

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

June
2021

Volume 8, Issue 5

June news...!

Hello welcome to our very late, June issue...

I am sure all our readers will understand and forgive this delay, given the current storm battered state some of our Victorian countryside has been & is still in.

I fervently hope that everyone was not too seriously affected by our record breaking storm. It certainly is, in my personal memory, the worst that I have ever experienced. In Pyalong, Mother Nature in all her glorious fury was definitely on display.

Unfortunately, and very regrettably, the APS Mitchell Committee was left no other viable choice but to cancel or June meeting. Owing to the most recent outbreaks of Covid-19, and the resulting restrictions. We await word from Mitchell Shire regarding the re-opening of meeting rooms, and hope that our July meeting will be able to go ahead. Further advice will be provided via email, in the July newsletter, and on our website.

The July newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday July 13th.

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Chamaelium uncinatum in Jan's Garden.

Photo: Jan Harrison

Contributions remain very greatly appreciated. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by July 6th. Email to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

I Look to forward hearing from as many members & friends as possible, & seeing you at a meeting, fingers crossed, sometime soon.

In the meantime, stay happy in your gardens & perhaps look at any storm damage as Mother Nature's pruning / thinning. Just think about all those places for new plants.

So, happy gardening & cheers until next time, Jeanine

Grevillea sp? Cultivar?



This lovely *Grevillea* is growing in Jan's garden. If anyone can ID the species or cultivar, please let us know.

Photo: Jan Harrison

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 16.)
- Please note: meetings will be held under the requirements of our [Covid safe facility plan](#); please [read the plan \(from page 20\) prior to attending](#).
- MONDAY JUNE 21st 7:30pm **MEETING CANCELLED**
- JULY MEETING - To be advised
- MONDAY AUG 16th 7:30pm Meeting - Guest Speaker: Chris Clarke Topic: Alpine flora
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 16th - APS MITCHELL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE



Gardens for Wildlife News...

Are you aware of, and or, have you joined the [Gardens for Wildlife Victoria Group Page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/gardens4wildlifevic/) on Facebook?
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gardens4wildlifevic/>

Alongside our [Gardens for Wildlife – Mitchell](#) Facebook page is the above-mentioned Victoria wide group. Members of the Victorian group share information, pictures, ideas, ask and answer Gardens for Wildlife related questions. Just a couple of the ideas shared in recent posts were: Utilising cut off stumps of fallen trees within gardens as insect hotels, simply by drilling horizontal holes into the stumps.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gardens4wildlifevic/permalink/482151253044998/>

In another post, the idea of using wooden chopsticks to mark dormant tubers etc of native species so they are not dug up, damaged or disturbed accidentally by other gardening activities. The chopsticks were colour coded with fluorescent paint for ease of identification. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gardens4wildlifevic/permalink/482674859659304/>

In other reading a recent [North Central Review Article \(June 21st\)](#) readers were advised to be aware of displaced or injured wildlife moving around, and on our roads following the affects of our recent widespread storms. Wildlife rescue organisations have been receiving an increased number of calls for assistance for injured and displaced wildlife since the storms. Anyone finding wildlife in need of assistance is recommended to call Help for Wildlife on 0477 555 611. Read the full article at: <https://ncreview.com.au/2021/06/21/wildlife-road-toll-increases-after-storm-as-homeless-confused-animals-wander-onto-roads/?fbclid=IwAR2h39xWiVLp7oJfTKe9VYKtavNHV9lThrBKCTLoOc9sJnSND5p8ORdXbFc>



Spot the Swamp Wallaby. Photo: Critter Cam at Wattle Gum Forest Farm

**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



June Meeting: Cancelled...

Owing to continuing uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings, and re-opening of meeting rooms, the APS Mitchell Executive Committee with great regret, have taken the decision to Cancel our June meeting; previously scheduled for June 21st.

Hopefully restrictions will continue to ease to a level that will enable us to re-convene at our July Meeting. Further details will be advised, via email, our July Newsletter, & on our APS Mitchell Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au as developments occur.

Meetings are 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, friends & visitors are always welcome, and encouraged to bring along specimens for our evening "Flower Table".

A ticket in our monthly native plant raffle, along with supper of tea, coffee, biscuit, cake, or the like is included in our \$2.00 gold coin entry donation, where meetings are held in our indoor venue.



Chamelaucium uncinatum in Jan's Garden. Photo: Jan Harrison

Memberships...

Just what everyone wanted to hear...MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES ARE DUE JULY 1st. Please find a 21/22 membership form on page 18. 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/>

May meeting report - Searching for Spider Orchids ...

By Jeanine Petts

It was wonderful to walk into the John Taylor Room and see that both Mike Williams and Russell Wait had both made the journey out, and brought along a great selection of plants for sale – Thank you gentlemen, bless your good hearts and green thumbs. Even better, was that more and more members (along with a couple of new faces) kept trickling in the door. In total we ended up with 19 attendees, it was lovely to see everyone, and a great result in these Covid-19 plagued times. Thank you everyone for making the effort to come out.

We all ended up so busy perusing plants, grabbing a quick cuppa and catching up, that Norbert had to make a couple of calls to get us all to our seats. I suspect that a few of us (or more) might have missed seeing each other. With everyone finally settled, Norbert introduced our guest speaker, Paul Piko. Explaining that he had prevailed upon his friend and neighbour to speak for us once again, and, that along with an interest in native orchids, Paul had a background in information technology and photography.

Paul opened by saying that although he worked in IT, he wouldn't promise a trouble-free presentation with the electronic/IT equipment in use for the evening (our APS Mitchell equipment is a bit long in the tooth by today's standards). He then went on to explain the presentation would include taking a broader look at Orchids in general, stepping back to begin with what is an orchid, and also take in conservation works and further detailing the topics in order would be:

- Who am I?
- About native orchids.
- A closer look at Spider Orchids.
- Conservation activities.
- Orchids in Mitchell, with a focus on Red Spider Orchids.

Beginning with Who am I? Paul detailed that he is a Software and database developer, lives in Wallan, and that his clients are primarily charities and tertiary education institutions, among which, are Deakin University, and Animals Asia. He is an active member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Vic), with past roles including; committee member, and Terrestrial Study Group Coordinator. Currently, he remains involved with ANOS (Vic) research and conservation activities, for which, he will be leading a search in Mitchell shire in spring, and over the Melbourne Cup weekend, will be leading an annual orchid trip to NE Victoria. Paul noted that he is very familiar with that region as his family is originally from the Beechworth and Wangaratta area.

