NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au
Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au
PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764
Inc# A0054306V

October 2022

Volume 9, Issue 9

October news...!

Hello & welcome to our October issue.

Good News! Our annual Spring Expo & Plant Sale is merely days away, and we have a new venue. For details see right and page 14. Our committee numbers are few, so we could really do with any help that our members & friends can provide. Even just an hour, or a handful of flower specimens can be a huge help, and will be greatly appreciated. See below for days, times, tasks, and Ian's contact number.

We extend huge, heartfelt thanks to both Bunnings Craigieburn for their generous donation of a wonderful raffle prize, the Bendigo Bank for their generosity in providing a grant towards running our 2022 Expo, and Leah Mae for a surprise donation for our raffle. The support goes a long way, and means so very much to our small, hardworking group. We hope to put on a good show, and see lots of people come through the door this Saturday.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our newsletter & supports APS Mitchell. Participation from our native plant loving community is what keeps us going & enjoying shared interests together. Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday November 14th . Contributions big & small are deeply appreciated & always needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by Monday November 7th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone at our Expo & other activities.

Cheers until next time, Jeanine

Expo photo: Ian Julian

Inside this issue:

Can you help please? Volunteers & flower specimens needed...

Expo and Sale help Wanted

Friday 14th October - setup, time from 1pm

Saturday 15 October - help with stalls

Friday - bring your plant samples

Activities, room setup, labelling and setup display plant samples.

No experience needed

Supper/Dinner provided at the end of the day

For more info contact Ian 0438 270 248

Thanks to everyone who has already confirmed to help. Your time & effort is deeply appreciated and needed.

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **As Covid-19 remains prevalent, events may be effected at short notice. Meetings will be held under the requirements of our Covid Safe facility Plan; Please read the plan (back pages) prior to attending**
- **Monday October 17th 7:30pm Evening meeting – Surprise Topic to be advised.**
- **APS Mitchell Spring Expo & Plant Sale: Saturday October 15th, 2022. 9am-3pm. Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre 42-80 Bentinck Street, Wallan For further details see page 14.**

Get directions to Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre ›

- **Monday November 21st 7:30pm Evening meeting - Guest Speaker & Topic to be advised**

Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Gerry Ho

It was depressing driving around the northern suburbs of late to find that the mauve and golden patches in the distance eventuated as exotic Paterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum* and Capeweed *Arctotheca calendula* upon closer inspection.

This issue, we look at a pair of indigenous wildflowers to Mitchell that not only retains the palette but also likely benefits wildlife to boot.

The perianth segments of Chocolate Lily *Arthropodium strictum* are smaller than Paterson's Curse's (6–14 mm vs. 20–30 mm), and cannot rival the intensity of the latter. It is however daintier, which makes it more aesthetically pleasing when dotted among other wildflowers, such as the cheerful yellow Bulbine Lily *Bulbine bulbosa.* On their own, both species are also striking when planted *en masse.*

Despite the common moniker, both species hail from different families — Chocolate Lily belongs to Asparagaceae (which includes *Agave, Lomandra, Thysanotus* and *Yucca*) and Bulbine Lily

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

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

Entry $2.00 Gold Coin

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

Use of the APS Mitchell free Library

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

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

Please label plants

October Meeting– Monday 17th 7:30pm

Our October meeting will be held in the John Taylor Room, at the Kilmore Library, commencing 7:30pm. At time of writing we are yet to confirm the topic of the evening, so come along for a surprise talk along with an update on our Spring Expo and Plant Sale.

Feel free to bring flower specimens along for show and discussion (please label with species name if known).

Our door prize plant raffle will follow the main presentation and the evening will conclude with chat time and supper, where tea, coffee, and home baked goodies will be available.

Olearia pannosa Photo: J Petts

Remember: visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings. Meetings are held under the guidelines of our Covid safe facility plan. Please read the plan (click link or see back pages) prior to attending.

Memberships...

A hearty warm welcome to our newest member, John from Mt Disappointment. We look forward to seeing you at activities & getting to know you.

For all membership enquiries please contact Christine: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: **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/**

Gardens for Wildlife news continued...

