

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

Website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://www.apsmitchell.org.au)

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

# October 2020

## Volume 7, Issue 9

### October news...!

Hello and welcome to our October 2020 edition...

Halfway through spring & officially in a "La Nina" season. Yippee!!! Hopefully that means plenty of water for our gardens along with an excellent growing season.

Owing to continuing uncertainty regarding the easing of Covid-19 restrictions (at time of writing), we remain unable to schedule meetings at this present time. As soon as the situation changes the committee will endeavor to meet, plan & provide an update.

In the meantime, our lovely generous members & friends continue to answer the call for images and information to share within these pages. This month I send another huge shout out along with much appreciation & deepest thanks to our wonderful supporters—See back page, photo credits & articles for this edition's contributors names—Bless your cotton socks! (Or should I say gardener's gloves ;-))

With only 1 edition left for the year, please keep sending items for the newsletter my way—it is



*Diuris chryseopsis* Golden Moth Orchid  
Photo: B & B Barker

truly & deeply appreciated not just by me, but all our readership. I'll also be hopefully awaiting bringing better news regarding group meetings & activities.

The November newsletter is due for issue on or within a few days of Monday November 9th, & contributions received until Thursday November 5th. Email to: [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto:wattlegum@southernphone.com.au)

Virtual hugs to all, stay safe, well, & I continue looking forward to hearing from our nurturing community of native plant enthusiasts. Cheers for now, Jeanine

#### Inside this issue:

*General Meeting Information* Pg 2

*Membership* Pg 2

*Gardens for Wildlife News* Pg 2

*Garden & nature snapshots...  
Tree Violet...* Pg 3

*Weed Watch...  
Aussie Backyard Bird Count...* Pg 8

*Reminders, APS Vic  
Diary Dates etc...  
Committee & Contact Information* Pg 10

*Local native plant nurseries open for business* Pg 12

## Seeing snakes...?

Just a quick reminder that with the onset of warmer weather our scaly friends are active & on the move again. They are a vital part of our ecosystems & should be treated with respect. Should you happen upon a reptile that needs relocation, or have a dog that would benefit from snake aversion training, Glenn James is available to assist:

Located in Kilmore ABN 53 046 401 566

**Snake Safe**  
REPTILE EDUCATION

24/7 Snake Removal  
041 656 2762

*We'll put our life on the line so you don't have too.*

### 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 Garden Visit to The garden of Dawn McCormack remains postponed until further notice. The visit will hopefully be rescheduled when conditions allow.**
- **November—AGM Date, format & further details to be confirmed.**



## Gardens for Wildlife News...

By Ian Julian

Welcome to new member Lauren Anderson of Seymour. Some photos of Lauren's garden are below. We now have 80 members in the program.

The Facebook page is still seeing a lot of activity with views and new followers. It has been a difficult year for the program especially for Spring without community spring events.

Look out for the November newsletter for more news for G4W.



Views from Lauren Anderson's garden, with visiting New Holland Honeyeater (on fence) & *Pycnosorus globosus* Drumsticks.  
Photos: Lauren Anderson

**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.



*Podolepis jaceoides*  
Showy Podolepis  
Photo: J Petts 1/10/20

## Memberships...

Hopefully everyone has completed their 2020/21 membership renewal & emailed forms along to Christine at [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au) or popped a hardcopy in the mail to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, PO BOX 541 Kilmore Vic 3764. Members should have received their quarterly edition of APS Victoria's *Growing Australian* in the Mail during September—If your copy has not arrived your membership may have lapsed, & you may need to check your membership status.

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](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au) Membership information, forms and contact information can also be found at our website. <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

# Sept – Oct garden & nature snapshots ...

Photos from APS Mitchell members & friends...

As promised last month– We continue on with photos from Paul Piko. In addition, Paul has been out Orchid & wildflower spotting in recent weeks, and has very generously shared many new images, along with some information on a special Spider Orchid...

Paul writes that: All (photos) were taken within Mitchell Shire, including the rare crimson Castlemaine Spider Orchid. It is called Castlemaine Spider Orchid because Castlemaine is its type location, the place the first specimen was formally recognised. It's scientific name is *Caladenia clavescens*, and it is found in central Victoria. There is a very similar, also rare Crimson Spider Orchid that occurs from central to north-east Victoria, called *Caladenia concolor*. I think the ones in my photos are *Caladenia clavescens*.

