



Dillwynia sericea

NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Inc# A0054306V

July news...!

Hello, and welcome to our midwinter 2018 edition!

We have made it past the shortest day and I for one always look forward to each lengthening day and the return of warmer weather.

Our Gardens for Wildlife launch went very well and you will find my report from page 3. I can't speak for anyone else, but I certainly found inspiration in Louise Costa's talk. As you can see in the photo at right, I have already located a spot for my G4W sign. I also found myself drawing up new plans for future garden beds, and will be following much of Louise's advice.

Of special note this month is that we will not be holding evening meetings during July and August. Instead, we will be supporting a National Tree Day activity in Kilmore on July 29th (details on page 2), and hopefully organizing an excursion to Melton Botanic Gardens for August (details to be advised in the next newsletter).

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday August 13th.

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Photo: J Petts

As always, contributions to our newsletter both large and small are enthusiastically welcomed. Extra plant photos are especially helpful.

Please send your contributions in by Monday August 6th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening, hope to see you out & about over the next couple of months.

Cheers until next time! Jeanine 😊

Gardens for Wildlife to visit Wallan Market in July...

Dawn and Norbert will be taking our Gardens for Wildlife starter packs for their first field trip into the wider world on Saturday July 14th.

A stand will be set up from 9am to 1pm at the Wallan Market in Hadfield Park providing the market is not cancelled due to inclement weather.

If you have some time free on Saturday the 14th, why not head on out and say hello to Dawn and Norbert. If you haven't signed up to Gardens for Wildlife yet and would like to, there will be membership forms and plant packs on hand.

July 2018

Volume 5, Issue 6

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE: THERE IS NO EVENING MEETING FOR JULY:** See excursion information below & full details on page 2
- **JULY MEETING - EXCURSION: Sunday July 29th National Tree Day Volunteer Planting Activity with Mitchell Shire at Kilmore: 10am-12pm**
- **AUGUST MEETING- EXCURSION: Melton Botanic Garden - To Be Confirmed Date to be advised**
- **MONDAY SEPT 17th, 7:30pm MEETING Guest Speaker to be advised**
- **MONDAY OCT 15th 7:30pm MEETING Guest Speaker to be advised**
- **SATURDAY OCT 20th, 9am -3pm APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore**
- **MONDAY NOV 19th, 7:30pm MEETING & AGM. Guest Speaker to be advised**

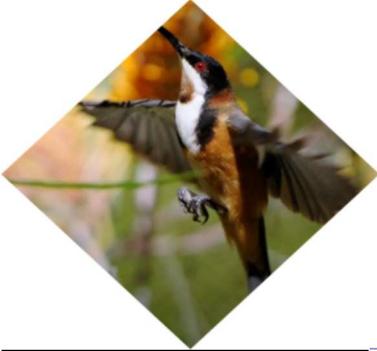


Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss

Gardens for Wildlife is a program that encourages people to provide habitat for native animals. We are all aware that native habitat has been greatly reduced and fragmented. Sympathetically planting a part of your garden can help to provide food and shelter for some of our native insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. There are many benefits to this – not least the pleasure of seeing native animals in our gardens.

The successful launch of the Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) scheme in Mitchell shire on June 23 resulted in 14 memberships to the scheme. We have developed a page on the APS Mitchell website, and are in the early stages of adding resources to the G4W page: <https://www.apsmitchell.org.au/gardens-for-wildlife/>. Your suggestions are welcome – please contact the coordinator (Barbara) via g4w@apsmitchell.org.au



If you are interested in becoming a member – please contact the Barbara via g4w@apsmitchell.org.au. The fee is \$20 and you receive a selection of local plants, a sign for your front fence plus a number of helpful booklets. The membership form can be found here: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/wp-content/uploads/G4W-brochure-APS-final.pdf>

**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

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



July Meeting: Sunday 23rd 10:00am...