By Gerry Ho

(Continued from page 2)

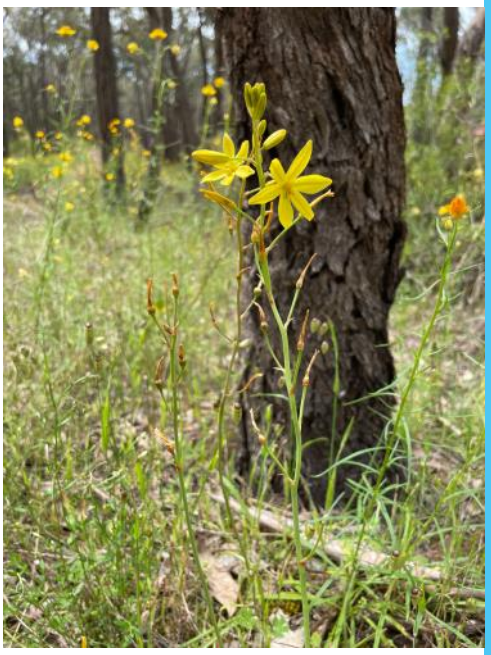
belongs to Asphodelaceae (which includes *Aloe, Dianella, Kniphofia* and *Xanthorrhoea*).

Chocolate Lily is an adaptable plant, growing in part to full sun in various soil types with reasonable drainage. It is frost tolerant. Flowering time runs from October to December. Propagation is by seed or division. Seeds are collected when they drop or turn dark in fruit, stored for 2–3 months, and sown in autumn. Germination occurs in 1–2 months (or longer). Parental tubers can be divided to give new plantlet.

Like Chocolate Lily, Bulbine Lily is a fairly robust plant, growing in part to full sun and various soils (with reasonable drainage); it is frost tolerant. Flowering begins in September and can continue to autumn with watering over summer. Bulbine Lily is propagated by seed or division. Seeds can be collected by trapping or when they turn greyish-brown in fruit, and lightly sown in autumn after 2–3 months' storage. Division can be carried out by dissecting its tubers following the end of the flowering period; each new plant is then planted unwatered in potting mix until the following spring, when watering promotes growth. Left alone, Bulbine Lily is self-spreading.

The pollination ecology for both species is not well known. Both are likely to be food sources for bees and insects.

Arthropodium strictum in Colin Officer Flora Reserve, Broadford. Photo taken on 24 October 2021 by author: Gerry Ho



Bulbine bulbosa in Tooborac. Photo taken on 22 October 2021 by author: Gerry Ho

Mitchell Gardens for Wildlife Diary Dates..

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th,

Mt Disappointment Walk & Heathcote Junction Garden Visit

There are two parts to the day's programme — a guided walk on Mt Disappointment, followed by an open garden visit to Dawn's garden in nearby Heathcote Junction. You can choose to attend either or both.

The program is tentatively:

9.30 am — 12 noon: Guided walk on Mt Disappointment

12 noon — 1 pm: Travel to garden at Heathcote Junction and lunch (self-catered (Bring lunch & snacks).

1 pm — 3.30 pm: Open garden visit and tea & coffee provided.

RSVP via online response form (click on link & fill out form):

https://forms.gle/HkBatiHVNjTQite46

Please respond by 24th October Monday.

For further information contact: Gerry -

Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Ph: 0403 983 330

September Meeting Report - Plants, a new point of view...

By Jeanine Petts

Some of Vanessa's selection of books. Photo: J Petts

Our September meeting saw a small group gather together and owing to a few hiccups with tech set up, we ended up with a little more pre-meeting socialising than usual. Once all was ready Norbert called for everyone's attention, and drew us all to our seats. He quickly welcomed everyone, and invited Vanessa to take the floor, commenting it was pleasing to have the opportunity to hear about alternative approaches to plants.

Vanessa began by sharing a little information about herself; advising she has lived the last 7 years in Australia, and owing to family connections here, holds dual citizenship. Her current working role is Landcare Facilitator/Project Officer for the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare. In addition, Vanessa has begun hosting Native Journaling workshops. Having been an academic and holding a Masters Degree in Agriculture Science, she continues to read many books and has, of late, been reading books on the latest research into plants, which, is becoming more mainstream. Many of the books Vanessa has been reading were published in Italian, so one of her roles this evening was to translate. Monica Gagliano is the Australian author of *Thus Spoke The Plant,* which, covers new plant research and discoveries. *Brilliant green, The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence* by Alessandra Viola and Stefano Mancuso, *The Revolutionary Genius of Plants: A New Understanding of Plant Intelligence and Behaviour* by Stefano Mancuso were among other titles referenced (see bibliography pages 9-11).

The first section of the presentation asked: What do we know about plants? Vanessa reminded us that mankind's activities are currently modifying our atmosphere. However, plants have long been modifying the atmosphere. She asked us: What are the oldest plants? With the answers being; Gingko, Mosses, Stromatolites, Cycads. These examples show that plants have been in existence for a long time. Whilst man, as Homo sapiens, which, means the human that knows, has been in existence in the order of 200,000 years, and primitive primates emerged 55 million of years ago. Plants have been in existence for 100's of millions of years. During this time Gingko and mosses etc. have remained nearly the same. Here we led into the next question: Do plants have problems to solve?

