

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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

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

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

### September news...!

Hello & welcome to our September issue...

Spring is finally here, & I hope everyone spent an enjoyable Wattle Day. More than a few Wattle images are scattered throughout this newsletter.

With current ongoing, increasing Covid-19 case numbers, and resulting continuation of gathering number restrictions, the committee must now, very sadly, cancel both our September meeting, and our Spring Plant Expo & Sale. We hope to be able to re-schedule our guest speaker & will provide updates in next month's newsletter or via email.

This month our newsletter has been filled with the help of Jan, Christine, Barbara, Gerry, Norbert, Ian, & Neutrog. To whom I extend a huge warm thank you for all your support.

The October newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday October 11th. Contributions remain very greatly appreciated & will be much needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by



*Acacia melanoxydon* Blackwood on Kilmore Golf Course Photo: Jan Harrison 6/9/21

October 4th. Email to:

[wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au)

I look to forward hearing from as many members & friends as possible, & hopefully seeing you at a gathering in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, stay safe, well & enjoy warming spring days in your gardens, or perhaps continuing to explore & revisit our flora reserves. You may find something new in flower each time you visit.

Warm wishes & cheers until next time,

Jeanine

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### Memberships reminder & Welcome ...

It is that time of year again where your membership needs renewing. Please visit our [website](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au), download the [membership form](#), (or use form on page 14), complete, and follow the directions to ensure you continue to receive your APS Vic quarterly magazine. Please ensure the completed form is forwarded to Christine Cram.

We welcome back the following members: Rosina Tauschmann and Byron Jones, Jeff Carland, Anne Rose, Jan Harrison, Dianne & John Dixon, Andrew Pharoah, Mary and Frank Donovan, Ian Julian & Christine Cram, Victoria Morris, Paul Robinson, Jeannine & Mike Petts, Norbert Ryan, Bob Tomkins, Garrick Van Arcadie, Russell Wait and Ray Barnes. If you feel you have renewed your membership and are not listed here, please contact me, Christine Cram, on 0458 238 270 and I'll follow up.

We also warmly welcome our newest members Julieanne Diwell, Shelley Franklyn and Keith Franklyn. We look forward to welcoming you personally as soon as we are able.  
Kind regards, Christine

## September 2021

Volume 8, Issue 8

### 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 1.)  
**Please note:** Meetings will be held under the requirements of our [Covid Safe facility Plan](#); Please read the plan (from page 15) prior to attending
- **Monday Sept 20th 7:30pm Meeting - CANCELLED**  
Guest speaker: Melissa Stagg - Topic: Euroa Arb, seed collecting & small garden design. To be re-scheduled.
- **Saturday Oct 16th 9am - 3pm APS Mitchell Spring Expo & Plant Sale CANCELLED.**
- **Monday Oct 18th 7:30pm Meeting - To be confirmed. Details to follow.**
- **Monday Nov 15th Meeting & AGM 7:30pm - Guest Speaker: Chris Clarke. Topic: Alpine Flora**



## Gardens for Wildlife News...

By Jeanine Petts



*Acacia pravissima* Ovens Wattle  
Photo: J Petts

On Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, Sustainable Farms hosted a very interesting webinar on Choughs, Noisy Miners and boosting bird diversity on farms. A recording of the webinar has now been made available to watch on their website:

[www.sustainablefarms.org.au](http://www.sustainablefarms.org.au) To watch the webinar, click on the following link and scroll down to the video play button towards the bottom of the page. <http://sustainablefarms.org.au/fielddays/webinar-choughs-noisy-miners-and-boosting-bird-diversity-farms>

Although the webinar was primarily aimed at farmers, a reasonable amount of information may be of interest to anyone with a Garden for Wildlife. Ecologist, Richard Beggs, explained how Noisy Miners have become an overabundant species in many areas, their characteristics, and ecological impacts on other species. ANU Fenner School researcher, Constanza Leon, provided a window into her research on White-winged Choughs, their behaviours, characteristics and fascinating social structure. Ecologist, Eleanor Lang spoke on how enhancing natural assets and providing habitat for bird populations in turn has benefits in the wider landscape. Discussion also covered strategies to assist in creating habitat to support and bring back the smaller bird species, which, are adversely impacted by aggressive species such as Noisy Miners.

