



May Newsletter

Australian Plants Society - Cardinia Region Group

Inc. A0028350T ABN 69 324 096 622

OUR NEW HOME!

Launch of Revamped APS-Wilson Botanic Park to APS-Cardinia Region on Saturday May 28, 2022.

After months of negotiations and planning, this important public meeting will be held with the objective of inspiring people to join our group. Your attendance and support would be appreciated.

When: Saturday, May 28, 2022.
Time: 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start with tea or coffee around 3.30pm.
Where: Auditorium, Deep Creek Reserve, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham (enter carpark at the end of the street).
Speakers: Chris Clarke, President, APSVic.
Miriam Ford, Vice-President, APSVic.

Keynote address: "A Community of Gardeners" by John Arnott, Manager of Horticulture, Cranbourne Gardens, RBGC.

There will be a display of Australian plants, a table of books for sale from APS-Vic Books and plenty of time for discussions and networking.

Next meeting will be at Deep Creek Reserve, on Tuesday July 12, at 8.00pm with Ross Shepherd speaking on "Banksias Growing at Seaford"



Helmeted Honey Heater



It was April 2015 when the Australian Plants Society: Wilson Park Berwick group organised a public meeting to investigate a trial reintroduction of Helmeted Honeyeaters along Cardinia Creek where they were last seen in 1981. The initial response from the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team was encouraging. They commissioned Ecology Australia to report on the suitability of habitat along the Creek. Their report stated that habitat and from Guys Hill reserve upstream to Brennans Reserve was most suitable for a trial release.

However, since then (and not for the want of trying) we have had almost no communications. With our membership ageing and becoming depleted we were unable to continue leading the campaign. However the Cardinia Environment Coalition had taken up the cause and will hold a public meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 31, 2022 at Deep Creek Reserve, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham.

Christinus marmoratus

No 7 Ann St. Saturday morning when I opened curtains to say good morning to Russ (our puppy) I found a beautiful baby marbled Gecko on the wall under the curtain. With a significant portion of his tail shed he must have had a close call before. With thousands of tiny hairs on each pad of their feet Geckoes can walk up a vertical wall and even across a ceiling. They usually live in the garden where their bodies can be flattened to hide in a narrow gaps. At night they hunt for invertebrates. I took the photos of our little fellow in a plastic container before releasing him into out front garden. The photo and distribution for Victoria came from the internet. While Geckoes are not common they are certainly not rare here so the distribution map may not be accurate.



Christinus marmoratus, above, also known as marbled gecko or marbled southern gecko, is a species of Gekkonidae native to southern mainland of Australia, from Victoria to Western Australia. The species is well adapted to a variety of habitats, including city dwellings..

Wikipedia

Class: Reptilia

Species: C. marmoratus

Genus: Christinus

Order: Squamata

**THANK YOU TO FACEY'S WHOLESALE NURSERY
FOR THEIR DONATION OF PLANTS
FOR OUR RAFFLE EACH MONTH**

Relocation of APS Wilson Park, Berwick

For 30 years an APS group operated from Wilson Botanic Park in Berwick. With an ageing membership and committee then setbacks from Covid it became clear the group could not survive.

After examining options the committee decided to relocate to Deep Creek Reserve which is a strategic location for Australian plants being surrounded by the vast Gippsland Plain, Yarra Ranges in the north and the important Koo Wee Rup swamp to the south and impressive wetlands being developed on the site.

The Australian Plants Society (APS) aims to promote interest in growing, propagating and displaying Australian plants in home gardens and public places. The APS-Cardinia Region group will hold monthly meetings with speakers covering subjects connected to our unique Australian flora and connections with our fauna. Around 80% of our flora occurs only in Australia.

APS members have a range of interests from serious propagators and growers through to hobby gardeners, photographers some create gardens to encourage wildlife while others have interests in specific groups of plants like Eucalypts, Banksias Orchids, Daisies and many more.

Wonderful support has come from APS-Victoria, the Cardinia Shire and the Cardinia Environment Coalition (CEC) which operates an Indigenous plant nursery and STEM environment education classes at Deep Creek Reserve as well as managing several environmentally important sites across Cardinia Shire.

Tea-Tree fingers



Scientists and volunteers from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria have discovered the largest population of Australia's oddest and most critically endangered fungus on French Island, Victoria. Tea-Tree Fingers (*Hypocreopsis amplexans*) is named for its distinctive, finger-like form that seemingly grips its wooden substrate like a hand.

Tea-tree Fingers typically occurs at low densities within its narrow distribution on mainland Australia and is threatened with extinction by fire and unsuitable land-management practices. Until last week, the species was known to occur at only three small sites along the eastern coast of Western Port Bay, and one at Launching Place, where fewer than 20 individual fruit bodies were known to scientists.

Speakers for 2022



TUES: JULY 12	Ross Shepherd 'Banksias at Seaford'
TUES: AUG 9	AGM + Rodger Elliot 'To Prune or Not to Prune Australian Plants?'
SAT: SEPT 3	8.00am Annual Plant Sale to be confirmed
TUES: SEPT 13	Murray Harding 'Australian Epiphytic Orchids'
TUES: OCT 11	Linda Moon 'Grey-headed Flying Foxes'
SAT: OCT 15	Linda Moon-Guided Walk through GHFF Colony on Dandenong Creek Heatherton
TUES: NOV 8	Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, Fungi Ecologist speaking on Tea-Tree Fingers French Is NP, Lang Lang, Gurdies, Grantville
TUES DEC 13	Annual Breakup Dinner-TBA

Leptospermon scoparium



Leptospermon scoparium, commonly called mānuka, mānuka myrtle, New Zealand teatree, broom tea-tree, or just tea tree, is a species of flowering plant in the myrtle family Myrtaceae, native to New Zealand and south-east Australia. Its nectar produces Mānuka honey. Wikipedia

Scientific name: *Leptospermon scoparium*

Order: Myrtales

Family: Myrtaceae

Kingdom: Plantae

*Thank you to Cardinya View Nursery
for bringing along a selection of tubestock
for members to purchase.*