

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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### June news...!

Hello & welcome to our June issue. Winter has arrived & is for many of us, a very busy time in the garden planting, weeding & pruning etc.

This month we have a very special mention: A huge, heartfelt thank you to Judith Rutter for the generous donation of a significant, and substantial of collection books to our group library. The books belonged to Judith's father, Ian Aberdeen, & will be cherished, well used & appreciated by our group in his memory.

An excellent event to note is being put on by Mt Piper Bush Shed & Cottages, on Saturday June 16th, with guest speakers, lunch, and a walk on private bushland all on offer. See page 18 for details & contact Janis Baker for further information.

Our front & page 2 photos come from Gary Van Arkadie and may well be some of the plants we discuss at our June flower Specimen evening (see right and page 2 for details). Thank you Gary & everyone who supports our group, & this newsletter. Your assistance is invaluable & always deeply appreciated. The support of our



*Diplolaena mollis* Photo: Gary Van Arkadie

native plant loving community is what makes group activities & content of our newsletters possible.

Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday July 11th. Contributions big & small remain very greatly appreciated & always needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by July 4th. Email to:

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

In the meantime, I'll look forward to being out & about & seeing everyone at our upcoming winter activities. Cheers until next time, Jeanine

#### Inside this issue:

*Gardens for Wildlife news* Pg 2

*June Meeting - Flower specimen night* Pg 2

*Membership* Pg 2

*May meeting report - Seed collecting & GBIS* Pg 3

*A surprising example of roadside flora diversity* Pg 7

*Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc....* Pg 10

*Committee & Contact Information* Pg 10

*Local native plant nurseries* Pg 10

### How about an excursion to Euroa Arboretum?...

#### Would you like to visit Euroa Arboretum with APS Mitchell in August?

If so, we are seeking expressions of interest to enable planning the trip and setting a date and time. Please register your interest by emailing Norbert: [njr3089@gmail.com](mailto:njr3089@gmail.com) with answers to the following questions:

Would you prefer to self drive? or pay a fee & travel in a mini bus (numbers/cost permitting)?

Would you prefer to visit on a day the nursery is open (Monday or Thursday)?

Would you prefer to visit on a Saturday or Sunday (nursery may not be open.)?

Please register your interest and preferences by:  
Monday July 4th, 2022.

### 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 15). **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 20th Evening Meeting 7:30pm- Flower specimen evening: Bring specimens from your gardens & we'll talk & share what's flowering this winter.
- Sunday July 17th Afternoon Excursion 2:00pm to the Hidden Valley Railway Reserve. Norbert to lead us on a walk & talk. Tea & coffee provided. Further details next newsletter.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** APS Mitchell Spring Expo & Plant Sale: Saturday October 15th, 2022. 9am-3pm.



## Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Gerry Wun Ho

This month, our spotlight species is *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *viminalis* (Manna Gum)

Many of us will be familiar with the River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* that adorn creeks and other seasonally moist areas, yet there is another water-loving species that is just as robust, if a little messy — Manna Gum, *Eucalyptus viminalis*.

In Victoria, *E. viminalis* is split into four subspecies, with some overlap in their geographic distributions. Thankfully, to simplify matters there is only one dominant subspecies in the North Central: *E. viminalis* subsp. *viminalis*, which grows to a height of 50 m.

This subspecies is classed by one authority (L. Costermans) as a 'smooth gum', in contrast to the others (*E. viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis*, *E. viminalis* subsp. *pryoriana* and *E. viminalis* subsp. *siliceana*) that bear rough bark. Saying that, *E. viminalis* subsp. *viminalis* typically has a ring of rough bark around the base of the trunk, and the tree sheds ribbons of bark that get entangled in branch forks, giving it a slightly disheveled appearance.

One other characteristic of this subspecies is that buds and fruit come in threes (sometimes to seven).

The eponymous manna refers to the sugary exudate, which attracts a wide range of animals in summer. Manna Gum is the primary food source of koalas.

*E. viminalis* germinates readily from seed, and tube stock is available from indigenous nurseries. It may require some intervention when young (e.g. position in partial shade), but once established, it is tolerant of drought, wind, frost and sun.



*Eucalyptus viminalis*  
subsp. *viminalis*

Photos:  
Gerry Wun Ho



**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—Monday 20th 7:30pm

For our June meeting we will be hosting a show and chat flower specimen evening.

This month we will devote our full attention to what is currently flowering among our gardens. Do come along for an evening of sharing, displaying, and discussing the plants that are lighting up our winter and bringing us joy.

Feel free to bring in as many specimens as you like from your gardens, the more the merrier! Please label with species names if you know them.

Our door prize plant raffle will follow the main discussions, and the evening conclude with supper including tea, coffee and home baked goodies.

Remember: visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings. The meeting will be held under the guidelines of our [Covid safe facility plan](#). Please read the plan (see back pages) prior to attending.



*Grevillea lavandulacea* x *G. alpina* "Jelly Baby"  
Photo: Gary Van Arkadie

## Memberships...

Renewal time is nearly upon us for the 2022-23 year and fees fall due July 1st. Cost of fees remains the same and an updated form is on page 19, or downloadable from our website (see links below). There are still some memberships that have remained lapsed this past year, we'd love to have you back, and the new financial year is the perfect time for it.

For all membership enquiries please contact Christine: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au) Further information, contact details, along with a downloadable [membership form](#) can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

*By Jeanine Petts*

(Continued on page 4)



## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 3)

map with all the sites marked, it is easy to see “hot spot” collection areas.

