

## Australian Plants Society Cardinia Region Inc.



Photo: Brian Walters

Formerly APS Wilson Park Berwick Inc.

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### OCTOBER Meeting

Tuesday, 8 October 2024

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

**Speaker - Mr Slytherin,  
snake catcher**



### REMAINING meetings for 2024

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**APS-CR acknowledgements,  
farewells, special thanks and get  
well wishes.**

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At our last meeting, Judy acknowledged APS Victoria Awards for 2024 that were received by Ian Chisholm and Alex Smart.

APS Vic. has three awards recognising those who have made special contributions to the Society. These are:

- **Honorary Life Membership**
- **Impressa Award**
- **Certificate of Commendation**

Ian Chisholm received an Impressa Award and Alex Smart, a Certificate of Commendation.

### Ian Chisholm

Ian received an Impressa Award based on the following criteria.

May be an individual or organisation, for a period of no less than 10 years, that has:

- has made a significant contribution to the conservation and/or protection of Australian flora in its natural habitat,
- OR,
- has made a significant contribution to the sustainability and continued biodiversity of Australian flora in its natural environment.

Ian has been an active member of our district APS group for more than 20 years wearing various hats: Treasurer, liaison person with Friends of Wilson Park Berwick (FWPB) and the City of Casey. He has and still is involved with the APS-CR Plant Sale wearing both his APS-CR and Cardinia Environment Coalition (CEC) hats.

Prior to joining APS, Ian was concerned and actively involved with the wider environmental and conservation issues within our region. His passion has not diminished over the years, and with like-minded people he became a foundation member of the CEC, a group that aims to bring about significant positive change to the natural environment through building community awareness, interest and capacity.

To promote the effectiveness of the CEC, Ian prepared the CEC's original proposal for an Environment Centre at Deep Creek. The success of Ian's proposal is evident when visiting the CEC Indigenous Nursery with its large range of local Indigenous plants, its seed bank and two training rooms. Ian's successful vision has also seen the establishment of Science, Technology, Environment and Maths

(STEM) classes at Deep Creek Reserve. These classes are funded by the Education Department and are currently provided by Ecolinc (Bacchus Marsh) and Swinburne University.

Ian has been an active member of many groups over many years. He continues to be active, committed and passionate about promoting and protecting Australian flora and fauna.

### **Alex Smart**

Alex received a Certificate of Commendation based on the following criteria;

- A notable contribution is one which
- Occurred over a period of no less than 3 years
  - Is recognised as ongoing or recently concluded
  - Demonstrates exceptional dedication and effort, often behind-the-scenes, to provide invaluable service

Alex's contributions to the objectives of APS Vic. have been mentioned in the 2024 September edition of the APS-CR Newsletter.

### **FAREWELL to Alex Smart**

Rodger Elliot, gave a farewell speech at the September APS-CR meeting. He mentioned other notable contributions that Alex had made. These include his involvement with various groups and societies, such as:

- river associations;
- district naturalist groups;
- the Werribee APS branch, where Alex was instrumental in restoring and protecting many native reserves including endangered remnant grasslands;
- the Friends of RBG Cranbourne (including committee member, president and project manager);
- president of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (National group); and
- member of the Australasian Native Orchid Association

### **FAREWELL to Wendy Smart**

Rodger also gave a farewell tribute to Wendy Smart for her dedication to RBG Cranbourne and APS (including her busy role as secretary for the APS-CR over many years). If you missed the last meeting, you can learn more about Wendy in our August Newsletter 2024.



*Picture of Wendy & Alex which was taken by Chris Clarke at Cranbourne Gardens when Governor Alex Chernov and wife Elizabeth were there for a special occasion.*

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

On behalf of APS-CR a special thanks to

- the previous newsletter editors:
  - Joy Buck (2015-2022). Joy's editions hosted many great photos of native plants with special articles brought to us by APS-CR experts such as Rodger and Gwen Elliot.
  - Ian Chisholm (2022- 2024). Ian's editions tended to have a greater focus on the environment both globally and locally. Threatened and vulnerable fauna were often included.
- Facey Wholesale Nursery for plants donated to our monthly raffle
- Wendy & Alex Smart for their beautiful Sydney Rock Orchid (*Dendrobium speciosum*), which they donated to the September raffle. A fitting plant for the farewell photo (see below).
- Wendy & Alex for their open garden day on Sunday 15 September.



GROUP PHOTO APS-CR Sept 2024  
Photo credit - Fred Menk, Judy & Jason Millington.

### Message from Alex

It has been wonderful for Wendy and me to share common interests with like-minded people.

Our group has had its ups and downs but since we shifted to Deep Creek Reserve and became APS Cardinia Region it is exciting to see new members involved.