A lot of plants have gone extinct. Plants have had to deal with issues, because as individuals, they are immobile, only moving as a growing colony or moved by people and animals etc.

At this point Mike Williams asked; What is the oldest plant? Vanessa's answer was: Mosses. Lichens, algae, and fungi are more recent in plant history and can exist in inhospitable areas that other species do not survive in. Lichen can produce 800 different chemicals, which, make them capable of transforming the surfaces they colonise (rocks etc.) to make them hospitable. Fungi and algae work together. Eventually these colonisers suitably transform their colonised surfaces, enabling them to become habitable to other plant forms. Some of the oldest plants still in existence are:

Wollemi Pine – 200 million years old

Cycads – 280 million years old

Gingko biloba – more than 290 million years old

Horsetail – *Equisetum* sp. 350 million years old. During the time of Dinosaurs these grew to 4m tall, creating forests. Interestingly, they contain silica.

Ferns – 360 million years old

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Plants, a new point of view continued...

Drosera purpurascens
Photo: Greg Bourke

(Continued from page 4)

Mosses – 470 million years old

We (humans), by comparison at only 200 thousand years old, are put in perspective. Like most "young people", "we think we know everything". Perhaps, we should respect our plant elders, and ask, how have they survived this long?

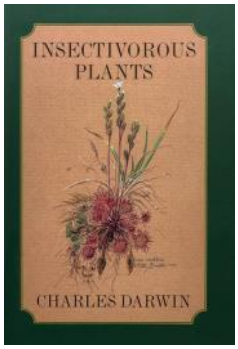
Plants have evolved and adapted, an example is Eucalypts, of which, the oldest are 52 million years old. Fossilised floral buds of Eucalypt species have been found in Patagonia. Eucalypts evolved and spread around the world as the earth's climate became hotter and drier.

Examples of plants solving problems are:

- Pyrophytic plants – plants that have adaptations to tolerate fire.
  - Fire activated seeds. For example:
    - Eucalypts and Banksia both have serotinous fruits or cones, which, have a coating of resin that needs to melt or breakdown to release seeds.
    - Shrubs and annuals that require chemical signals contained in smoke to trigger seed germination.
  - Thermal insulation - such as that provided by the thick trunks (created from dead foliage) of Grass Trees, or cork-like bark in Proteaceae.
    - Resprouting - Epicormic shoots in Eucalypts
    - Lignotubers - Herbaceous underground stems and bulbs
    - Prolific flowering and seeding after fire - e.g. Grass Trees
    - Tall crowns with no lower branches – to minimise fire climbing to the canopy
- Coping with poor fertility:
  - Carnivorous plants – A large percentage of the world's 600 plus carnivorous species can be found in Australia, with more than 250 species thriving across 90% of the continent, owing to our poor nutrient soils.
    - Carnivorous plants have modified their leaves in various ways to trap insects:
      - Drosera species, Sundews make up 50% of all documented carnivorous plant species.
      - The Albany Pitcher Plant *Cephalotus follicularis* is a rare, endangered and most sort after plant from WA
      - Red Coats *Utricularia menziesii* from the Bladderwort family, is the only carnivorous plant known to be bird pollinated.
      - The Waterwheel Plant *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, is an Australian aquatic version of the Venus Flytrap.
    - In 1875 Charles Darwin wrote a book titled "Insectivorous Plants". However, the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus, did not believe Darwin's findings, and the pair corresponded, arguing points of view, over many years. It took quite a long time for the fact that plants could consume animals to become accepted knowledge.

Utricularia menziesii
Photo: Greg Bourke

Aldrovanda vesiculosa
Photo: Greg Bourke



Images this page: https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2021/06/the-weird-world-of-australias-carnivorous-plants/#:~:text=The%20revelation%20that%20plants%20can

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Plants, a new point of view continued...

(Continued from page 5)

The next questions raised were about plant senses; do plants have senses? What ways of perception do plants have? Sight; do plants see?

Sight is defined as: "The sense that enables visual stimuli". Plants live life from light. They use a wider range of the light spectrum than we see, including UV and far-red. Plants look green, as it's the only colour that they don't reflect. They have photoreceptors, which, react to light in different ways from us. Light changes plant behaviour:

- They grow toward light – Phototropism
- Roots have negative phototropism – growing away from light.
- Shade avoidance – *Arabidopsis* plants (a genus from the Mustard Family) are and have been used by scientists in laboratories. Research has shown that the light an individual plant reflects is like a signature, which, equates to plants having spatial awareness.

