



NEWSLETTER

Dillwynia sericea

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria 3764

Inc# A0054306V

April news...!

Hello, and welcome to our April edition!

First up a big thank you to all our members who came along and contributed at the March Members Forum Meeting. As a direct result of the support, discussion and feedback provided, a number of vital group decisions and changes have been able to be facilitated. Due to the date our April meeting falling on Easter Monday this year, our April 2017 Monday evening meeting has been exchanged for an afternoon Garden Visit on Sunday April 23rd - for details see right and page 2.

We have also had a re-shuffle of committee positions and roles, full details can be found in the March meeting report starting on page 3.

Information on other group ideas, activities, upcoming guests speakers and suggested guest speaker topics, can also be found in the March meeting report.



Brachyscome basaltica - Basalt Daisy

Photo: J Petts

Our May edition will be issued on or close to the second Monday (May 8th).

Contributions both large and small are always enthusiastically welcomed and should be sent in by Monday May 1st. Email contributions to:

wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Many thanks, cheers to all and hope to see you at a meeting or group activity soon,

Jeanine :-)

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Expressions of interest for May Neutrog Presentation...

A Neutrog representative will be coming along to our May meeting (7:30pm Monday May 15th). As well as providing a presentation on fertilisers, including Neutrog's new products, the representative will also be bringing **free product samples for all attendees**.

To make sure there will be enough sample packs available to all attendees, we are asking for expressions of interest or RSVP for this meeting.

Please RSVP by Monday May 8th to Ian Julian:

Ph: 0438 270 248 Email: ianjulian@bigpond.com.au

April 2017

Volume 4, Issue 3

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO EASTER OUR REGULAR 3rd MONDAY EVENING MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL IS CANCELLED**
The following Garden visit has been scheduled as replacement:
- **SUNDAY APRIL 23rd 2pm GARDEN VISIT to the Garden of: Dawn McCormack 17 Messmate Avenue Heathcote Junction**
Please bring afternoon tea to share
- **MONDAY MAY 15th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker: **NEUTROG, Fertiliser & new product information**
- **MONDAY JUNE 19th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker: **Rob Bender - Batology: Bats, Flying Foxes & Sugar Gliders in relation to native vegetation & conservation**
- **SUNDAY AUGUST 27th: Wild Flower Hunt with Echuca Moama APS**
Details to be advised
- **OCTOBER 14th APS MITCHELL PLANT EXPO**
Kilmore Memorial Hall 14 Sydney St, Kilmore 9 am - 3 pm



Propagating Bed free to new home...

As it has been quite some time since I have had time available for plant propagation, I am offering our Propagating Bed free to anyone who can make use of it and would like have it.

It is a Melbourne made unit purchased second hand around 25 years ago. The heat thermostat and automatic misting were in working order the last time it was used. However, a little TLC in the form of replacement timber slats for the base of the tray will be needed, but this should be a straight forward job for anyone with DIY woodworking skills.

If interested please contact Jeanine for further details:

Ph: 0409 029 603

Email: wattle gum@southernphone.com.au



**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,
Sidney Street, Kilmore Vic
3764**

Entry \$2.00 Gold Coin

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

Fertilizer Sales

**(APS Mitchell Slow Release
fertiliser \$5.00 per 500g)**

**Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library (See Pauline)**

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

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

Please label plants



April Meeting: Sunday the 23rd 2 pm...

By Jeanine Petts

Due to the 3rd Monday of April falling on Easter Monday there will be no Monday Evening Meeting this month.

Instead of a Monday evening meeting Dawn McCormack is kindly offering a visit to her garden:

Date: Sunday April 23rd

Time: Commencing at 2pm

Where: 17 Messmate Avenue, Heathcote Junction

Bring: Afternoon tea to share

Members will have the opportunity to explore and learn about Dawn's garden then socialise over a shared afternoon tea.

Feel free to BYO something to drink along with afternoon tea.



Foreground:
Scaevola aemula
Fairy Fan-flower
(at Pyalong)
Photo: J Petts

Memberships...

For membership enquiries, information and forms and please contact Christine Cram

Ph: 5793 8270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at:

aps.mitchell@gmail.com

Alternatively, membership information and forms can be found at the APS Mitchell website:

<http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

March Meeting Report... Members Forum

By Jeanine Petts

Our second meeting back in the John Taylor Room brought out 14 members happy to contribute to decision making for the group, where as a group we want to head and generally have their say.