When most people think of seed banks, the most likely image to come to mind is the Global Seed Bank located in Norway, which, is a multi-million-dollar state of the art facility. The reality of the GBIS is a very different picture. Being a non-commercial, not-for-profit seedbank that is part of Euroa Arboretum, which, itself is a not-for-profit, charitable incorporation, means both funding and facilities are limited. At Euroa, the GBIS consists of 2 sheds; one, a smaller shed for drying, the other, a larger shed as a work area, and a cool room for seed storage. When all the seed that was previously stored at Dookie was transferred to Euroa, unfortunately, some of the older seed was found to have rodent damage and no longer viable for use. Hence, another reason that work at the GBIS goes constantly flat out to try and build enough supply to meet demand. Heaters are used in the drying shed, with seed pods, nuts and seeds etc. laid out to trays to dry. Some examples shown were:

[Banksia marginata](#) Silver Banksia cones from Tooborac laid out on trays.

[Eucalyptus melliodora](#) Yellow Box

[Chrysocephalum semipapposum](#) Clustered Everlasting, which, was summer stock.

[Eucalyptus leucoxylon](#) Yellow Gum released seed was shown, with Melissa pointing out the dark spots in the mix were the actual seed, while the rest of the matter was “chaff”.

[Melicytus dentatus](#) Tree Violet berries were shown fermenting in liquid in a tray. To process, the berries need to be let go “disgusting and stinky” before the fermented matter is rinsed away and the seeds separated out using sieves.

Summer is a busy time for collection, and a time when many of the Acacia species ripen ready to harvest. [Acacia montana](#) Mallee Wattle and [Acacia pycnantha](#) Golden Wattle were two species mentioned.

With funding minimal, there are lots of “low tech contraptions” used for cleaning seed. A photo was shown of the drying shed taken earlier in the year, picturing an array of seeds, which, is the norm with their constant turn-over of drying seed. Demand is such, that even with the busy collection rate, they can never keep up.

[Arthropodium fimbriatum](#) Nodding Chocolate-lily and [Daviesia ulicifolia](#) Gorse Bitter-pea seeds were the next two example photos shown. The distinctive seed pods of [Daviesia ulicifolia](#) curl once they “pop” to expel ripe seed. [Hardenbergia violacea](#) Purple



Global Seedbank, Norway Image: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svalbard\\_Global\\_Seed\\_Vault#/media/File:Svalbard\\_Global\\_Seed\\_Vault\\_Exterior\\_2020.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svalbard_Global_Seed_Vault#/media/File:Svalbard_Global_Seed_Vault_Exterior_2020.jpg)



Seed bags at GBIS Image: <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/intensive-seed-production/>



*Banksia marginata*  
Photo: J Petts



*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *pruinosa*  
Photo: Graham & Marce Goods <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/72c46be8-4fb0-46e8-a31e-18560495b3c1#&gid=1&pid=2>



*Daviesia ulicifolia* subsp. *ruscifolia* Photo: Neil Blair  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/0e224832-36a1-44a1-8a08-6c97923ac20f>

(Continued on page 5)

## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Coral-pea pods pop with force throwing their seeds, and Melissa spoke of being regularly hit in the face by these flying seeds. *Acacia implexa* Lightwood is a very high demand species they can never collect enough of, while at the same time being one of the most horrible to harvest, as the seed pods shed an irritant dust that causes coughing.

Currently the cool room is “chock full” with total of 690kg of stocked seed. Seed viability testing has begun in order to clear out any seed that is non-viable seed and make space for fresh stocks. Presently, there are no budget funds available to pay for either a new larger, or an extra cool room for seed storage. The current one was purchased second hand, and found at a bargain price via Facebook Marketplace.

Once seed is cleaned it is double bagged (in case one bag splits with age), then labelled with the necessary record keeping details including:

Species name

Where collected

Name of collector

Date collected

An individual Lot Number

All seed lots are tracked from start to finish, right from where they were collected, and where they were supplied to.

Some of the equipment used in processing seed are: Scales (currently an old set that needs upgrading), and a drying cupboard. Hard-coated seeds need pre-treatment, so an urn is needed along with mesh bags. Hot water treating seeds involves first dunking the seeds in hot water, a second dunking in cold water, then finally dipped in smoked water and dried again (in the drying cupboard) prior to use in a seeding. The drying cupboard has a fan at the top of the cupboard to vent moisture.

A “Vac box” is another vital piece of equipment. Varying species have different seed weights, sizes, and characteristics of seed versus extraneous vegetative matter. The vac box helps to sort this. Heavy matter drops through while light matter gets sucked up, enabling separation of seed from chaff etc. A range of different size sieves are also used to sort seed.

It can be quite hard to collect seed, especially from the wild, and seed collection from the wild is carried out following rigorous Florabank guidelines: <https://www.florabank.org.au/> One of which, is that no more than 10% of seed can be collected from any plants in the wild. An answer to this necessary limitation is to set up an Intensive Seed Production Area (SPA for short); where harvestable specimens are planted and managed to make collection easier, and maximise crops. At the Euroa SPA there is also some irrigation provided to the plantings in the production area. Growing there are a diverse mix of grasses, ground cover and grassland species. Controlled “Eco burns” are also done at Euroa to assist the proliferation of some species such as *Microseris* species Yam Daisies (Murnong). Any Murnong found growing in the wild are far too precious to even consider harvesting from. There is a protected patch of these at Euroa, which, is very carefully managed and preserved.



