

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

August 2020

Volume 7, Issue 7

August news...!

Hello and welcome to our August 2020 & still in stage 3 restrictions edition...

The good news is... Spring is nearly here & our wonderful little community of native plant lovers keeps being ever so kind & generous; graciously helping me fill these pages once again. A big warm & fuzzy thank you to you all from me to you (see back page, photo credits & articles for all our contributors names—Bless your sweet hearts).

The news we have all been dreading is that, sadly, the committee has had to officially cancel our 2020 Annual Spring Plant Expo & Plant Sale. There will be plans to be back bigger & better in 2021.

With access to halls & indoor meeting spaces likely to remain prohibitive for some time to come, the committee will plan & aim towards a return to "Covid Safe" out door activity (if permitted) for October and or November. Details to come (fingers crossed!).

We only have 3 issues left for the year so please



Philotheca verrucosa - Bendigo Waxflower
9/8/20 Photo: J Petts

Keep all these lovely contributions coming, & we can keep sharing inspiration from our gardens, a love of all things native plant, & some positivity amongst our community. The September newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday Sept 14th. I'll still be eagerly looking forward to hearing from our members & friends. So please, please, send contributions in by Monday Sept 7th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Cheers until next time, Jeanine

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Eremophila maculata "Prolific Pink" Photo: J Petts



Mitchell Diary Dates..

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation: The APS Mitchell Group Spring Plant Expo & Sale has been Cancelled. Meetings, outings and other gatherings continue to be suspended until further notice. Advice will be sent via email should conditions change before our next newsletter issue date.

Activities remaining in the diary are subject to potential postponement or cancellation, being wholly dependent upon government health advice and instruction of the time:

- **October 18th – time & details to be confirmed - Garden Visit: The garden of Dawn McCormack Heathcote Junction. Further details to be advised.**
- **November—AGM Date, format & further details to be confirmed.**



Gardens for Wildlife News...

Something a little different and of interest to see this month is a Slime Mould found in the garden of Bill & Bee Barker. They believe it most likely to be *Tubifera ferruginosa* (AKA Raspberry Slime Mould). A few patches were found under a dead tree and they had never seen it before.

Tubifera ferruginosa is one of the two most common *Tubifera* species found in Australia. Slime moulds can be found in soils, lawns, the forest floor, fallen timber, in fact where any type of dead plant material is available. They assist in the decomposition processes and feed on the microorganisms that feed on decaying plant matter, such as; bacteria, yeasts, and fungi. Slime Moulds were once classified as fungi, but are now classified in Protist - a group that is not animal, plant, or fungus.

Tubifera ferruginosa Raspberry Slime Mould ?
Photo: B & B Barker



**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

**Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library**

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

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

Please label plants



Meetings remain suspended until further notice...

Owing to the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation; all meetings, outings and gatherings of APS Mitchell District Group continue to be suspended until further notice. Further advice regarding APS Mitchell activities will be provided via monthly newsletters and/or email. In the interim, keep busy in your gardens and around your homes, stay safe and healthy.

We'll be looking forward to seeing everyone hale & hearty in the future, hearing about how your plants have grown, gardens progressed, and any other projects you may have undertaken. We will plan to resume activities as soon as government health department advice and instruction declares conditions safe for social gatherings and acceptable to resume.



Pimelea humilis - Common
Rice-flower
Photo: J Petts 9/8/20

Memberships...

Membership fees & forms for 20/21 are due! (See back page for form.) Thank you to all those who have paid so far. This month we welcome Jeff Carland & Jo Harrison as new members to our group. We'll look forward to meeting when Covid-19 limitations are eased. At latest count we have 15 paid memberships for 2020/21. When paying by bank transfer please remember to place your name as a reference. Also remember an updated form needs to be submitted each year, please email the completed membership form to mitchell@apsvic.org.au to keep contact details up to date. For all membership enquiries, information, please contact Christine Cram: Phone: 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: mitchell@apsvic.org.au Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website. <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

A message from our President ...

By Norbert Ryan

With the further COVID restrictions to movement, the opportunity to stage public activities over the Spring period is now looking very unlikely. Our annual Native Plant Expo & Sale in October has been cancelled; plant expos usually held by Yarra Yarra and Echuca-Moama district groups have also been cancelled.