The pollinated *Caladenia clavescens* (pictured at top far right) is from a previously unknown site for the species, so I'm very happy to have found it. When this type of orchid is pollinated the flower dies off and the ovary beneath swells, as can be seen in the photo. Hopefully that means we'll have some new plants in the future.

Other Orchids photographed by Paul in flower over the past month are: *Caladenia carnea* Pink Fingers, *Caladenia moschata* Musky Caps, *Caladenia tentaculata* Mantis Orchid, *Calochilus robertsonii* Purplish Beard-orchid, *Diuris chryseopsis* Golden Moth Orchid, *Diuris orientis* Wallflower Orchid, *Diuris pardina* Leopard Orchid, a *Microtis* sp. (Onion Orchid), & a range of *Thelymitra* Sun-orchids; *T. antennifera* Rabbit Ears, *T. pauciflora* Slender Sun-orchid, & *T. rubra* Salmon Sun-orchid.



*Caladenia clavescens* - Above left unpollinated & above right pollinated  
Photos: Paul Piko



*Caladenia carnea* Pink Fingers  
Photo: Paul Piko

*Caladenia moschata* Musky Caps  
Photo: Paul Piko



Left-right: *Caladenia tentaculata* Mantis Orchid, *Calochilus* Purplish Beard-Orchid, *Diuris chryseopsis* Golden Moth Orchid  
Photos: Paul Piko - Please note: All photos by Paul Piko are subject to Copywrite. [www.piko.com.au](http://www.piko.com.au) (Continued on page 4)

# Sept—Oct snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Also in flower during Paul’s local wildflower spotting outings were: *Brunonia australis*, *Grevillea alpina*, & *Leucochrysum albicans*? (Ed. I think? - feel free to correct me if I’ve mis-identified.)

Paul’s fauna photos included this month (see following page) are of:

New Holland Honeyeater, a “Big Roo”, Long-billed Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, & Grey Shrike-thrush.



*Diuris orientis*  
Wallflower Orchid



*Diuris pardina*  
Leopard Orchid



*Thelymitra* sp. Emerging leaf, be on the lookout for these.



*Thelymitra antennifera*  
Rabbit Ears



*Thelymitra pauciflora*  
Slender Sun-orchid



*Thelymitra rubra*  
Salmon Sun-orchid



*Brunonia australis*  
Blue Pincushion



*Grevillea alpina* Cat’s Claw



*Leucochrysum albicans* ?  
Hoary Sunray



New Holland Honeyeater

(Continued on page 5)

Sept—Oct snapshots continued...

(Continued from page 4)



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Photo: © Paul Piko



Long-billed Corella

Photo: © Paul Piko



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Photo: © Paul Piko



“Big Roo”

Photo: © Paul Piko



Grey Shrike-thrush

Photo: © Paul Piko

Lastly....

The plants in Dawn McCormack’s lovely garden continue to spring into stunning form, & Tim Wollington has been busy taking more photos for our viewing pleasure; 2 of each plant, showing plant form & flower close up. The first of which, is *Alyogyne huegelii* Blue Hibiscus, a hardy, fast growing plant that is endemic to WA & SA. It tolerates most frosts (will be knocked back by heavy frosts & then re-grow) & produces large showy flowers over a long period.



*Alyogyne huegelii* Photos: Tim Wollington

(Continued on page 6)

*Sept–Oct snapshots continued...*

*(Continued from page 5)*

*Philotheca myoporoides* Long-leaved Waxflower, is one of the most widely grown Wax Plants and is a member of the Rutaceae family (along with *Citrus*, *Correa*, *Boronia* etc.). It is endemic to the Eastern States; from Victoria, though New South Wales & into Queensland. Another profusely flowering, showy and very hardy plant that grows up to 1.5m wide by 2m high, & as seen here, responds well to pruning.