For our July gathering we will be heading outdoors to support a very worthwhile and fitting cause, by joining in with a local National Tree Day planting event in Kilmore, that has been organised by Mitchell Shire Council.

Please note: Our participation in this event is in place of our usual 3rd Monday of the month evening meeting: There will be no evening Meeting for the month of July.

Sunday, 29 July 2018 10:00am to 12:00pm

Aims of the project: To increase biodiversity at the site for native fauna by planting a mass of understory plants under the existing trees. All volunteers are welcome. Please RSVP your attendance (see below).

Site Address: 39 Viewhill Road Kilmore Vic 3764

Nearest Cross Street: Grassy Street

Directions: Council reserve corner of Viewhill Road and Grassy Street Kilmore.

Suitable for Children: Yes

Accessible for disabled: Yes

Notes about the day for Volunteers: Please bring your own water bottle, gloves, hand trowel and wear appropriate clothing for planting.

It would be fantastic if we could see as many APS Mitchell members as possible turn out to support this project. **Please RSVP to: Norbert 0428 180 651**

If you are attending: Please remember to see Jeanine on the day & sign our attendance book.



Memberships ...

Membership renewal fees fell due on July 1st. APS Victoria have increased fees this year, with an added option to include a national Australian Plants magazine subscription. Our 2018/2019 membership/renewal form can be found on the back page. **Please renew ASAP!**

For enquires and further information please contact Christine Cram: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at: mitchell@apsvic.org.au or visit our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

June Meeting Report...Gardens for Wildlife Launch

By Jeanine Petts

Our June daytime meeting, the Garden's for Wildlife launch, saw almost 40 people turn out for the event, and Barbara Moss was kept very busy providing G4W starter boxes both before and after the meeting.

Shortly after 1:00pm Norbert called the gathering to order and began by welcoming everyone and acknowledging we were meeting on the traditional lands of the Taungurung. A special welcome and thank you was extended to guests and participants who had travelled quite a way to attend: Visitors from Bears Lagoon (near Kerang), Lou & Les Costa travelling from Rushworth, and thank you also to the Mitchell Shire Mayor: Cr Rhonda Sanderson for attending and Cr Rob Eldridge for sending an apology. The presence and interest of Council representatives shows how well our local council supports environmental projects. The population of our shire is growing rapidly, often with people relocating from the city or suburbs. It is hoped our Gardens for Wildlife scheme will help to educate and provide new gardeners in the region with more wildlife and environmentally friendly alternatives to plants such as Bamboo, Conifer, Diosma and Box Hedge etc. Norbert also advised that as part of our ongoing program, he and Dawn McCormack would be attending the Wallan Market with Gardens for Wildlife starter packs on Saturday July 14th. Norbert went on to remind us that there are native plants still flowering through winter, and if you plant natives the birds and insects will come. Launching Gardens for Wildlife with APS Mitchell has been driven by Ian Julian and Barbara Moss. Norbert invited Barbara to the floor to introduce Gardens for Wildlife and our guest speaker...

Barbara explained that Euroa Arboretum initiated Gardens for Wildlife in the Goulburn Broken region. Beginning from early discussions between Ian Julian and Cathy Olive, the program is spreading further and is now officially launched in the Mitchell Shire. Here in Mitchell Shire, APS Mitchell Group is responsible for delivering the program, with support from Euroa Arboretum, Mitchell Shire Council and SWG Landcare. It is a simple scheme to help provide incentive, inspiration and information to aid gardeners in creating wildlife friendly gardens. Our starter packs come in a wooden box with 4 plants, along with helpful booklets and a sign for your letterbox (or gate, fence, etc.). Continuing on with the program for the day, Barbara invited our guest speaker, Louise Costa to share her story of gardening in Rushworth titled **"Falling in love with the bush"** -

Louise began by admitting that she loves speaking to like-minded people and thanked us for the opportunity to visit. Louise gained her qualifications in Landscape Architecture at RMIT and her husband Les, is her "tech assistant and inspiration".