**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



## September Meeting: CANCELLED

Sadly, with much disappointment and deep regret, in light of steadily increasing Covid-19 numbers, the APS Mitchell committee has found it necessary to cancel our September meeting.

At this stage it appears unlikely Covid-19 restrictions & limitations will ease enough for Mitchell Shire Council to re-open meeting room facilities in time to host a September meeting.

Hopefully we will be able to resume some group activities in October, or following the easing of Covid-19 gathering number restrictions. Further updates will be provided in our October newsletter, the activities section of our APS Mitchell [website](#), or via email.

In the meantime, we hope everyone stays safe, & has opportunity to spend lovely spring days enjoying time in your gardens, or walking in our local bushland settings.

We shall look forward to seeing everyone again once gathering restrictions are eased and meeting rooms are again available.



*Acacia acinacea*  
Gold Dust Wattle  
Photo: J Petts

## Memberships...

Thank you very much to all the members who have renewed so far this year, your support is very much appreciated. For those yet to renew, a late renewal may mean that you might not receive your copy of APS Victoria quarterly magazine *Growing Australian*. If your copy does not arrive please check with Christine Cram: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: [mittell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mittell@apsvic.org.au) Membership information, contact information, and the current [membership form](#) can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

## Flowering in winter at Quarry Ridge ...

By Barbara Mau

In late winter, my garden sprang into unexpected action. Earlier than usual the *Dillwynia sericea*, *Cryptandra amara* and *Goodenia pinnatifida* were already flowering, with *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, and *Dianella amoena*, right behind them. We have had slightly warmer night temperatures, and a little more than the usual rainfall for June and July. My garden too has matured to provide more shelter for the smaller plants. Perhaps these factors contribute to the earlier flowering of some species?

Here, *Grevillea alpina* has not stopped flowering, normally this would be from July through to May. A member of the Proteaceae family, this shrub has attributes on many levels. The beautiful flowers aside, it requires no additional watering, is a great source of food for honeyeaters, and is adaptable to most soils with good drainage. It does appreciate some shelter and dappled sunlight. The local form grows in sedimentary soil. At first I was reluctant to grow *G. alpina* in my garden... however, it has defied the odds, adapted, and grows without complaints in our deep basalt soil.

*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* is another wonderful, tough, local *Grevillea*. The carmine and pink flowers are abundant, and leaves are a lush green, although quite prickly. It provides nectar through the winter months, and is a great safe-haven for the tiny wrens, thornbills and honey eaters. *G. rosmarinifolia* is a hardy, dense, rounded shrub, growing to 1.5 m tall and as wide. It requires little attention or additional watering, and grows in a variety of well drained soils.

*Banksia marginata*, another member of the Proteaceae family has flowered here from summer through to winter. The yellow flower spikes provide nectar for many honeyeaters. Here the very noisy and bossy New Holland Honeyeater dominates, raucously declaring the tree their territory! I am especially fond of the tree's shape, with its smooth, speckled, decorative bark, and dark green leaves with silver undersides. It grows best in an area with moist, well-drained soil. The gorgeous flowers are the bonus for me... and the Honeyeaters!

Spilling over the bank by the house, the *Kennedia prostrata*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Hardenbergia violacea* are already blooming. The *H. violacea* is twining through the *Senna artemisioides* ssp. *filifolia* that is about to burst into thousands of little golden cupped flowers...together they make a wonderful pairing.

*Dillwynia sericea* is a small inconspicuous shrub, of the Fabaceae family. It comes into its own in late Winter/ Spring, covered in an abundance of bronzy orange and yellow pea flowers. It grows equally well in full sun among the 'plains' flowers and grasses, or dappled shade under trees.