*Philotheca myoporoides* Long-leaved Waxflower Photos: Tim Wollington

*Eutaxia myrtifolia* is one of many Pea family species often commonly referred to as "Egg & Bacon" plants. *E. myrtifolia* has undergone name changes being previously known as *E. obovata* & *Dillwynia obovata*. It can be variable in form, from prostrate to an erect shrub that can grow to 2m, though is usually around 1m in cultivation forming a rounded shrub. It is endemic to coastal regions of southern WA, & tolerates light frosts, a little shade, & most soils - but requires good drainage.



*Eutaxia myrtifolia* Photos: Tim Wollington

Our final frames this month are of *Prostanthera rotundifolia* Round-leaved Mint Bush (Ed. Feel free to correct me if I have mis-identified). This profusely flowering Mint Bush is not only an outstanding plant in flower, but is also used as a native substitute for the culinary herb Oregano (leaves can be used fresh or dry). A rounded variable shrub that may reach 2.5-3m in size, bearing rounded to egg-shaped leaves, & purple or sometimes pink flowers. It prefers part shade, but will tolerate some sun & light frost.



*Prostanthera rotundifolia* Round-leaved Mint Bush Photos: Tim Wollington

# Tree Violet - *Melicytus dentatus*...

By Norbert Ryan

## The unusual features of the Tree violet, *Melicytus dentatus*

The name *Melicytus dentatus* is derived from meli meaning honey and kytos hollow cylinder, referring to the staminal nectaries; the leaves are toothed or dentate. *M. dentatus* belongs to the family Violaceae, sub order Hymenanthaera. The majority of *Melicytus* species are found in New Zealand and across the south-western Pacific, occurring as small trees or woody shrubs in Samoa, Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. *M. dentatus* grows in eastern Australia, extending from the edges of the Flinders Ranges to south-eastern Queensland. It seems unexpected to encounter small trees within a family that contains such disparate species as violets and pansies. The unifying features of the Violaceae family are that they have fragrant flowers; the leaves are simple and generally alternate; the fruit is a capsule or berry. The flower has five petals which generally overlap and five anthers with the lowest two having nectar-bearing appendages or nectaries projecting backwards into the lowest petal.

Within Victoria there are two species recognised, although similar in appearance they may have shared an ancestral form but are incapable of hybridizing. *M. dentatus* is in a diploid chromosomal state ( $2n = 32$ ) and *M. angustifolius* is polyploid ( $2n = 64$ ).

The latter is generally found in forest, while *M. dentatus* grows in open country, preferring well drained, moist soils. The following description relates to the more common species *M. dentatus*. Form may vary depending on the harshness of the environment. Growth on creek banks may be more vigorous and reach three metres in height, while plants on exposed rocky sites may be woody and stunted. It is an exceptionally long-lived species with some specimens estimated to exceed 100 yrs. These shrubs can be pruned and are suitable for hedging. Younger plants grow in a ball shape with intermeshing branches which carry small spikes. In this respect the plants are considered to provide excellent protective shelter for nesting birds. The edible berries of 4-5mm diameter provide a good food source for skinks and possums. Local examples in Hidden Valley are all growing on fence lines, suggesting that birds also share in this abundant harvest.

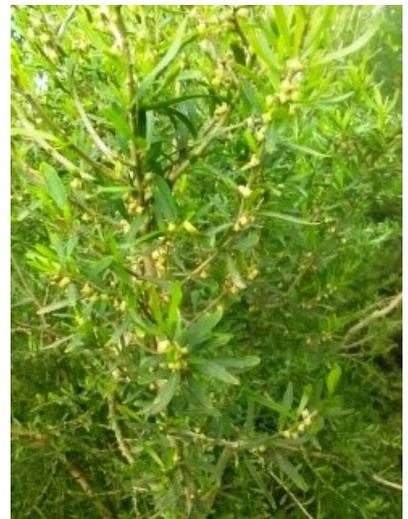
The flowering period is from August–October and plants may be in full bloom for three-four weeks. The flowers are exceptionally numerous, scattered along all the stems, suspended on pedicels 2-2.5mm in length and there is a distinct violet smell. This species is largely dioecious (separate male and female plants), the male flowers are more highly scented and are of greater length, 3-4mm compared to 2-2.7 mm for female flowers.