Ian opened the meeting, warmly welcoming and thanking everyone for coming along. The first and key point of discussion was the need for the group to find a new secretary. Ian reiterated some of what Mike Williams had to say at our AGM meeting, advising that without a committee secretary the group cannot legally operate. With that in mind Ian offered to stand down as president and volunteered to take over the role of secretary, asking if there was someone who would be prepared to take on the role of president, even if they took on the role in name only as a contact person and signatory, Ian would continue to provide support to the incoming president. Dawn McCormack volunteered to take on the presidency with Ian's support, so formal nominations were made, motions put to the meeting to accept Ian standing down as current president and becoming group secretary with Dawn moving into the role president (with Ian's support) for the remainder of our 2017 year. Both nominations and motions were unanimously carried with Dawn and Ian being welcomed into their new roles.

The next topics of discussion were, guest speakers, topics for the rest of the year and that our next scheduled April meeting would fall on Easter Monday. Guest speakers that have been organised for the coming months are:

- May – A representative from Neutrog will be speaking on fertilisers, including their new products, and will also be bringing along free samples for members attending on the evening. We need as many members to come along for this meeting as possible and also need expressions of interest for attendance. This is so the Neutrog representative can be adequately prepared to bring along an appropriate number of free sample pack selections for every attendee.
- June – Rob Bender (President of the Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park) will be presenting a talk on “Batology” covering Bats, Flying Foxes and Sugar Gliders in relation to native vegetation and conservation.
- August – As advised in our March newsletter, we will exchange our third Monday evening meeting for a field trip and join APS Echuca Moama Group for the Rushworth Wild Flower Hunt on Sunday August 27th.

Other potential guest speakers Ian has been communicating with are 2 local speakers:

- Pat Kenyon, who will hopefully be available to talk on conservation and tree hollows.
- The Taungurung Clan, our local registered Aboriginal Partly, who will have a wealth of knowledge to share about our local region.

Discussion moved on to what options might be available regarding the April meeting falling on Easter Monday. General suggestions from members were to cancel the Monday April meeting. When the suggestion of a Garden Visit perhaps on the following weekend was made, Dawn once again volunteered and arrangements were made for a visit to her Heathcote Junction garden on Sunday April 23rd at 2pm. (Full details on page 2).

The evening continued to be very productive and a good number of other topics were covered:

- APS Mitchell Group Library: Pauline Maloney has kindly volunteered to take over from Barbara Mau.
- We still need a few more people to contribute photos, articles or any information of interest for the monthly newsletter.
- There is a possibility of a group walk out at Steve Sinclair's property (on Three Chain Road near Mt Piper) in September.
- The 2017 Annual Spring Expo Flower Show & Plant Sale: Brian advised John Forester is retiring and Steve & Debbie Fowles may have difficulty getting plants to us to sell due to other regular commitments. It was also noted that Neil's Plants was a well liked new stall holder and Ian will be following up with all the growers in the near future. Also the next committee meeting will be focusing on Spring Expo preparation.
- APS Bacchus Marsh Group Autumn Plant Sale is on May 6th.

Other ideas for group activities and guest speakers discussed were:

- Lorraine reminded everyone about a visit to the Melton Botanic Gardens and Bill recommended spring as the time when the gardens look their best. The Melton Botanic Gardens Friends Group runs tours and Dianne suggested if a visit could be timed with their Spring Plant Sale this would be ideal.
- Inviting David Laurie as a guest speaker was suggested: Ian advised that David currently isn't doing many talks but Ian will

(Continued on page 4)

March Meeting Report - Members Forum continued...

(Continued from page 3)

still check with David.

- Norbert suggested that the group could develop a flyer suitable as handout at markets etc. This could include a list of recommended native plant species suitable for gardens in the Mitchell Shire region.
- The possible project of APS Mitchell assisting with the establishment of a native plant garden bed at the Kilmore Hospital could only be briefly discussed as Janis was not available to provide an update. However, this project is likely not to need too many plants and only a bit of mulch, maybe also some signage. It was also recollected that Mike Williams and Barbara Mau had mentioned the possibility of donating some plants for this project at the November AGM.
- Now that the Executive Committee positions have been resolved for the year we can go ahead with confirming signatories and completing transfer of APS Mitchell's banker over to the Bendigo Bank. This will enable us to apply for community grants to assist with our Spring Expo. Investigating the cost of advertising the Spring Expo on the notice boards at each end of Kilmore was also mentioned.