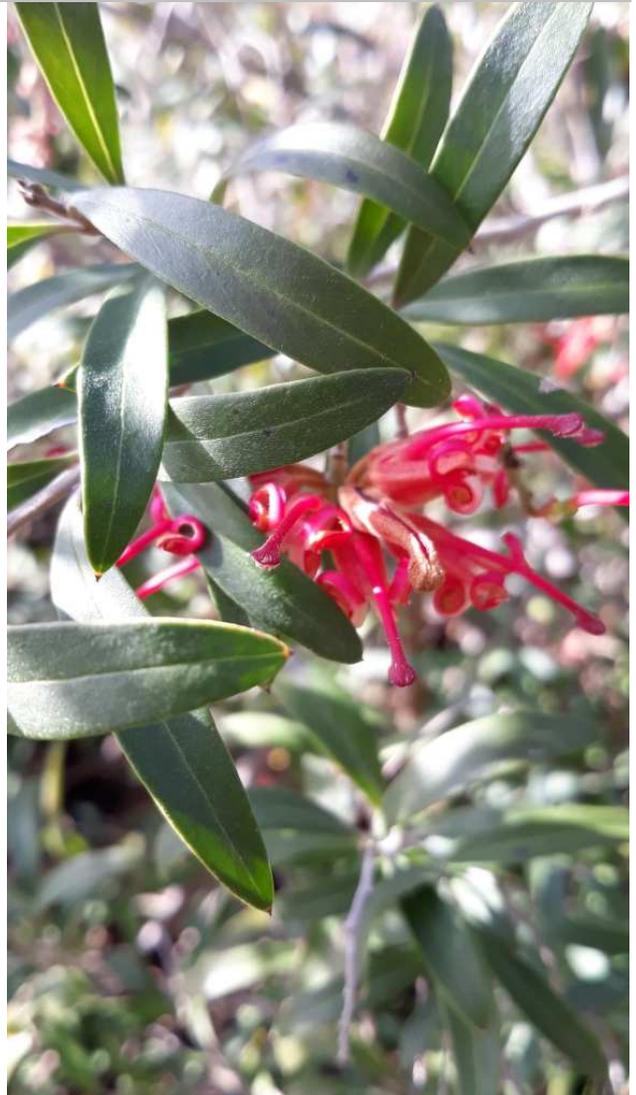
The biannual FJC Rogers seminar planned by Yarra Yarra in October will now revert to an on-line event. If the situation improves there may still be the chance for associated open garden visits. Our Mitchell group has also accepted the offer of Dawn McCormack to host an open garden afternoon on Sunday 18th October, restrictions permitting (details to follow).

The advent of warmer Spring weather should enhance our capacity to cope with the vicissitudes of lock down, with the opportunity to get out of doors and enjoy a comparatively moist flowering season for our native and indigenous plants.

From my perspective, I have the good fortune to live near the homes of several APS members, who regularly contribute to our newsletter, Paul Piko, Jo and Paul Liddy, and Dianne Hooper. It is a great delight to walk past their native gardens and hear and see the enhanced birdlife in the immediate vicinity. This is in stark contrast to neighbouring, more conservative gardens with a predominance of conifers, flax and European trees. In fact the original guidelines for establishment of Hidden Valley (2003) called for a Tuscan style village and this included a prescribed list for planting of Mediterranean species such as Alder, Cypress, Broom, Olive, Poplar and Manchurian and Bradford Pears; a travesty in an area backing directly onto remnant bushland.

Fortunately many residents have moved away from this original concept. Local birdlife has been featured in some of the photos from Paul Piko, and include the Eastern Spinebill, New Holland Honeyeater, Willie Wagtail, Silvereeye, Superb Fairy Wren, Crimson Rosella and Red Wattle birds.

Over the last three years Mitchell APS has sponsored the "Gardens for Wildlife" initiative within Mitchell Shire. Information from this source about planting to enhance habitat includes growing flowering species for nectar production, provision of dense, often prickly protective foliage, and species favouring insects and butterflies. The nominated species are included in the excellent Mitchell Council guidebook "Sustainable Gardening". Other useful on-line sources for suggested plantings include "Gardens for Wildlife" programs in Knox and Melton shires and "Birds in Backyards-Choosing Native Plants".