Some time back, there was a program called Land for Wildlife, and a Garden for Wildlife can be a microcosm habitat. Louise did have a great many photographs detailing the development of her garden that had been taken over the last 13 years. Unfortunately, these were recently lost in a computer failure. However, thanks to Facebook, Louise has been able to salvage a good number of images that are now included in the presentation.

Some background to the Rushworth region is that the natural Goulburn Valley landscape is fairly depleted, with only 1% of remnant vegetation remaining, and most of that is along rivers. Louise's property is bordered by the Rushworth State Forest in an area where you could be "farming rocks". The harsh growing environment has been created by land clearing, and the topsoil of the area stripped during the gold rush. What natural vegetation that is there, is mostly regrowth. Never the less, Louise has fallen in love with the bush and Rushworth, in the beauty of the black, gold and green that is the forest at her backyard in spring time. Louise doesn't know what the landscape was like prior to mining activity, but suspects it was most likely Mallee. Currently, the predominant regrowth is Ironbark, with an understorey of Gold Dust Wattle, *Dianella* and *Xanthorrhoea*. Louise feels that with Grass Trees in the landscape she doesn't feel alone, it is like people



Rushworth - Ironbark, Gold Dust Wattle & *Lomandra* Photo: Louise Costa



Xanthorrhoea
Photo: Louise Costa

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June Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

are with you. Also in the bush, is lichen and moss, and Louise advocates their use in a garden- lichen can make a great natural lawn. With only 5mm of rain, lichen will swell and green up and needs no maintenance, it will go dry and crunchy in summer, yet quickly revive when rains come. Among bushland plants local to Rushworth are: *Dianella revoluta*, *Calytrix*, *Baekea ramosissima* (Rosy Baekea), *Hibbertia*, Grey Everlasting *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, *Brachyscome*, Red-anther Wallaby-grass, *Micromyrtus*, *Glossodia* Wax-lip Orchids and *Eucalyptus Tricarpa*.

Gardening in a marginal landscape

Louise moved in to the Rushworth property in summer, during the middle of a 10 year drought. The existing house was built in 1963; the land had been cleared, over farmed, and the ground surface consisted mainly of stony gravel that was made up of Ironstone (which will stick to a magnet). Roadside trees remained intact and were very important to look after. Cape Weed was also very well established on the property, cape Weed grows in full sun and colonises disturbed sites. Friends and colleagues shared their opinion that it was "mad to garden there".

Transforming the biggest room in the house

There was basically no soil to plant into and planting holes for tube-stock had to be dug with a crow-bar. It was dry and dusty in summer, and a critical step needed was to create soil. A monoculture plantation of Blue Mallee used for producing Eucalyptus oil was nearby, and one of the by-products: Eucalyptus mulch, was put into use. Truck loads of mulch were brought in and laid out to stop the dust, and assisted in garden design and layout. Drawing up even just a rough plan of a garden and desired elements is a valuable tool that can aid in guiding development stages and planting.

After the mulch was laid out, ants and lizards started coming into the beginning garden and brought Salt Bush berries along with them, Currawongs also added to the deposits in their droppings. It wasn't long before Salt Bush started coming up naturally, both an *Atriplex* species and Ruby Salt Bush *Enchylaena tomentosa*. Louise also collected seed from local Sticky Everlastings and scattered them around the garden. Green Mallee and Red Box that had been grown from collected seed were introduced to the garden very early on as well.

By the 2 year point, rabbits had yet to find the garden, and the site was still an exposed garden of understorey plants including the self-seeded Salt Bush, *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, Wattles, Sticky Everlastings and no lawn, but with Salt Bush and Lichen instead. The Salt Bush worked well as a ground cover as it stays green all year round. Red Box seedlings were among the very first plantings as it was important to get what would eventually become the canopy growing as soon as possible.

