

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Inc# A0054306V

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Volume 10, Issue 1

February & March news...!

Hello, belated Happy New Year to everyone & welcome to our extremely late, first issue for 2023.

Firstly, my humble & deep apologies for ending up skipping our usual February issue, resulting in this combined February & March newsletter. Unfortunately, events transpired to make me both time poor, & somewhat physically limited since early January. Consequently, our next issue will also end up a bit of a combo, as I will now be including the 2023 February meeting report in our April newsletter, then hopefully return to the regular format from May.

In further news, we sadly report the passing of one of our newer members, Danielle Hickford, who will be keenly missed. Norbert has kindly penned a Vale for Danielle, which, can be found on page 2. 2 of Danielle's generously shared photos grace this front page.

Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday April 10th, 2023. Contributions big & small are deeply appreciated & always needed. If you can help

out with items of interest please send them in by Monday April 3rd, 2023. Email to: jin.wgff@gmail.com

Wishing everyone a pleasant Autumn.

Cheers, until next time, Jeanine



Above: *Thysanotus patersonii* Twining Fringe Lily
Below: *Billardiera* sp. Apple-berry
Photos: Danielle Hickford

Inside this issue:

<i>Vale Danielle Hickford</i>	Pg 2
<i>March meeting details</i>	Pg 2
<i>Membership</i>	Pg 2
<i>Gardens for Wildlife news Spotlight on Xerochrysum viscosum</i>	Pg 3
<i>November 2022 Meeting report</i>	Pg 4
<i>President's Report 2022</i>	Pg 13
<i>Treasurer's Report 2022</i>	Pg 14
<i>Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc....</i>	Pg 16
<i>Committee & Contact Information</i>	Pg 16
<i>Local native plant nurseries</i>	Pg 16



Mitchell Diary Dates ..

Meetings will be held under the requirements of our [Covid Safe facility Plan](#); **Please read the plan (back pages) prior to attending.**

We also ask members and guests follow important COVIDSafe rules:

Please Do not attend meetings if: You are unwell, especially with cold/flu symptoms or have been in contact with someone where there is a risk you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 7 days.

- **Monday March 20th - 7pm**
Evening Meeting (**Please note new start time**)
Guest Speaker: Mike Williams
Topic: WA Wildflowers of Norseman to Lake King.
- **Monday April 17th - 7pm**
Evening meeting
Guest speaker to be confirmed.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**
APS MITCHELL SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE— SATURDAY OCTOBER 21st 9am -3pm



Vale Danielle Hickford 6/8/69-11/2/23

By Norbert Ryan

Danielle introduced herself when Gerry and I were manning a stall at the Wallan Market, selling membership to the Gardens for Wildlife program. She explained that she was delighted to meet like-minded people who shared her passion for the native plants and bushland. For a very short period thereafter, she became a regular attendee at APS meetings and garden visits.

Danielle lived at Clonbinane, close to Mt Disappointment. She volunteered to lead a group of APS members to show us some of the special areas of bushland, which, she had spotted while dog walking or horse riding, areas that she had grown to love. Unfortunately ill-health intervened with a recurrence of cancer. Nevertheless our visit to that area went ahead, prompted by her notes about locations with high numbers of springtime flowers. In addition to her love of nature, Danielle was an amateur artist and keen photographer; she has left our group a treasure trove of her beautiful photos of local flora. She also bequeathed a copy of "A Complete guide to Native Orchids of Australia", DL Jones 2006, to be added to our Mitchell APS library.

Danielle had a distinguished academic career in the School of Biosciences at Melbourne University, specializing in the study of the genetics of wallabies. Her life-long love of horse-riding extended to providing a local service in hoof-trimming. All these facets of her life reflect a love of outdoor life and appreciation of nature, which she had shared with her late husband, Julian. Our sympathy is extended to her family and loved ones.

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE
3rd MONDAY OF THE MONTH
(February to November)
unless otherwise advised

Commencing 7:00 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



March Meeting— Monday 20th 7:00pm

For our March meeting we are again in the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library, at the new start time of 7:00pm. Mike Williams will be taking us on a pictorial West Australian wildflower journey, covering the 200km from Norseman to Lake King. Mike is a longstanding & very active member of APS Mitchell, APS Yarra Yarra and APS Victoria, having served on Yarra Yarra group's executive committee in various roles over a number decades, and in the past on APS Victoria Growth and Development committees. He also runs a small native plant nursery from his home in Montmorency and brings plants for sale to our group meetings. Having made numerous field trips to WA, Mike has amassed a wealth of knowledge on WA flora, including prime wildflower hotspots. Do come along for what will be a most engaging evening and be prepared to spend time oohing and aahing at slides of gorgeous wildflowers, whilst hearing tales of Mike's travels exploring WA's back roads, byways and flora.



Wahlenbergia communis with
Xerochrysum viscosum Photo: J Petts

Feel free to bring flower specimens along for show and discussion (please label with species name if known). Our door prize plant raffle will follow the main presentation and the evening will conclude with chat time and supper. Tea, coffee, and home baked goodies will be available. Remember: visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings. Meetings are held under the guidelines of our [Covid safe facility plan](#). Please read the plan (click link or see back pages) prior to attending.