*Melicytus dentatus* Picture 1. Bushy growth occurring both sides of a roadside fence. Photo: N Ryan



*Melicytus dentatus* Picture 2. Heavily scented male flowers, on pedicels attached along the entire length of branches, very few spikes visible. Photo: N Ryan



*Melicytus dentatus* Picture 3. Female plant, underside of branches showing developing berries, a comparison with male plant shows only attachment points where flowers were situated. Photo: N Ryan



*Melicytus dentatus* Picture 4. An introduced young garden plant shows extensive spikes and the angling of branches at 40-50 degrees. More mature plants appear to have less spikes. Photo: N Ryan

(Continued on page 8)

## Tree Violet - *Melicytus dentatus* continued...

By Norbert Ryan

(Continued from page 7)

The ovary and stigma are vestigial in male flowers. Berries mature between December-March, measure 7-8 x 5-7mm, they vary from bluish-grey-mauve or white in colour. The fruit falls within 3-14 days of maturing. Seeds take 3-4 months to germinate.

These two Victorian species can be identified from the following features. *M. dentatus* is taller, more finely stemmed, with thin, needle-like spines and light green foliage. The leaves are irregularly spaced, even crowded on side branchlets that extend at approximately 45-50 degrees from larger stems. Leaves are largely sessile and measure >20 x 2mm, with several to many teeth on each margin; and they are hypostomatic, the stomata only occur on the lower surface. This feature cannot be differentiated with the naked eye but the under surface is of a lighter colour. Plants bear either male or female flowers. In contrast *M. angustifolius* is a smaller, more rigid shrub with coarse, spine-tipped stems, branching at close to right angles. The leaves are dark green and smaller at 12-22 x 2.5mm. The defining differences between both species are that for *M. angustifolius* stomata occur on both sides of the leaf and the flowers are hermaphroditic, additionally the fruit is often spotted and blue in colour. Both species are reported to occur on the Victorian basaltic plains.

Reference Sources used: *Melicytus dentatus* Woolshed-Thurgoona Landcare; *Melicytus dentatus* Vicflora; Stajsic et al 2014, A revision of *Melicytus* (Violaceae) in mainland Australia and Tasmania, Australian Systematic Botany 27:305-323



*Melicytus dentatus* Picture 5. Pale underside of leaves and note 2-3 projections or teeth hence the species name “dentatus”. Photo: N Ryan

## Weed Watch - Sweet Vernal Grass...

By Norbert Ryan

### Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*

This seemingly benign name camouflages an insidious invader. I was first alerted to the problems with this species when I heard that Bill and Bee Barker were painstakingly ridding their bushland area of this pest. The history of the introduction of this species is uncertain, it may have been selected for its decorative appearance, country of origin is northern Africa and it has colonized world-wide. It is a C3 (temperate) tufted, perennial grass capable of recovering post fire. An adult plant may produce up to 1200 seeds that can survive in the soil for several years and seeds are probably spread by wildlife. An unusual feature is that the plant produces coumarin, this accounts for the vanilla-like smell and it is a recognised hay fever allergen. As with all nuisance weeds, it is highly competitive, grows rapidly, flowers early and has prolific seed production. From a fodder perspective it is regarded of low feed value, despite the apparent attractive smell. In some neglected “native pasture” this can become a dominant species and may then be cut for hay, spreading the species further. Additionally the coumarin product can be metabolized by moulds to produce dicoumarol, a very undesirable bi-product that can cause poisoning from mouldy hay. Dicoumarol has a similar structure to vitamin K and warfarin, causing bleeding disease in livestock. Unfortunately hand weeding is the only option in bushland settings, it is not deep-rooted but root mass may be dense, tending to bring out a lot of soil. This species is flowering in profusion now.



Image 1. Sweet vernal grass colonizing native grassland, tufts occurring in an area covered with *Microlaena*  
Photo: N Ryan



Image 2. Sweet Vernal Grass invading an area of Maidenhair fern.  
Photo: N Ryan



Dust off your binoculars and head to your local green space, because the 2020 Aussie Backyard Bird Count is nearly here. It'll take place during Bird Week, 19–25 October. Register at <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/> to take part.

### Why we need you

Collecting a huge dataset like the one we get from the Aussie Backyard Bird Count is only possible thanks to you. The vast amount of data collected from citizen science programs like the Aussie Backyard Bird Count fills a knowledge gap, particularly on urban bird species, and gives us access to areas we usually wouldn't be able to survey, like your backyard!