Leading into showing a video by Stefano Mancuso (see link in bibliography page), which, showed young Sunflowers "playing", Vanessa referenced words of Galileo; It is not enough to watch, "we need eyes that believe what they see". The video showed shoots emerging from their seeds, reacting to light, and "practicing" moving to light as they grew. They were defined as "social plants" as they like being planted together and respond during their growth in a "playful way". Charles Darwin wrote on plant movement in his 1880 book *The Power of Movement in Plants.* Some plant movements are caused by light, and others chemical reactions etc., which, were too complex to adequately explain in the time span of Vanessa's talk.

Stylidium graminifolium Photo: Brian Walters https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/stylidium-graminifolium/

The next plant sense discussed was touch. Do plants have a sense of touch? Plants have mechanoreceptors, which, for example, trigger responses to the landing and weight of a pollinator, these can be:

- Flowers that close up after being visited by certain/specific pollinators.
- Root tip behaviour – roots explore, find & choose the easiest way through soil or growing medium.
- A climbing plant, which, waves tendrils or twines around until making contact with something it can grow up.
- *Mimosa pudica* (an introduced weed species in Australia) has compound leaves that respond to touch. Vanessa explained this plant's leaves close up when touched as a protective response to herbivore predation. Monica Gagliano (author of *Thus spoke the plant*) used this species in her 2014 research replicating and testing previous research performed in 1965. Both research programs showed that the plants developed a recognition of harmless stimuli; something being dropped on the leaves, versus harmful stimuli; browsing by herbivores.
- Another example cited was one of our native trigger plants; *Stylidium graminifolium*, where, at the touch of a specific pollinator, the anther is launched, landing and depositing pollen on the insect. 132 of 136 known species of Trigger Plants are found in Australia.

Stylidium sp. depositing pollen on a bee. Photo: Sheryl Tobin https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/stylidium-graminifolium/

Therefore, the mechanism of touch triggering movement, equates to plants having a sense of touch.

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Plants, a new point of view continued...

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Hearing is a new field of study into the world of plants; Plant Bio-acoustics seeks to explore how plants detect and react to sounds. Ultrasonic acoustic emissions are used in this research, where, the amplified sounds emitted by young corn plants were measured. Different plants have been found to emit different sounds. In experiments with companion planting, Chillies and Fennel were planted together. The Chilli was found to react "badly" when grown with Fennel. When grown separately from Fennel, the Chilli grew well. It was found that the plants recognise their neighbour plants by the sounds they emit. Every plant emits a different sound, this then, can be seen as a form of touch; via vibration. There is a video of this by Monica Gagliano available online.

Another example cited was Beach Evening Primrose, which, responds to the vibration of bee wings by producing 20% sweeter nectar within 3 seconds of the bee approaching. Why? – to reward the best pollinators and have them return. Further examples of buzz pollinators are Bumble Bees, Carpenter Bees and Sweat Bees etc. Insects and flowers evolved together, working with and adapting to each other. An extra example is chewing insects causing a vibration that triggers release of a plant's chemical defences.

Plants communicate via biochemicals, this can be interpreted as sense of smell. They emit biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), which, among other functions, also work as communication media, facilitating communication between plants, within plant communities, and between plants and insects. Communication is defined as a message sent to a receiver. Plants do this, and, with more than 3,000 available BVOC's means plants are capable of having a vocabulary greater than that of humans. Vanessa cited that as a comparison; university students have an average vocabulary of around 700 words. A number of experiments have been undertaken to test plant communication:

One experiment cited was where two plants were kept in close proximity. One of the plants was kept under drought conditions, the other plant was provided with water. The plant with water, began to employ water conserving strategies, indicating that both plants were in communication.

Wild Tobacco releases 144 different chemicals, of which, nicotine is one, nicotine is released to protect the plant. Nicotine release occurred in response to contact with saliva of insect larvae chewing on the plant's leaves.

Dodder uses a sense of "smell" to locate its host. Dodder was planted with both tomato plants and wheat. In all cases the dodder sought the tomato plants.

Plants have receptors for different chemicals. Methyl jasmonate gas was one mentioned, which, is involved in a number of plant processes. Human functions also have, and use chemical receptors, for example, in our senses of smell and taste.

As well as plants releasing chemicals into the air, chemical messages are also sent underground. Roots transmit and locate the chemicals they need and can perceive chemical gradients. Plant roots form considerable networks, as an example, the entire root system on a single Rye plant can have nearly 14 million branches, with a total length of 622km reaching a surface area of 237 m2. Charles Darwin was quoted as saying that plant roots are similar to worms and are a form of life.