Grevillea monslacana - Lake Mountain Grevillea
23/06/20 Photo: J Petts

Garden snapshots ...

Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...

To start out our snapshot mini garden tours this month, we return to the Liddy's garden in Hidden Valley, Wallan, beginning with:

Correa reflexa x alba, 'Lemon Twist' –Native Fuchsia (at right).

This Correa is native to Victoria's west coast.

Correa pulchella St Andrews (Below left & Below right) Also noted as a selected form of *Correa alba*, from St Andrews beach Victoria.

Grevillea lanigera dwarf form Mt Tamboritha 'Little Drummer Boy', in foreground (below right).

Below: *Correa pulchella* "St Andrews"

Below right: *Correa pulchella* "St Andrews" with *Grevillea lanigera* "Mt Tamboritha" in foreground.

Photos & narrative : Jo Liddy



Correa reflexa x alba "Lemon Twist" Photo: Jo Liddy



Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 4)

We got this grevillea (pictured at right & below) from Pete at Ironstone Park when it was in Pyalong many years ago.

It was growing in a beautiful shrub shape until a kangaroo landed in the middle and split it. It was touch and go for a while.

I made contact with Pete post the Show in Oct 2018. He thinks it may be 'Warby Ranges', something he propagated at Pyalong. He noted it isn't easily found and can be cut for propagating post flowering.

Post contact with Pete, we cut off the damaged bits and let it be. That was a good two years ago and this year it flowered again! Yes, it is now in this odd shape, but we are too afraid to reshape it in case it goes into shock again. Would love Pete to come try propagating it again as the flower and foliage are stunning.



Grevillea "Warby Ranges"? Photos & narrative: Jo Liddy



Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Lastly from Jo Liddy; *Banksia spinulosa* 'Coastal Cushion', is one of the selected forms of dwarf Banksias and originates from the south coast of NSW.

Serendipitously, Brian & Lorraine Weir have also shared Banksia images from their garden, including; Another photo of *Banksia spinulosa* 'coastal cushion'. One of the other selected low growing form of *Banksia spinulosa* "Birthday Candles", and the quite large growing shrub growing *Banksia ericifolia*.

Brian's image of "Costal Cushions" (Below right) perfectly compliments Jo Liddy's photo of flower heads (at right) by showing the overall cushion like habit of the plant, and how spectacularly floriferous this form can be.

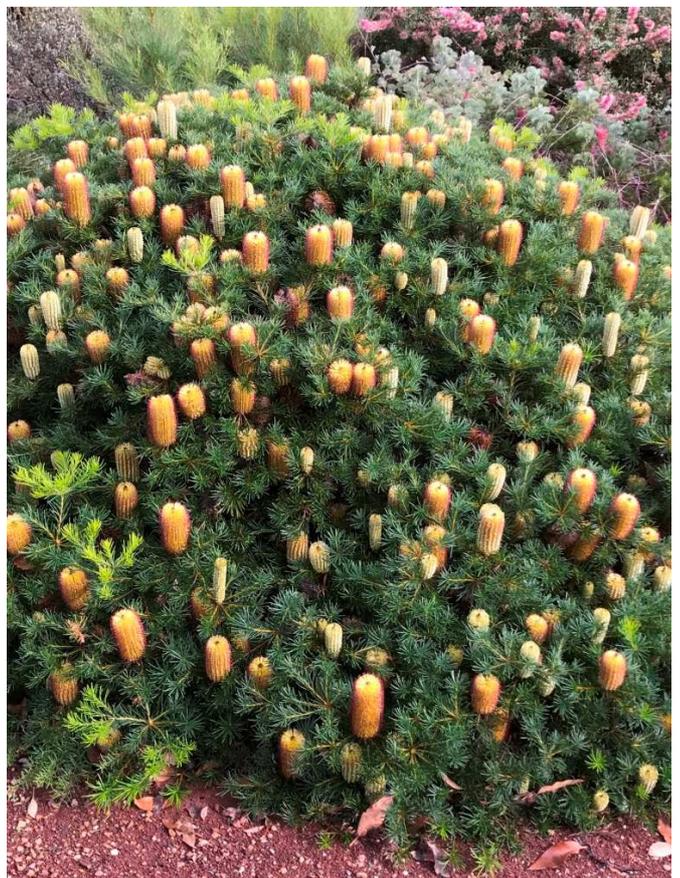
Banksia spinulosa "Birthday Candles" is slightly smaller growing than "Costal Cushion" reaching 0.5m high x 1m wide and has short, orange flower spikes with reddish styles. While "Costal Cushion" grows to 0.5m high x 1.5m wide and has yellow flower spikes with maroon styles.