*Eremophila racemosa* of the Scrophulariaceae family, is doing its own thing, under a sheltered canopy of *Viminaria juncea*, on a bank in the lower part of my garden. It grows



*Grevillea alpina* - Mountain Grevillea, Cat's Claw Photo: Barbara Mau



*Grevillea rosmarinifolia* - Rosemary Grevillea Photo: Barbara Mau



*Banksia marginata* - Silver Banksia Photo: Barbara Mau



*Dillwynia sericea* - Showy Parrot-pea Photo: Barbara Mau



*Kennedia prostrata* - Running Postman (top) & *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* - Common Everlasting (bottom) Photo: Barbara Mau (Continued on page 4)

## Flowering in winter at Quarry Ridge continued...

(Continued from page 3)

in well drained basalt loam and needs little additional attention or additional water. *E. racemosa* has deep pink flowers with a lovely silky threaded throat. It grows to 1.5 mt tall and provides food for birds and insects.

The lovely *Correas* of the Rutaceae family are out in abundance. *Correa glabra*, *C. glabra* red form, *C. reflexa* var. *speciosa*, and *C. 'Marian's Marvel'* among others. However, my favourite is a pretty correa with split petals, *Correa reflexa* var. *'Flared Bell'*? I am unsure of its true name; it is one that Lorraine Weir gifted me. I wait impatiently each year for the charming flowers to open. Here it grows to 50cm tall and spreading to 1mt under the dappled shade of a *Eucalyptus pauciflora*.

One of my favourite small, very ornamental prostrate shrubs, is *Cryptandra amara* of the Rhamnaceae family. It has tiny, dark green leaves, stands 50cm tall and is adorned with delightful honey scented, minute, white bells. It flowers from May to October. *C. amara* grows here at the bottom of a sheltered, 40 degree slope, in well-drained basalt soil. It requires no special attention or additional watering. A delicate little plant, given to me, by Lorraine Weir.....thank you Lorraine!

The little herbaceous plant, *Goodenia pinnatifida* of the Goodeniaceae family, have opened their yellow buds earlier than usual. Normally the flowering period is from Spring through into Summer. In my garden the more water retentive basalt soil allows for longer flower through into Autumn. *G. pinnatifida* has a suckering habit, and not invasive. It happily meanders among the other plants and shrubs forming a yellow carpet of flowers in Spring. Here it scrambles down into the gravel pathways, where it is welcome, and copes with light traffic. The delicate roots seek out the cooler, moister conditions under the gravel that helps extend flowering well into late Summer.

And finally, a lovely annual or perennial herb, *Myosotis australis*, a native Forget-Me-Not of the Boraginaceae family, has put out tiny china-blue flowers. Unlike the European species, it will grow to almost 1mt tall. *M. australis* is early this year, generally not appearing until September, and will now continue blooming well into Summer. By Autumn the many small, round and hairy seeds, set along the tall stems, will attach themselves to any passing host. None the less, it is most charming and fuss free, growing in part shade and in a variety of well drained soils.

With Spring here, good soaking rains, and warming soil, the new tube stock waiting in the green house will be planted out. It is an exciting time in the garden, so many species are on the move. The rewards are many, as the garden expands and matures, it becomes home to native birds, animals and insects, a delight to watch as they arrive, and multiply. Setting up appropriate areas for locally endangered species, and watching them thrive is so rewarding. And each season, new efforts in the garden create special places..... and quiet beauty.



*Eremophila racemosa* - Showy  
Eremophila Photo: Barbara Mau



*Correa reflexa* var. 'Flared Bell'?  
Photo: Barbara Mau



*Cryptandra amara* - Bitter Cryptandra  
Photo: Barbara Mau



*Goodenia pinnatifida* - Cut-leaf  
Goodenia Photo: Barbara Mau



*Myosotis australis* - Austral Forget-me-not  
Photo: Barbara Mau

## Flowering in August at Colin Officer Reserve...

Photos & species ID by Gerry (Wun Ho)

In between snap lockdowns, Gerry managed a visit to the Colin Officer Flora Reserve in Broadford, and photographed some species in early flower. His visit was cut short due to rain, so did not undertake a comprehensive survey. He first visited last year, and this visit little had changed. There was a dense understory layer of *Cassinia sifton* (previously known as *C. arcuata*). He suspects that some of the biodiversity has been lost or reduced with their colonisation, as he noticed pea plants were not as abundant there compared to at Mount Piper.