With general discussion on group matters concluding Ian asked if any members had information to share about a particular native plant or garden project. Yours truly was the only one with a project to share and I provided the following short presentation:

One of the plants currently in my garden is the Rounded Noon-flower – *Disphyma crassifolium ssp clavellatum*. Planted from tube stock a few years ago now (sourced from Goldfields Revegetation Nursery), it has turned out to be a very successful plant. In fact it has become a little too successful where I originally planted it in our courtyard garden, that it is now literally taking over. So much so, that one of my current projects is to transfer all of it from where it currently is, to a more suitable site right along one side of our driveway garden, (a strip about 4 meters wide and 70ish meters long). My plan is to create a living mulch throughout this section of the garden. The plant is a quickly spreading ground cover which propagates and roots easily from nodules along the stems, and it's thick succulent, moisture holding leaves make it ideally suited for use as what I hope will be, a reduced flammability living mulch. It also has the benefit of bright pink flowers over spring and summer (providing there is enough sunshine) and will suppress weeds once established. I brought along a bag full of stems for sharing and if anyone missed out and would like some, please feel free to contact me as I can currently still provide it by the bag full. A brief plant bio follows:

***Disphyma crassifolium ssp clavellatum* – Rounded Noon-flower**

Pronunciation:

dis-FY-muh krass-ih-FOH-lee-um klah-vel-LAH-tum

Meaning of names:

Disphyma: Two-nodule, *crassifolium*: Thick foliage (leaves), *clavellatum*: Little club

This prostrate spreading perennial plant which roots at nodes and will reach least a 1-2 meters grows best in full sun and suits most soils. It is hardy tolerating both saline conditions, frost and drought. The leaves are shiny, cylindrical, succulent and varying in colour from green to purple sometimes tinged yellowish or red. Pretty daisy like pink-magenta flowers occur October – February. Horticultural uses include seaside plantings and soil erosion on embankments. It also is a traditional food plant the foliage of which was eaten raw.



Photos: J Petts

Plant Bio: *Acacia lasiocalyx*...

By Jeanine Petts

Acacia lasiocalyx

Family: Fabaceae (the pea family)

Pronunciation: *Acacia*: a-KAY-see-uh or uh-KAY-shuh *lasiocalyx*: las-ee-oh-KAL-iks

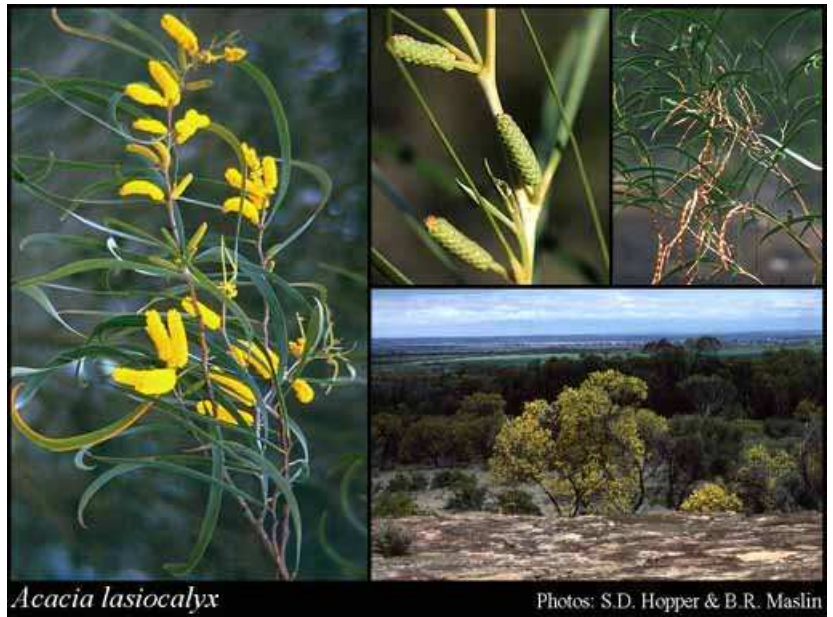
Derivation of name: *Acacia*: Thorny, spiny *lasiocalyx*: woolly calyx

Common Name: Shaggy Wattle or Wilyurwur

Acacia lasiocalyx is a small, often weeping tree or shrub native to the Wheatbelt, Goldfields-Esperance and Great Southern regions of WA, and is commonly found on granite hills and outcrops.