Moving into the topic of orchids, and starting with some general information:

Orchids fall in the family of flowering plants, and are perennial, non-woody herbs. There is in the order of 30,000 species world-wide, with 1800 odd species Australia-wide. Around 400 species are found in Victoria, which, equates to 22 percent of species located in 3 percent of the land area.



Spider Orchid
Photo: [Paul Piko](#)©

(Continued on page 4)

May meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

There are 3 main types of orchids:

- **Epiphytic** - Which grow on trees or other plants and are not parasitic. Three Victorian species are:
 - *Plectorrhiza tridentata* - the Tangle Orchid, found in East Gippsland.
 - *Sarcochilus falcatus* - the Orange Blossom Orchid, also of East Gippsland.
 - *Sarcochilus australis* - the Butterfly Orchid of southern Victoria (areas including; the Otway Ranges, across Southern Highlands, Strzelecki Ranges, and East Gippsland). Sadly, a population once found in Kinglake, is no longer there following the 2009 fires.
- **Lithophytic** - Which, grow on rocks. There are two species found in Victoria, which, only grow in the far east corner:
 - *Dendrobium speciosum* - the King Orchid (East Gippsland)
 - *Dendrobium striolatum* - the Streaked Rock Orchid (East Gippsland)
- **Terrestrial** - Ground orchids. This group forms the majority of Victoria's orchids. They are seasonal, deciduous, at times leafless. Three quarters of Victoria's 400 odd species belong to one of four genera:

Caladenia have the greatest representation with 92 species and make up just under 1/4 of Victorian species. These include Spider, Finger and Hooded orchids. Examples of each of these shown were; the Rosella Orchid *Caladenia rosella* - a spider type flower, the Eastern Bronze Caladenia *Caladenia transitoria* - a hooded type flower, and the common Pink Fingers *Caladenia carnea* - a finger type flower.

Pterostylis, the Greenhood orchids, have the next greatest number at 86 species, and make up a little over 1/5 of Victorian species. They are the most commonly seen orchid, which, are often found growing en masse. Two of the examples shown were; the Blunt Greenhood *Pterostylis curta*, that grow in colonies and reproduce via seed or tuber, and a forest orchid that features a long, furry tongue and is spring flowering.

Prasophyllum, the Leek-orchids, with 74 species this group account for a little under 1/5 of Victorian species. A feature of note with Leek orchids, is that they hold their floral parts in an arrangement that is upside down compared to other orchid genera.

Thelymitra Sun-orchids, with 43 species, make up a little



Plectorrhiza tridentata Tangle Orchid
Photo: Andre Messina <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/0fd475c9-34b4-4890-beab-ca5da89da832#&gid=1&pid=2>



Dendrobium striolatum Streaked Rock-orchid Photo: Geoff Lay <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/a6d662aa-1095-42e6-af3f-c76726e60370#&gid=1&pid=2>

Caladenia

■ 23%, 92 species



L-R: *Caladenia rosella*, *Caladenia transitoria*, *Caladenia carnea* Photos: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Pterostylis curta colony
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©

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May meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

over 1/10 of Victorian species. These orchids have pretty flowers and a short flowering period. Their flowering is reliant on warm temperature and optimum humidity ranges. These timeframes and conditions, coincide with the activity of wasps responsible for their pollination.

The remaining 25 percent of species found in Victoria are spread across 28 different genera. Each of these genera encompass 1, 2, or only a few Victorian species. Some of these genera include the Flying Duck Orchids *Caleana* species, Tongue Orchids *Cryptostylis* species, and Wasp Orchids - a Wasp Orchid example shown was the Tall Wasp-orchid *Chiloglottis trilabra*, the species has black structures (called calli) on its labellum, that look like its wasp pollinator. This is among the group considered "Deceptive Orchids", which, "trick" wasps or other pollinators into landing on them.

Most times of the year you can find at least one species of native orchid in flower. Our orchids are sensitive to rainfall, and will often flower following rains.

The distinctive characteristics of Orchids have evolved and adapted over an extremely long period of time. Petals and sepals have modified to become tepals (a segment of the outer whorl in a flower that has no differentiation between petals and sepals). Other modifications serve a purpose, some of these include: The calli, these are glands located on the labellum of some species. The labellum (a modified lower petal), and the column (the structure in which the male and female parts are fused and pollen is located). Often calli look like the insect pollinator of the plant, tricking the pollinator into landing onto labellum. The pollinator bumps into the column, thereby transferring pollen from plant to plant.

Looking closer at Spider Orchids, they can be broadly grouped into five types (see images next page):

Smooth-lipped

Clubbed – having a club at the tip of a petal.

Green-comb – have a pronounced fringe of green teeth on the labellum.

Long-tailed – have long petals and sepals/tepals

Wispy – having very long-tailed, wispy petals.

Other main identifying characteristics of Spider Orchids are:

A single, lance shaped, and hairy leaf that tapers at each end.

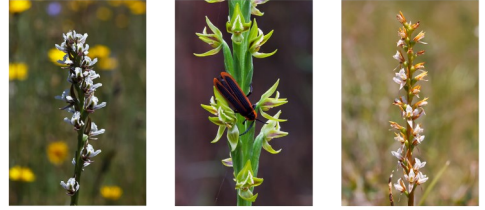
A hairy stalk

Long slender tepals (sepals & petals)

One tepal mostly upright, with the others spreading

Prasophyllum

■ 19%, 74 species



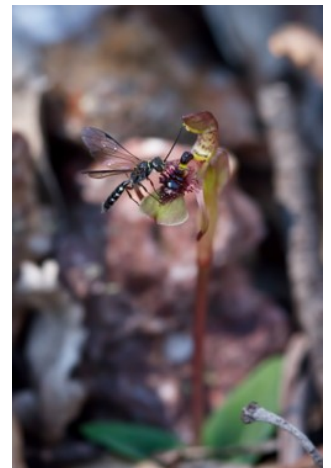
Above: Leek Orchids Photos: [Paul Piko](#) ©

Thelymitra

■ 11%, 43 species



Above: Sun-orchids Photos: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Chiloglottis trilabra

Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Caladenia dilatata

Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©

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May meeting report continued...

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The labellum (lip) is toothed (has a fringe of "teeth")

The labellum has calli (glands)

An anecdote mentioned was that when Paul lived in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, he regularly saw plenty of Green-comb orchids near Eltham and Christmas Hills. Yet since moving to Wallan, has not seen a Green-comb orchid close to Wallan.

The next phase of the presentation moved on to "Why is conservation needed?": Leading pressures on the survival of our native orchids are: Loss of habitat, loss of bio-diversity, and declining health of the environment. This makes the collection of data vital to make informed decisions in conservation management activities. Some of the examples of rare, threatened species given were:

Caladenia sp. aff. *fragrantissima* (Central Victoria) Bendigo Spider Orchid: There are 4 known plants remaining from 2 sites.