Plant have more than 5 senses, some of these include the facility to sense humidity, gravity, temperature, light and length of daylight. Questions have been asked; are plants conscious and do they sleep? While plants have no central nervous system, they do have sleep rhythms; circadian rhythms. *Oxalis triangularis* was cited as example of plants that close leaves and flowers at night. Nocturnality in plants is known as nyctinasty. Sleep evolved before brains, and even simple creatures like Fruit Flies sleep. The way humans judge the world is relative to how we

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Plants, a new point of view continued...

(Continued from page 7)

perceive things. This does not mean plants and other living things do not perceive, rather, they perceive in different ways. Many people see themselves as outside of, and not part of nature. When in fact, we are animals and very much part of nature.

Intelligence is defined as "the capacity to solve problems". If so, then plants have solved many problems over their millennia. Adding further perspective, plants represent 97 percent of the biomass on earth. Cognitive behaviour has three main factors, it is; flexible and dynamic, predictive, and goal directed. These, and other inquiries into plant intelligence, communication, along with the even more complex interactions between ants and plants, orchids and pollinators are now mainstream topics in science magazines.

In closing, Vanessa encouraged us to keep an open mind, look and observe. Also sharing that she comes from a family of artists and has recently begun using her artistic talent in taking up nature journaling and running workshops, where she encourages people to slow down and observe. "Plants show us perfection every day", we can find solace in observing, and this can change the way we look at things, which, has the potential to have great impact. Vanessa promised to supply a bibliography (with links) for those who wished to explore the evening's topics further. (See pages 9-11)

The evening plant raffle came next, with the species to choose from being:

Acacia drummondii subsp. *elegans*, a WA species growing 1-2m.

Acacia drummondii subsp. *candolleana*, a WA species growing to 1-2m that is distinguished from other subspecies by pinnae consistently in 1 pair.

Acacia blakelyi, a shrub to small tree growing to 1-3m, endemic to WA.

Acacia multispicata, a WA species, which grows as a dense shrub reaching 0.4 to 2.5m.

Eremophila drummondii, a WA species with variable habit. Grows as a shrub ranging from 0.3m-3m.

The lucky winners were: Dawn, Angela, Norbert (after being prompted to check his ticket), Russell and Ray.

Lastly, as it was getting late, we had to move pretty quickly through the species brought in for the flower table:

Acacia acinacea

Acacia chinchillensis

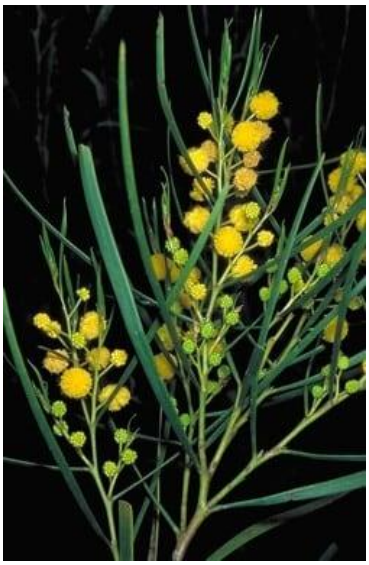
Acacia melanoxylon

Acacia pravissima 'Little Nugget' is a lower growing form that only reaches 1-2m.

Dillwynia cinerascens Grey Parrot-pea

Grevillea alpina (a form sourced from David Laurie)

Acacia drummondii subsp. *elegans*
Photo: B R Maslin
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/text/entities/acacia_drummondii_subsp._elegans.htm



Acacia blakelyi Photo: B R Maslin
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/text/entities/acacia_blakelyi.htm

Acacia multispicata
Photo: B R Maslin
https://apps.lucidcentral.org/wattle/text/entities/acacia_multispicata.htm

Eremophila drummondii
Photo: Alice Newton
https://anpsa.org.au/eremophila/eremophila-drummondii/

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Plants, a new point of view continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Grevillea rosmarinifolia – a specimen that self-seed from Grevillea 'Cherry Ripe' at 3 years old has now reached 2m wide and about 1.2m high.

Gynatrix pulchella Native Hemp

Hardenbergia violacea, a regional form, not a hybrid cultivar.

Melicytus dentatus Tree Violet

Olearia pannosa

Philotheca myoporoides

Philotheca verrucosa Bendigo Wax Flower

Spyridium parvifolium

Hakea purpurea

Kunzea jucunda

Hypocalymma angustifolium

Grevillea flexuosa

Gastrolobium sericeum black form

Acacia sessilispica

Pultenaea blakelyi

Daviesia mimosoides

Acacia viscifolia, which, was collected from the Fitzgerald River area WA.

Lasiopetalum behrii

Dodonaea species brought in by Ray, possibly either *Dodonaea boroniifolia* or *Dodonaea lobulata*.

