

Australian Plants Society Cardinia Region Inc.



Photo: Brian Walters

Formerly APS Wilson Park Berwick Inc.

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10TH SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, 10 September 2024

7.30 pm at Deep Creek Reserve,
62 Cameron Way, Pakenham.

Members' Night

As 2025 is approaching, we are eager to start locking in speakers for the first half of next year. Judy Millington will be running an exercise similar to last year to canvas topics of interest from the group. To that end it would be greatly appreciated if you could start thinking about such topics and/or presenters. It would be even more marvellous if you could look into your network or think about other presentations you have attended that might be suitable for our group.

This year has been light on garden visits and other excursions, which is something we would like to reinvigorate.

In addition, our Term Deposit is due to expire at the end of the year and we would like to speak with you how we might use some of the funds to support several initiatives. We welcome your suggestions.

To round out the session, time permitting we would love for you to bring one of your favourite Australian related flora and/or fauna books to share with the group.

REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2024

Tuesday, 8th October

Mr Slytherin, snake catcher



Tuesday, 12th November

Dr Gary Presland is back to talk about the natural history of Melbourne

Tuesday, 10th December

Christmas Function. Placeholder at the Railway Hotel, Pakenham. No meeting at Deep Creek.

OFFICER BEARERS

Other than the Treasurer, Committee Members and Group Delegate positions being filled at the Annual General Meeting, the President and Secretary roles were not filled, placing the viability of the group's continuance at risk.

We are pleased to advise as an outcome of the recent Committee Meeting the following roles were accepted:

- President – remains vacant
- Secretary – Fred Menk
- Treasurer – Marjanne Rook
- Membership Officer – Judy Millington
- Newsletter Editors – Anne and Gayle Savige
- Group Delegate – Joy Buck
- Committee Members – Anne Savige, Bob O'Neil, Fred Menk, Gayle Savige, Ian Chisholm, Joy Buck, Judy Millington, Marjanne Rook

EVENTS

1. Plant Sale



Reminder:

The Annual APS Cardinia Region Plants Sale will be held at Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick on Saturday 7th September 2024.

After our first successful event at Akoonah Park, on the corner of Cardinia Street and Princes Highway, Berwick, we're back again this year. Please come along and support your group.

Logistically:

- Sales will be between from 9.00 am to 3.00pm.
- To enter Akoonah Park, turn into Cardinia Street and immediately into the service road that runs beside the highway. The main gates are further down the service road and there will be signs at the intersection. Parking is available through the main gates and to the right side, or along the service road.
- Our APS stall and the plant growers will be adjacent to the main gates, undercover at the eastern end of the main sheds, where the fruit and vegetable stall used to be.
- Note that we are not running a raffle this year.
- Our APS stall will be giving out paper show-bags that can be used to carry 1-2 pot plants and talking to the customers about our group. If you are able to help out on the day at our stall that would be appreciated.

- Note that while some plant growers may have bankcard facilities others will be cash only.
- There are toilets close by at the back of the sheds, and hopefully a coffee van near the caravan park. There will be no food provisions but we will provide a hot water urn for tea/coffee etc. The Beaconsfield shopping area is also close by.
- The contact on the day for any questions or issues is Judy Millington on 0401 141 264.

2. Botanical



An art exhibition at the Burrinja Gallery
Sat 27 July-Sun 22 September 2024

This exhibition is for history, science and art lovers. It includes:

- excerpts from *Banks' Florilegium* - the book produced recently from Joseph Bank's original observations;
- works by Celia Rosser (the Banksia Lady) and
- contemporary botanical artists.

Where: Burrinja Gallery

Entry: Free

Open: Wed - Sun

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Address: Wurundjeri Country,
351 Glenfern Rd, Upwey, Victoria 3158

Highly recommended by: The Menks who said, "the exhibition is truly stunning".

For further details:

<https://www.burrinja.org.au/art/exhibitions>

Thanks to Fred and Wally for the alert!

EVENTS cont...

3. Open Garden

Alex and Wendy have invited APS-Cardinia members to visit their beautiful home garden. If you haven't been to the Smart's garden, it is well worth it.



It not only looks tranquil and low maintenance, but it also shows what you can grow in your own garden to encourage wildlife. A relaxed design compliments the rock pools and highlights local and native plants from numerous regions. Most are in flower and looking marvellous.

Date: Sunday 15 September

Time: Anytime from 2pm

Address: 7 Ann St, Beaconsfield



Above is a taster of what's flowering in the Smart's garden! What plant is that? Come and find out.

4. Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale

Date: Saturday 12 Oct to Sunday 13 October

Time: 10am – 4pm

Address: Australian Gardens - Cranbourne

Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale



Saturday 12 October & Sunday 13 October 2024

10am to 4pm

Australian Garden, Cranbourne

Come along and select from a wide range of plants many of which you will find in the Australian Garden.

The Botanical Fabricators and Illustrators will be selling goods too.

Plant list available 1 week before sale.

• <http://growingfriends.org.au>

! <http://growingfriends.org.au>



DRY SHADE

Following on from Chris Larkin's useful ideas on dry-shade, Adele Richardson (CEC Nursery)



suggests trying some of these Indigenous plants in your garden.

Shrubs

Acacia myrtifolia (Myrtle Wattle), Bauera rubioides (River Rose), Bossiaea prostrata (Creeping Bossiaea), Correa alba (White Correa), Correa reflexa (Native Fuchsia), Goodia lotifolia (Golden Tip), Indigofera australis (Austral Indigo), Tetratheca ciliata (Pink Bells).

Large shrubs/small trees

Pomaderris aspera (Hazel Pomaderris), Pomaderris intermedia (Lemon Dogwood)

Climbers

Billaderia longifolia (Purple Apple berry), Clematis aristata (Old Man's Beard), Glycine clandestina (Twining Glycine), Pandorea pandorana (Wonga Wonga vine)

Q&A WITH ALEX SMART



What initiated your interest in native plants?

Growing up in Yarraville the most common plants were scotch thistles. As a teenager at a youth camp in the Grampians I met Rodger Elliot who was keen on the local plants and he sparked my interest. Gwen Parry was also there and was interested in plants. Eventually Gwen and Rodger became interested in each other.

What are your favourite native plants?

Impossible to select one. I seem to have suffered from obsessions ranging through terrestrial orchids, river red gums, epiphytic orchids and more recently Mountain Ash.

My involvement with RBG Vic and APS

The Cranbourne Gardens were becoming established when I joined the Friends, I think, in the late 1990's. As I was approaching retirement, I joined the committee and I became involved in and helped with many very interesting activities and jobs. When Wendy retired, we decided to shift from the western suburbs to Beaconsfield to be much closer to Cranbourne Gardens.

There has always been a beneficial overlap between APS, Cranbourne Gardens and RBGV. When I lived in Werribee, I joined the Werribee River Association and the local APS group. It was not long before I questioned the ID of a gum they were calling *Eucalyptus baueriana* and I helped them submit specimens to the

Herbarium. After 8 years of study and trials botanists published a scientific paper proclaiming it was a sub-species restricted to the Werribee River catchment and named it *Eucalyptus baueriana* subsp. *thalassina*. Very few people would care about the botanical name; however, the botanists also gave it the common name Werribee Blue Box. Local people and the Wyndham Council are proud to have a tree bearing that name in their locality.

What tasks have I undertaken as President APC CR?

I found it a battle when we were APS-Wilson Botanic Park as the Council and management were more interested in operating a venue for functions and weddings than developing the site as a Regional Botanic Garden. Over 20 years the APS Group, with help and support from Lex Nieboer the garden superintendent, helped to establish Australian plants in the garden beds beside the Visitor Centre and around the carparks. APS held monthly Saturday working bees to help with maintenance and plantings until the Council stopped paying a staff member to attend on a Saturday and told our members to change to a weekday. That simply did not work. As our membership was declining the committee had to decide whether to wind up or find an alternative. The committee decided to transfer to Deep Creek Reserve where CEC was based and the Council was supportive. The transition to APS Cardinia Region is really still in progress, but I certainly wish you well.

Future suggestions for our APS CR group

It seems that APS groups have an increasing role in conservation of our Flora and Fauna. Supporting the CEC Indigenous Nursery is important for the area. Our Australian Plants Sale continues to be a great way to promote native plants.

Other interests

Everywhere we have lived we have been involved in the environment and with gardens. Now we are confident we will find plenty to appreciate in the Geelong region without needing to be on committees.

LOVE CREEPER

Spread the love when you have success with a Love Creeper.



Photo Vic Flora

One of July's raffle plants was the beautiful *Comesperma volubile* (donated by the Cardinia Environment Coalition (CEC) Nursery.)

This lovely twining plant has almost leafless stems, and produces bright blue flowers from August to December.

If you want to capture it in all its glory, the advice is to grab a camera and head for the drier areas of our open forests and heaths.

Those in the know, say it can be difficult to establish in your garden, but once it takes root you're guaranteed of a long-love affair 💕.