Below: Part of the Weir's garden *Banksia spinulosa* "Birthday Candles" in foreground. Photo: Brian Weir.



Above: *Banksia spinulosa* "Costal Cushion"
Photo: Jo Liddy

Below: *Banksia spinulosa* "Costal Cushion"
Photo: Brian Weir.



Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 6)

Brian described the photo at right as a "*Banksia ericifolia* seedling". In my humble editorial opinion: That's one well grown, vigorous specimen! *Banksia ericifolia* AKA Heath Banksia, or Heath-leaved Banksia, is variable large growing shrub endemic to NSW with a size range from 2m - 6m high x 2m - 5m wide. It has bright green linear leaves of up to 2cm long, and produces flower heads up to 30cm in length during autumn and winter. A very hardy, fast growing, well known, popular plant that tolerates frost & suits a full sun to partially shaded position.

Russell Wait provided the next series of images: The first (Below) is various flowers of *Eremophila* laid out as a colour circle of sorts and was put together without a colour circle to follow.

The row of standard *Grevillea* pictured at centre right were planted out about 4 to 5 years ago. From right to left are: *Grevillea rudis*, *G. "carpet layer"*, *G. tenuiloba*, *G. humifusa*, *G. "Wendy's Sunshine"*, *G. aquifolium*, *G. preissii*, *G. "Waikia Gem"*, *G. nudiflora*, and *G. dryandroides*.

The image at bottom right is a row of standard *Grevillea* with *Eremophila maculata x splendens* "Beryl's Gem" planted in between. These have been in the ground for 3 years. *Grevillea* standards planted from left to right are: *G. "New Blood"*, *G. plurijuga*, *G. depauperata*, *G. "Katy Did"*, *G. bipinnatifida*, *G. "Grass Fire"* *G. "Carpet Layer"*, and *G. synapheae*.



Banksia ericifolia - Heath Banksia Photo: Brian & Lorraine Weir



Above: A row of *Grevillea* Standards planted 4-5 years ago
Below: Row of *Grevillea* Standards with *Eremophila* "Beryls Gem" Left: *Eremophila* flower wheel. Photos: Russell Wait



Garden snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 7)

The last two snaps from Russell Wait are of *Grevillea maxwellii* AKA Maxwell's Grevillea. This particular Grevillea was named for the late George Maxwell who was a botanical collector during the mid to late 1800's. It is endemic to a very restricted area of open heathland in South-Western WA.

Pictured here, it is growing as a grafted standard. In its natural form it is a low growing shrub to 0.5 -1m high x 1m wide with overlapping branches giving it a layered form. The showy, deep red flowers occur in winter and spring. Due to it's limited range and vulnerability it has been declared as an endangered plant. There are indications that it is adaptable enough to tolerate high humidity summers, but it will grow best where dry summers prevail. A sunny site in moist, well drained soil are the preferred growing conditions. It is tolerant of light frost and dry periods, although it is best initially planted when rainfall is due, and kept moist until fully established.



Above: *Grevillea maxwellii* (grafted Standard).

Photos: Russell Wait

In closing for this month's round of garden snapshots, I would like to once again thank, acknowledge, and send a big warm, heartfelt virtual hug to all those who have contributed the photos and articles in this edition:

Bill & Bee Barker,
Dawn Barr,
Ian Julian,
Jo Liddy,
Norbert Ryan,
Russell Wait,
Brian & Lorraine Weir.

Without your generous assistance our newsletter would not be as it is.

I may fit the jigsaw puzzle of photos and information together each month, but it is the caring village of like minded native plant enthusiasts who surround me, which, make my task possible, and a pleasure to perform.