Memberships...

Our membership numbers currently stand at 39.

For all membership enquiries please contact Christine: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: mitchell@apsvic.org.au Further information, contact details, along with a downloadable [membership form](#) can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Gerry Ho

Our species in the spotlight for February/March is:

Xerochrysum viscosum Sticky Everlasting

If you have spotted patches of yellow driving along Northern Highway over summer, chances are that you would have seen *Xerochrysum viscosum*, or Sticky Everlasting.

Formerly known as *Helichrysum viscosum*, and then *Bracteantha viscosa*, its latest nomenclature reflects the species well: *xeros* (dry) and *chrysos* (golden) — a nod to the papery bracts enveloping each flower head, and *viscosus* — a reference to the sticky (and narrow) leaves. You might have seen it growing together with its relative in the shire: *X. bracteatum* or Golden Everlasting, which has broader and non-sticky leaves, but that is no less striking in bloom.

It is not difficult to cultivate Sticky Everlasting; it requires well-drained soil in full or partial sun. It is frost and drought resistant, and complements other colours in the backyard well. A mass planting of *X. viscosum* is particularly attractive when paired with *Wahlenbergia* (Blue Bells). Virtually maintenance-free, Sticky Everlasting may need pruning towards summer's end to revitalise the plant — and long after the flowering season has ended for the year, cuttings continue to add a dash of cheeriness on a mantelpiece (or desk).

Sticky Everlasting provides food for butterflies and larvae, and can be propagated by both seed and cutting. Seeds collected over summer can be sown thinly into soil. Cuttings (with flower heads and lower leaves removed) can be placed in a 3:1 coarse sand and peat moss medium.



Xerochrysum viscosum Photos: Gerry Ho



The Gardens for Wildlife Program in Mitchell Shire is facilitated by APS Mitchell & Co-ordinated by Gerry Ho. Supported by Mitchell Shire Council, SW Goulburn Landcare & Euroa Arboretum.

'Gardens for Wildlife' aims to provide support, encouragement and advice to people to help make their gardens friendly places for wildlife to visit and live.

Even one wildlife-friendly garden can make a difference, but many gardens together can provide greater biodiversity along with areas of protection, habitat, and linkages across landscapes for wildlife to live and move safely.

For further information visit <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/gardens-for-wildlife/>

or contact Gerry: Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Ph: 0403 983 330

Follow on Facebook at [Gardens for Wildlife - Mitchell](#)

November Meeting Report - AGM & Wildlife in our back yards...

By Jeanine Petts

The combination of an unseasonably cold November evening, along with flood damage to the John Taylor Room, saw us meet in a quite cold supper room at the Kilmore Soldier's Memorial Hall. Now, our regular meeting rooms are a most comfortable space to be in, so, if our November meeting was the first time you've come along, please don't be put off by the temporary chilly surroundings. Do give us another go and join us again at the John Taylor Room, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

The evening and room may have been cold. However, we were welcomed by plenty of cheery faces, warm smiles and laughter. A yummy supper had been brought along, hot tea and coffee were available, which, we were able to begin to enjoy ahead of formal proceedings, along with time to peruse Mike Williams's great collection of plants awaiting keen purchasers on the night.

Our guest speaker, Chris Cobern, had travelled some distance to be with us, so when Norbert called us to our seats and began his welcome, he was mindful of needing to make it possible for Chris to leave as early as possible. Accordingly, he advised our agenda for the evening would be guest speaker first, raffle, followed by AGM, then flower table if time permitted before supper proper. In making introductions, Norbert shared that Chris has been working in the Landcare space since 2009 with the [Upper Goulburn Landcare Network](#). Further, that Norbert, Gerry and John Pyle had become acquainted with Chris Cobern via the establishment of a group to work on the Hidden Valley Rail Reserve. Additionally, Chris also has a small role with Mitchell Shire and is currently Upper Merri Landcare Facilitator for the relatively young [Merri Creek Management Committee](#).

Chris began his presentation, stating that we can attract and see all types of creatures around our homes and gardens. He went on to explain that the Landcare group uses remote sensor cameras for wildlife surveillance, and the images for the evening's presentation came from these cameras, which, show a range of the fauna that can be found in our region. As Chris progressed through the images, he shared a little information on each of the creatures, and, in a few cases, some of their interconnections. Beginning with:

Possums – the first image shown was of a [Mountain Brushtail Possum](#) AKA Bobuck. In Victoria there are 2 types of Brushtail Possum; The Mountain Brushtail and the [Common Brushtail](#). Mountain Brushtails have; a stocky body, shorter ears, and darker fur than Common Brushtail Possums. In comparison, Common Brushtails are taller, slimmer, and have pointier, larger ears. The [Ringtail Possum](#) also occurs in our region, has a distinctive white tip on the end of its tail, and is quite a small animal. Both Brush and Ringtail Possums help in maintaining a stable population of Mistletoe. They eat the flowers, fruit and leaves of Mistletoe, which, helps keep Mistletoe growth and spread in balance.