Wendy and I are the past and you are the future. That was wonderfully demonstrated on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at our fabulously successful plant sale.

Thanks for your friendships in the past. The photo Judy arranged is appreciated and will provide many happy memories.

Best Wishes for the future of the group and to each member personally.

### GET WELL WISHES

Get well wishes to Tracey Perrott, who has sustained multiple fractures after a fall from a ladder. All the best Tracey for a speedy recovery. ❤️

## EVENTS

### 1. Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale

**Date:** Saturday 12 Oct to Sunday 13 October

**Time:** 10am – 4pm

**Address:** Australian Gardens - Cranbourne



### 2. World Premiere – Eucalyptus the Opera

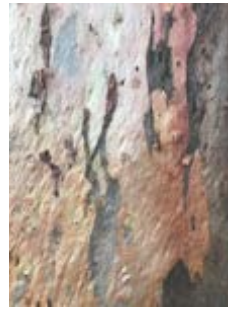


Photo Credit Anne Savige

Eucalyptus is a new opera by composer, Jonathan Mills, based on Murray Bail's novel: Eucalyptus (see Ian's July 2024 newsletter re Murray Bail's novel: Eucalyptus).

#### Dates & time

16, 18, 19 October, 7.30 pm

#### Venue

Palais Theatre, St Kilda

[Eucalyptus](#)

#### More Info

Education resource

<https://www.victorianopera.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Victorian-Opera-2024-Eucalyptus-Education-Resource-FA5.pdf>

### 3. Aussie Bird Count October 2024

Birdlife Australia's popular Aussie bird count is coming up.

**Date:** 14th - 20th October, 2024

**Info** Registration and prizes, click on the link:

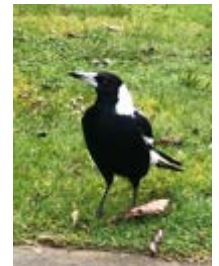


Photo Credit GS

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

### 4. The 2024 Pollinator Photography Competition 🦋 🐝

<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/pollinator-photography-competition/>

**Date** Now until 28 October 5pm

### 5. Australian Pollinator Count

**Dates** 9th -17th November, 2024



**Eligibility** Anyone can participate, but you must pass a short test for your results to be counted.

Photo Credit GS

**Australian Pollinator Count cont...**

**Introduction and what to do**

Go to the Australian Pollinator website to help you get started. Watch the 30 minute video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2qQu8jJkc>

**Learn Test and Count**

<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/count/>

**Other useful resources**

<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/our-work/projects/powerful-pollinators/>

**Q&A with Jan Chisholm**

**What initiated your interest in native plants?**

I grew up in suburbia with a mixed plant garden – a Lilly Pilly and Geraldton Wax were the only native plants. Spending time in the Dandenongs and visiting Sherbrooke Forest’s temperate rain forest began my interest in the Australian landscape.

**What are your favourite native plants?**

Melaleuca fulgens, with its colours of pink, red or orange flowers, is a hardy plant and brightens up a spring garden. Small plants like salmon correa, dampiera and hibbertia are favourites, as well as the many varieties of hakeas which attract the yellow-tailed black cockatoos.

**How would you describe your garden?**

Our garden was established in 1974 and when I joined the A.P.S. in 1993 at Wilson Park, I learned of more beautiful flora, particularly from the Smiths and Sagos. Presently, many old shrubs and trees have been removed from the garden, creating sunnier areas for replacement plants. Large trees – Red Cedar, Cabbage Tree Palm, Teak and a Eucalyptus strzeleckii - are features.

**Beyond your garden fence, what would you like to see?**

I would like to see more re-vegetation in our area. It is disappointing to see the entrance to Wilson Park with its annuals when colourful local plants could be there.

*\*See page 10 for Jan’s flower display at the APS-CR plant sale.*

**APS-CR TOPICS & EXCURSIONS for 2025**

During our last meeting, members were asked to nominate topics of interest (under particular categories) and potential excursions for 2025. Judy facilitated this session by listing member’s interest on a whiteboard and then asked each member to indicate their top five preferences.

Judy then collated the results according to the most dots (votes). Refer to Tables 1 and 2.