Thank you all!

Jeanine

PS. Please keep the photos etc. rolling in (3 more issues to go in this year of COVID-19). Deep apologies if I've missed any contributors names.

September 1st is Wattle Day...

By Dawn Barr

As Federation of the Australian States into one Commonwealth approached; this was declared in 1901; there was a patriotic fever stirring amongst the citizens and the need to search for symbols that would help identify Australian nationalism.

In 1899 a Wattle Club was founded in Victoria by one Archibald Campbell, a field naturalist, to promote Wattle Day every September, and he declared that because the wattle was almost exclusively Australian, that it should be the National Floral Emblem.

At the same time R.T. Baker, a botanist and museum curator, advocated the Waratah as it is Australia's own, and we have a monopoly, whereas South Africa also has Wattles. This dispute continued for some time. The Wattle was included in the Australian armorial bearings when the Commonwealth Armorial Ensigns and Supporters were granted by Royal Warrant in 1912.

The Waratah was also included with the wattle as decoration on the trowels that helped lay the first foundation stones for the commencement column in Canberra, the National Capital in 1913.

Whilst the wattle *Acacia pycnantha*, the Golden Wattle, enjoyed popular acceptance, it was not until August 1988, Australia's bicentenary, that it was officially proclaimed and gazetted, signed by Sir Ninian Stephen on 19th August.

A ceremony was held on September 1st at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, when a formal announcement was made. The specimen from which it was named, was first collected by the explorer Thomas Mitchell in 1836, in the interior of New South Wales.

Acacia is derived from the Greek word 'Akis', meaning a point and referring to the prickly leaves of some species. Pycnantha is also from the Greek 'pyknos', meaning dense, and 'anthos', meaning a flower. So 'Golden Wattle' on account of the bright thick bunches of flowers. The species *A. pycnantha* grows through most of South Eastern Australia.

There are more than 900 species of Wattles in Australia. Botanists at one stage, wanted to



Acacia pycnantha - Golden Wattle

Photo: J Petts



Acacia aphylla (means no leaves)

Photo: Dawn Barr



The Red Wattle - *Acacia leprosa* red form

Photo: Dawn Barr

(Continued on page 10)

September 1st is Wattle Day continued...

By Dawn Barr

(Continued from page 9)

divide the species into other groups and change the name, but there was such an outcry from Australians, that this decision was changed. New names were given to species in other countries of the world, but Australia retains the name 'Wattle' for most of our species.

The Plant is thought to be symbolic of the Australian spirit, for just as Wattles rise from the ash of bushfires, Australians have always shown a determination to succeed and rise above any disasters, showing the spirit that has made us a great nation. Henry Lawson penned a poem on the Wattle and the Waratah in which he says:

*Australia! Australia! So fair to behold-
While the blue sky is arching above;
The stranger should never need to be told,
That the Wattle bloom means that her heart is of gold
And the Waratah's red with her love.*

*Australia! Australia! Most beautiful name,
Most kindly and beautiful land;
I would die every death that might save her from shame,
If a black cloud should rise on the stand;
But whatever the quarrel, whoever her foes,
Let them come! Let them come when they will!
Though the struggle be grim, 'tis Australia that knows
That her children shall fight while the Waratah grows,
And the Wattle blooms out on the hill.*

So wear a sprig of wattle on September 1st and show your allegiance to your land.

A. pycnantha grows well in gardens and is very showy, but has a limited life of about ten years. The wood is great for burning and produces a fine heat with little ash. Some other species are; the Sunshine Wattle *A. terminalis*, the Black Wattle *A. mearnsii*, the Silver Wattle *A. dealbata*, Prickly Moses *A. verticillata*, the Spike Wattle *A. oxycedrus* found in the Cape Conran area, the Sallow



Acacia Vestita in foreground and Background right *Acacia cognata* "Limelight" dwarf
Photo: Dawn Barr



Acacia mearnsii - Black Wattle
Photo: J Petts



Acacia dealbata - Silver Wattle
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 11)

September 1st is Wattle Day continued...