Gerry was looking for greenhoods but didn't see any, and had expected they would out by this time. Otherwise, the reserve appeared not too weedy, except at the more disturbed areas near the car park and golf course. A hare was sighted, however, no Kangaroos or wallabies. Luckily, the park seems to have escaped the worst of June's big storm, as there wasn't any observed tree fall. In total 13 native species were photographed along with 2 introduced not-natives. These were:

[\*Hovea heterophylla\*](#) is a prostrate, straggling to erect subshrub that can grow to 1m. It has been separated out from *H. linaris*, and is identified by narrower leaves with coarser venation, a longer calyx and smooth (glabrous) pods.

[\*Acacia acinacea\*](#) Gold Dust Wattle is wide spread across the region and found in a number of sizes from low growing forms of 0.5m up to taller forms reaching 2.5m.

[\*Daviesia ulicifolia\* subsp. \*ruscifolia\*](#) forms a rigid spreading pea-flowered shrub that usually grows to less than 1m.

*Moraea fugucissima* - an introduced, non-native member of the Iris family.

[\*Cassinia sifton\*](#) is the only *Cassinia* species in Victoria to have erect, red to purple corolla lobes and flowers that are red-brown to purplish. The species was previously included in *C. arcuata*, which, is larger growing, and has larger diameter branches; up to 1.5cm. While the diameter in *C. sifton* branches is up to 1cm.

[\*Acacia pycnantha\*](#) Golden Wattle, our National Floral Emblem is a variable species depending on provenance. It usually grows as a tall shrub or tree,



*Hovea heterophylla*



*Acacia acinacea* Gold Dust Wattle



*Daviesia ulicifolia* subsp. *rusCIFolia*



*Moraea fugucissima* A non-native introduced species



*Cassinia sifton* - Sifton Bush



*Acacia pycnantha* Golden Wattle

Photos: Gerry (Wun Ho)

(Continued on page 6)

## Flowering in August at Colin Officer Reserve continued...

(Continued from page 5)

however, low forms are known.

*Tetratheca ciliata* Pink-bells is an erect to spreading shrub reaching 0.3-1m. Bell-shaped bright pink, sometimes white flowers hang from short stalks.

*Acacia paradoxa* Hedge Wattle grows as a dense to spreading shrub of 2-4m, which, has pairs of thorns at the base of leaves.

*Drosera aberrans* Scented Sundew bears 3cm white or pink flowers, and may develop large colonies in moist areas.

*Rhytidosporum procumbens* White Marianth is a scrambling to erect subshrub growing to 0.4m, bearing open white, often mauve backed flowers.

*Wurmbea dioica* subsp. *dioica* is a small lily growing 5-25cm tall, and is usually the earliest of our native lilies to flower each year.

*Pauridia vaginata* var. *virginata*, which, was previously known as *Hypoxis vaginata*. The species in Hypoxidaceae with glabrous leaves and scapes have been moved to *Pauridia*.

*P. vaginata* var. *virginata* is a tufted perennial and bears 1-2 yellow flowers of 3-4cm wide.

*Acacia aculeatissima* Thin-leaf Wattle or Snake Wattle (pictured next page) is a sprawling subshrub that can spread to 1-2m, and has fine prickly phyllodes. Yellow ball flowerheads are held in the leaf axils.

*Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup (pictured next page) is a non-native introduced species, and is considered a significant environmental weed in Victoria.

*Hardenbergia violacea* Purple Coral-pea (pictured next page) is a wiry twining creeper or scrambler with stems growing 2m or longer. Flowers are mostly purple, or rarely white.

Lastly, Gerry was disappointed not to capture *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *Leucopogon virgatus* in flower at the time of his visit this year. During a previous visit on August 14, 2020 he managed to photograph these two species in bloom (pictured next page).



*Tetratheca ciliata*  
Pink-bells



*Acacia paradoxa*  
Hedge Wattle



*Drosera aberrans*  
Scented Sundew



*Rhytidosporum procumbens*  
White Marianth



*Wurmbea dioica* subsp. *dioica*  
Early Nancy



*Pauridia vaginata* var. *vaginata*

Photos: Gerry (Wun Ho)

(Continued on page 7)

## Flowering in August at Colin Officer Reserve continued...

(Continued from page 6)

*Hibbertia obtusifolia* Showy Guinea-flower or Grey Guinea-flower is an erect to spreading shrub growing to 1m. Masses of up to 28mm wide yellow flowers occur August - February.