Caladenia audasii McIvor Spider Orchid: Only 6 known plants across its range from Bendigo to Stawell.

Caladenia rosella Rosella Spider Orchid: There are now up to 300 known plants following conservation efforts in the north east area of Melbourne.

Caladenia amoena Charming Spider Orchid: There are currently around 200 known plants found at 2 sites, they have been re-introduced at Plenty Gorge, owing to decades of work and the efforts of 1 man who worked at Plenty Gorge.

ANOS Victoria, The Australasian Native Orchid Society (Victoria) are more than just a conservation group. Although not focused on growing and showing orchids for the purposes of competition, they host and facilitate a range of activities including: Meetings, study groups, and active conservation programs involving: Propagating & growing groups, monitoring native orchids, organising searches, field trips etc. in which, they work closely with other bodies such as; the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Catchment Management Authorities, Parks Victoria, and the Royal Botanic Gardens. (More information on ANOS Vic can be found at www.anosvic.org.au)

An activity example given is an upcoming working bee at Plenty Gorge that was scheduled for June 19th (now moved to July 4th due to Covid-19). Members of ANOS Vic conservation group will be joining the Friends of Plenty Gorge, to help plant companion plants, which, will assist in creating a healthy environment for beetle and wasp pollinators of an endangered orchid. This will, in turn, enhance the orchid's chances of survival.

Following on to discuss another conservation activity, we were

Types of spider orchids



Slide created by Paul Piko. "Searching for Spider Orchids" PowerPoint Presentation May 2021



Caladenia audasii

Photo: Julie Radford



Caladenia rosella

Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©

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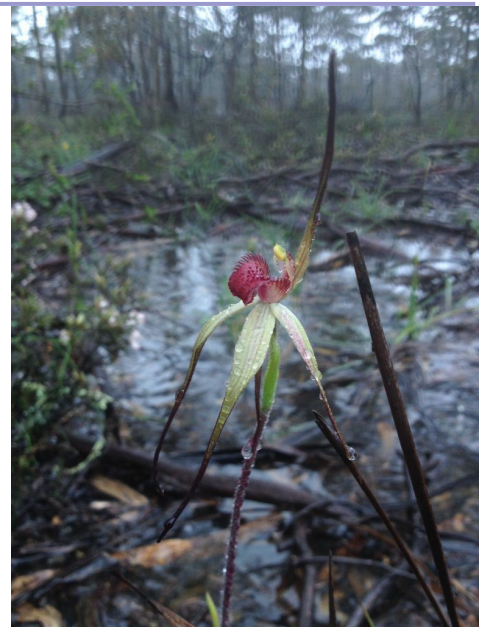
May meeting report continued...

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shown a Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria video titled "Orchids Unveiled". The video is about a collaborative Orchid Conservation Project involving a large number of partners and stake holders, including the RBGV and ANOS Vic. (To watch the video, click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/-qDjef4LXdM>) Or go to: <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/initiatives/virtual-garden/conservation-and-science/> The video covered work in orchid research, propagation, and re-introduction of the endangered *Caladenia fulva* Tawny Spider Orchid, which, is ongoing at a private Trust for Nature property. Paul commented that Dr Noushka Reiter, who leads the project, is an amazing person, and they are making great achievements. ANOS Vic alone have invested more than 2500 volunteer hours per year to the project, along with an equal amount of volunteer hours per year across many other projects. Richard Thomson, who earned an Order of Australia medal in the 2020 Queens Birthday Honours for his work with orchids, also features in the "Orchids Unveiled" video. The video details a great deal of information on orchid seeds, propagation, and planting. Orchid seeds are tiny, and have no nutrient layer. This makes them reliant on a symbiotic relationship with soil mycorrhiza to provide the nutrient for development. The video shows seeds being sown with fungi, successful results, and flowers being manually pollinated with a toothpick.

Part of the puzzle and difficulty with propagating orchids is getting the mycorrhizal relationship right, matching the right fungus for the differing species of orchids, and under what conditions. Once the orchids are grown, for planting project to be successful, 100's of the target orchid must be planted to begin to create a stable and sustainable population group. Exclusion fencing is another factor, and that comes with pros and cons. On more critical areas fencing is used to give orchids the best chance to grow. However, this can become a balancing act between encouraging growth outside the exclusion area and preserving the planted population. Sometimes exclusion fencing is only used for an initial period, then followed up with monitoring.

One of Paul's clients is Bush Heritage Australia, and happens to inadvertently be a cross-over between work and personal interests, he clarified that he does not represent or speak on behalf of Bush Heritage. Part of Bush Heritage's work is involved in obtaining properties that form land links to listed government reserves. Properties are both purchased and bequeathed to Bush Heritage, one such recent acquisition is the 'Round House' that is located between Tallarook and Kinglake. The property has panoramic views and BHA has plans to use it for education and research. At another BHA property called Nadoo Hills, near Wedderburn, *Pterostylis valida* the Robust Greenhood was found in 2009. Prior to that, the last recorded sighting of the species was in 1941. Local orchid enthusiasts, who understood the orchid's preferred conditions, were then able to find more specimens, growing in local nearby reserves on the rocky ground and hills they knew it is suited to. BHA engaged the RBGV to propagate the Robust Greenhood, and



Caladenia fulva Tawny Spider Orchid

Photo: Geoff Lay

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/f1ecaf7c-d199-4f5c-98b5-a79cc0c047a5>



Pterostylis valida

Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©

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May meeting report continued...

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ANOS Vic has assisted with the re-introductions to the site.

In 2019 BHA asked ANOS Vic to assist with orchid surveys at a then new property in St Arnaud. The site was covered in bush, being mostly Long-leaved Box and Yellow Gum Forest, which, had a rich diversity of species, so it was highly likely orchids would be there. 20 or so volunteers from ANOS Vic, spent a very rewarding weekend, where they found many orchids in flower, including discovering a large number of 2 threatened spider orchid species; *Caladenia cruciformis* the Red Cross Spider Orchid, and *Caladenia cretacea* the Stuart Mill Spider Orchid.

After moving to Hidden Valley, Paul began searching for orchids in and around the local area. At first thinking there may not be any to find, he was pleasantly surprised to discover Donkey Orchids in Ridge Road and Bronze *Caladenia* on a nearby bush block. He has also found many other non-spider type orchids in the area. Other finds include various *Diuris* species (Donkey, Leopard, Hornet and Cowslip type Orchids), a range of *Thelymitra* species Sun-orchids such as *Thelymitra pauciflora* Slender Sun-orchid, various other *Caladenia* non-spider species like Pink Fingers and other similar non-spider types including *Caladenia transitoria* Little Bronze Caps. Another rare species find has been *Dipodium pardalinum* Spotted Hyacinth Orchid at Monument Hill. As yet, Paul has not located any Spider Orchids in Wallan, but knows they grow south of Wallan (in the north east of Melbourne), and in the east and north of Mitchell Shire, where he has found mostly Green-comb Orchids.

