bedrooms with shared facilities and very comfortable garden view rooms with ensuites. There is a shared kitchen/laundry/lounge room, and BBQ facilities if you wish to use them.

Christa Farinha, the maitre d, is also ramping up the catering side with a pleasant café and visitors food requirements supplied to order. They can do weddings, group and club events. Meeting all sorts of different needs from Birdwatchers to Motor Clubs.

If you wish to base a holiday there, you will find plenty of interest. The Lodge has a small sanctuary and visitors can book a nocturnal visit to feed the tiny marsupials and spot Stone Curlews (difficult)! You can trek out into the Desert itself of course, there are many tracks and plenty of information to be found. An excellent reference guide is the Photographic Guide Book, Birds and Plants of the Little Desert by Ian Morgan, Graham Goods and Maree Goods. ISBN 9780646914237 (paperback).

Much to see with 220 birds species, 60 species of mammals and 670 native plants to look for.

Contact details and website:

www.littledesertlodge.com.au

littledesertnaturelodge@outlook.com

(03) 5391 5232 / 0467 680 726



Escape the city and enjoy marvellous views instead!

Little Desert Nature Lodge

ACCOMMODATION
RETREATS
WEDDING VENUE
CONFERENCE FACILITY
FUNCTION ROOM
FULLY LICENCED RESTAURANT,
BAR AND CAFE
DAY VISITOR ACCESS
NATURE BASED ACCESS AND TOURS

1457 Nhill-Harrow Road
Nhill VIC 3418



MAKE A TRIP!
EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL
UNTOUCHED NATURE HIDEAWAY

The Little Desert Nature Lodge has recently been acquired by the Farinha Family, with the vision of creating a space for people to get back in touch with nature, themselves and one another in a technology free setting. The Lodge is conveniently located half-way between Melbourne and Adelaide in Western Victoria, 16 kilometres south of Nhill. Sealed roads take you through the heart of the Little Desert National Park.

We are 120 kilometres from the Crampians National Park and 280 kilometres from the Great Ocean Road, and the ideal base to explore the Little and Big Desert National Parks. Enjoy a breath taking environmental experience, a peaceful hidden treasure with 177 hectares of natural bushland, walking tracks, abundant wildlife and native animals.

Drive distances:
370 kms from Melbourne (Victoria)
350 kms from Adelaide (South Australia)

STAY A WHILE

Accommodation Available:

- Deluxe Garden View Ensuite Rooms
- Standard Ensuite Rooms
- Bunk Rooms
- Powered Sites / Unpowered Sites

Disability friendly
Nature Based Access and Tours
Nocturnal Walks / Animal Feeding
Bird Watching
Bush Walking

CONTACT US
littledesertnaturelodge@outlook.com
(03) 5391 5232 / 0467 680 726

Find us on Facebook

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 Evans,
Ian Julian,
Barbara Mau,
Norbert Ryan,
Royce & Jeanne Raleigh,
Victoria Morris.

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.

April 17 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale: 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks 8:30am-4pm.

April 24 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 903 Main Rd 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 Weekend Plant Sale. Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne 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, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am - 4pm.

September 11 & 12 - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.

September 25 & 26 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.

(Continued on page 14)

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, 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, which, 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 13)

October 2 & 3 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9am-5pm on Saturday, 9am-4pm on Sunday.

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.

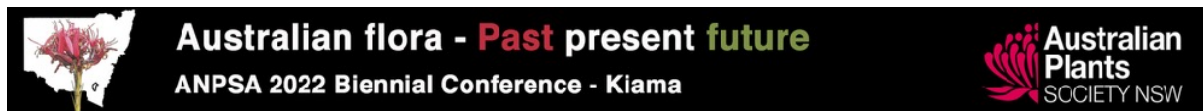
October 16 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

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

November 13 & 14 - Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula. Further details at www.gardendesignfest.com.au

November 20 & 21 - Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area. Further details at www.gardendesignfest.com.au

2022



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



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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

PO Box 541, Kilmore VIC 3674
Inc # A0054306V

APS Mitchell Group Inc. committee 2021

The Australian Plants Society Mitchell Group Inc. Annual General Meeting 2021 was held on Monday March 15, commencing at 7:30pm at the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library Sydney St. KILMORE. The meeting was deferred from November 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions. Due to the timing of the AGM and low numbers at the time, Ian Julian moved "That the current committee continue to the AGM 2021". Seconded by Dawn McCormack, the motion was carried.

President: Norbert Ryan

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: Ian Julian

Treasurer/Memberships: Christine Cram

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts

Group Librarian: Vacant

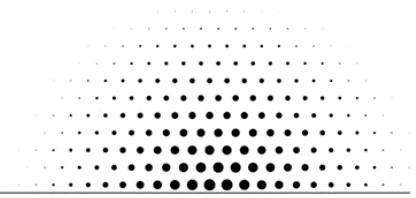
G4W Coordinator: Gerry Ho

General Committee Positions:

Victoria Morris, Bill Barker

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 16)

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.

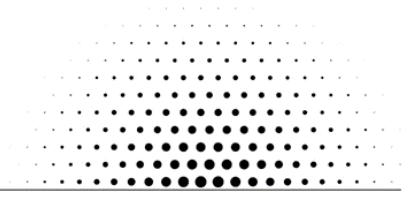
Council clean as per schedule arranged with the Contracts Management Coordinator at Mitchell Shire Council. This this has been communicated to each building manager.

(Continued on page 18)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 17)

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:

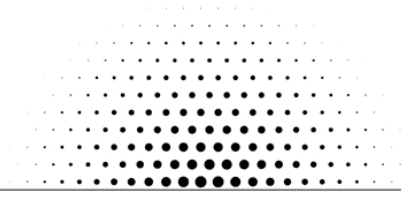
- ☐ Advice on COVID-19 available to everyone –
e.g. www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19
- ☐ Specific vulnerabilities determined and vulnerable group members encouraged to participate in other ways or to make arrangements with organisers for any special requirements to facilitate attendance
- ☐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

(Continued on page 19)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 18)

- ☐ 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>