13 years on and the Green Mallee, Blue Mallee and Red Box now provide some shelter and a shade canopy. There is ongoing Salt Bush regeneration occurring naturally, and the Daisies now move themselves to sunnier sites. The combination of shade canopy and year-round green of the Salt Bush



Lichen & Lomandra

Photo: Louise Costa



Well established Cape Weed around house

Photo: Louise Costa



Garden design drawing

Photo: Louise Costa



Garden at 2 years, understorey plants

Photo: Louise Costa

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June Meeting Report continued...

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under the trees provides a luxuriant look to the garden.

Louise likes "garden rooms", they make a garden more exciting to explore and create different spaces for different times of the day or year. A garden should be an evolutionary process. The kitchen garden is the one area of the garden that has a fence to exclude rabbits and kangaroos, with the gate kept closed all the time. Other than the kitchen garden and fruiting orchard, Louise has challenged herself to grow a beautiful garden using all endemic plants found naturally within a 20km radius. The garden doesn't have more traditional "showy" plants, and Louise has been happy to embrace a mostly green garden. They have observed that birds are attracted to the Mallee's - *Eucalyptus viridis* Green Mallee and *Eucalyptus polybractea* Blue Mallee. When they are in flower the birds swarm into the trees like insects, and it is just beautiful to watch.

For Louise and Les, a very important design element in their garden is recycling: Making waste matter and making use of what other people throw out. Two of their favourite places to shop for the garden are the local tip and Euroa Arboretum. Louise and Les have become so well known for recycling that other locals now ask them if they'll be interested in an item first, before throwing something out.

Louise asked: Where is away? And the short answer is that there is no such place as away! Getting creative with recycling is a way to find lots of cool stuff to make things from and for little cost. Examples from Louise's garden were, window sash weights used to make a sculptural screen, a sculpture of a Ute made from 44 Gallon drums, tins used to fill mesh gabion boxes, and a pergola made from telegraph poles, old steel bed springs, and mesh. The important thing to remember is having enough of one thing to be able to make an impact. That being said, Louise and Les are careful to be selective about what is kept and not to store too much junk. Paving with broken and half bricks that are often given away is another low-cost way to create paths and other hard paved areas. Louise and Les also incorporate broken concrete pieces into paving designs. A top tip: get in good with your local tip staff and a lot of opportunities can come your way.

When traveling, Louise has also found inspiration in what other people have done. One discovery was high, raised, circular garden beds in Canberra, which, turned out to be made of stacked newspaper. The papers had been stacked, packed tight and possibly even staked, and with weathering, the outer surface had ended up looking reminiscent paperbark.

One of the challenges mentioned previously was Cape Weed. The property had been agisted to cattle, and the cattle were only eating the native grasses and none of the cape weed. Once the cattle were taken off, the native grasses began to out compete the cape weed, and the problem has largely resolved.

A productive garden – Building soil from dust

One dream was to become partly self-sufficient, and the first step taken in this direction was building



Garden view, Sticky Everlasting in foreground
Photo: Louise Costa



Garden view, paving & pergola
Photo: Louise Costa



Window sash weight screen
Photo: Louise Costa



Circular raised garden beds at Canberra
Photo: Louise Costa

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a compost heap. A group of bays for collecting scraps, manure & other organic matter was put together, which was sited near the veggie patch. Which, in turn, was sited near the house. A chook house was also included as these three elements are all best kept together.

Another existing structure on the property was an old terraced piggery with concrete floors that had been built in the 1970's. When work began on converting the old piggery to a more useful purpose, 1000's of old, intact, 70's long neck beer bottles were found underneath the concrete floor. Not wanting to waste a valuable resource, Louise and Les salvaged many of the bottles as best they could, while the excavator was working. These bottles have ended up being used as garden edging in the veggie garden. It may seem unusual, but this is actually quite an old practice that was used in the past. The bottles are half buried, neck down and do provide some insulation.