Lysiosepalum involucratum

Chorizema varium

Prostanthera incisa mauve form and pink forms

Hakea bucculenta Red Pokers, Mike Williams said he thinks this is the best *hakea.*

Acacia leprosa 'Scarlet Blaze' originated from a single wild plant found near Murrindindi Falls. It is fortunate that it was propagated from, as the parent plant was later found cut down and killed.

Banksia polycephala

Dodonaea boroniifolia
Photo: Brian Walters
https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/dodonaea-boroniifolia/

Dodonaea lobulata Photo: http://www.plantthis.com.au/plant-information.asp?gardener=24896&tabview=design&plantSpot=0

Dodonaea sp. at September 2022 meeting Photo: J Petts

Plant Intelligence Talk bibliography supplied by Vanessa Malandrin:

Books:

Brilliant green, The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence. 2018 – Alessandra Viola and Stefano Mancuso https://www.booktopia.com.au/brilliant-green-stefano-mancuso/book/9781610917315.html

The Revolutionary Genius of Plants: A New Understanding of Plant Intelligence and Behaviour. 2018 – Stefano

(Continued on page 10)

Plants, a new point of view bibliography continued...

(Continued from page 9)

Mancuso https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35721619-the-revolutionary-genius-of-plants

Thus Spoke the Plant. A Remarkable Journey of Groundbreaking Scientific Discoveries and

Personal Encounters with Plants. 2018 - Monica Gagliano. https://www.booktopia.com.au/thus-spoke-the-plant-monica-gagliano/book/9781623172435.html

What a Plant knows. A Field Guide to the Senses. Updated and Expanded Edition, 2017. Daniel Chamovitz

https://www.booktopia.com.au/what-a-plant-knows-daniel-chamovitz/book/9780374537128.html

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries from a Secret World. 2017, by Peter Wohlleben.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/28256439-the-hidden-life-of-trees

YouTube:

Intelligence without brains. World Science Festival https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpwW9Lw2Ku4

Oxalis triangularis' leaf movements
https://plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion/movements/leafmovements/oxalis/oxalis.html

Other plant movements available under 'Nastic movements' at this link

https://plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion/movements/nastic/nastic.html

Paleobotany and Gondwana – with Costa Georgiadis and David Cantrill, Chief Botanist RBG

Victoria https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0c5h27AQMI

Modern Day Plant Hunters - with Costa Georgiadis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbOlAbC9Dg0

Websites:

In defense of plants - blog and podcast https://www.indefenseofplants.com/

Life of plants https://lifeofplants.com/

Botany one https://www.botany.one/

Plant Signalling and Behaviour Journal

https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/kpsb20 – most read articles

https://www.tandfonline.com/action/showMostReadArticles?journalCode=kpsb20

Online articles:

The intelligent plant. 2013, Michael Pollan – The New Yorker

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/12/23/the-intelligent-plant

Sleep evolved before brains

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/01/210108111055.htm

https://www.livescience.com/sleep-brain-evolution-hydra.html

Stromatolites: the Earth's oldest living lifeforms – 2021 BBC Travel

https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210117-stromatolites-the-earths-oldest-living-lifeforms

(Continued on page 11)

Plants, a new point of view bibliography continued...

(Continued from page 10)

Ancient Equisetum – 2015 In Defence of Plants https://www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2015/5/21/ancient-equisetum?rq=Ancient%20Equisetum

The weird world of Australia's carnivorous plants – 2021 Australian Geographic https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2021/06/the-weird-world-of-australias-carnivorous-plants/#:~:text=The%20revelation%20that%20plants%20can

Friday Essay: trees have many stories to tell. Is this our last chance to read them? - 2021 The Conversation https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-trees-have-many-stories-to-tell-is-this-our-last-chance-to-read-them-161428

The weird sex life of orchids. 2011, The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2011/oct/09/orchid-sex-botany-ziegler-pollan

When the going gets tough, Desert Mistletoe cooperate. 2021, In defense of plants

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Plants – insects Relationship

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Visit to Beckingsale Reserve AKA Wallan Wallan Bushland Reserve…

By Gerry Ho

Four of us turned up on a foggy morning at the Beckingsale Bushland Reserve, a forgotten piece of bushland situated on Darraweit Road about 5 km out from Wallan.

Reserve sign

Clematis microphylla

The reserve's name can vary, depending on who you consult. Google Maps calls it Wallan Wallan Bushland Reserve. The signpost (with a Parks Victoria plaque) says Beckingsale Bushland Reserve, Neither Mitchell Shire nor Parks Victoria acknowledges the reserve's existence, based on a precursory check on the Web.

I myself have admittedly overlooked this reserve for years. Despite having lived in Wallan for nearly a decade, and having driven past the site numerous times, I have only visited it this year on a whim (in fact a mere three months ago).