*Leucopogon virgatus* Common Beard-heath is a small wiry shrub that produces spikes of white, bearded flowers.



*Acacia aculeatissima*  
Thin-leaf Wattle



*Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup  
Introduced non-native



*Hibbertia obtusifolia* Showy or Grey Guinea-flower  
Photographed 14.08.2020



*Leucopogon virgatus* Common Beard-heath  
Photographed 14.08.2020



*Hardenbergia violacea*  
Purple Coral-pea

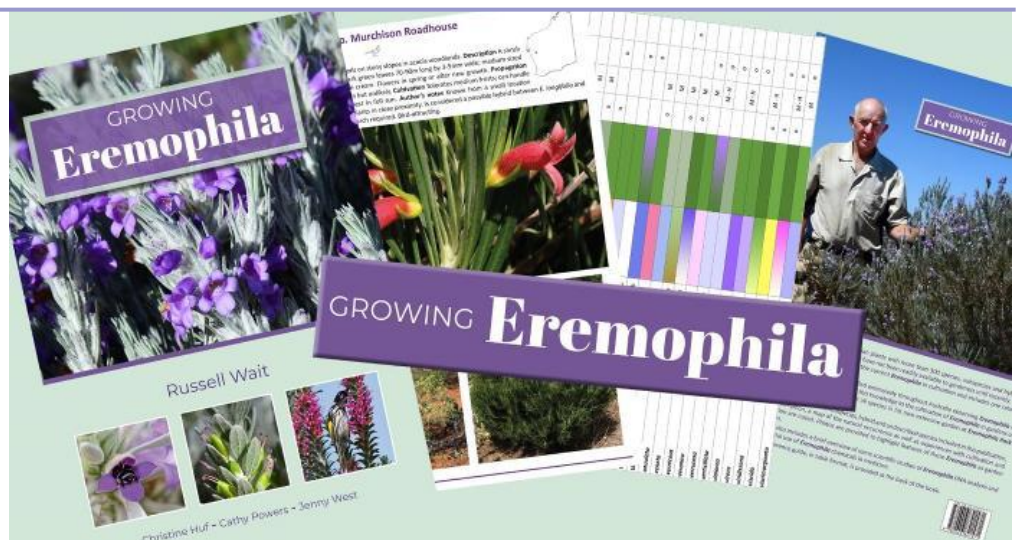
All photos: Gerry (Wun Ho)

Russell Wait's new book, *Growing Eremophila* is now officially released! For those yet to lay hands on a copy, Norbert Ryan has taken delivery of copies for APS Mitchell members & friends.

To organise your copy contact Norbert by email at [njr3089@gmail.com](mailto:njr3089@gmail.com) or mobile phone:

0428 180 651.

Special price when collected from Norbert is \$75.00.



## *Hovea heterophylla* - common *Hovea*...

by Norbert Ryan

### ***Hovea heterophylla* common or Blue bonnet *Hovea***

*Hovea heterophylla* is an insignificant little plant that occurs on rocky slopes and in low phosphorous native grasslands in most states except WA. In local areas such as Hidden Valley, its diminutive size has probably ensured survival despite a heavy population of kangaroos. Plants may reach 0.5 m but are generally recumbent and only 20-30 cm length. These plants remain largely unnoticed until they flower in late winter-early spring; it is the first of the native peas to flower, and the flowers are a deep mauve colour with a contrasting dark green foliage. Leaves are of variable size hence the species name. Upper leaves are narrow, lance-shaped, 1.4-11 cm long, 0.3-1.0 cm wide while the lower leaves are shorter, more rounded. The leaf margins are rolled under, giving a curved appearance. The underside is paler in colour and covered in dense hairs. The flowers are usually in axillary clusters of 2-3. The calyx is brown and hairy. The genus *Hovea* is classified within Group 2 of the native pea flowers, the common feature being that all 10 stamens are fused together for most of their length. For this species the stamens are of alternating length and occur in a bundle that is open at that the top. Other genera in Group 2 are *Bossiaea*, *Goodia*, *Platylobium* and *Templetonia*.