A fruit orchard has also been established, and this now supplies all the fruit for Louise and Les for all but 2 months of the year. Fruit fly has come into the Rushworth region and has ruined many surrounding fruit gardens, but Louise and Les have invested in special, very fine, fruit fly netting to cover their whole orchard. The netting came from Queensland, cost "a bomb", but has been worth the investment. Where fruit fly is concerned prevention is much easier as eradication is very, very difficult. An added bonus of the netting, is that birds don't become trapped in it.

Sharing the sanctuary

When Louise first came to the property the existing buildings were the run down, 1963 built house and a shearing shed. The house was in such a condition that Louise's initial plan was to eventually demolish the house to rebuild, and to remodel the shearing shed as a cottage. The first building work tackled was remodelling the shearing shed. During this time, Louise more or less camped in the rooms of the cottage as they were developed. This soon to be guest house was constructed from recycled materials, some of which, such as floorboards, were taken from the old house, and other parts of the shearing shed were transformed into bench and shelving for the cottage kitchen.

The cottage has since been named King Billy Guesthouse after a local tribal man, who was the last of his clan and is buried at Murchison. The Guest house is now made available for accommodation and the gardens are also made available as venue hire for weddings and parties etc. Garden tours are also run at the property.

A biodiversity plan covers the area, which, is about protecting biodiversity on private land, as are Trust for Nature Covenants. Part of biodiversity management on the property is maintaining and leaving litter, twigs and logs on the ground and also protecting the roadside. To compliment this, a shuttle bus is sometimes hired when the gardens are in use for functions. This helps minimise parking, protects the garden and roadside, as well as adding an element of "a mystery tour" to these events.



Veggie garden view including chook house
Photo: Louise Costa



Gabion arch filled with cans
Photo: Louise Costa



Kitchen shelving from recycled shearing shed materials
Photo: Louise Costa



Wedding in progress
Photo: Louise Costa

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June Meeting Report continued...

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Creating habitat for all creatures

Louise has been mindful in creating spaces where animals, plants, insects, frogs, lizards and humans all have a safe place to live. A "once in a lifetime" find on their property has been a Woodland Blind Snake. These rarely seen creatures are nocturnal, feed on termites and live among the ground litter (sticks, leaves, branches etc.). Legless lizards can be identified from snakes by their ear holes. Other creatures that Louise and Les share habitat with are: Pardalotes (nesting under a veranda), Peron's Tree Frog, Bearded Dragons and Blue Tongue Lizards.

Habitat is also not just about the larger animals. Louise had considered filling in various nail holes in timbers used around the garden, but has left them since discovering that almost every hole has a creature in residence. Diverse life forms exist in our woodland and Louise uses a macro lens camera to take photos of insects, finding great character in their faces and has captured images of some truly varied and interesting creatures including, grass hoppers and spiders.

As mentioned previously, leaving woody debris is a vital ingredient in an ecosystem. While surrounding neighbours rake their paddocks and burn debris, Louise and Les actively collect, throw and leave debris in their garden and around the property. They leave fallen trees, mosses and fungi. Some leaves, sticks and fallen branches left on the ground can quickly become a mini microsystem where dirt, leaves and seeds collect and where seeds will germinate.

Other recommendations to support wildlife habitat are to:

- Put up nest boxes
- Remove barbed wire – Barbed wire can cut fauna to pieces and accounts for large numbers of injuries and deaths every year.
- Adding as many bird baths as you can fit is essential. Ideally placed under taps for easy filling or to leave a tap slowly dripping into them. Setting baths at different heights and using receptacles of differing shapes and depths to accommodate a wide range of creatures is also important.

Designing the future

A further aspect of creating an "on property living" has been the transformation of the old piggery into a studio where various scrap creations and sculptures are built. Workshops have also been run off site. A few of the projects so far have been:

- Mini wetlands (for regional botanic gardens) that have been planted with specific reed species suitable for local women to use for traditional weaving.
- Sculptures including:
 - Shade structures:
 - ◊ A hills hoist woven with builders measuring tapes.
 - ◊ A metal insect wing
 - A cubby house made of old bed springs/bases.
 - A bottle tree sculpture using exhaust pipes and wrapped wire.