Paul had been to Tooborac, both in the State Forest and Nature Reserve, also Spring Plains Nature Reserve on the west side of the highway near Heathcote (within the City of Greater Bendigo region). After having some success finding Green-comb Spider Orchids, Paul started getting "picky" and wanted to find a Red Spider Orchid. He knew there were some known, small, populations not far outside Mitchell, and one within. Further, that with ANOS Vic they had found Red Spider Orchids in other Victorian locations, in particular one at Castlemaine commonly called the Castlemaine Red Spider Orchid. Common names are often misleading as they can refer to multiple species. Particularly so with Red Spider Orchids, as there are a number of different named species, along with a number not yet described. Some of these are:

Caladenia cruciformis – Red Cross Spider Orchid, found in the St Arnaud region.

Caladenia concolor – Crimson Spider Orchid, found in Central to NE Victoria.

Caladenia clavescens – Castlemaine Red Spider Orchid, found in the Brisbane Ranges, Carboor, as well as Castlemaine.

Caladenia "Central Victoria" – Is not yet named, and, as the interim name suggests is found in Central Victoria.

Caladenia "Earlston" – Not yet described/named, and found in NE Victoria.



Caladenia cretacea
Stuart Mill Orchid
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Diuris orientis
Wallflower Orchid
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Dipodium pardalinum
Spotted Hyacinth Orchid.
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Caladenia clavescens
Castlemaine Red Spider-orchid.
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©

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April meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Caladenia formosa – Scarlet Spider Orchid, found in the west.

All Red Spider Orchids are very similar, therefore hard to identify, and the question is often posed: "Is it natural variation or are they biologically different"? A case in point is *Caladenia* "Earlston" which, is very similar to *Caladenia clavescens*.

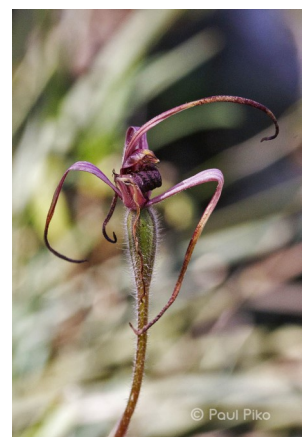
When it came down to searching for a Red Spider Orchid, Paul wasn't that fussy, he just wanted to find one, and any would do. So, he applied knowledge gained from previous ANOS Vic experiences, and got down to work. He knew a likely spot in Mitchell Shire, so started looking for the "right kind of country", and examined maps, topography, aerial survey images and local conditions. Then made an educated at guess at a new possible location in the north of the shire.

Peak flowering time occurred during last year's major lockdown, which, in turn made it late in the season before he was able to head out to search potential sites. Happily, Paul was very fortunate to find one plant! *Caladenia clavescens*, so then started climbing up and down hills in other likely areas. All up he found two plants, one in full flower, the other had flowered, was pollinated with the ovary enlarging, and tepals wilting, yet still in an identifiable state. In finding the pollinated specimen, potentially developing seed, there is some hope that the species can colonise and spread. Paul is intending to return to the area this coming September, to lead a group of ANOS Vic members on a more thorough search.

At this point, the main presentation was almost done, and Paul invited questions from the floor. Q & A elicited the following further points:

- Orchid flowers shrivel after pollination, after the flower dies back the leaf will also die.
- A *Caladenia clavescens* flower stalk grows to around 30cm high, and the plant prefers rocky soils.
- On its Castlemaine range *C. clavescens* grows in old diggings areas and rocky ground.
- When questioned as to what type of tuber *C. clavescens* has, Paul advised that he is not a grower, but thinks the species has a longer thinnish shaped tuber.
- Paul spends more time searching for Orchids than finding them.
- Why do mass orchid flowerings occur immediately after fire and then subsequent flowering events and numbers tail off? Is this due to nutrient fluctuations? Some orchids (& other species) do get knocked back by fire, while others need open ground and/or fire. Once grasses start kicking off again following fire, orchid flowering will drop off.

With the main presentation drawn to a close, Paul was very warmly thanked, and promised a bottle of wine (that a certain someone forgot to bring along). We then moved on to our regular evening plant raffle, flower table discussion and further announcements before breaking for supper. Raffle prizes were 3 different *Prostanthera* Mint Bushes, of the Lamiaceae family:



Caladenia clavescens
Pollinated with ovary swelling.
Photo: [Paul Piko](#) ©



Prostanthera phyllicifolia
Spiked Mint Bush
Photo: Jackie Miles
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/plants/se/nsw/text/entities/prostanthera_phyllicifolia.htm

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April meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 9)

Prostanthera phyllicifolia - Spiked Mint Bush is endemic to QLD, NSW and Vic. It forms an erect to rounded shrub to 1.5m high x 1m -1.5m wide with white or pale violet flowers that occur in spring. A hardy plant that does best in light shade, prefers moist, well-drained soils and will benefit from tip pruning after flowering.

Prostanthera incisa - Cut-leaf Mint Bush Forms a rounded shrub to 2m x 2m that bears aromatic leaves with toothed margins, with masses of pale lilac flowers occurring in spring. Grows best in a partly shaded position, in moist, well-drained soil. Tip pruning after flowering helps maintain a compact habit.

Prostanthera rhombea - Sparking Mint Bush is endemic to QLD, NSW and a very localised region near the Victorian Alps. It has an open, erect habit, growing from 0.5 -2m high and bears mauve-bluish, sometimes pink flowers in spring.

The winners were: Debbie, Anne, and a very chuffed yours truly, as I got to take home the *P. rhombea*

Further announcements were:

- A reminder that Russell Wait has a new book coming out, hopefully in 3-4 months. APS Victoria have been approached to help with a grant to assist in publishing costs, and there has already been interest expressed for copies of the book from as far afield as the Santa Cruze Botanic Gardens in the USA <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/>. Email Russell at: eremophilabook@gmail.com to pre-order your copy (see other details on page 13)
- A note from our Treasurer Christine... Membership renewals for 2021/2022 are almost due.