Seed pods change from green to black as they mature, they are ovoid 1 cm, glabrous or downy and contain two cream or grey seeds bearing arils. Seeds drop soon after maturing and can be collected by bagging pods or using a groundsheet. Scarification of the seeds or treatment in hot water aids germination, which takes three-four weeks. Cuttings are reported to strike well but are slow to progress. It is suggested that plants should be clustered for maximum effect in garden plantings.

The common *Hovea* was previously identified as *H. linearis*. However, in 2001, a morphometric analysis and revision of eastern state *Hovea* species identified 31 species, 17 of these newly recognised. The re-instatement of the name *H. heterophylla* was also recommended. The true *H. linearis* is limited to the NSW coast between Newcastle and Nowra and reaches a height of 1 m. Other species of *Hovea* found within Victoria include; *H. montana*, 30-40 cm which occurs in alpine areas, *H. purpurea* from Gippsland forest regions, reaches >2m; and *H. rosmarinifolia* 2-8m, is found in mountain areas of eastern Victoria.

The history of the naming of *Hovea* and this species is quite extraordinary, a snapshot of a remarkable period in exploration and botanical discovery. The first description of the genus was in 1812 by Robert Brown, a famous

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Picture 1. *Hovea heterophylla* showing low growing, sprawling habit, upper leaves lanceolate, broader leaves towards base of plant.

Photo: Norbert Ryan



Picture 2. *Hovea heterophylla* flowers in close-up, brown calyx visible on several.

Photo: Norbert Ryan

## *Hovea heterophylla* - Common Hovea continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Scottish botanist who sailed with Mathew Flinders on the Investigator and is credited with identifying 2,000 Australian plant species. He specialised in the use of a microscope and was also responsible for identifying Brownian Motion. Brown named the genus "*Hovea*" to honour Anton Pantaleon Hove, a distinguished Polish Botanist. The species *H. heterophylla* was first described in 1855 by Joseph Hooker, from an unpublished description provided by Allan Cunningham in the text, Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of HM Discovery ships Erebus and Terror III: Flora Tasmaniae. Cunningham was also an extraordinary man; he arrived in Sydney in 1816. From 1817-21 he sailed with King to the north and north-west coasts. Subsequently he joined John Oxley in crossing the Blue Mountains and was engaged in other expeditions from Moreton Bay, the Hunter Region, Mt Warning, the MacPherson and Great Dividing Ranges. The Cunningham Gap is named after his discovery. There is an obelisk in his memory at the Sydney Botanical Gardens.

### References:

Woolcock D. A field Guide to Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia. Kangaroo Press 1989; IR Thompson. Morphometric analysis and revision of eastern Australian Hovea (Brogniartieae-Fabaceae), 2001. Australian Systematic Botany 14(1) 1-99; [www.understorey-network.org.au/family-index.html?species=Hovea heterophylla](http://www.understorey-network.org.au/family-index.html?species=Hovea%20heterophylla); Flora of Victoria *Hovea heterophylla*; Wikipedia *Hovea heterophylla*; also Wikipedia Robert Brown and Allan Cunningham (Botanists)

## *A persistent and irritant garden weed...*

by Norbert Ryan

What do these two plants (pictured) share in common? They are both members of the genus *Euphorbia*. There are over 2000 species in this genus, ranging from spiny, cactus-like plants in Mexico to cool temperate perennial species. The Xmas-flowering *Poinsettia pulcherrima* with its contrasting red floral bracts is another in this family. The unifying feature of *Euphorbia* is that all species contain a poisonous milky sap.

The weed shown is *Euphorbia peplus*, commonly known as petty spurge, milkweed, radium weed or cancer weed, it spreads easily in dryer areas of a garden and is a major nuisance if intertwined with dense, low foliage of plants such as *Wahlenbergia*. The seeds of spurge or milkweed contain a fleshy attachment called an Elaiosome, which is rich in lipids and proteins and therefore attractive to ants; a useful method of seed dispersal. The term "spurge" derives from the emission of foam or froth when the stem is broken. It is advisable to wear gloves if weeding large clumps of this weed, try and avoid skin contact with the sap and in particular, avoid contact with the eyes. The Queensland Children's Hospital suggest that for eye exposure, wash the eye in running water for 15 minutes then seek urgent medical attention.