Open woodland

Pimelea humilis

I hadn't expected much then. Whenever I have driven past the reserve, I inevitably caught out of the corner of my eye a pyramid of dumped rubbish, shook my head, and drove on.

In August, the trash was still there — the usual smorgasbord of tyres, furniture and other evils. Steering gingerly around discarded chairs, I found a spot to park and set out to explore the reserve.

Brachychiton sp.

Drosera auriculata

What I found astounded me. The plants, sensing that winter was on the wane, were busy preparing their annual show of wildflowers. It was no waste land. It was fair dinkum bushland, however small. I decided then that the reserve deserved better.

Thus the visit on that foggy Sunday. Thankfully, the rubbish was gone.

I had scheduled three hours for the walk — something I was starting to regret as the others turned up. I had taken a walk around the reserve earlier, and I made the round within an hour at a good clip. There was going to be a lot of thumb twiddling.

There wasn't any signposted track from the car park. Heading east, we entered the reserve past a blanket of Small-leaved Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*), and almost immediately trod on a minefield of Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*), interspersed with Bulbine Lilies (*Bulbine bulbosa*). Such was the density of Chocolate Lilies in the reserve that we could barely avoid stepping on them, as we made our way through the grassy woodland.

Bossiaea prostrata

Overhead, ancient Yellow Boxes (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and Candlebarks (*E. rubida*) provided shade from the now radiant sun. In the mid-storey, a new crop of gum recruits, Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*E. radiata*), and Lightwood (*Acacia implexa*) stood in the semi-shade.

We turned westwards at the north-eastern corner, past some Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), and finally joined the track that circumscribes the reserve. Following a creek bed, we saw Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*), sundews (*Drosera auriculata*), and Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*). Interestingly, we came across what looked like Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus* subsp. *populneus*); it's anyone's guess where it originated.

(Continued on page 13)

Visit to Beckingsale Reserve AKA Wallan Wallan Bushland Reserve continued…

(Continued from page 12)

Along the way, we paused and admired the bird life — Grey Fantails, Fairy Wrens, Eastern Yellow Robin and Currawongs, and possibly a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

There were signs of animal life too. We noted deer prints and wombat scat. At the western end, we came across a recent echidna feast — a disembowelled ant nest. As I stooped down to have a look, an ant peeked meekly out of the nest, and hastily scampered down the passage when it saw me.

It was on the track back to the car park that the reserve came to life. In quick succession, we noted Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*), Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), Black's Goodenia (*Goodenia blackiana*), Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*), Tiny Star (*Pauridia glabella* var. *glabella*), Sticky Everlasting (*Xerochrysum viscosum*), Grassland Crane's-bill (*Gernanium retrosum*), Twining Fringe-Lily *(Thysanotus patersonii*), and Varnish Wattle (*A. verniciflua*).

The highlight must surely be the orchids: two that were yet to flower, which we guessed were sun orchids (*Thelymitra* spp.) and onion orchids (*Microtis* spp.). The one that was in flower made the visit special — Common Golden Moths (*Diuris chryseopsis*), which resembled cheerfully yellow B-2 Stealth Bombers winging their way across the grassland.

Saying so, there were inevitably some introduced species: Freesia (*Freesia leichtinii*), Tricolor Harlequin-flower (*Sparaxis tricolor*), broom (*Genista* spp.), and Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), among others.

The walk ended with morning tea. And I needn't have feared: we made the trip with 30 minutes to spare. All together, it has been a most entertaining morning. I am sure that all of us came away with a need to preserve this bushland for years to come. *I wish to thank Victoria Morris for identifying the birdlife.*

Kennedia prostrata

Echidna feast

Pterostylis nutans

Goodenia blackiana

Thysanotus patersonii

Diuris chryseopsis

Sparaxis & Freesia

We need to know more about the indigenous flora in Mitchell.

To conserve what we have, we first need to know what we have.

If you know of any public site with significant biodiversity (e.g. road reserves), please let us know by filling in this Google Form:

https://forms.gle/9WZ5CdEcwHZf9WUX9

Your submission will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Thank you!

Tea Time

Spring Expo & Plant Sale...

APS Mitchell

Annual Spring Expo & Plant Sale

Saturday October 15th,2022

9 am - 3 pm

Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre. 42-80 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756 (See map) Get directions to Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre ›

Parking available in front of the Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre, on Bentinck Street, and Wedding Drive.