Lastly, the following species from the May flower table were displayed and discussed:

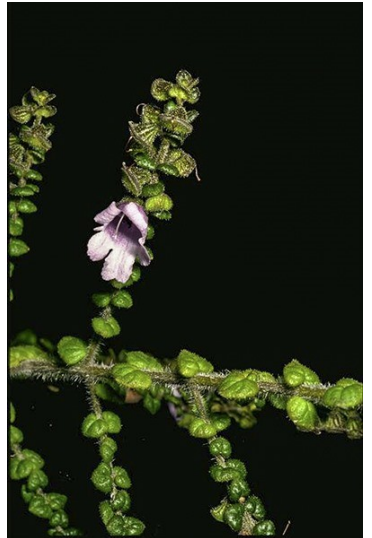
From Norbert's Garden:

- ***Lechenaultia* "Lola"** is a pink flowered *L. formosa* cultivar. The *Lechenaultia* genus are members of the Goodeniaceae family, and are endemic to the south west of WA. They are variable in both colour and form. It can take the form of a prostrate to semi erect small shrub growing to 0.30m x 0.30m, bearing small linear leaves and flowers occur in winter and spring. Although flowers are usually varying hues of red, through to oranges, there are pinks, yellows and even a white form. Some forms are frost tolerant, others frost sensitive. They propagate readily from cutting, however, are only a short-lived plant, and difficult to maintain in cultivation. Stunning plants when in flower, but best treated as a biennial and grow replacements from cuttings regularly, aiming to replace every second year. Part shade is preferred, but plants happily tolerate full sun, and require a well-drained sandy soil. Norbert's specimen was purchased from either Mike Williams, or Ironstone Park Nursery (Heathcote), more likely from Ironstone Park.



Prostanthera incisa

Photo: J Petts



Prostanthera rhombea Photo:

Murray Fagg

https://apps.lucidcentral.org/plants_se_nsw/text/entities/prostanthera_rhombea.htm



Lechenaultia "Lola"

Image:


<https://nativ.com.au/product/lechenaultia-hybrid-lola/>

(Continued on page 11)


May meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 10)

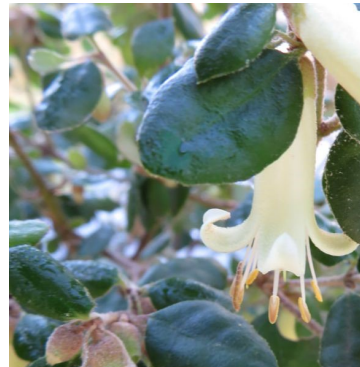
- **Westringia fruticosa** Coastal Rosemary, is a variegated leaf form. The genus is a member of the Lamiaceae (Mint) family, and this species is endemic to the eastern Australian coast. It usually grows to a rounded shrub of approximately 2m high to 4m wide. Leaves are held in whorls of four and white flowers can occur most times of the year. An extremely reliable and hardy plant, tolerating anything from frost to salt spray.




Westringia fruticosa Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westringia_fruticosa
- **Crowea exalata**, "this plant flowers forever", and even self-seeds in Mike Williams' garden (as this specimen WAS purchased from Mike Williams). Genus *Crowea* is a member of the Rutaceae family (along with *Correa* see below). A lovely little plant endemic to mainly mountain regions of NSW, ACT & Vic that grows to a rounded shrub to around 0.70cm. It has near linear, aromatic leaves to 4cm long. It bears its 5-petaled star-shaped flowers of 25mm or less, over summer and autumn, and is a great little performer at a time when not too much else is flowering in the garden. There are many forms in cultivation, and a variety of colour forms; from bright magenta pink through to white. Multi Petaled forms are also available. It is a very hardy and decorative plant, suitable for full sun to part shade. Great for that little splash of colour and cut flowers.



Crowea exalata Image: <http://anpsa.org.au/c-exa.html>
- **Correa pulchella "Ivory"** (purchased from Brian & Lorraine Weir). Another lovely little shrub of the Rutaceae Family (see C. "Little Cate" below,) and is one of many hybrid cultivars. *Correa* 'Ivory Dancer' (Ed. if this is the correct cultivar? Lorraine, feel free to advise further) is thought to be a hybrid between *Correa reflexa* and *Correa pulchella*. The name describes the colour and habit of the flowers as they are white with gently downward curved tips, which appear in autumn. It forms a shrub around 1.5 m x 2 m with a dense habit, is frost and drought hardy, responds well to pruning, and is bird attracting. Suitable for most garden aspects including tub planting and foreground planting in garden beds.



Correa pulchella "Ivory Dancer" Image: <https://www.farmgatenatives.com.au/small-shrubs.html>
- **Kunzea Baxteri** is a member of the Myrtaceae family that is endemic to WA and forms an open, spreading, shrub to around 3m high & wide. Bright crimson-red, bottle-brush type, parrot attracting flowers occur in winter to spring and/or spring to summer. However, sometimes this species may take several years or more to reach first flowering, although cutting grown plants will flower soonest. An at times fussy plant to grow in the Eastern States, which, may be overcome by sourcing a grafted specimen. For best results cuttings should be taken from a mature plant that has already reached flowering. Tolerates coastal conditions (with some protection) and a Mediterranean climate. It prefers good drainage and for optimum results prune after flowering. (Ed. Promised note for Dawn Mac: This species is available in most nurseries



Kunzea baxteri Image: <http://anpsa.org.au/k-bax.html>

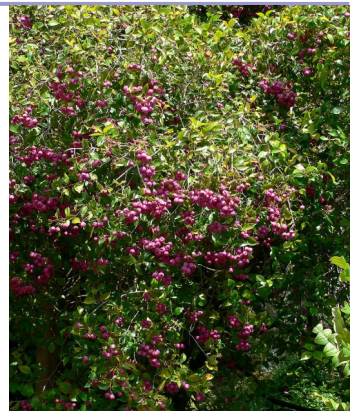
(Continued on page 12)

May meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 11)

& is not grown by Mike Williams).