Despite the hesitancy with handling this weed, there is a positive aspect. The sap is recognised to contain a cytotoxic agent which kills fast-growing cells such as the abnormal cells associated with actinic keratoses, the flat scaly spots that occur in heavily sun-exposed skin. The active agent is described as a macrocyclic diterpene ester and is now marketed as ingenol mebutate. However the efficacy of this product, which has evolved from application in alternate veterinary and medical circles, has not yet been fully established and the product does not as yet have PBS registration.



Above: Picture 1. *Euphorbia characias*  
Below: Picture 2. *Euphorbia peplus* in flower. Note milky sap exudate from damaged stem. Photos: Norbert Ryan



## *Neutrog online ordering...*

*Letter from Neutrog & Ian Julian*



Dear Members, we have recently received the following information from Neutrog regarding their new online ordering system for APS group orders of fertiliser products:

The process of ordering your Neutrog products has now moved to an online platform called 'Shopify'. This is a change from the manual system that has been in place for a long time, but ensures a smoother transaction with the group and at Neutrog. It gives you more control over your order and takes away the need for order forms and money collection. The payment and collating of the orders is now done directly with Neutrog.

The delivery/collection process will remain the same. Individuals will receive an invoice and you simply bring this to the collection point on the date indicated to collect your order.

To participate, Neutrog has asked that we provide them with your email address. If you do not wish to participate, please let me know by email, and your details won't be passed on to Neutrog. Once set up in their system, they will send you a unique activation code which will take you to their member section on their online store. There will be instruction provided with the email. You will then enter a password. This will be your own password which will allow you to access the store at any time. You can then scroll through all products and make your purchase. The store is always open, so you can order whenever you like. You simply select the drop off point and date and you will collect as normal. They are offering on your first order, a one of \$20 discount on an order over \$40.

If you don't have an email address, you won't be left out. We suggest you 'buddy-up' with someone who does have an email address either within the group, or a family member. Alternatively, the group can have their own account and orders made on your behalf. In this instance the order money will need to be collected and paid online by the group.

You are stepped through the process online, but if you are having any difficulty there is a free call number: 1800 656 644 should you need any help, or you can contact me direct, and I will pass on your concerns to Neutrog.

APS Mitchell Members will need to let me know by the end of September if you do not wish to participate. Basically, how it works is that the shop is always open, and you can add to your order as you go. The orders will be processed and dispatched at the end of each season, which, will be four times a year. My address (in Sugarloaf Creek) will be the nominated delivery address. The next delivery period is the first week of December.

Kind Regards,

Ian Julian

APS Mitchell Group Secretary, & group order Co-ordinator for Neutrog products.

Email: [aps.mitchell@gmail.com](mailto:aps.mitchell@gmail.com)

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## 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,  
Gerry (Wun Ho),  
Jan Harrison,  
Ian Julian,  
Neutrog,  
Barbara Mau,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Liz Spillane,  
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.

**September 18 & 19 - APS Bendigo Plant Show**  
**CANCELLED** 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. CANCELLED**

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.

**October 2 & 3 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show. CANCELLED** 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. CANCELLED** 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**

(Continued on page 12)

## Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

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

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

### Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651  
Vice President: Dawn McCormack  
Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248  
Email: [secretary@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto:secretary@apsmitchell.org.au)  
Treasurer/Memberships: Christine Cram 0458 238 270  
Committee: Bill Barker, 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](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)

### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts  
Email: [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au)

Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

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

## Local Nurseries open for business ...

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

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## Diary Dates & Other Events continued...

(Continued from page 11)

**Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula.** Further details at [www.gardendesignfest.com.au](http://www.gardendesignfest.com.au)

**November 20 & 21 - Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.** Further details at [www.gardendesignfest.com.au](http://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 - 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Fabulous Peas 2022

### FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar

15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022



Discover the extraordinary world of Australian pea plants.