White board listing of three categories

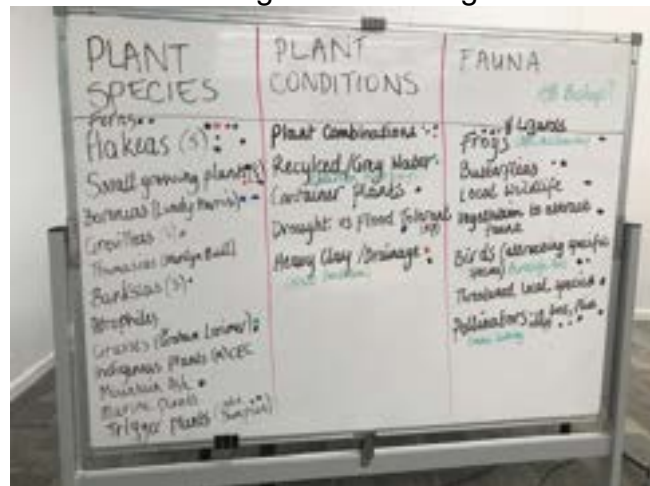


Photo taken by Anne Savige

Table 1 Topics of interest within categories

# Votes	Category	Topic
7	Plant Species	Hakeas
6	Special Interest	Pruning workshop
4	Fauna	Frogs and lizards
4	Fauna	Pollinators, i.e. bees, flies, wasps
4	Garden Presentations	ACT National Arboretum
4	Plant Conditions	Plant combinations
4	Special Interest	Indigenous medicinal plants
4	Special Interest	Plant nomenclature, i.e. Latin

Table 1 supplied by Judy Millington

Table 2 Potential excursions

# Votes	Category	Topic
5	Garden Visits / Excursions	Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden
5	Garden Visits / Excursions	Karwarra Garden
3	Garden Visits / Excursions	CEC Activities - seed collection and propagation
3	Garden Visits / Excursions	Melton Botanic Gardens
2	Garden Visits / Excursions	Behind the scenes at Cranbourne Gardens
2	Garden Visits / Excursions	Bird tour of Wilson Botanic Park

Table 2 supplied by Judy Millington

### **SOURCING ONLINE INFORMATION**

Some members were also interested in a session on how to use Google to access reliable information on the web.

Google is a search engine and does not identify which websites can be relied upon for accurate information.

The most accurate and reliable information will come from government and other statutory authorities such as CSIRO as well as universities. Universities specialise in areas of interest such as biology, botany, ecology and conservation and are useful in locating relevant experts and their list of publications.

#### *Examples of government websites*

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  
<https://www.rbq.vic.gov.au>

VicFlora  
<https://vicflora.rbq.vic.gov.au/>

Parks Victoria  
<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au>

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Victoria)  
<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au>

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment Water  
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au>

#### *Examples of Universities*

The University of Melbourne  
<https://www.unimelb.edu.au>

Monash University  
<https://www.monash.edu>

The Australian National University  
<https://www.anu.edu.au>

The Australian Broadcasting Commission is a good source of reliable information  
<https://www.abc.net.au>

Well-known and respected organisations are usually reliable sources of information.

#### *Examples of useful organisations*

The Australian Native Plant Society (Australia)  
<https://anpsa.org.au>

The Australian Plants Society Victoria  
<https://apsvic.org.au>

Australian Conservation Foundation  
<https://www.acf.org.au>

Weeds Australia  
<https://weeds.org.au>

Zoos Victoria  
<https://www.zoo.org.au>

Birdlife Australia  
<https://birdlife.org.au/>

The Wheen Bee Foundation  
<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au>

Commercial websites are useful but more diligence may be required to confirm the reliability of author or source of information. If unsure, cross checking with a reliable source will help to confirm accuracy.

#### *Examples of useful commercial websites*

Kurunga (native plant) nursery  
<https://www.kurunga.com.au>

Angus Stewart - native plant enthusiast and a previous presenter on ABC Gardening Australia  
<https://gardeningwithangus.com.au>

The Conversation - authors must be currently employed as a researcher or academic with a university or research institution  
<https://theconversation.com/au>

## Snake Quiz for snake enthusiasts

1. Do some snakes fly?
2. Do some grow beards?
3. "There are no snakes and no poisonous spiders!" In Australia, where would you be?
4. Have you heard of the hoop snake? If so, does it really exist or is it just a myth?
5. Do snakes eat other snakes? If so, who's the cannibal in the family?
6. Who's legally able to kill snakes?
7. Can anyone have any type of snake for a pet?
8. Do you know of any spiritual snake stories from First Nation peoples?
9. Is the only good snake a dead one?
10. Name the World's most venomous snake? (Hint: It lives in Australia)
11. Who was George Rosendale? How did he contribute to science? (Hint: listen to Radio National Conversation) <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/conversations/conversations-brendan-james-murray/9504928>
12. Is it possible to create a garden for wildlife without snakes? (Could be a Q. for Mr. Slitherin', if he's willing to answer)
13. What's your best snake story? Maybe save it for a chat over supper, or send it to the editors (via the ASP-CR email) for November's NL

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL NATURE RESERVES...