By Dawn Barr

(Continued from page 10)

Wattle *A. longifolia*, White Sallow Wattle *A. floribunda*, the Spreading Wattle *A. genistifolia*, the Hickory Wattle *A. falciformis*, the Sweet Wattle *A. suaveolens*, the Varnish Wattle *A. verniciflua*, the Bower Wattle *A. cognata*, Blackwood Wattle *A. melanoxylon*, Lightwood Wattle *A. implexa*, and the Snowy River Wattle *A. Boormannii*.

Most of these are trees or medium shrubs, but there are many small wattles that grow readily in a garden situation. Little Nugget; a small version of *A. pravissima*, is very showy, can be tip pruned to keep it rounded and small, and will grow well in a large pot. *A. acinacea*; the Gold Dust Wattle, with small bright gold globules displayed against deep green fern like foliage, and only grows to one metre by one metre. *A. jonesii* has soft green ferny foliage carried on fine stems and displays large gold globules in the spring. *A. vestita* is a larger tree with a lovely weeping habit. There are also wattles that are ground covers.



Acacia genistifolia - Spreading Wattle

Photo: Ian Julian



Acacia melanoxylon - Blackwood

Photo: J Petts



Acacia acinacea - Gold Dust Wattle (Tallarook form)

Photo: J Petts



Acacia verniciflua - Varnish Wattle

Photo: J Petts

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Barbara Mau,
Bill & Bee Barker,
Dawn Barr,
Christine Cram,
Ian Julian,
Jo Liddy,
Norbert Ryan,
Russell Wait,
Brian & Lorraine Weir.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

In line with ongoing advice on COVID-19 (coronavirus), many APS-related events may be cancelled on short notice.

APS Victoria will endeavour to keep event status updated on the APS Victoria website:

<https://apsvic.org.au/events/>

Or check with the event organiser.

September 5 & 6 - Open Garden Scheme Bill Aitchison & Sue Gymer's garden, 13 Conos Crt, Donvale.

19 & 20 September - APS Bendigo Plant Sale, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat (Bendigo). 9:30am-4pm.

October 3-4 - Pomonal Flower show. Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm. Special Guest Speaker: Jane Edmanson. For details visit:

<https://apsvic.org.au/event/aps-grampians-pomonal-flower-show-2020/>

October 24-25, 2020 - 13th FJC Rogers Seminar on 'Mint bushes & allied genera' -

Details & Registration forms are available online at:

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020>

6 gardens available to visit over the weekend of the 24th & 25th of October. Registration will be required. Online lectures available 1 week prior to the weekend, accessed via password for registered attendees. Cost: \$25 per person

For further information contact: Email: fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au
Phone: Miriam 0409 600 644



Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

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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, Dawn Barr, Jeanine Petts, Victoria Morris.
Group Librarian: Volunteer position open
Plant Sales: Volunteer position open
Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 0409 029 603
Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Volunteer position open. Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

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.

Local Nurseries open for business ...

During this time of Covid-19 isolation, please remember & support our local native nurseries...

Valley of 1000 Hills Nursery (David & Helen Laurie)
Supplying indigenous tubes stocks.
150 Reid Rd, Reedy Creek.
Open Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Phone: 03 5784 9286

Ironstone Park (Peter & Joan Broughton)
Specialising in rare, unusual & hard to find native plants.
Lot 33 Paling Rd, Heathcote.
Open by appointment: The garden is looking fabulous with many unusual natives worth looking at. Call Pete on: 0419 878 950 if you would like an appointment or arrange to have plants dropped off.

Russell Wait - Eremophila specialist
Russell grows *Eremophila*, some standard *Grevillea*, and does occasionally have a small quantity of other species. Held in his garden is the Botanical Collection of Eremophila for Plant Trust that he has held for approximately 25 years.
11 Tranter Close, Riddells Creek.
Open by appointment: Visitors need to telephone first to arrange access. Mobile reception in the area is very poor, so the landline is the preferred & most reliable method of contact.
Telephone: 03 54287956 Mobile: 0428 388 211



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2020/21 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 Vic membership when joining/renewing with another district group. Which Group? : <hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Optional Australian Plants Subscription	4 issues:		\$15.00
Total Due:			\$	

I wish to apply for APS Vic/APS Mitchell COVID-19 financial hardship fee waiver.

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

Signed:	Date: / /
----------------	------------------

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