Euroa Seed Production Area. Image: <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/intensive-seed-production/>



*Microseris walteri*  
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 6)



## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Euroa Wax Flower *Philotheca myoporoides* subsp. *euroensis* is a rare and endangered species that the Arboretum is working to preserve, and has growing at the Nursery.

“Grow Boxes” are also used in the SPA for propagating suitable species, these are raised wooden trays most often sown with Daisy species, whose seeds are then harvested with a vacuum cleaner. Some species mentioned that are grown this way are: *Swainsona* sp., *Pycnosorus* sp., *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and *Cheiranthra linearis*. Melissa is always on the lookout for good wild patches of these species for collection, and if anyone finds or knows of any please let her know.

A bonus of working in the field and at the Arboretum is that Melissa loves being able to take her dog “Bonza” along with her, and recommended to everyone that Euroa Arboretum is an amazing place to see, especially in spring. If you haven’t already visited do take a trip there. It is open every day, year-round, although the nursery is only open from autumn (April) through spring on Mondays and Thursdays 12pm – 4pm.

When the Arboretum was first being developed (from the Vic Roads storage site it once was), new planting areas were scalped first to remove weeds, the weed seed bank in the soil, and excess nutrient build up (from previous farming practices), before being direct seeded with native species. It was subsequently wonderful to then find other species returning on their own, in particular *Hibbertia humifusa* subsp. *erigens*, a species that had not been seen for 100 years. The Arboretum is now home the largest known population of the species.

The Climate Ready Garden is a new area currently under development. This garden has been created using mounds to form an enclosed space, with Salt-bush species used to cover the mounds. An anecdote mentioned was that a *Chenopodium* has found the site so suitable that one has grown much higher, and with larger leaves than Melissa has ever seen before.

Returning to the topic of the seedbank, Melissa advised that the Seed Production Area aims to grow as many species as possible, and from as many plants of different regional provenance as possible, so as to increase their genetic strength, resilience and diversity. The next image shown was of a typical sight wherever Melissa happens to be working (be it home, in the field, or at the GBIS), which, is seed and or seed pods in trays on paper (this makes the seed easily seen).

Melissa then started to speak about the individual species most needed at the GBIS, and extended an open invitation that if anyone is aware of, or sees good populations of any of the species mentioned during the evening’s talk, to please make note of the site and let her know, beginning with:

*Allocasuarina luehmannii* Buloke, of which, there is a huge, likely extremely old specimen at Puckapunyal.

Eucalypts with low hanging branches, especially Box species, two named were:

- *Eucalyptus melliodora* Yellow Box
- *Eucalyptus microcarpa* Grey Box



*Philotheca myoporoides* subsp. *euroensis*

Photo: Andre Messina <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/9fccc315-6a30-4b97-b814-dad5881ad676>



Vacuum harvesting grow boxes at Euroa Arboretum  
Image: <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/intensive-seed-production/>



*Hibbertia humifusa* subsp. *erigens*

Image: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/90a508c4-d495-4984-bdde-b0c2cf919828>

(Continued on page 7)

# May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 6)

[Dianella amoena](#) Matted Flax-lily is one of our local endangered species.

[Allocasuarina verticillata](#) Drooping Sheoak

[Banksia marginata](#) Silver Banksia

[Dodonaea viscosa](#) subspecies *angustissima* Slender Hop-bush

[Enchylaena tomentosa](#) Ruby Saltbush, the low growing Victorian form. (Not the larger growing shrub variety, which, is the NSW form.)

[Atriplex semibaccata](#) Berry Saltbush or Creeping Saltbush.

At this point Melissa began introducing some photos of other sights she sees while working out in the field collecting (Just to add interest between talking about all the plants). The first of these images was of a Tortoise, found crossing a road, which, was rescued and relocated to a safe place. Next of the plant species discussed came:

[Eucalyptus globulus subspecies bicostata](#) Southern Blue Gum, there is a beautiful, big, old specimen on Landscape Road Tallarook, which, Melissa regularly visits.

Another picture popped in here of finds other than plants, was a Bearded Dragon sighted near Pyalong (a small collection of Mellissa's field work photos can be found at her Stagg Design Landscape Architecture Website:

<https://staggdla.com/biodiversity-photo-gallery> ). Returning to plant species, next in line were:

[Pultenaea daphnoides](#) Large-leaf Bitter-pea, about which, Melissa explained that the pods of this species are hard to catch at the right time for collection. They stay "green, green, green", then suddenly "pop" and expel seeds.

[Acacia melanoxylon](#) Blackwood

[Acacia mearnsii](#) Black Wattle is fun to collect as the seeds crackle when being harvested.

[Pelargonium rodneyanum](#) Magenta Stork's-bill produces seed but also has tuberous roots.

Pausing for a moment here, Melissa showed a photo of a Red-bellied Black snake. She had gotten to the point of seeing so many snakes for the season, that she stopped counting after the reaching 10 sightings. When working out in the field Melissa makes sure to be well covered, wearing heavy weight drill pants, boots, gaiters, long sleeves, gloves & hat.