Woodland Blind Snake
Photo: Louise Costa



Striated Pardalote
Photo: Louise Costa



Branch, debris & germinating seedlings
Photo: Louise Costa



Bird bath water feature
Photo: Louise Costa

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June Meeting Report continued...

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- A metal fish face sculpture, with added wings and mounted on a tower that has gears and leavers to turn that make the wings flap.
- A frog sculpture also made using old exhaust pipe.

Bringing the presentation to a close, Louise made a tip sheet for gardeners available to those in attendance (also generously made available in digital form and reprinted at the end of this report. Many thanks to Louise!).

The raffle door prize was last on the agenda as usual, with all prizes very suitably going to visitors and among those winners were Les and Elyse.

With the formalities over we adjourned to partake of an excellent afternoon tea of sandwiches, homemade biscuits and cakes including: Upside down rhubarb, orange almond, and chocolate and plain sponges. The lovely spread was provided by our members and with much thanks to Chris, Dawn, Pauline, Victoria and yours truly.

A very big thank you to Mike Williams and Bill Barker for providing a range of plants for sale on the day. Many thanks also to everyone involved in the planning and execution of our Gardens for Wildlife Launch, and to those who took time to travel from both near and far to participate. Your support is very much appreciated!

Lou's tips on how to create a sustainable and beautiful garden.

***Observe your natural surroundings.**

Go for walks in bushland close to where you live and take photos and notes about what plants are growing together. Pay attention to the way nature 'designs' spaces. Fallen logs, ground covers, shrubs and trees all harmonise in the natural environment.

***Experiment with native plants.**

If you like the look of a plant, take a photo or a sample and have it identified but be mindful of the soil type and conditions it is growing in. If it is a species' local to your area, you can feel confident that it will do well in your garden and be less reliant on water and maintenance. Don't add manures to soil where you want to grow natives.

***When starting a new garden, prepare the surface by protecting it.**

Covering the earth with biodegradable mulch or gravel will prevent top-soil and moisture loss. It will also contribute to the creation of new soil, suppress dust and help to cool the atmosphere.

***Design the entire space.**

Even a rudimentary design can help you identify your boundaries, connections and opportunities. A design drawn to scale gives you a big picture idea of how pathways, open spaces and garden beds relate. It can help you decide where you will want large trees, seats, sculptures, paving and under cover areas. It can also save you a lot of time and money because it acts as a



Bed spring cubby house & Bottle Tree Sculpture Photo: Louise Costa



Flying Fish sculpture Photo: Louise Costa

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June Meeting Report - Lou's Tips continued...

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guide to stage your projects, knowing the pieces will all come together.

***Good earth for growing food.**

Australian soils are old, shallow and nutrient deficient so if you want to grow food you'll need to make some soil. An early project at the onset of building a garden should be the creation of a compost heap so that you can immediately start collecting organic matter. Keep ALL your compost and collect manure, leaves, lawn clippings and shredded newspaper. This can all be added to your vegie garden beds in perpetual rotation.

Isolate the vegie garden from the rest of the garden so that you limit the high maintenance and irrigated space to one area to keep it practical and achievable.

You may need to make this area vermin-proof.

If you want chooks, keep the chook shed and run within this space so that you can develop a permacultural relationship between the chooks and the food garden. Vegies like chook poo, chooks like vegie scraps...

***Plant large trees first.**

These take the longest to grow and provide shelter for understory plants in summer as well as shade for you.

Plant in late April/early May to get the best out of the winter/spring growing season.

***Don't be afraid to experiment.**

Remember it's your garden and you can do whatever you like with whatever you like. The best materials for construction are the free ones!

You can make seats, retainer walls, paved areas, sculptures, chook runs and pergolas all out of recycled materials. There are no rules.