### The Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve

*If you go down in the woods today,  
You're sure of a big surprise*

(Source: The Teddy bear's Picnic. Lyricist, Jimmy Kennedy and composer, John Walter Bratton)

In spring, a couple of APS members took a walk through the Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve (BFFR) to see what was starting to flower and fruit. Tim Entwisle would call this season 'sprinter.' Anyway, this is what they saw and photographed.

### Nature Reserve Challenge (an armchair or desktop activity)

If you want to, complete the Reserve Challenge by looking at each photograph taken along the BFFR trail and naming the

local plant species either by giving the Common Name, or the scientific botanical name. Answers in the November NL, or ask a member at the October meeting.

**An introduction to the start of the trail.** The walkers are standing on a gravel path looking at a tree in the Cardinia Street Nature Reserve, Berwick, just below the carpark

A special sign gave a warning in front of a tree, so they took a snap. Sweet Pittosporum. *Pittosporum undulatum* - an environmental weed in City of Casey and Cardinia LGAs.



After a few metres, they cross a bridge and enter the BFFR. There's a couple of stunning small trees (large bushes) covered in tiny buff-coloured bell-shaped flowers (see below). Can you name it?



Nearby is another large bush. It's starting to bear green berries, that will turn purple in summer. Earlier in the year, a speaker from Parks Victoria said the Helmeted Honeyeater liked this bush. Can you name it?



A bird's nest is found in a bush near the path. Can you name the bird that built this nest?



The bush below is starting to bloom. It's a medium size bush with white daisy-like flowers. Can you name it?



The grevillea (below) is growing in the Reserve. Can you name it and is it Indigenous to the Casey Cardinia area?



Can you name the delicate climber (below):



Can you name the environmental weed (below)?



Can you name the beautiful native fern (below)? It is good ground cover!



Nearing the end of the trail. Can you name the native grassy plants in the foreground?



The pretty shrub (below) looks like the third plant. Is it different or the same?



At the end is a big surprise!



How would you try to get rid of the rubbish? Have you tried the *Snap Send Solve* app?

*NB: The BFFR is a seed collection site for some metropolitan and local Indigenous nurseries.*

Can you name the dainty mauve twining plant (below)





# Kids page.

## EVENT 1 - Marsupial of the Year

Network 10 *The Project* launched Marsupial of the Year 2024 to encourage kids and adults to choose their favourite Australian marsupial from a list.

Click here for the top 10 favourite marsupials.

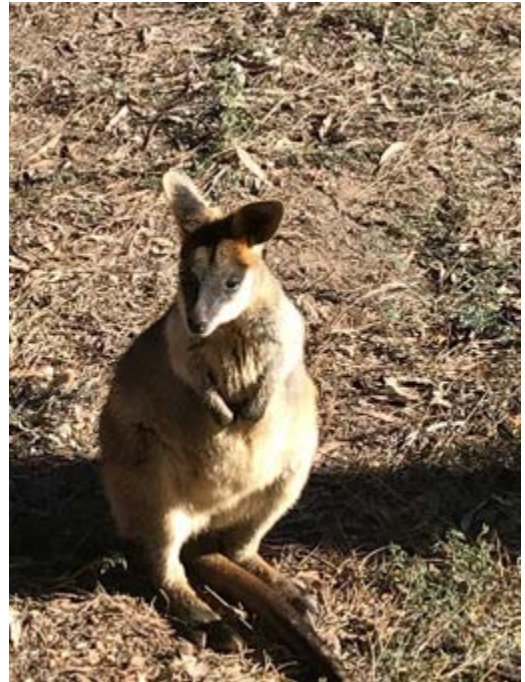
<https://www.marsupialoftheyear.com.au/>

Did the swamp wallaby (opposite) make the top 10 list?  
Photo credit Anne Savige

**Activity** (using the website 'above').

Click on each marsupial image to find out more information about them, for example:

- Which marsupials are most at threat because of, for example, introduced animals or changes to their environment?
- Where do these threatened marsupials live in Australia? For example, every state? In one state or territory only or only in a small regional area?
- How many live in your state, e.g. Victoria?
- What can you, or your family or your school do to help the ones that are in 'serious trouble'?
- Did you vote for your favourite marsupial? Why? If you did, did it make the Top 10



## EVENT 2 - Zine Making: Raise Awareness of the Southern Brown Bandicoot

**When** 2pm, 4 Friday 4 October 2024

**Where** Cranbourne Library

**Participants** 9+

**Presenter** Eilish Roberts, RBG Cranbourne

**More Info** <https://events.connectedlibraries.org.au/event?id=81182>

**Question** Is the Southern Brown Bandicoot (below) in trouble, or are there plenty of healthy adults?

Photo credit - Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2024



Fabulous Flowers from Jan's garden - *There was a lot of interest and discussion about these flowers*