Please note

The CEC plant stall will have tube stock of *Comesperma volubile* for sale at the APS Plant Sale

TRAGIC TREE NEWS

Bob Brown' peppermint tree

Until a few weeks ago, a stately 800 year-old peppermint tree could still be found living in the Ferguson Valley, near Bunbury a two hour drive south of Perth. (see images below).



Senior officials from the WA Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions had hired contractors to remove some damaged limbs; instead, the tree was completely razed to the ground. Officials were not impressed and neither was Bob Brown, a former green's leader.

After the contractors...



Reference: ABC News

All too familiar? 🙄. If so, next time you need a pruner, maybe ask, "Can you see the wood for the trees?"

SPOTLIGHT ON ACACIAS



Photo Credit Nicky Zanen

At the last APS meeting there were many wattles on the display bench, including *A. boormanii* (Snowy River Wattle), *A. dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *A. leprosa* (Scarlet Blaze), *A. mucronata* (Narrow-leaf Wattle) *A. verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and possibly *A. mucronata* subsp. *longifolia*.

The Acacia genus, is the largest group of flowering trees and shrubs in Australia. Their beautiful blooms add a warm glow to our gardens and the bush in July, August and September, and they play an important role in sustaining our natural environment both directly and indirectly.

Wildlife

During flowering acacias produce;

- pollen,
- a sugary substance and
- a starchy sap (in gum producing wattles)

These energy rich food sources attract all sorts of insects, a number of birds, and even mammals such as the Sugar Glider and the rare Leadbeater Possum. These two mammals eat the sap of *A. mearnsii* (Black Wattle).

Many birds feed on insects that inhabit the wattles and some such as the endangered Gang Gang Cockatoo feed on the seeds.



Other birds, such as Silvereyes, honeyeaters and thornbills are attracted to the sugary fluid from the leaves.

The thick or prickly foliage provides shelter and shade, as well as nesting sites for a wide range of birds, depending on the species of wattle.

Some ants protect the larvae of certain butterflies and some help to disperse wattle seeds by burying them underground until ready for germination.

The humble wattle is a natural form of pest control. Acacias can host a range of predatory insects which can benefit the health of a number of other trees in their vicinity (e.g. orange groves) by controlling the number of foliage-eating and sap-sucking insects.

Indigenous uses and meaning

Aborigines used extracts from bark and leaves of particular wattles for medicinal purposes and they used the wood to make spears, shields and boomerangs. Seeds and the edible gums (from specific wattles) were used as a food source. Among the Bunurong people, the Silver Wattle (*A. dealbata*) signalled a seasonal change when it started flowering in mid-July.

Other uses

Different species of Acacia have produced flavourings, dyes, adhesives, insecticides and perfume. For example, *A. dealbata* produces gum arabic, which is used in the commercial food industry. *A. melanoxylon* (Blackwood) is still prized today for its timber which makes beautiful furniture.

Many acacias are very useful in revegetation especially after fire or drought. They are fast growing, can fix nitrogen into the soil and control erosion.

In the kitchen

For recipes using Acacia seeds, check out the SBS link below

<https://www.sbs.com.au/food/article/wattleseed-recipes-front-and-centre/zatmpfqj5>

SPOTLIGHT ON ACACIAS cont...

Planting local

Are all Australian acacias suitable for planting in the Cardinia Region? Regrettably, some wattles become a problem if not planted in the appropriate region. The beautiful Cootamundra Wattle is perfect in Cootamundra but not in Victoria where it has become an environmental weed.

There is an acacia suitable for every garden and plenty that are Indigenous to the regions of Cardinia, Casey and Yarra Ranges.

If you want shrub under 1 metre try:
A. brownii (Heath Wattle)



A. brownii Photo Alan Fairley

If you want a 1-3 metre shrub try:
A. genistifolia (Spreading Wattle)
A. myrtlefolia (Myrtle Wattle)
A. oxycedrus (Spike Wattle)
A. suaveolens (Sweet Wattle)

If you want a 3 metre plus shrub/small tree try;
A. verticillata (Prickly Moses). It provides very good small bird habitat.