- ***Syzygium smithii*** formerly *Acmena smithii*, is one of the Lilly Pillies, a member of the Myrtaceae family, and grows to a medium sized tree that can reach 20m in optimum conditions. However, in southern Australia it may only reach 12m. It bears ovate, shiny, dark green leaves, and white, fluffy flowers occur in summer, followed by pink berries that ripen in winter. The berries are edible raw or can be made into a tasty Jam. An interesting anecdote from Norbert, is that 2 specimens are growing at Hidden Valley, one on each side of the house. One is currently in flower, and the other in berry. In cultivation, a humus rich soil is recommended, but it will tolerate most sites providing there is adequate moisture. It is a coastal rainforest species, so will only tolerate light to possibly moderate frosts at best, and can be planted in full sun – to full shade.
- ***Banksia baueri*** has the common names; Possum Banksia, Woolly Banksia, is a member of the Proteaceae family, and endemic to WA. Growing to 2m x 3m it forms a medium-sized, much-branched shrub with tough toothed leaves and large unusual flowers almost resembling a furry animal nestling in the leaves. The large bird attracting flower spikes of up 30cm high x 15-20cm diameter occur late winter-spring. It a prefers full sun to light shade in well drained soil. It will tolerate dry conditions and moderate frost once established.
- ***Banksia marginata* Silver Banksia**, is a member of the Proteaceae family found in all states of Australia excepting QLD and NT. It grows to a large, rounded shrub to 4m, or a sparser tree form growing to 6m or more (if of great age). This is a variable species depending on provenance. Leaves may be variable, but always silvery on the underneath. Yellow flower spikes occur spring – autumn. A very hardy plant if grown in a well-drained site.
- ***Correa* 'Little Cate'** is a *C. pulchella* cultivar with the genus *Correa* being members of the Rutaceae family. This species grows 50-60cm x 1-1.5m forming a moderately dense, spreading evergreen shrub with dark green variable ovate to broad ovate leaves. It bears profuse and prominently displayed bird attracting, uniformly bright pink flowers. Flowering continues for a long period, peaking between April and July. Suitable for a full sun to part shade site in well drained soil. A very hardy plant tolerating both drought and frost, and can be used as a low informal or clipped hedge. (Ed. It beats English box any day!) This cultivar arose as a seedling on a grazing property in the granite hill country northeast of Boorowa, NSW. It is easily propagated from cuttings and its cultivation requirements are the



Syzygium smithii

Image: Stan Shebs

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syzygium_smithii



Banksia baueri

Photo: J Petts



Banksia marginata

Photo: J Petts



Correa "Little Cate"

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 13)

May meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 12)

same for other selections of *C. pulchella*. It has also performed well in acid (pH 4.5) soil conditions. Occasional tip pruning will keep the plant dense.

- ***Eremophila maculata*** Spotted Emu-bush, is a very hardy, highly variable shrub, usually growing to 2m x 2m. It can be reasonably long-lived (the specimen at Wattle Gum Forest Farm is currently over 20 years old and still going strong). The plant was purchased from B Grose at Yarra Yarra Group. Spotted flowers can be pink, mauve, red, or yellow, with the main flush of flowers in spring. Flowering can also occur sporadically throughout the year (generally related to rain).
- ***Halgania preissiana* "Purple Haze"**, is suckering dwarf shrub that grows to 0.3m high x 0.4m wide. It prefers hot overhead sun in well-drained soil, tolerates dry soils, and is frost hardy. Blue flowers occur over a long period, beginning from early spring-late spring.



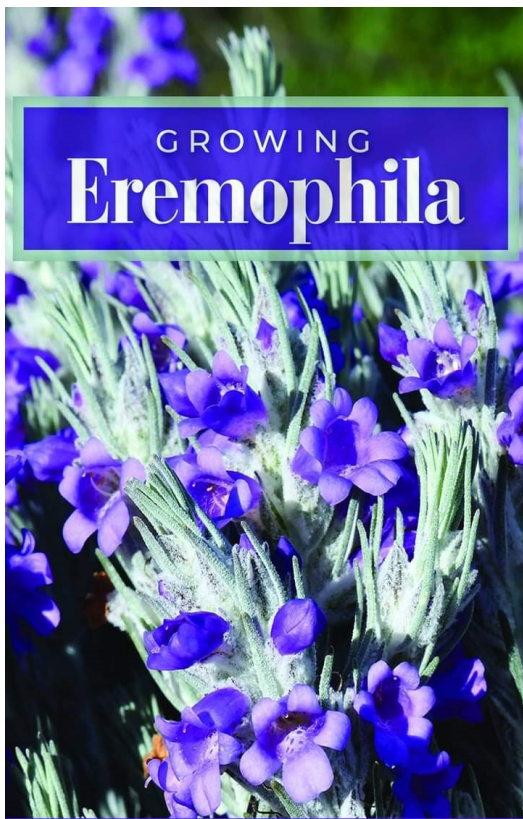
Eremophila maculata

Form & flower Photos: J Petts

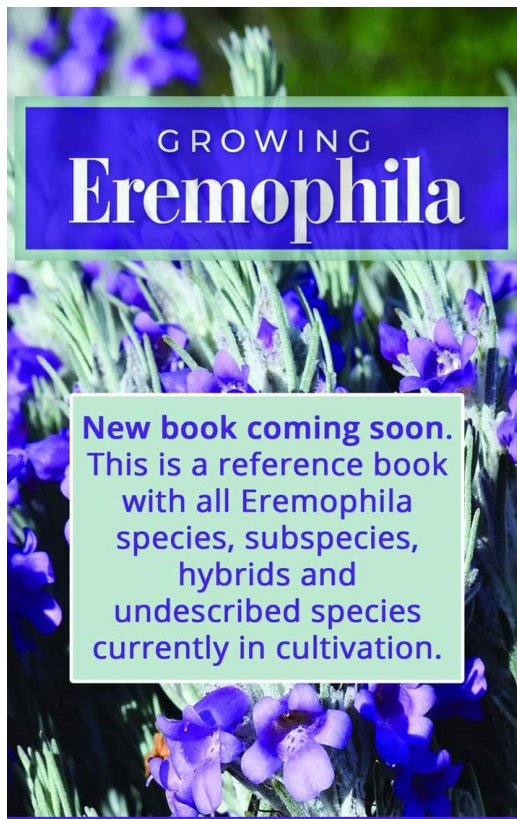


Halgania preissiana 'Purple Haze'

Photo: J Petts



Russell Wait



New book coming soon.
This is a reference book
with all *Eremophila*
species, subspecies,
hybrids and
undescribed species
currently in cultivation.

Email Russell Wait at:
eremophilabook@gmail.com

for registration of interest,
orders and information

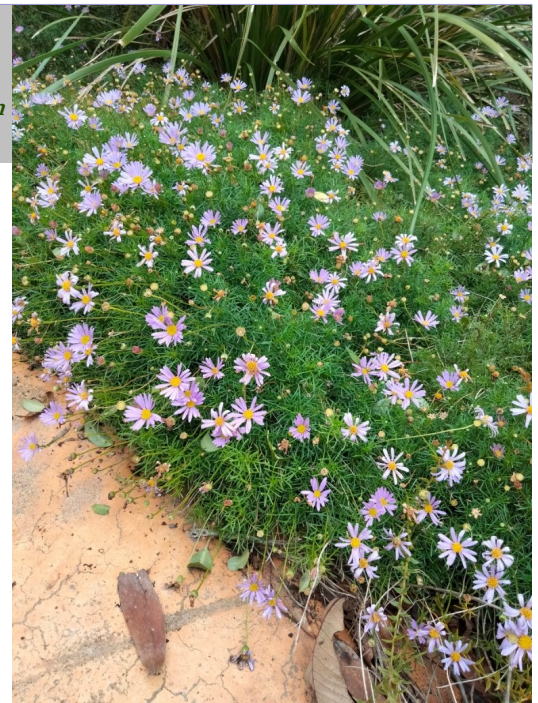
Brachyscome species...