As well as helping ecologists track large-scale biodiversity trends like these, it also gives people the chance to connect with their natural environment and gain a greater appreciation of our unique fauna.

### How to get involved

The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard no matter where your backyard happens to be — a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, down by the beach, or the main street of town.

You can count as many times as you like over the week, we just ask that each count is completed over a 20-minute period. The data collected assists BirdLife Australia in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.

For more information on how to take part, head to the Frequently Asked Questions page: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/faq/>

And for information on downloading & using the Aussie Backyard Bird count app take a look at the video at the following weblink:

<https://youtu.be/EUT4VnEzMq8>

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## 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,  
Christine Cram,  
Dawn McCormack & Tim Wollington,  
Glenn James  
Ian Julian,  
Lauren Anderson,  
Paul Piko,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Victoria Morris.

#### 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.**

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

**Zoom webinars have already commenced (see page 11).**

There is no cost to the Webinars. Registration of an

Expression of Interest email to [fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au](mailto:fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au) is required if you would like to receive the Webinar (Zoom) link to be part of the Seminar lectures.

Further details & Registration forms are available online at: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020>

At this point in time the garden visits have been postponed until the weekend of **November the 28th & 29th**, when it is hoped that the numbers allowed will make them viable.

Everything will be BYO – lunch, snacks, drinks, sanitiser and masks.

Owing to continuing

uncertainties, we are waiting until the next step for Melbourne is announced, to make a final decision and pronouncement on the plant sales and the garden visits. Please refer to the FJC Rogers Seminar Website for current & updated information.

**For further information contact:**

**Email:** [fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au](mailto:fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au)

**Phone:**

**Miriam 0409 600 644**

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

## Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

Website: [www.apsmitchell.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)

#### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts  
Email: [wattlegum@southernphone.com.au](mailto: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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## *13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020, Mint Bushes & Allied Genera Webinars & Garden Visit information...*

### **Webinar (Zoom) Lectures have already commenced:**

Talks will last 30 minutes with 10 for questions. (They will be recorded and available online subsequently):

- **1st Webinar (Zoom). Thursday 8th October, 7pm-8.30pm:** 1. Dr Trevor Wilson – Intimate relationships unveiled; kinships of quirky Australian Mints. 2. Dr. Michael Whitehead – Pollinators, pollination & gene flow in Victorian Prostanthera.
- **2nd Webinar (Zoom). Thursday 15th October, 7pm-8pm:** Professor Jeremy Bruhl & Dr Ian Telford – Mayhem in the Mints, Systematic study of Prostanthera; resolving misnaming with consequences for cultivation & conservation.
- **3rd Webinar (Zoom). Thursday 22nd October, 7pm-8.45pm:** 1. Maria Hitchcock OAM – Propagation, cultivation, & essential oils of Prostanthera & Westringia genera. 2. Propagation & cultivation of Allied genera; the Kings Park experience. 3. 5min presentation by APS Maroondah on 14th FJC Rogers Seminar in 2022.

**Registration information:** Please register an Expression of Interest email to [fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au](mailto:fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au) if you would like to receive the Webinar (Zoom) link to be part of the FJC Rogers Seminar lectures. There is no cost to the Webinars. (Everyone who registers by sending an email will be sent the Webinar link - So be sure to check your email.)

All those who have already registered an EOI for the Seminar, and those who've registered for Garden Visits will automatically be sent the Webinar link – no need to email us again.

**Garden Visits:** At this point in time it has been decided to postpone the garden visits until the weekend of November the 28th & 29th, when it is hoped that the numbers allowed will make them viable. Everything will be BYO – lunch, snacks, drinks, sanitiser and masks.

[Garden visit registration form](https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020) (Excel) is downloadable from the website:  
<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020>

**Seminar Plant Sales:** The plant sales will take place at one of the gardens with credit card, non-contact facilities. The plant sale list will go up online at the end of October.

**Raffle:** Some wonderful prizes and tickets will be on sale over the weekend with the prizes displayed at the Barfield garden. There will be a draw at 3pm each day over the garden visit weekend.