Any material in great quantity and repetition has potential to make a statement.

***Provide habitat for animals, birds and insects.**

There is nothing more satisfying than creating a garden that can be shared by all creatures.

A good layer of mulch will encourage skinks and insects which in turn, will bring ground foraging birds into your garden. You don't need to feed birds. Plenty of nectar-producing native plants will provide more than enough tucker for honey-eaters and spine-bills. Medium-sized dense shrubs, especially prickly ones, will create good nesting and protective habitat so that small bushland birds can flee from aggressors like noisy miners and cats. Woody debris (aka larger sticks and logs) will provide habitat for larger lizards. And a range of bird-baths,

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June Meeting Report - Lou's Tips continued...

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preferably one sitting under every garden tap for ease of re-filling, will astound you with the different variety of birds they attract.

If you want to see native wildlife thrive in the space you've created, keep your cat away from the garden. Even during the day, cats kill dozens of small reptiles and birds. They can't help it. It's their nature. Preferably create a cat enclosure to keep your cat safe and native wildlife safe from your cat.

***Nest boxes for arboreal animals.**

If you are lucky enough to have large trees, install a few nest boxes for parrots, kookaburras, sugar gliders, micro bats and other arboreal animals. The presence of tree hollows in the landscape is declining though the loss of large old trees so nest boxes provide much needed interim accommodation. It can take a eucalypt well over one hundred years to establish a small hollow and birds like owls, kookaburras and large parrots need big hollows.

Leave dead trees standing; they are havens for a myriad of native species and provide perches and nesting sites for larger birds.

***Remove barbed wire.**

Barbed wire is the cause of death for too many native animals each year. Gliders and bats are easily entangled in the sharp barbs and cannot escape. Consider replacing the barbed wire with plain wire.

***Spend time in the garden.**

Gardening is known to be one of the most rewarding and healing activities that a human can undertake with research showing that on average, gardeners live healthier and longer lives. So, the more time you spend in the garden, the happier you'll be. Observe the changes. Watch the animals and birds - perhaps record, draw or photograph them so that you have a record of the evolution of your space. The presence of a range of animal species is an indication that your garden is in a successful balance with nature.

Experiment with different plants, materials and designs. Don't be afraid to change things, remove things, replace things.

And make sure you put seats all over the garden because eventually, when you've finished digging, mulching, raking and building, you're going to want to sit on one of them and just stare at the incredible place you've created.

Happy sustainable gardening!

If you'd like help with your garden contact:

Louise Costa 0437 153 203 email: louise-costa@hotmail.com Rushworth, Victoria.

Messmate Gums...

By Norbert Ryan

The term Messmate is of uncertain origin apart from army terminology dating back to the 1730's. It was originally used to refer to half a dozen species of stringybark Eucalypt. However, the species now most commonly identified as messmate is *Eucalyptus obliqua*, of common distribution from southern Queensland to Tasmania. This is the first named Eucalypt, described by L'Heritier in France, from a specimen thought to be collected from Bruny Island during Cook's third voyage in 1777. The name *obliqua* refers to the lack of symmetry of the leaves, with the lower section attached at a very oblique angle. However this characteristic is not restricted to this species. Nevertheless the glossy, dark green leaves with a pronounced oblique angle to one edge, are instantly recognisable as *E. obliqua*.

Messmates prefer high altitude, wetter valleys and may reach 90m but in poorer conditions can be more mallee-like especially in coastal areas. A useful timber, favoured for heavy construction such as power poles. A common roadside tree in this area, often found in conjunction with narrow-leaved peppermint, red stringybark and long leaved box. More closely aligned to Ash species, they are grouped with the stringybarks because of the persistent fibrous bark that covers all branches.