Picking back up on collection species next discussed were:

[Eucalyptus rubida](#) Candlebark, Melissa has a favourite collection



*Dodonaea viscosa*  
subspecies *angustissima*  
Slender Hop-bush  
Photo: Neil Blair  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/2f83e274-1915-43f1-8ff1-c5f60403ba98#&gid=1&pid=2>



*Banksia marginata* Silver Banksia. Photo: J Petts



*Enchylaena tomentosa* Ruby Saltbush Photo: J Petts



*Atriplex semibaccata*  
Creeping Saltbush  
Photo: J Petts



*Eucalyptus globulus*  
subspecies *bicostata*  
Southern Blue Gum  
Photo: Neil Blair  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/bec23fee-60b5-4830-8d72-b3b796a28876>



*Pultenaea daphnoides* Large-leaf Bitter-pea  
Photo: J Petts

*Acacia mearnsii* Black Wattle Photo: Neil Blair  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/a72a846c-7a92-4a4a-8dca-e2582a0f393e>



(Continued on page 8)



## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 7)

site for this species in Pyalong, near the intersection of Ladderhill and McMasters roads, where a wonderful large old tree stood. After last June's major storm, a heart-breaking find was that this tree had become a storm-thrown casualty, which, did not survive. Sometimes storm damage can be beneficial, as higher limbs holding good crops of dry unopened nuts can fall to the ground, making for an easy harvest.

[Xanthorrhoea minor](#) Small Grass-tree, the image shown was of a flower spike covered in butterflies. Xanthorrhoea species flowers produce large amounts of nectar and are a fantastic food source for pollinators.

[Acacia implexa](#) Lightwood, the image shown was of another favourite tree with low hanging branches.

[Billardiera macrantha](#), while some Billardiera species are edible (only when very ripe), this species berries are very bitter and not at all tasty.

[Prostanthera lasianthos](#) Victorian Christmas Bush

[Dillwynia sericea](#) Showy Parrot-pea

[Dillwynia cinerascens](#) Grey Parrot-pea

[Arthropodium strictum](#) Chocolate Lily

[Billardiera scandens](#) Common Apple-berry fruit is collected from the ground underneath the bush, as fruits drop when fully soft and ripe. Back at GBIS, when allowed to become fully mushy they are put through multiple cycles of being sieved, rinsed, sieved and rinsed again to extract the seeds.

[Hovea heterophylla](#) Common Hovea

*Microseris* species, of which there are 3 found in Australia, with 2 in our region; *M. lanceolata* and *M. walteri* (pictured page 5).

[Arthropodium milleflorum](#) Pale Vanilla-lily

[Gompholobium huegelii](#) is also called Common Wedge-pea, although it is not actually common.

[Caesia calliantha](#) Blue Grass-lily

Seed collectors for the Arboretum all hold appropriate permits and are therefore allowed to collect from Crown Lands, and Shire roadsides (if safe) etc. Collection from private land is only allowed if authority from the landowner is given.

Mistletoes, *Amyema* species, were discussed next. Melissa uses an interesting yet basic method of separating these species seeds; By eating the flesh of the fruits, the sticky seed is left in her mouth. To remove the seed, Melissa licks another surface, this may be a tree trunk or wall to release and transfer the seed from her tongue. A



*Xanthorrhoea minor*  
Photo: J Petts



*Eucalyptus rubida*  
Candlebark  
Photo: Norbert Ryan



*Acacia implexa*  
Photo: Neil Blair <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/7d607d97-2df6-4817-8415-3a82555bce42#&gid=1&pid=2>



*Billardiera macrantha*  
Photo: Neville Walsh  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/5daf043b-ac55-407c-ba01-47864bcea219>



*Billardiera scandens*  
Common Apple-berry  
Photo: J Petts



*Prostanthera lasianthos*  
Victorian Christmas Bush  
Photo: J Petts



*Hovea heterophylla*  
Photo: David Pitts <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/133106b2-d560-40d4-866f-41e3d812981c>



(Continued on page 9)



# May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 8)

word of caution: Don't eat too much at once, otherwise, getting "bound up" may be on the cards.

[Xerochrysum viscosum](#) Sticky Everlasting is found in a number of colour forms; the usual bright yellow, cream-pale yellow, and orange. The differing colour forms are collected and kept separately.

[Austrostipa elegantissima](#) Feather Spear-grass

[Calotis cuneifolia](#) Blue Burr-daisy

[Acacia salicina](#) Willow Wattle is found in the northern region of the catchment area.

[Enteropogon acicularis](#) Spider-grass

[Chloris truncata](#) Windmill-grass both *C. truncata* and *E. acicularis* are similar in appearance and often occur growing together.

[Rhaqodia spinescens](#) Hedge Salt-bush

[Bursaria spinosa](#) Sweet Bursaria

[Maireana](#) species, Bluebushes

[Pittosporum angustifolium](#) Weeping Pittosporum

[Callitris glaucophylla](#) White Cypress-pine

[Callitris gracilis](#) Slender Cypress-pine has larger cones than *C. glaucophylla*

[Santalum](#) species Sandalwood, Melissa commented that she visits a Sandalwood on sandhill sites near Gunbower, where there is a specimen that is at least 900 years or old or more. There are always many interesting species to be found on these sand hills.

[Calocephalus citreus](#) Lemon Beauty-heads

[Ptilotus](#) species Mulla Mulla

[Erynqium ovinum](#) Blue Devils

[Ozothamnus obcordatus](#) Grey Everlasting

[Xanthorrhoea glauca subspecies angustifolia](#) Grey Grass Tree

[Vittadinia](#) species New Holland Daisies e.g., *V. cuneata* and *V. gracilis*

[Wahlenbergia luteola](#) Bronze Bluebell

[Minuria integerrima](#) Smooth Minuria

[Pycnosorus globosus](#) Drumsticks

[Themeda triandra](#) Kangaroo Grass seeds usually ripen around Christmas Day, and a picnic out whilst collecting the seeds is a usual part of Melissa's typical Christmas Day.