By Norbert Ryan

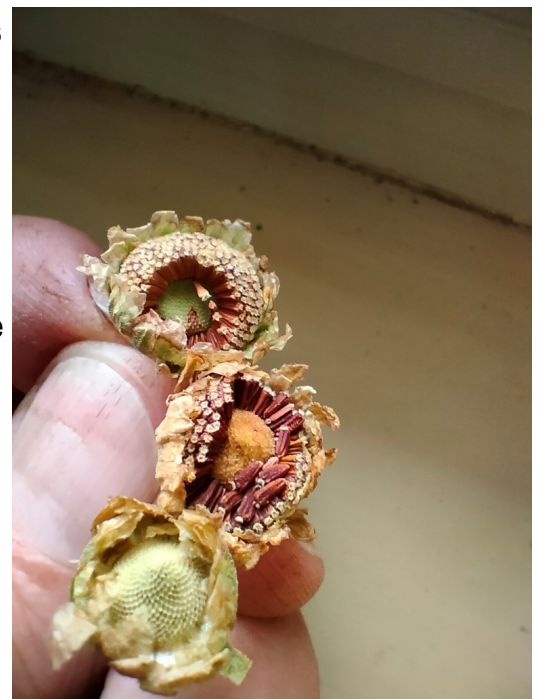
Having a love for native plants, it's always a major disappointment to see plantings that could so easily be substituted by something local, and in many instances, infinitely more attractive. The humble *Brachyscome* fits into this category, a little plant that happily grows in most environments, copes with full sun or full shade. The flowers are brightly coloured and the commonly cultivated *B. multifida* flower virtually all year round. Seaside daisies (*Erigeron spp.*), native to California are a case in point, the flower is generally a bland off-white colour but it is planted widely. Shasta daisies rapidly become an untidy spreading species. Recently, it was great dismay for me to see the rich garden soil in a new house in Kilmore, planted almost entirely with *Gazania species*. This is despite recommendations in "[Sustainable Gardening](#)" produced by Mitchell and Strathbogie Shires, which, lists *Gazania* as an environmental weed, and provides *Brachyscome* as a suitable substitute planting. We are not winning this educational battle! The main species beloved by nurseries is *B. multifida*. This a suckering, dense spreading groundcover with flower colour varying from mauve to pink to white. The species is ideally suited for planting in pots or rockeries and along paths. There are many cultivars and they hybridize readily, var. *multifida* has very narrow pinnate leaves, var. *dilatata* has slightly longer, wider leaves with 7-10 lobes. In addition to the rhizomatous habit of *B. multifida*, others species are tufted, while others have stolons and spread above ground.

The *Brachyscomes* are mostly endemic to Australia (65-80 species) with a few species occurring in New Zealand and PNG. This genus is distinguished from other members of the *Asteraceae* family, largely on the structure of the fruit. These are referred to as "Cypselas" and are club-shaped, often with a flattened or in-turned surface and even a wavy wing around the edge. Furthermore, although all *Asteraceae* have a pappus, e.g. in *Xerochrysum* species, ([discussed last month](#)), the pappus takes the form of a fluffy parachute-like collection of hair attached to the corolla, useful in seed dispersal. However in the *Brachyscome* genus, the pappus consists of a few short hairs of less than 1mm. This feature is the basis for naming of the genus. The spelling of the name *Brachyscome* doesn't seem quite intuitive and the name is easily misspelt. Named by Cassini in 1816, an error was made in the combination of the two descriptive Greek words used: brachys and Kome to describe the short hairs of the pappus. In Greek grammar when two words are combined, the "s" on the first word should be dropped. A push to correct the name to "Brachycome" failed due to prior common usage of the current spelling.

The flowerhead is usually single and terminal on an erect flower stem. The flower consists of a receptacle surrounded by [involucral](#) bracts or



Above: Picture 1 *Brachyscome multifida* still flowering heavily in winter, a rhizomatous (slowly) spreading plant that can restrict weed growth
Photo Norbert Ryan



Above: Picture 2 *Brachyscome diversifolia*
Large flowerheads of *B. diversifolia*, showing bare receptacle and involucral bracts after removal of seeds or cypselas (lower). Seed collection for the Wallan Environment Group "Seeds from the Swamp" project, arranged in conjunction with the Merri Creek Management Committee.
Photo: Norbert Ryan

(Continued on page 15)

Brachyscome species continued...

By Norbert Ryan

(Continued from page 14)

modified leaves. These generally occur in rows of two which are either [glabrous](#) or hairy. Flowers consist of ray florets, which occur on the periphery and are female, these carry a strap-like corolla composed of three fused petals, showing only as three apical lobes. Colours range from white to mauve, pink and yellow. The internal, yellow section contains bisexual disc florets that have five short petals fused into a [corolla](#). The peripheral seed in a mature flowerhead is generally more fertile. Germination is best induced in inorganic mulch such as basaltic chips or granite sand and may take 2-10 days for annuals and 1-2 months for perennials.

There are 11 species described in the *Flora of Melbourne* (Marilyn Bull), these descriptions are listed below. Unfortunately *Brachyscome* subspecies generally favour wet ground and with loss of habitat, many are now rare or extinct locally. The common names of these species provides some indication of their form or favoured environment:

[B. debilis](#) downy, weak or small hairy daisy; and [B. perpusilla](#), rayless daisy, are both annuals. The other species in addition to [B. multifida](#), the cut leaf daisy, are [B. aculeata](#) branching or hill daisy; [B. basaltica](#) basalt swamp or woodland swamp daisy; [B. ciliaris](#) variable daisy; [B. decipiens](#) field daisy; [B. graminea](#) grass daisy; and [B. parvula](#) coast daisy. Apart from *B. multifida*, the only other local species commonly available from Indigenous nurseries is *B. basaltica*. This is a very attractive plant 30-60cm, with narrow leaves 2-9cm x 1-4mm. The flowers are white, tall standing of 18mm diameter; flowering is from September to January. Its preference is for full sun but must have moist conditions; it is ideally suited for bog gardens or similar conditions but unsuited for soils experiencing extended dry periods. Another species of local interest is [B. diversifolia](#), this plant has been found in a flora survey of the Merri Creek catchment zone in Hernes Swamp, south of Wallan. This daisy grows to 50cm, it is a tufted annual or perennial species, basal leaves are lobed, and as with other species, the upper leaves are smaller and entire, all the foliage is hairy. Flowers are erect, white, and measure 20-50cm, flowering occurs intermittently from August to March. Although found in eucalypt woodland they are restricted locally to a very limited area of swampland.