Powerful Owl are being sighted in the region as food sources increase. One of which, is Ringtail Possum.

Agile Antechinus live in trees, uses tree hollows, and is carnivorous. It hunts spiders and moths, and does also come to the ground.

Echidna are active during the day (one of our few day-active native animals).

Australian Bush Rat have a shorter face, shorter ears and a shorter tail than the introduced "pest" rat species, which, has a tail longer than its body. The Australian Bush Rat's tail is shorter than or only as long as its body.

Brush-tailed Phascogale are particularly vulnerable to predation by cats. Connecting vegetation that provides shelter and cover is important for their survival.

Wombats can make a mess of fences, tearing holes etc. when they stubbornly stick to a chosen path. An effective measure to cope with this to install Wombat gates. These gates keep pest animals such as rabbits out, whilst wombats are able push through the gate, which closes behind them. Chris cited an example where the effectiveness

(Continued on page 5)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 4)

of a wombat gate saved blueberry plants from being ravaged by rabbits.

Long-nosed Bandicoot like and need the protection of thick understorey and eat grubs, worms, mushrooms etc. Low, dense shrubs, ferns and thick grasses provide necessary cover, and fallen logs are used shelter. They have long paws (for digging), a short tail, and a long nose. Chris has found them to be an adaptable species, having seen them take over rabbit burrows and even come into his hay shed (the hay shed is directly adjacent to bushland). He has even known his local Bandicoots to eat peanut butter and had one get caught in a cat trap, where, it ate a chicken drumstick used as bait. They do come into the garden & leave distinctive, deep, cone shaped dig marks and identifiable droppings.

Wallabies – Our local Wallaby species is the [Swamp Wallaby](#).

Sugar Gliders can be found almost anywhere across our region, providing there is connecting tree canopy habitat. If a nesting box is put up and a food source is available, they will come and take up residence. Food sources include; the sap of Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* & Eucalyptus blossom. When nesting, Sugar Gliders use only gum leaves to line their nests, which, makes their nests easily identifiable from Phascogale nests, as Phascogales use a mix of things including bark and feathers in their nests.

Koala are known to use Swamp Gum and Mountain Grey Gum and will move from habitat to habitat.

Buff-banded Rail and **Lewin's Rail** can be attracted to our rural dams, providing there is surrounding habitat, so it's a good idea to let rushes grow.

Gang-Gang Cockatoos can be seen in parts of our region. Sadly, they are now classified as endangered in some areas. A favoured food source is Acacia seed, such as *Acacia mucronata* and *Acacia dealbata*.

Lyrebirds may be seen in our region if you are lucky enough to live near the forest.

Depending on where you live in our region, a some of the other birds that may be attracted into a garden might be; [Whip Bird](#), [Yellow Robin](#), [Currawong](#), [King Parrot](#) or [Crimson Rosella](#).

One of the keys to attracting wildlife is to provide water sources such as ponds and bird baths etc. Ringtail Possums especially need to drink in hot weather, as do Bandicoots.

Plantings to attract wildlife that provide shelter, food sources and links to habitats are also important. The Kinglake Landcare Group have been undertaking vital work to help save the nationally listed critically endangered Round-leaf Pomaderris *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* by propagating and distributing it. Pots of which, Chris had brought along, made available free for us on the night (along with an information sheet), which, he encouraged everyone to take home and plant.

Pomaderris vacciniifolia was down to 150 specimens left in the wild, and they were affected in the 2009 fires, however, the stands did grow back. It occurs in fragmented stands in the upper catchments of the Yea



Pomaderris vacciniifolia Round-leaf Pomaderris

Photo: Neville G. Walsh

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/a5bb4193-9e85-44aa-b5ad-30864eb68c1f#&gid=1&pid=2> [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)

(Continued on page 6)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 5)

and Yarra rivers. The populations are limited to areas around Flowerdale, Glenburn, Healesville, Kinglake and Toolangi. In its natural sheltered forest environment it grows as a slender shrub reaching 3m high. In an open position it can grow up to 4m high by 2m wide. Creamy white flowers occur in late spring with seeds developing in early summer, which, are fed on by Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots. The plants are drought resistant and frost tolerant. When grown in the garden pruning is recommended in late summer to encourage a compact bushy habit. Leaves are eaten by browsers (wallabies & rabbits), so tree guards are need for the first few years until plants are well established.

Nest boxes are a great way to provide artificial homes and nesting sites. The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network have had the volunteer support of Kinglake Scouts and Venturers building nest boxes, along with local school children, including students from Yea High School participating in monitoring programs. All nest boxes need to be monitored for invasion by feral bees and Indian Myna etc. This is usually done by using a nest box inspection camera, and Mitchell Shire has one of these. Nest box usage observation records are kept on a data sheet, and records show that many different animals will use a nest box throughout it's lifetime. Good solid timber is used to build nest boxes, with 1 to 2 coats of a weather-shield paint applied to the outside only, to assist in preservation of the box. Among the wildlife recorded using nest boxes are:

Brushtail Possum

Ring-tail Possum – use stringy bark as nesting material

Sugar Glider – makes a gumleaf nest

Antechinus – makes a nest from old gum leaves, which, is a messier nest than that of a Sugar Glider

Phascogales use mixed nesting materials of stringy bark, feathers, even wool and bits of rag may be included. Male Phascogales only live around 12 months, while the females live to 3 years.