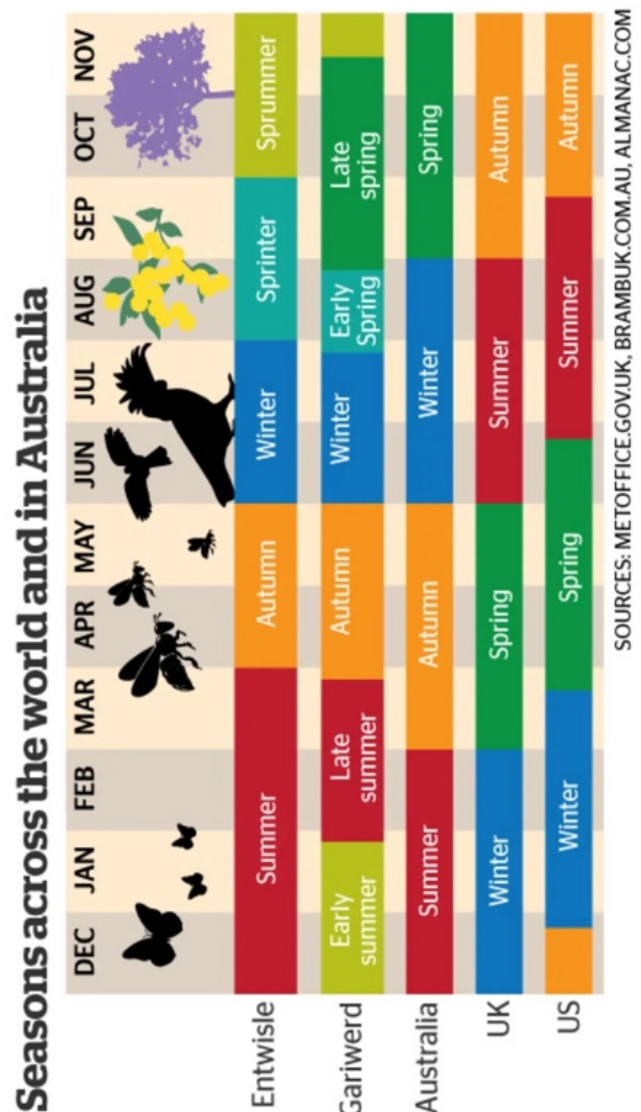
Prickly Moses

If you want a tree try:
A. dealbata (Silver Wattle)
A. mearnsii (Black Wattle)
A. melanoxylon (Blackwood Wattle)
A. pycnantha* (Golden Wattle)
*Australia's floral emblem

Finally

Timothy Entwisle (previously the Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne) has suggested that 1 September is an inappropriate date for our National Wattle Day. He prefers 1 August. Do you agree?

Looking at the diagram below which features Entwisle seasonal calendar might provide the reasoning behind his proposal.



Kids page. Find the hidden native animals.

Eastern Pygmy Possum



Weighing less than a golf ball, the Eastern Pygmy Possum is one of the smallest possums in the world. They are nocturnal, emerging at night to feed on nectar and pollen from flowering plants such as banksias and eucalypts, as well as some insects.

Can you help the Eastern Pygmy Possum find the native animal names hidden below?

EASTERN PYGMY POSSUM | WOMBAT | BILBY | GOANNA | KOALA | SNAKE | KANGAROO | EMU | WOYLE | MALA | BANDICOOT | MONJON | DINGO | PLATYPUS | SUGAR GLIDER | WESTERN QUOLL | NORTHERN BETTONG | WOYLE | GOULDIAN FINCH | NUMBAT | COCKATOO | KOOKABURRA | MULGARA | BUSH RAT

E	M	U	P	G	O	U	L	D	I	A	N	F	I	N	C	H	Z
B	A	M	L	A	X	S	P	E	N	D	M	U	D	U	W	W	Y
I	L	S	A	T	E	J	A	O	U	B	F	C	V	M	R	H	E
L	A	N	T	K	B	A	N	D	I	C	O	O	T	B	F	K	Y
B	Q	W	Y	E	R	K	T	Y	P	J	G	O	Y	A	U	O	S
Y	A	D	P	F	R	A	G	H	C	O	C	K	A	T	O	O	P
S	N	M	U	M	Z	N	X	M	V	B	N	A	C	L	J	K	O
U	K	I	S	O	D	G	P	Q	U	W	B	U	S	H	R	A	T
G	A	Z	V	N	F	A	N	Y	N	L	Q	U	I	N	T	B	O
A	S	E	T	J	W	R	E	R	G	I	G	V	B	H	J	U	R
R	O	A	R	O	B	O	G	W	O	M	B	A	T	K	L	R	O
G	V	D	I	N	G	O	M	C	A	N	Y	X	R	M	X	R	O
L	W	O	Y	L	I	E	Q	P	N	A	T	P	W	A	Y	A	T
I	G	S	H	B	N	X	I	E	N	V	O	K	O	A	L	A	L
D	P	E	N	U	H	R	S	N	A	K	E	M	Y	S	B	Z	P
E	T	E	G	R	O	K	A	G	M	W	D	A	C	U	S	Q	S
R	N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N	B	E	T	T	O	N	G	U	S
W	E	S	T	E	R	N	Q	U	O	L	L	W	E	A	W	C	M