In closing, Melissa shared that she and Kim both only work part time (2 days each per week) for the GBIS. They are always keen for volunteers, citing two of APS Mitchell's past members as being highly



*Austrostipa elegantissima*

Photo: Richard Hartland

<https://grasslands.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/fieldguide/flora/feather-spear-grass#details>



*Amyema quandang* Grey

Mistletoe

Photo: J Petts



*Acacia salicina* Willow Wattle

Photo: Richard Boon

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/cfb7fe8d-5c23-47e8-80eb-a389e6bb6cfd>



*Calotis cuneifolia* Blue

Burr-daisy

Photo: Neil Blair

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/c319e18c-8701-442e-881f-aaab5420935c>



*Chloris truncata* Windmill

-grass Photo: Ian Clarke

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/ae5ae3e2-8e1e-431f-97e2-66ba94d562c1>



*Enteropogon acicularis*

Spider-grass Photo:

Ian Clarke <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/20a582e9-4cc4-49b7-9372-1835b4ec12d3>

(Continued on page 10)

## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 9)

valued among cohort who give some of their time consistently each week. A mutually beneficial partnership has been formed with Tabilk Winery, who have a good Seed Production Area of their own.

Finally, the GBIS is hoping to eventually find an additional cool room, providing one can be found for very little expenditure. If anyone has any free time available to volunteer with the GBIS or Euroa Arboretum, or can help in other ways, they would be greatly appreciated and warmly welcomed.

Further information on the GBIS can be obtained at:

<http://www.gbiseedbank.com.au/>, via <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/> or by contacting via phone: 0428 770 030 or emailing [seedbank@euroaarboretum.com.au](mailto:seedbank@euroaarboretum.com.au). Although, please note that the Seedbank only operates on Mondays and Thursdays.

One last reminder; the Arboretum itself is open 24/7, whilst the Nursery closes during the hot weather (December through March) and from April to November is open on Mondays and Thursdays from Midday to 4pm. For nursery enquiries email: [nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au](mailto:nursery@euroaarboretum.com.au) or phone: 0429 127 399.

For further information on Melissa's landscape architecture, garden design, environmental work, and business contact information visit: <https://staggdla.com/>

A warm, enthusiastic round of applause was given to Melissa for her highly engaging, and information filled talk, as Norbert extended official thanks and presented her with a small gift of appreciation.

With time now running short, we held the evening plant raffle, and opted to leave the night's flower table specimens for people to peruse at their leisure over supper, along with a little time for plant sales.

Our raffle prizes were four West Australian *Acacia* supplied by Mike Williams, and two *Eremophila* supplied by Russell Wait:

*Acacia merinthophora* Zig-zag Wattle is a graceful, highly ornamental shrub to small tree that grows to 3-4m and has long, fine phyllodes. Its branchlets change direction where each phyllode meets the stem, which, is the characteristic providing the common name. It tolerates pruning, dry periods and moderate frost once established. Preferring a site in full sun, it is adaptable to a wide range of soil types providing there is good drainage. Bright yellow clusters of rod type flowers occur from late autumn to early spring. Excellent for use in floral arrangements.

*Acacia trigonophylla* is a species endemic to Southwest WA, which, Mike Williams referred to as one of the leafless Wattles. It grows 1m-2.5m high with golden yellow, globular flowers occurring in leaf axils from late winter to mid spring. Prefers a sunny site, tolerates dry periods to constantly moist soils, and mild frost.



*Xanthorrhoea glauca* subsp. *angustifolia*

Photo: J Petts



*Acacia merinthophora* Zig-zag Wattle

Photo: Brian Walters [http://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/acacia-merinthophora-2/](http://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/acacia-merinthophora-2/)



*Acacia trigonophylla* Photo: R Hotchkiss

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/photo/api/id/a/5358>

(Continued on page 11)



## May Meeting Report - Seed collecting & GBIS continued...

(Continued from page 10)

*Acacia maxwellii* grows from 0.10m – 0.40m high x 1.5m wide with yellow-cream flowers occurring in early spring. Prefers a full sun site and tolerates light frost.

*Acacia restiacea* forms a small shrub growing 0.50m-1m high and has fine rush-like stems. Globular, golden yellow flowers are produced in spring. Prefers well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and tolerates light frost.

*Eremophila debilis* is a low growing, trailing shrub reaching a spread of 1.5-2m that produces edible fruit, which, Russell said were “yummy”. Small, pale mauve, sometimes white or blue flowers occur mainly during summer, and are followed by beautiful pink, fleshy berries in autumn. It will grow in a wide range of soil types providing drainage is good. Prefers a sunny position, and although it may be damaged by a severe frost, it usually recovers well once warmer weather arrives.

*Eremophila* ‘Pink Pantha’ is an *E. glabra* cross with *E. nivea* that came up in the Garden of Ron Paine. Growing to 2m high x 2.5m wide with silver-grey foliage, its lovely pink flowers occur mainly in spring, and at times follow new growth. Prefers full sun in a site with good air circulation and can cope with most frosts.