Eastern Rosella

Kookaburra

Night Jar – will breed and roost in nest boxes, and are related to the Tawny Frogmouth.

White-throated Tree Creeper

Chris drew his presentation to a close with a brief Q & A session covering:

Q: Do you clean nest boxes? A: Not usually, only if bees or Indian Myna etc. get in and need to be cleared out.

Q: Do you talk to Councils, and other groups; schools etc? A: Notifications are made to Council when fauna have been seen on camera in council reserves. An example given was Local Environment officers have organised control measures after large numbers of foxes have been recorded in an area.

Q: Referring to a small pond seen in an image during the presentation: How is the pond kept from going green and how big is it? A: The pond is a small fibreglass type, which sits on the ground in a shaded area and is regularly tipped out and refilled. It is important to keep bird baths and ponds clean. In ponds, plants such as Milfoil help keep water clean. Dragon Fly & Damselfly larvae eat mosquito larvae, and tadpoles also help by feeding on algae etc.

Lastly, Chris again encouraged us to take home some *Pomaderris* plants, along with

(Continued on page 7)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 6)

information sheets provided, which, had been produced by John, the Secretary of the Kinglake Landcare Group.

Next, Ian took the floor and we moved into a very quick AGM, advising we had 3 apologies for the evening and inviting Norbert to the floor to give his President's report. Some of the points Norbert covered follow, and the full report can be found on page 13:

- Over the last 12 months we have had 5 guest speakers from outside our group present at meetings. As we find attendances are low during the winter months, we avoid asking guest speakers to travel in the cold and dark. Instead, this year we hosted a What's flowering now evening in June, and a garden visit to Brian and Lorraine Weir's in August.
- The highlight event of our year is the Spring Expo and Plant Sale, the planning of which, is largely the work of Ian. The event was not without behind the scenes drama, with a last-minute venue move to Wallan, and two critical families ending up flood-bound, yet still managed to help with the Expo. All told, we had 363 floral specimens on display that Mike Williams tells us is a record for any APS group show. We do so well largely thanks to the generosity of Brian and Lorraine, Russell, Mike and Ray all providing large numbers of flowers from their gardens.
- Our newsletter exceeds the quality of most other APS groups.
- The committed involvement of our all our committee members makes the group successful and a pleasure to be part of.
- Many thanks and tribute to Gerry for his efforts for Gardens for Wildlife, his initiative, knowledge, and explorations of the many pockets of remnant local flora around our district.
- Many thanks to Victoria and Pat, along with Lancefield Landcare in extending Gardens for Wildlife to Lancefield and surrounds.

Christine presented her treasurer's report next, (for full details see page 14). The main points being that a new computer is needed for Mitchell group, our Expo was most successful, grants received balanced out Expo costs, and it was worthwhile moving venues to the Wallan Multipurpose Centre.

Mike Williams was then invited to take the floor to chair the election of committee members for 2023. All committee positions were declared open, with nominations sought for the roles of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Expo Co-ordinator (or a small sub-committee to organise & plan Plant Expos), Treasurer/Memberships officer, Assistant Treasurer/Memberships officer, Newsletter Editor, Group Librarian, Gardens for Wildlife Co-ordinator, General Committee. While not all the wish list of committee positions were filled, we were all very pleased and thankful to welcome some new members to our committee, and a round of applause and thanks was given to our 2023 committee line up:

President – Norbert Ryan

Vic President – Dawn McCormack

Secretary – Ian Julian

Treasurer/Membership officer – Christine Cram

Gardens for Wildlife Co-ordinator – Gerry Ho

Newsletter Editor – Jeanine Petts

(Continued on page 8)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 7)

Plant Sale & Expo Co-ordinator – Debbie Packham

General committee – Maureen Thomas, Gayle Shugg, and Victoria Morris

AGM formalities completed, we moved on to our evening plant raffle and Flower Specimen Table. Just prior to drawing the raffle, Ian advised that he and Christine had brought along tubes of the following species (offered free for the taking (during supper time):

Eucalyptus talyuberlup Stirling Range Yate, forms a single to multi-trunked Mallee that grows to 4-8m tall with a spreading to rounded crown. It is endemic to the Stirling ranges region in WA and bears clusters of long, horn shaped buds, which, open into yellow-green, bird attracting flowers during winter-spring. It is fast growing, adaptable to most soils, and useful as screening and shelter.

Eucalyptus sepulcralis is an unusual, thin stemmed mallee with a light, open, wispy, drooping canopy that grows to 5-8m or occasionally 10m tall. Cream to pale yellow flower that are held in pendulous groups occur from late spring into summer. It can be finicky to grow, doesn't like clay, and is only mildly frost and drought tolerant.