(NB These notes (and others in this series on local trees) are based on texts by Dean Nicolle and Leon Costermans)



1. *Eucalyptus obliqua*
Juvenile leaves occur alternately; glossy dark green



6. *E. obliqua*
Corrugated "stringy" bark



2. *E. obliqua* Young trees, before bark becomes stringy, see next photo of these long leaves



3. *E. obliqua* Note the extreme length of these "intermediate" leaves, with their oblique form. Length approx. 22cm. Adult leaves may reach 12-15 cm



4. *E. obliqua* Buds 7-15 per cluster, club shaped with very small point; occur in axils, current photo but flowering generally December-March



7. *E. obliqua* young trees clumping in a valley



5. *E. obliqua* Prolific fruit production, they are wine-glass shape with 3-4 sunken or enclosed valves



8. *E. obliqua* Tall Adult trees showing large form (beside Northern Highway)



9. *E. obliqua* More compact tree in open paddock, note dark-green, shiny foliage

Photos: N Ryan

APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 20th, 2018



9 am - 3 pm
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney St, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays



Plant & Book Sales
Gardens for Wildlife



APS Victoria - Books

Goldfields Revegetation - Native plants

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

Kilmore Mitre 10 - Garden accessories & Native plants

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Vaughan's Australian Plants - Rare & unusual native plants



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

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display & Nuts & Seeds display, Setting up on Friday October 19th (from 1pm onwards), also on Saturday October 20th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc.

Enquiries & further information please contact Ian Julian: Ph 0438 270 248

Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au

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,
Barbara Mau,
Barbara Moss,
Louise Costa,
Norbert Ryan.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

July 21 & 22 - Cranbourne

Friends Royal Botanic Gardens
Winter Plant Sale 10am-4pm.

June 30 & July 1 - APS Ballarat
District Group Winter Flower
Show and Sales. Robert Clark
Horticultural Centre, Ballarat
Botanic Gardens. 10am-5pm

August 18 & 19 - APS Foothills
hosts APS Victoria Quarterly
Gathering and AGM.

September 1 - APS Wilson
Park Australian Native Plant
Sale. Wilson Botanic Park, 668
Princes Hwy, Berwick 9am-
3pm No entry fee.

September 8 & 9 - APS Yarra
Yarra Australian Plants Expo
Eltham Community &
Reception Centre, 801 Main

Rd Eltham, 10am-4pm. See
www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

for plant lists.

September 22 & 23 - Bendigo
Native Plants Group
Australian Flower Show.

Kangaroo Flat Primary School,
60-80 Olympic Pde, Kangaroo
Flat Bendigo. To be
confirmed

October 6 & 7 - APS
Grampians Group Pomonal
Native Flower Show, Pomonal
Hall, 9:30am-5pm Saturday,
10am-4pm Sunday

October 20 & 21 - FJC
Rogers Seminar -
Goodeniaceae. Co-ordinated
by Wimmera Growers of
Australian Plants and APS
Grampians. Contact
ficrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

or Royce Raleigh:
Ph 5383 6200

October 27 - APS Echuca
Moama Native Flower
Showcase. Echuca Masonic
Lodge Hall, 426 High St,
Echuca. 9am-4pm. Entry \$2.

October 27 & 28 - Aps
Ballarat District Group
Spring Plant Show and Sales.
Robert Clark Horticultural
Centre, Ballarat Botanic
Gardens. 10am-4:30pm. A
display of flowers and
foliage and a large range of
plants for sale. Hand
painted floral art, books
sales and other stall holders.

October 27 & 28 -
Cranbourne Friends RBG
Spring Plant Sale 10am-4pm.

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651

Vice President: Dawn McCormack

Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248

Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au

Treasurer/Memberships:

Christine Cram 0458 238 270

Committee: Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney,
Jeanine Petts.

Group Librarian: Pauline Maloney

Plant Sales: Volunteer position open

Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434

Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Barbara Moss

Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Baekea ramosissima

Rosy Baekea



Photo: Louise Costa

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.



Dillwynia sericea

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

2018/19 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 whichever applies) **Application** **OR** **Renewal**

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

(Please whichever applies)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Or (3) Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (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