*Acacia maxwellii* Photo: J & M Simmons  
[https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/text/entities/acacia\\_maxwellii.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/text/entities/acacia_maxwellii.htm)



*Acacia restiacea* Photo: J & M Simmons  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacia\\_restiacea#/media/File:Acacia\\_restiacea.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacia_restiacea#/media/File:Acacia_restiacea.jpg)



*Eremophila* ‘Pink Pantha’ *E. glabra* x *E. nivea* Above: form Left: Flower & foliage  
 Photos: Russell Wait



*Eremophila debilis* Photo: M Fagg  
 Australian National Botanic Gardens  
<https://www.anbg.gov.au/photo/apii/id/a/20005>

## *A surprising example of roadside flora diversity...*

*By Norbert Ryan*

I'm sure that many of us are aware of small pockets of remnant bush containing a veritable treasure trove of beautiful understorey plants, a small window into the complexity of the flora that once covered this land. This is the story of one such site, located in an area which evidently had an early history of intensive farming.

The journey from Kilmore along the Lancefield Road is unremarkable, with limited roadside flora. There are some Manna Gums within the grounds of the cemeteries; a little further on, a cluster of Narrow-leaf Peppermint, but for the next 4-5 km there are long sections devoid of any roadside trees. This gradually changes after passing the exit for the old Lancefield Rd. There are a few Candlebarks and Yellow Box, then as the road begins to climb, we encounter Messmate, Long-leaf Box and Swamp gum. However, the impression is, there is little remnant understorey present.

In the early seventies my family purchased a 16ha paddock on this road where the Candlebarks occur, approximately 7km from Kilmore (subsequent rural subdivisions are now limited to a minimum of 40ha). This proved to be a fire-prone area, burning in 1983 and again in 2014. Prior to the first fire, there was a largely intact, small, bluestone cottage, thought to date back to the mid 1850's. Lamentably, this history has been lost, only crumbling walls of this building now remain. In early summer I usually slash the open areas of the road reserve, while VicRoads slash a strip along the margins of the road reserve; the latter commences as the grasses start to brown-off.

What have been the influences in this area? It is suggested that this region of newer volcanic flows was favoured for settlement because it was not heavily forested. However, our paddocks were completely devoid of any trees, clearance during early days of settlement was total. This area is part of the basaltic volcanic plains, black clay, sloppy in winter and cracking in the drier months. There is also a small zone of alluvial sandy clay and iron-shotstone. The basalt is not far below the surface with a few rocky shoals and occasional large rocks. Peculiarly, the boundary between the counties of Bourke and Dalhousie runs through the property. This zoning was important in the original surveying of the state. The area is officially designated as the parish of Forbes and this "town" name is listed as the true address but lacks any signage to identify it as such. The abutting parishes are Springfield, Goldie, Moranding, Willowmavin and Bylands; some of these now identified only by road names but they were formerly thriving settlements. In 1892 the Lancefield and Kilmore railway was opened, but enjoyed limited patronage and was closed in 1903. It is likely that the railway was thought beneficial for an area of agricultural importance, with high rainfall making roads impassable in winter months. Forbes and High Park stations were nearby and the track ran at the back of our property.

In the history of this area, the Springfield run of 20,000 acres was occupied in 1837 and commenced with 6000 sheep. Outstations were located at Monument Hill and Tantaraboo. The spread of gorse as protection for sheep, is testimony to the activity of Scottish shepherds on these station properties. The Land Acts of the 1860's resulted in closer settlement through issuing of 7 year leaseholds, requiring improvements such as clearing, fencing and cultivation to obtain right of purchase. In 1841 William Rutledge purchased by Special Survey, 5,120 acres of arable land watered by the Kilmore, Ryan's and Kurkuruk (Kurkurac) creeks. This was followed by intensive subdivision including 1-20 acre lots within the



*Diuris* sp. Possibly a natural hybrid between *Diuris bebbii* Golden Cowslips & *Diuris chryseopsis* Golden Moths



*Thelymitra* sp. Sun-orchid



*Bossiaea prostrata* Creeping Bossiaea

*(Continued on page 13)*



## *A surprising example of roadside flora diversity continued...*

(Continued from page 12)

township. The availability of small farm blocks resulted in a substantial settlement and by 1854, Kilmore had a population of 2,267, larger than other overlander town sites, with representation in Parliament. Local gold finds brought even more population to the region.

The area subdivided by Rutledge was 20.7 square km. It covered the township of Kilmore to East St and Willowmavin to the north of Lancefield Rd. It is probable that the neighbouring Forbes area was settled soon after. Local intensive agriculture included growing of wheat for milling and crops of hay and grain for horses. On our property a large sloping area carried deep furrows running downhill, suggesting potato growing.

By the mid 1850's sheep numbers in Victoria had already reached 6.5 million, reflecting the dramatic changes likely in grasses and understorey species. It's probable that grazing of roadsides in dry years was also common. Added to this adversity was the proliferation of rabbits which swept the country with exceptionally high numbers recorded from the late 1860's. The predominant grass throughout the local area is bent grass (*Agrostis capillaris* or *A. castellana*), dominating "unimproved pasture". It has probably colonized farms from early times, thought to have been brought in as a contaminant in cereal seed from the UK. Agricultural consultants referred to the whole region, extending as far as Romsey, as the "bent grass plains". Bent grass dominance is common in rainfall zones >600 mm and is indicative of low fertility, low nitrogen, low pH and water-logged soils. It is a matted weed that spreads by rhizomes; by late spring, dense growth tends to collapse, shading more desirable pasture species. It is also referred to as "twitch" grass for its tendency to bind up machinery. This weed is very difficult to eliminate even with modern herbicides. Obviously spread of this species into roadsides has occurred where it would also eliminate native grasses, lilies and orchids. Other more prominent and recent pasture escapees such as Phalaris, Cocksfoot, Ryegrass and Brome grasses can also displace any original grasses. By good fortune, the native grasses still dominate this roadside, the bent grass stops at the boundary fence. Even the growth of local grasses such as kangaroo grass can in time become too dense and crowd out small plants. In this respect the history of occasional fires has probably reduced excessive debris build up and allowed germination and survival of the more unusual species that occur here. The Lilies and Orchids are able to survive harsh summers due to the presence of corm and tuber-like root structures.