There are promotional videos on the seminar website: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020> where detailed information on speakers, presentations & gardens can also be found contained in the latest [FJC Rogers newsletter](#) that is accessed via the *Newsletter* tab.

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## Other Events...

Shared by Victoria Morris

Friends of the Botanic Gardens 15th annual *The art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition* is online & currently open until the 1st of December 2020. The exhibition is free to view and work is for sale:

<https://tabi.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/>

Due to Covid-19, the FRBG are running a number of interesting talks online. If you choose to become a Friend, there is a reduced rate for country members. A little information on 3 of the upcoming events is listed below, & for the full list of online talks, details & online booking visit:

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events>

### A few that may be of interest to Native Plant Enthusiasts...

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/30813-habitat-gardening-talking-online-with-ab-bishop-horticulturist-writer-and-conservationist>

#### **Habitat Gardening - Talking Online with AB Bishop, Horticulturist, writer and conservationist Wed, 4 Nov 2020**

**4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

In a world where suburban nature is declining and diversity is shrinking, AB Bishop will discuss why it's time to look at our garden with new eyes. She believes that our gardens should be a place for our own enjoyment and also provide a means of contributing to the health and sustainability of our local environment, the two not being mutually exclusive. AB will show what critters we need to encourage to our gardens and how to design, plant and maintain fauna-friendly landscapes. Learn about what plants suit what creatures and why, and how to factor in the shelter, nesting, food and water requirements of different types of wildlife.

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**Bookings essential to receive Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 3rd November at 5 pm**

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/31163-art-in-the-state-botanical-collection-talking-online-with-sally-stewart-librarian-rbgv>

#### **Art in the State Botanical Collection – Talking online with Sally Stewart, Librarian RBGV**

**Tue, 10 Nov 2020**

**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

The State Botanical Collection holds more than 5000 works of botanical art. The collection steadily grows, helped particularly by support from The Friends at the biennial TABI exhibition. This talk will explore the history, the breadth and the curatorial story of the Botanical Art Collection in the library, at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Join Sally Stewart, Librarian with the RBGV to learn more about this wonderful collection.

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 9 November at 5 pm.**

<https://rbgfriendsmelbourne.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/31164-the-acacia-project-illustrating-the-rare-endangered-and-unusual-acacias-of-the-rbgm-talking-online-with-pam-mcdiarmid>

#### **The Acacia Project: Illustrating the Rare, Endangered and Unusual Acacias of the RBGM - Talking Online with Pam McDiarmid**

**Sun, 13 Dec 2020**

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Commonly known as Wattle, Acacia is the largest genus of vascular plants in Australia with almost all the known 1070 species occurring naturally on our continent. Our FRBGM Botanical Illustrators, the Whirlybirds, established The Acacia Project in 2019 to document and depict the most rare, endangered and unusual of these trees or shrubs. Twenty four artworks have now been produced by these talented artists and specimens collected to be donated to the National Herbarium of Victoria. Aptly on National Wattle Day, Pam McDiarmid, creator and manager of this highly valued project, will talk to us about the process that's been involved in bringing this project to life and celebrate these fire-resistant shrubs that form the second most common forest after Eucalypts.

**Members \$5.00 Non-members \$10.00**

**Bookings essential to receive the Zoom link.**

**Bookings close 11 December at 5pm**

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## *Other Events...*

*Shared by Victoria Morris*

**basa**  
Botanical Art Society  
of Australia

**Pre-Christmas Card and  
Calendar Sale is now on  
until 29 November 2020.**



**A first ever pre-Christmas card sale which gives the chance to purchase some unusual and rare cards that show original works by our member artists.**

**Visit the BASA website: <https://www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com/Online-Card-Sales> to see the online shop stocked with hundreds of cards to view, select purchase.**

**Buy some for yourself or perhaps package several up in a ribbon as a unique Christmas present for someone. All cards come with an envelope.**

**Also available is a 2021 calendar filled with beautiful work created during COVID lockdown. For the first time we have a BASA calendar produced using paintings from our COVID forums.**

**Please help spread the word about the card and calendar sale to your friends, work colleagues and families.**

**(Note from Victoria: Money goes direct to the artists & 10% to BASA - A good thing at the moment.)**

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