**Saturday** York on Lilydale, Mount Evelyn

**Speakers** with expertise in identifying, growing and propagating peas. Learn about current research into propagation and growing-on techniques. Evening dinner and an entertaining speaker.

Plant sales of common and unusual pea species. Book sales. Displays. Raffle.

**Sunday** Coach tours to public and private native gardens which include a wide variety of pea species.

Art exhibition and sale featuring pea plants from 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October at Karwara Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Expressions of interest: [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

**Hosted: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.**

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## Mapping Hero Trees in Heathcote region...

*BioLinks info shared by Liz Spillane*

If you have old trees of significant size and would like to participate in the Central Victorian BioLinks project, which, records the location of these trees, then please follow the link attached. They are interested in the location of the trees in Central Victoria, not just the Heathcote area. There is provision on the link to vary the location.

You can map where your tree/s are or you can provide the information by email, see details by clicking on the link below. This is a great project aiming to protect the wonderful old trees that have managed to survive.

<https://biolinksalliance.org.au/hero-tree>

**PROTECT OUR LARGE OLD TREES**

Large Old Trees are the superheroes of our landscape  
Large Old Trees provide vital habitat and food sources for threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. They are also important landscape connectors. But they are in trouble and need our help.  
Let's protect and revitalise nature's elders!

1. Scan the QR code or visit [www.biolinksalliance.org.au/hero-tree](https://biolinksalliance.org.au/hero-tree)  
2. Click on "I want to put my Hero Tree on the map"  
3. Select "Open in browser"  
4. Tell us all about your Large Old Tree

Map your hero tree for the chance to receive free tree protection works on your property!

Together we can map the large old trees in the Heathcote region

This project is part of the Heathcote Local 2 Landscape plan for community led landscape scale ecological restoration in the Heathcote Region. BioLinks Alliance, in conjunction with the Heathcote community, are working to identify and protect Large Old Trees in the area.

**Biolinks Alliance**  
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram  
[www.biolinksalliance.org.au](https://www.biolinksalliance.org.au)

Proudly supported by the Australian Government, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Communities Environment Program



# AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

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

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

(Please tick whichever applies)

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

☐ 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.

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
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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

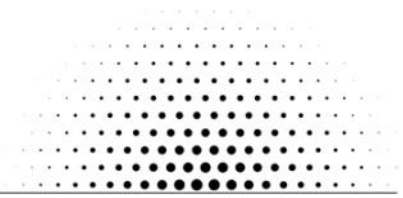
Or (2) Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 7:30pm John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library, Sydney St Kilmore. See website for details)

## MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

### COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



## COVID Safe Plan For APS Mitchell Group Inc. Organisation

### PURPOSE

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

### SCOPE

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

### PLAN

#### 3.1 Pre-Return Risk Assessment

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

#### 3.2 Considering groups needs

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

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

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

Our plan for managing our members is:

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

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

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

## MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

### COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 15)

### 3.3 Return to facilities

#### 3.3.1 Physical distancing measures

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

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

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

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

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

### Cleanliness

*Cleaning arrangements for the building are to be documented.*

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

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

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

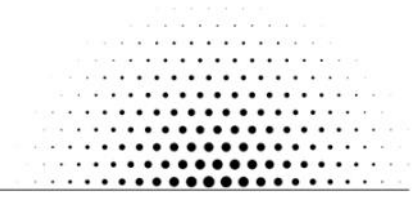
Council clean as per schedule arranged with the Contracts Management Coordinator at Mitchell Shire Council. This has been communicated to each building manager.

(Continued on page 17)

## *Covid Safe Meeting Plan...*

### **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.**

#### *COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan*



*(Continued from page 16)*

#### **COVID-19 Infection**

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

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

#### **3.6 Breach of the policy**

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

#### **3.7 Legal Sources of policy**

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

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

#### **Before activity**

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

#### **The following available:**

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

*(Continued on page 18)*

## *Covid Safe Meeting Plan...*

### **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.**

#### *COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan*



*(Continued from page 17)*

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

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

#### **During activity**

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

#### **After activity**

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

#### **Plan completed by:**

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