Eremophila debilis grows as a low growing, trailing shrub reaching a spread of 1.5-2m and produces edible fruit. Small, pale mauve, sometimes white or blue flowers occur mainly during summer, and are followed by beautiful pink, fleshy berries in autumn. It will grow in a wide range of soil types providing drainage is good. Prefers a sunny position, and although it may be damaged by a severe frost, it usually recovers well once warmer weather arrives.

Hakea oleifolia Dungyn or Olive-leaved Hakea is endemic to coastal regions of South West WA. It forms an upright to rounded shrub or small tree reaching 2-10m, though is usually around 4-5m high. It features corky bark, light green leaves, ornate woody fruit, and clusters of creamy-white, fragrant flowers occur from late winter into spring. Found growing on clay, sand, loam and gravelly soils, it is frost and salt-wind tolerant, and requires a well-drained site. In cultivation it is a vigorous, hardy grower, useful for screening and wind-breaks.

Callistemon sieberi River Bottlebrush is a species found locally that grows along



Eucalyptus talyuberlup

Photo: © bailey_plants [CC BY-NC 4.0 https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/177662330](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/177662330)



Eucalyptus sepulcralis

Eucalyptus sepulcralis

Images: T.C Daniell & M. Hancock <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5769>



Eremophila debilis Photo: Anne Langmaid



Callistemon sieberi Photo: Neil Blair

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/2c525e69-b943-40a1-b672-fd9c3a8fbf45>



Hakea oleifolia

Photos: C Hortin & D J Rooks <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/2191>

(Continued on page 9)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 8)

water courses, and forms a large weeping shrub growing 2-10m high x 2-6m wide. Cream, sometimes pink bottlebrush flowers are produced during late spring and summer. It tolerates wet, poorly drained, and clay soils. Once established it will also cope with periods of dryness. Grows in full sun to semi-shade.

Our lucky raffle prize winners were Pat, Dawn and Ian, who chose from:

Eremophila decipiens subspecies *linearifolia* is a WA species that forms an erect, open to straggly shrub growing to 0.3-0.9m high, and is often found growing beneath Eucalypts. It bears dark green narrow, linear leaves, and red flowers that occur late winter and into spring.

Scaevola nitida grows as an erect shrub ranging from 0.30-3m high and is endemic to the coastal regions of South West WA. Usually found growing in white or grey sands and clay, along coastal limestone cliffs and dunes. Eye catching Lilac to blue flowers are produced in spring.

Goodenia blackiana Black's Goodenia is a stoloniferous, prostrate, perennial with flower stems reaching up to 20cm high. Found locally, it is endemic across scattered areas of Central, Northern, and Western Victoria, also into SA. It bears mostly basal leaves that have a dark green upper surface and are cottony white underneath. Bright yellow flowers occur from early spring to mid-summer. It prefers well-drained soil in full sun to semi-shade, and is suitable for rockery and container planting.

Lastly, some of the flower table species on display were:

"A purple flowered *Melaleuca*" either *M. violacea* or *M. thymifolia*
Kunzea sp. (tag lost)

Melaleuca fulgens Scarlet Honey Myrtle (red flowered form) is endemic to WA and found in a number of colour forms; ranging in shades of red, oranges, deep pink, purple or white. There are 3 subspecies, each being found across a different region. A number of hybrid cultivars have also been developed. Depending on subspecies flowers can occur from winter onwards into summer. It forms an erect shrub ranging from 0.90-2m high x 0.9-2m wide with soft, grey-green, narrow linear leaves. They grow well in full sun to part-shade, and are adaptable to most soils, also tolerating heavy soils. It does best with ample moisture, providing it is in a well-drained site, and is tolerant of dry conditions and moderate frost once established.

Melaleuca wilsonii Violet Honey-myrtle grows in clay soils and is found in the Little Desert. Reaching to 1.5-2m high x 2-3m wide it forms a spreading, dense, rigid shrub, and



Scaevola nitida

Photo: Photo: K C Richardson

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/7626>



Eremophila decipiens subspecies

linearifolia Photo: AP Brown

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/14896>



Goodenia blackiana Photo: J Petts



Melaleuca fulgens

Photos: M Hancock & M Seale

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5912>



Melaleuca wilsonii Photo: Brian Walters

https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/melaleuca-wilsonii/

(Continued on page 10)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 9)

produces violet flowers mid to late spring that are long lasting as cut flowers. Endemic to North West Victoria and South East SA, it occurs naturally on seasonally inundated, poorly draining, sandy or clay soils among mallee or dry woodland. In cultivation, moist, well drained soils with a full sun aspect is preferred.

Leptospermum sp.

Prostanthera cuneata Alpine Mint-bush is a low growing alpine species of the high country, often found growing in association with Snow Gums *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. It can be grown in other areas and is very aromatic. Growing to 1m high x 1.5m wide forming lovely low shrub with dark, glossy, green leaves and contrasting white, purple throated or pale mauve flowers that occur in summer. It is suited to a full sun to part-shade site in moist, well-drained soils and is frost and snow tolerant.