There has always been a moderate tree coverage on our nature strip but in retrospect, there were only a couple of large diameter, older trees. These were hollow and destroyed in the 1983 fires. Nevertheless, seeding has occurred, resulting in a copse of comparatively recent growth Candlebark, Yellow box, Cherry Ballart and Blackwood Wattle. The clustering of these trees has prevented intensive mowing, thereby providing a small protective zone for some understorey species. In this alluvial drainage area of sandy-clay soil, the following species occur: *Burchardia umbellata* Milkmaids, *Dillwynia cinerascens* Grey Parrot-pea, Wiry buttons, *Bossiaea prostrata*, *Thelymitra* sp. Sun-orchids, Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium* sp.) and *Caesia calliantha* Blue Grass-lily, Yellow Moth Orchid, *Pimelea humilis* Common Rice-flower, Wallaby Grass, *Themeda triandra* Kangaroo Grass, Spear Grass and *Lomandra*.

The recent wet spring-summer favoured wildflowers and they were more noticeable than in previous years. The extra time during Covid lockdowns provided opportunity for closer inspection and the detection of more areas to protect. The presence of Sun-orchids not yet in flower, meant delaying



*Caesia calliantha* Blue Grass-lily



*Tricoryne elatior* Yellow Rush Lily



*Leptorhynchus tenuifolius* Wiry Buttons

(Continued on page 14)

## *A surprising example of roadside flora diversity continued...*

(Continued from page 13)

mowing beyond the end of November. *Leptorhynchos tenuifolius* Wiry Buttons and *Tricoryne elatior* Yellow Rush Lily were not in full flower until late December and would not be recognised prior to flowering. It's a delicate balance to predict the best time to slash; effectively grasses need to seed and dry before cutting is contemplated. However, by this stage the operation of equipment could be viewed as risky, unless immediately following rain or in very mild conditions. Leaving long grass uncut on a busy highway is risky, although all fires to date have been grass-fires sweeping across the open paddocks. It could also be argued that the failure to slash long grass is detrimental to survival of species that don't perform well in heavy undergrowth. Perhaps to date we have achieved a somewhat unplanned but delicate balance.

Mitchell Shire has a Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan (2016-2026). The 1184km of roadsides are classified as having high, medium or low conservation value, Wildlife corridors are identified and endangered and threatened flora and fauna listed. Main roads remain the responsibility of VicRoads but the shire council is "responsible for protecting land and environmental values while at the same time managing fuel loads for fire preparedness". There are flora reserves in Mitchell but also many areas of roadside that have high ecological value. The latter remain largely unidentified; there are very few roadside signs stating "Significant roadside flora". Without any alert notices, such sites could easily be destroyed by heavy machinery in the interests of "cleaning up".

What's the message from this history? Our roadsides are to be cherished and protected as a legacy and repository of the diverse flora that once existed here. There should be more emphasis on declaring sites as carrying significant roadside flora. For highly significant sites there is a need to gazette the area as a Flora reserve. However the process to achieve this appears to be lengthy. Without awareness of the significance of the local flora, the potential exists for the site to be mowed, ploughed or graded, thereby inadvertently or deliberately cleared. However, it's a fire-prone land and we have to balance the conservation needs with fuel reduction. Education for landholders is important. There is no sadder sight than a nature strip fastidiously mowed in late springtime, before native grasses and lilies have seeded, leaving only large trees and potentially eliminating all understorey species.



*Burchardia umbellata* Milkmaids



*Dillwynia cinerascens* Grey Parrot-pea

All Photos in this article:  
Norbert Ryan.

### References:

*Agricultural and livestock Statistics of Victoria for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1859*, John Ferres, Government Printer Melbourne

Historical Notes: *Charles Bonney and the Fertile Kilmore Plains*; printed with the permission of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

*Discover Springfield*, Brenda Sorraghan, Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc. 2021

*A Pictorial Guide to the Long Lost Lancefield and Kilmore Railway*, Kylie McKay and Bob Tomkins, Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc. 2018

*The Aberdeen Family: Our 200 years as Refugees in Australia*, Ian Aberdeen, Xlibris Corporation 2020



## 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,  
Ian Julian,  
Barbara Mau,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Melissa Stagg,  
Garrick Van Arkadie,  
Gerry Wun Ho.

### APS VIC DIARY DATES...

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/>

Checking with the event organiser is advised.

APS Heathcote Inc. meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Heathcote Mechanics Institute Hall, 121 High St, Heathcote. Commencing 7:00pm. For further information see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Plants-Society-Heathcote-Inc->

[102380169043080/](https://102380169043080/)

Phone: 0419 878 950 or

Email:

[heathcoteaps@outlook.com](mailto:heathcoteaps@outlook.com)

**June 18 - Secrets of the Bush** Mt Piper, Broadford 11am.

See page 18 & contact Janis for details. Ph 0419 310 323

**June 25 & 26 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show.** Robert Clarke Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles St, Ballarat. 10am-4pm.