Growing to a height of 1.5–7m, it produces yellow flower spikes from July to October and has phyllodes which gently curve and grow to 25cm.

Fast growing in the garden and can be useful as an informal screen. Tolerating full sun, dry to moist soils, extended dry periods and light frost. Propagation is from seed for which hot water treatment recommended.



Acacia lasiocalyx

Photos: S.D. Hopper & B.R. Maslin

Acacia lasiocalyx - Shaggy Wattle, Wilyurwur

Image: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/3408>

Reference:

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

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/3408>

<http://www.winternet.com/~chuckg/dictionary/dictionary.110.html>

<http://www.nindethana.net.au/Product-Detail.aspx?p=170>

<http://westgrow.com.au/product/acacia-lasiocalyx/>

<http://www.plantthis.com.au/plant-information.asp?gardener=7658>

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

- For the various contributions of articles, answering pesky questions, event information, photo's, feedback, proof-reading, researching & providing other information as needed and general support...

A BIG THANK YOU TO:
Christine Cram,
Ian Julian,
Jill Lulham,
Barbara Mau,
Paul Piko,
Steve Sinclair

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

April 22 - APS Geelong Plant Sale. 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. 8:30am - 5:30pm.

May 6 - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, Uniting Church Car Park, Bacchus Marsh (Melways 333 J6). 9am - 1pm. Featuring Hakeas with many unusual species. A full list is available approx. one month prior to sale and pre-orders can be sent to the secretary, apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com

June 11-22 - ANPSA 12-Day Natural History Kimberly Camping Tour. From Kununurra to Broome.

Contact Nicky Zanen (email nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.au or phone 0401 975 191) for details.

July 22 & 23 - Friends of the RBGV Cranbourne Gardens, Winter Plant Sale. 10am - 4pm (Melways 133 K10)

September 2 - APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick. 9am - 4pm.

September 2 & 3 - September Bendigo Native Plants Group Flower Show, Rotary Gateway Park, 26 High St, Kangaroo Flat.

September 9 & 10 - Yarra Yarra Group Australian Plants

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

October 7 & 8 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9:30am - 5pm.

October 14 & 15 - Friends of the RBGV Cranbourne Gardens, Spring Plant Sale. 10am - 4pm (Melways 133 K10)

January 12-20 2018 - ANPSA 2018 Conference, Hobart. Pre- and post- conference tours to King Island and Tasmanian Alpine areas.

Ph: 03 5383 6200 Email: royce@wartookgardens.com.au

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Committee & Contact Information

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Committee Members

President: Dawn McCormack
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248
Treasurer/Memberships:
Christine Cram 5793 8270
Committee: Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney, Jeanine Petts, Norbert Ryan.
Group Librarian: Pauline Maloney
Plant Sales: Brian & Lorraine Weir 5783 2912
Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434

Link to further information on Silver Banksia...

Paul Piko has sent in the following link to some further information on Silver Banksia:

<https://victorianvolcanicplainscmn.wordpress.com/2017/03/20/banksia-workshop-presentations-now-available/>

A Banksia Workshop was held on February 24th 2017 at Lake Bolac where presentations were given by: Adam Miller, Steve Sinclair, Simon Heyes, Will Ford and Cathy Olive.

Notes from these presentations along with a Banksia collection protocol and subscription form to the Friends of Forgotten Woodlands has been loaded on the [VVPCMN blog](#) which can be accessed via the above mentioned link.

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.

A P S Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events continued...

APS Yarra Yarra Group are having their regular Autumn Native Plant Sale on Saturday 29th April, 10am-4pm, at the Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham. Tube stock to advanced plants, indigenous and grafted stock too.

Ph: 9439 7228 or Email: apsyarrayarra@gmail.com.



Native Plant Sale

**Sat 29th April 2017
10am — 4pm**

**Senior Citizens Centre
903 Main Rd, Eltham**

Huge range of native & indigenous plants
including short & tall grafts
LaTrobe Wildlife Sanctuary Nursery -
Member growers - Natural Plantscapes
- Phillip Vaughan - also plants from SunValley &
Narkabundah

Organised by Australian Plants Society
Yarra Yarra Group Inc.