Prostanthera aspalathoides (yellow flowered form) Scarlett Mint-bush is endemic to Victoria, NSW, QLD and SA, and forms a small shrub growing from 0.30m to 1m high, that has fine, bright green, linear leaves. A variety of colour forms occur including; red, pink-red, orange, and the rarer yellow form. Peak flowering time is spring to early summer, when the plants can put on a spectacular display, although sporadic flowering can occur throughout the year. It is a reasonably hardy plant, being drought resistant, growing well in dry climates with low humidity and semi-arid and warm temperature regions. It will also grow in cooler climates if given a warm protected site. Prefers a well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and can be grown in containers. Responds well to yearly light pruning.

Prostanthera serpyllifolia Small-leaf Mint-bush, is found across southern Australia. It forms a low growing shrub usually less than 0.5m high, with pink to red or metallic bluish-green or rarely yellow flowers occurring in April or June to December. There are 2 described subspecies: *P. serpyllifolia* subsp. *microphylla* that is endemic to NSW (near West Wyalong), the far north west of Victoria, south east SA, and Southern WA. *P. serpyllifolia* subsp. *serpyllifolia* is endemic to the Yorke and Ayre Peninsulas in SA and there is also a single species record in the south west of WA.

Dampiera trigona Angled-stem Dampiera is a perennial endemic to south west WA that grows to 0.05-0.5 high by 0.5-1m wide. Blue flowers occur from spring to summer. Suited to a full sun to part-shade site in well-drained soils, and tolerates light frosts and coastal conditions.

Podolepis jaceoides Showy Podolepis is a very ornamental, locally endemic, yellow flowered, perennial daisy. It's flower heads nod downwards prior to opening held on stems rising to



Prostanthera cuneata
Photo: Miriam Ford



Prostanthera aspalathoides yellow form
Photo: Brian Walters
https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/prostanthera-aspalathoides/



Prostanthera serpyllifolia
Photos: M Hislop & J D & M J Start
<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/6924>



Dampiera trigona
Photo: <https://www.apacewa.org.au/planet/dampiera-trigona/>

(Continued on page 11)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 10)

0.40-0.60m from dark green, leafy rosettes, with the bright yellow blooms occurring from spring into summer. Prefers full sun to part-shade in well-drained soil, and is frost tolerant and drought hardy.

Chrysocephalum apiculatum Common Everlasting is a small, spreading perennial ground cover growing to 0.6m x 1m that is found in all States and Territories of Australia in a wide range of environments. It is an extremely variable species with 29 listed subspecies, 9 of which, are found in Victoria. It flowers most of the year, bearing clusters of yellow button flowers that contrast against cottony, grey-green-silvery leaves. A hardy plant that prefers a full sun to part-shade aspect in moist well-drained soil, and will tolerate both frost and periods of dryness. Suitable for rockeries and containers. Trimming after flowering is recommended to encourage new growth.

Clematis aristata Mountain Clematis is a woody, climber or trailer, which, can climb up to 15m into a forest canopy. It is found in dry and wet forests of Qld, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. In Victoria it is found in cooler parts of the state in moist to wet forests and gullies. It bears ovate leaves and starry white-cream or flowers in spring (a rare form with pink flower filaments occurs near Healesville). It will grow in a sunny position but prefers a site with some overhead shade, in deep, cool soil with a good mulch layer.

Calytrix tetragona is widespread species occurring in most states of Australia. It forms a variable shrub with either a low, spreading, or upright habit that can grow from 0.30-2m high x 1.5m wide. It is adaptable to sand or clay soils and will grow in sun or shade. White or pink star-like flowers occur in spring. Prune after flowering recommended.

Chrysocephalum semipapposum Clustered Everlasting occurs in all states of Australia across a wide variety of habitats on a range of soil types. It is quite widespread in Victoria where 4 out of 5 subspecies are found. Forms are quite variable, ranging from 0.40-0.60m or 1m high with narrow, woolly, grey-green, silvery leaves and lemon yellow to orange yellow flowers that are held in terminal clusters. Grows in a full sun to semi-shaded site and is excellent to use for cut or dried flowers.

Goodenia ovata Hop Goodenia is endemic to SA, Qld, NSW, Tas and Victoria, where it is widespread in a range of habitats, mostly moist forests. It forms a rounded to spreading or erect shrub growing to 1.5-2m, bearing bright green, oval leaves, and yellow flowers that can occur most of the year with a main flush in spring. It is hardy, fast growing and can tolerate frosts, grows well under trees, preferring some shade and



Podolepis jaceoides

Photo: J Petts



Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Photo: B Mau



Clematis aristata

Photo: Geoff Lay <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/10fa9d50-05b6-4557-9242-fb15ff4a5bc2> CC BY-NC-SA 4.0



Calytrix tetragona Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 12)

AGM & Wildlife in our back yards continued...

(Continued from page 11)

damp sites. Useful as a screen or hedge plant.