References: Wikipedia; Flora of Victoria; Australian Brachyscomes, the Australian Daisy Study Group 1995; Merri Creek management Committee; Bull, The Flora of Melbourne 2014; Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains 2012, APS Keilor Plains Group Inc.



Above: Picture 3 *Brachyscome diversifolia*
B. diversifolia showing lobed basal leaves and tufted form.

Photo Norbert Ryan



[Brachyscome paludicola](#) Syn. *Brachyscome basaltica* at Wattle Gum Forest Farm

Note: the Victorian *B. basaltica* has been renamed see [Vicflora](#). Following taxonomic review *B. basaltica* is now considered endemic to QLD. Victorian species now listed as *B. paludicola*

Photo: J Petts

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:

Janis Baker,
Christine Cram,
Miriam Ford,
Jan Harrison,
Ian Julian,
Barbara Mau,
Paul Piko,
Norbert Ryan,
Russell Wait.

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.

June 26 & 27 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show.

CANCELLED due to difficulties and risks associated with COVID restrictions

September 4 - Open Garden Victoria. Bill Aitchison & Sue Gymer garden, Donvale. 10am-4:30pm both days.

Bookings must be made online. Entry \$10 per adult. Further details at www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

September 4 & 5 - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale Wilson Botanic Park Berwick 668 Princes Hwy, Berwick VIC 3806, Berwick.

September

September 11 & 12 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 903 Main Rd, Eltham. 10 am - 4 pm.

September 18 & 19 - APS Bendigo Plant Show at Kangaroo Flat Primary School, 60 - 80 Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo

9:30am - 4pm both days. \$3 entry.

September 25 & 26 - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting 10am and the APS Victoria AGM at 2.00pm. Pomonal Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd, Pomonal. There will also be an evening meal and celebration of the Grampians Group's 40th birthday, with a special presentation. The following week is organised for native plant and nature lovers with Grampians walks, open gardens and activities, culminating in the Pomonal Flower Show on October 2 &

(Continued on page 17)

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: Gerry Ho 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 16)

3. More details and registration details will be sent to district group secretaries soon.

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.

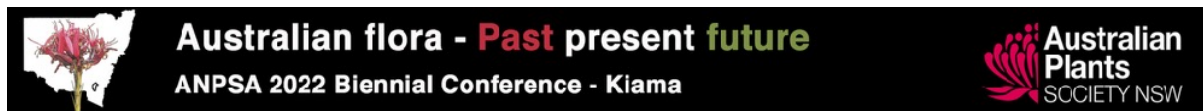
October 16 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

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.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Inc# A0054306V

2021/22 MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM – July 1 to June 30

This is a combined membership form for APS Vic and APS Mitchell

Please use this form instead of the form sent out with the APS Victoria newsletter

For insurance purposes people who join APS Mitchell must also join APS Victoria Inc.

(Please tick whichever applies) **Application** ☐ **OR** **Renewal** ☐

Title:	Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss
Surname/s:	
Given name/s:	
Postal Address:	
Town/Suburb:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

(Please tick whichever applies)

Membership Type:		Fees: Note: Membership Year = July 1—June 30		
		APS Victoria	APS Mitchell	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Couple/Family (2 adults & 2 dependents)	\$40.00	\$12.00	\$52.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$26.00	\$10.00	\$36.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation	\$44.00	\$10.00	\$54.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have paid/pay my APS Vic membership when joining/renewing with another district group. Which Group? : _____ — Include only applicable APS Mitchell Fee:		“ Single \$10.00 “ Family \$12.00 “ Student \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional Australian Plants Subscription	4 issues:		\$15.00
		Total Due:		\$

☐ I wish to apply for APS Vic/APS Mitchell COVID-19 financial hardship fee waiver.

I/We agree I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Society.

Signed:	Date: / /
----------------	---------------------

I agree to my name being included in a membership list circulated for members' private use: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Payment by: (1) Bank Transfer to BSB 633-000 Account No. 159982271 (Bendigo Bank)

Please include your surname and post code as reference/transaction details

Or (2) Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC.

Posted to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764

Or (3) Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (usually 3rd Monday of the month 7:30pm John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St Kilmore. See website for details)

APS Mitchell Spring Plant Expo...

APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale

October 16th, 2021

9 am - 3 pm

Kilmore Memorial Hall

14 Sydney St, Kilmore



Native Plant & Flower Displays

Gardens for Wildlife

Native Plants & Book Sales
APS Victoria - Books

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Goldfields Revegetation indigenous and non – indigenous tube stock

Valley of a Thousand Hills David Laurie indigenous and non –
indigenous tube stock.

Neil's Plants

Russell Wait Eremophilla's

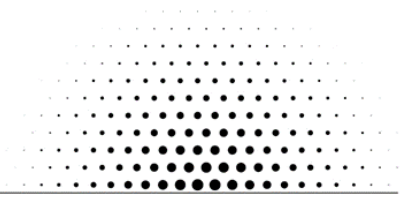
Entry \$2.00 (Children free) - Door Prizes - Raffle

Website www.apsmitchell.org.au

Contact aps.mitchell@gmail.com

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 20)

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.

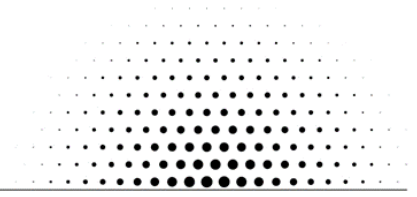
Council clean as per schedule arranged with the Contracts Management Coordinator at Mitchell Shire Council. This this has been communicated to each building manager.

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Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



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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:

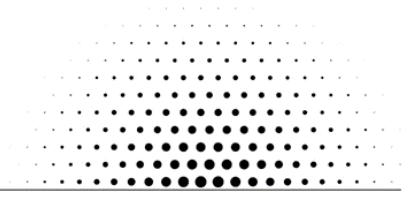
- ☐ Advice on COVID-19 available to everyone –
e.g. www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19
- ☐ Specific vulnerabilities determined and vulnerable group members encouraged to participate in other ways or to make arrangements with organisers for any special requirements to facilitate attendance
- ☐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

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- ☐ 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:

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Date	28-01-2021
Signature	<i>Ian Julian</i>