**July 23 & 24 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Winter Plant Sale.** 10am-4pm. Plant list available 1 week before sale. Free entry.

**August 27 & 28 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo.** Eltham Community &

Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm.

**September 1 - Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022.** Details to follow.

**September 3 - (to be confirmed) APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale.** Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick. In conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo.

**September 11 – 16 - Australian Flora - Past Present Future, ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 –** Kiama, New South Wales. Further details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can

*(Continued on page 16)*

## 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

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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: Jeanine Petts, Victoria Morris & Maureen Thomas.  
Group Librarian: Volunteer position open  
Plant Sales: Volunteer position open  
Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 0409 029 603  
Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator: Gerry Wun 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 Ph: 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. Phone: 0428 388 211

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## *Diary Dates & Other Events continued...*

*(Continued from page 15)*

be found from page 17 (includes speaker, tours & ticketing information with links) & on the APS (NSW) website: <https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

**September 17 & 18 - APS Bendigo Plant Sale.** Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 9am-4pm. \$5 entry, children free.

**September 25 & 26 - APS Loddon Murray COM and Quarterly Gathering.** In Swan Hill.

**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. Further details can be found at: [7gbgc.org](http://7gbgc.org)

**October 1 & 2 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show.** Pomonal Hall. 9am-4pm.

**October 8 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase.** Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 42 High St Echuca.

**October 22 & 23 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show.** Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles St, Ballarat. 10am-4pm.

**October 22 & 23 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale.** 10am-4pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free Entry.

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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 Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Registrations now open:

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

[fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

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

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## *Diary Dates & Other Events continued...*

### The Australian Flora Conference 2022 - Past, Present & Future

10 to 16 September 2022, The Pavilion, Kiama, NSW

#### Inspiring speakers bringing to life the theme of Australian flora - past present future

See here (<https://www.austplants.com.au/Conference-program-and-speakers>) for information on speakers and program.



Not able to attend the whole week? No worries! You can either book for the whole conference or individual days.

The conference program has speakers scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday and Friday are field trips to the surrounding areas and Sydney. The field trips are included for those who book a ticket for the whole week. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included.

To join us, book a ticket for the whole week, or select individual days.

More information here (<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>).

To register for the conference, click here (<https://events.humanitix.com/2022kiama>).

### Tours - now open to all members and friends

People are telling us they'd love to do a tour, but can't make the conference. So we are opening the tours to all members! Tours with places available are shown at right. Join with passionate like-minded people to explore the beautiful regions of NSW. Prices from \$1650 to \$1980 depending on duration. All inclusive meals, travel, accommodation and guides.

See here for more information or to register

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

Blue Mountains, 5 days, pre-conference



South Coast, 5 days, pre-conference



Sydney, 5 days, post-conference



Pilliga and Warrumbungles, 6 days, pre- and post-





# **SECRETS OF THE BUSH**

## **Mt Piper Bush Shed**



**Saturday 18th June 2022 at 11.00 am**

**Native plants and animals around Mt Piper  
with an emphasis on landscape history and change  
Talk by Steve Sinclair**

**Regenerative farming  
with Rick Zwar**

**Detecting cryptic animals  
with photos from recent surveys around Mt Piper  
Speakers from Parks Victoria & Trust For Nature**

**A light lunch will be served followed by an informal  
walk in privately owned bushland**

**\$25.00 per person, Kids \$10.00, Under 12 Free**

**320 Jeffreys Lane Broadford  
(follow signs from front gate)  
RSVP Janis Baker 0418 310 323**





# 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

## 2022/23 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)

Membership Type:		Fees: 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 -Tick which applies:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10.00	<b>**</b> \$ _____
<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> /    /
----------------	---------------------

**Neutrog Newsletter** APS Vic and Neutrog ([www.neutrog.com.au/](http://www.neutrog.com.au/)) have an agreement regarding Bush Tucker; Neutrog's fertiliser developed to meet the needs of all Australian native plants. Neutrog produces a monthly email of interest to gardeners. You will be signed up to receive the email (you can unsubscribe at any time). Or tick: ☐ Please don't send my email details to Neutrog.

**Payment by: Tick which applies:** ☐ Bank Transfer to BSB 633-000 Account No. 159982271 (Bendigo Bank)  
Please include your surname and post code as reference/transaction details. Please email a copy of your completed form to [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

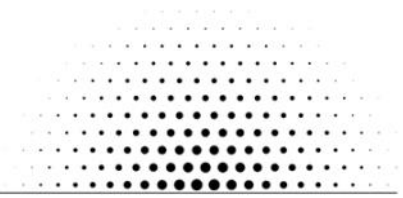
☐ Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC. Posted with your form to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764

☐ 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)

**Enquires: Christine Cram Ph: 0458 238 270 or email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)**

## 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.

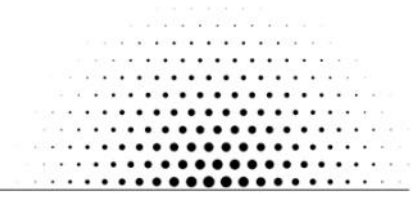
Chairs with soft covers will, where possible, not be used as these are difficult to wipe down.

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

(Continued on page 22)

## *Covid Safe Meeting Plan...*

### **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.** *COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan*



*(Continued from page 21)*

#### **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 23)*



## *Covid Safe Meeting Plan...*

### **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.**

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



*(Continued from page 22)*

- ☐ 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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