Isopogon formosus Rose Cone Flower is endemic to the south west of WA and is found in coastal heathland and dry sclerophyll woodland. It forms a medium shrub growing to 1.5-2m high x 1-2m wide and has crowded, fine, divided, slightly spikey leaves. Rose pink flowers are well displayed being held on the ends of branches in winter and spring. It prefers full sun to partial shade in a well-drained sandy or gravelly soil. It will tolerate light or moderate frosts but will not tolerate heavy frosts or extended periods of dryness. It can be propagated by either seed or cutting (more successful with cuttings than seed). When taking cuttings use older material, not that from the soft tips. A rooting hormone should be used to promote root growth. It makes an excellent cut flower and tip pruning is recommended.

Orthrosanthus multiflorus Morning Flag is a rhizomatous perennial member of the Iris family, Iridaceae. It is endemic to WA, SA, and is very rare in Victoria (found only in a few restricted sites). It grows to 1m forming a strappy leaved clump and bears spikes of blue flowers September to December. It is hardy, very ornamental, and suitable for pots, rockeries, coastal areas, borders & sloping sites. Grows in full sun to part shade in rich well-drained soil. It is recommended to feed in spring, mulch well and remove old flower stems to extend flowering.

Persoonia chamaepitys Mountain Geebung is a ground cover growing to 0.20m x 1.5m with bright green crowded leaves that is endemic to NSW, and is found in yellow and orange colour forms, with the orange flowered variety being the prettier of the two. The flowers can be subtly fragrant, occurring in summer and autumn and contrast against bright green, fine, soft foliage. Prefers well-drained soil, in full sun to part shade. It will grow well under eucalypts and can withstand periods of dry weather but dislikes humid or wet conditions.



Chrysocephalum semipapposum
Photo: J Petts



Goodenia ovata Photo: J Petts



Orthrosanthus multiflorus Photo: J Petts



Isopogon formosus Photo: J Petts



Persoonia chamaepitys

Photo: J Petts

President's Report 2022...

By Norbert Ryan

During the last 12 months our meeting program has included 5 guest speakers. Our numbers attending have been down on pre-COVID levels and we avoid asking invited speakers during the depths of winter. Our June meeting covered "what is flowering at the moment" with a detailed presentation from Jeanine. We had no guest speakers booked for July-August, substituting with a garden visit to the garden of Brian and Lorraine in Wallan, which features 150 plus species of Grevillea and lesser numbers of Correa species but all selected for their special features. This is a unique, beautiful, well maintained garden that highlights the bird attracting nature of these plants.

The highlight of our year and the feature event that showcases native flora, is our annual Native Plant Expo and plant sales. Following 2 years of lockdown we finally made it, but not without drama. At a late stage we had to look for an alternative to the RSL Hall in Kilmore and made the move to the Wallan Multipurpose Community Hall in Wallan. There was an element of doubt about how successful this would be, given that unlike Kilmore, it is located off the Northern Highway. However we had plenty of visitors and the vast majority came from Wallan, an important target area as the rapid development here means that new gardens are being established. The success of the day can be measured by the size of the flower display, 363 individual species on show. Thanks are due especially to contributors Russell Wait, Brian and Lorraine Weir, Mike Williams, Ray Barnes and Jeanine. Special thanks also to Jeanine and Mike Petts and Ian and Christine both of whom were initially flood-bound and despite incurring flood damage, left their homes for two days of preparation and running of the Expo. This is just a brief synopsis of the detail provided in the October newsletter. Special thanks to all those so heavily involved in making it a happy event. Kitchen helpers raffle ticket sellers Victoria Dawn and Debbie, all gave massive help resulting in a highly successful day. Suffice to say that we are intending to use the same venue next year.

The newsletter produced by APS Mitchell is almost entirely the work of Jeanine and we must record our thanks for what is a truly remarkable effort. It is a newsletter that exceeds the quality of any similar APS group or indeed larger groups with more resources available. Jeanine puts days of effort into the production of each edition. She is meticulous in checking all detail, ensuring that there are no inaccurate genus or species names. At every meeting she can be seen taking copious notes so that we get near total recall of the detail presented in the talk. It is a high quality presentation that must be the envy of many other groups. With the committed involvement of Jeanine and the other committee members, belonging to this group continues to be a pleasure. With our different skills base we have managed to complete another active year and we all still remain a close-knit circle of friends.

In September the local newspaper highlighted the massive growth figures predicted for Mitchell Shire. The towns of Broadford, Kilmore and Wallan currently have 5,532, 10,189 and 14,898 respectively, but by 2031 these figures grow to 7,342, 15,851 and 31,275. What we have learnt from Gerry and local knowledge is that there are parts of this area where there are isolated pockets of land carrying exquisite areas of native vegetation. Protection of this land, which, is often just roadside areas is haphazard. Council has conducted roadside surveys and identified areas of high significance but despite this designation, such sites remain un-signposted. Legitimate activities such as AusNet Services, clearing of lines can be quite drastic. The activities of individual landowners in clearing nature strips can also jeopardise delicate ecosystems. With the predicted population boom it's as if we are in frontier territory, rapid change and loss of bushland is inevitable. Action is urgently required to put restrictions in place.