Native Plant & Flower Displays

Gardens for Wildlife

Native Plants & Book Sales

APS Victoria - Books

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

Goldfields Revegetation Indigenous & non – indigenous tube stock

Mike's Native Nursery

Russell Wait Eremophila

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

Website www.apsmitchell.org.au

Contact aps.mitchell@gmail.com

Supported by:

Wallan & Kilmore Community Bank® branches
Bendigo Bank

Bendigo Bank, Bunnings Craigieburn & Leah Mae (Jeweller)

BUNNINGS warehouse

Reminders, A P S 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:

Bendigo Bank Wallan & Kilmore Community Branches,
Bunnings Craigieburn,
Christine Cram,
Gerry Ho,
Ian Julian,
Leah Mae,
Vanessa Malandrin,
Barbara Mau,
Norbert Ryan.

A P S 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/
Phone: 0419 878 950 or
Email: **heathcoteaps@outlook.com**

https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar

October 19 - Aps Bacchus Marsh Meeting with very special guest speaker:

SMALLER EUCALYPTS FOR GARDENS
Talk by Dean Nicolle, Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia
Where: At Botanica Springs Community Centre, 249 Clarkes Rd, Brookfield VIC 3338
When: Wednesday 19th October, 7.45pm, (doors open from 7.00pm)
Visitors welcome
Please advise if you are coming, to ensure adequate catering for supper, and in case we need to limit numbers. To RSVP or form more information:
Phone: 0417 289 369 or email: **apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com**

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

(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
Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President:	Norbert Ryan	0428 180 651
Vice President:	Dawn McCormack	
Secretary:	Ian Julian	0438 270 248
Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au		
Treasurer/Memberships:	Christine Cram	0458 238 270
Committee:	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 Ho	
Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au		

Newsletter contributions:
Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts
Email: **wattlegum@southernphone.com.au**
Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

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

Local Nurseries open for business ...

Please remember to support our local native nurseries...

Valley of 1000 Hills Nursery (David & Helen Laurie) Supplying indigenous tubes stocks.
150 Reid Rd, Reedy Creek.
Open Saturdays 10am to 5pm.
Phone: 03 5784 9286

Ironstone Park (Peter & Joan Broughton) Specialising in rare, unusual & hard to find native plants.
Lot 33 Paling Rd, Heathcote.
Open by appointment: The garden is looking fabulous with many unusual natives worth looking at. Call Pete on 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

Diary Dates & Other Events continued…

(Continued from page 15)

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

November 12-13 - Garden DesignFest Metro Melbourne and Mornington Peninsula. Organised by various Rotary Clubs. Gardens open 10am-5pm daily. Details at: https://gardendesignfest.com.au/

November 19-20 - Garden DesignFest Regional Victoria. Gardens open 10am-5pm daily. Details at: https://gardendesignfest.com.au/

November 26 - APS Vic COM meeting and quarterly meeting. Hosted by APS Keilor Plains Group at the Iramoo Grasslands Centre and Reserve. McKechnie St, St Albans.

Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar

15th - 16th 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 8th – 16th October at Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Registrations now open:

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

fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

Hosted by: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

Nurseries further afield...

Edendale Indigenous Nursery: Located in the Edendale Community Environment Farm at 30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095. Open 10am to 4.30pm weekdays and weekends. Phone:9433 3703
Email: Nursery.edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Website: https://www.edendale.vic.gov.au/Nursery

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary & Indigenous Nursery: Located on the La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) campus. Access is via La Trobe Ave (near the roundabout on Main Drive). Open: Sunday to Friday, 10am-3pm (some public holidays may affect opening hours). Ph: (03) 9479 1206
Email: wildlife@latrobe.edu.au
Website: https://www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife/indigenous-plant-nursery

Euroa Arboretum: Located at 76 Euroa Main Road. Their retail nursery Opens Monday & Thursday 12-5pm. April to October each year. (Note that the nursery closes November to March.) A plant catalogue & further information is available on line at: http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/ & http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-nursery/

Goldfields Revegetation: Located at 230 Tannery Lane,
Mandurang Vic 3551.
Open 7 Days a Week 9am to 5pm. Ph:(03) 5439 5384
Email: info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au Website: http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/index.asp

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764
Website: 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** ☐

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

(Please tick whichever applies)

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

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

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

Signed:	Date: / /

Neutrog Newsletter APS Vic and Neutrog (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 sent 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**

☐ 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 3rd 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

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.

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MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.
COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan

(Continued from page 18)

3.3 Return to facilities

3.3.1 Physical distancing measures

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

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

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

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

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

Cleanliness

Cleaning arrangements for the building are to be documented.

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

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

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

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

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Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.
COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan

(Continued from page 19)

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

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

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

3.7 Legal Sources of policy

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

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

Before activity

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

The following available:

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

(Continued on page 21)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.
COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan

(Continued from page 20)

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

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

During activity

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

After activity

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

Plan completed by:

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