Continuing on the environmental theme, Gerry's initiative in running the G4W program is to be commended. He has investigated successful programs in other municipalities and commenced a program of garden visits and also walks in local bushland areas. Regular communication with G4W members has been instigated. Pat Danko and Victoria have succeeded in also establishing G4W membership in our neighbouring shire of Macedon Ranges by setting up stalls at the Lancefield Market and through Landcare. All these approaches are designed to create a greater appreciation of our natural environment and encourage members to plant gardens that contain some locally indigenous species to help retain the birds and wildlife of this region.

Our Christmas break up party last year was superbly catered at Victoria's house in Lancefield. Victoria's background in catering and event management is reflected in her wonderful approach to hospitality. Careful Victoria, this could easily become a tradition!

Thank you, Norbert Ryan, President APS Mitchell 2021-22

Treasurer's Report 2022 ...

By Christine Cram

Australian plant society Mitchell Group Inc.

Balance Sheet for the Time Period to

November 21st 2022

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash Assets (Float Petty cash)	80.40
Cash in Bendigo Bank	6927.27
Projector (2012) (D)	355.39
Laptop & Program (2013) (D)	0.00 (one to be purchased)
Laser pointer & 2 speakers (2014)	51.32
Tripod screen (2014)	0.00
Library books	573.25
4 Announcement signs (2013) (D)	150.39
2 double sided & 1 retractable banners (2012) (D)	492.80
Spring plant EXPO banner	190.27
Gardens for Wildlife banner	418.59
<u>Total current assets</u>	<u>8239.68</u>

LIABILITIES

<u>Total current liabilities</u>	<u>0.00</u>
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<u>EQUITY</u>	<u>8239.68</u>
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INCOME

Membership	2433.25
Monthly meetings	178.10

(Continued on page 15)

Treasurer's Report 2022 continued...

By Christine Cram

(Continued from page 14)

Percentage of plant sales @monthly meetings	17.10
Norcen Financial services – EXPO grant	1000.00
G4W – Membership	300.00
– Plants	89.00
Expo	1746.20
TOTAL	5763.65

EXPENDITURE

Membership	2083.25
Speakers fees and gifts	190.00
Monthly meetings (room hire)	157.60
Expo room hire	559.55
North Central Review	424.01
Australia Post Box hire	144.00
Department of Justice	60.10
Miscellaneous expenditure and petty cash	110.00
Ventraip Australia	135.95
Expo floats	500.00
TOTAL	4364.71

NETT OPERATING PROFIT **1398.94**

Financial members 39

C. Cram

C. M. Cram, Treasurer

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:

Christine Cram,
Gerry Ho,
Ian Julian,
Barbara Mau,
Victoria Morris,
Norbert Ryan.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

COVID-19 (coronavirus), restrictions may apply or effect APS-related events .

APS Victoria will endeavour to keep event status updated on the APS Victoria website: <https://apsvic.org.au/events/>

Checking with the event organiser is advised.

APS Heathcote Inc. meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at Heathcote Mechanics Institute Hall, 121 High St, Heathcote.

Commencing 7:00pm. For further information see their Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Plants-Society-Heathcote-Inc-](https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Plants-Society-Heathcote-Inc-102380169043080/)

[102380169043080/](https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Plants-Society-Heathcote-Inc-102380169043080/)

Phone: 0419 878 950 or

Email:

heathcoteaps@outlook.com

March 18 - APS Victoria Committee of Management
Zoom Meeting starting at 10am.

March 24 & 25 - Victorian Native Bonsai Club 2023 annual exhibition. Preston Shire Hall, 284 Gower St, Preston. Friday 5:30– 8:30 pm, Saturday 9am–4pm. Adults \$7, children under 15 free.

March 25 & 26 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. Wide range of plants. 10am-4pm. Plant list available one week before

sale at [https://](https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/)

rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/

March 29-April 2 - Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS). Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. <https://melbflowershow.com.au/>

April 1 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale. 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. 8.30am–4pm.

April 15 - APS Heathcote Inc. Plant & Flower Show. 9am-3pm. Mechanics Institute 121 High St, Heathcote.

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Website: 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	
Treasurer/Memberships:	Christine Cram	0458 238 270
Expo Co-ordinator:	Debbie Packham	
General Committee:	Victoria Morris, Gayle Shugg & Maureen Thomas.	
Group Librarian:	Volunteer position open	
Newsletter Editor:	Jeanine Petts	0409 029 603
Plant Sales:	Volunteer position open	
Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator:	Gerry Ho	
Email:	g4w@apsmitchell.org.au	

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts

Email: jin.wgff@gmail.com

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 ...

Please remember to 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 Ph: 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: which, he has held for approximately 25 years. 11 Tranter Close, Riddells Creek. Open by appointment: Visitors need to telephone first to arrange access. Phone: 0428 388 211

Diary Dates & Other Events continued...

ANPSA Biennial Conference 2024 – Melbourne

<https://apsvic.org.au/anpsa-biennial-conference-2024/>

“Gardens for Life”

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th Sep – 4th Oct 2024

Held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre, the conference topics include Gardens for Wildlife and Habitat, Restoration and Revegetation of Wetlands, Grasslands and Verges, Care for the Rare, Insects and Biodiversity, Garden Design, Indigenous Food Plants and many more.

Tours before and after will go to Victoria’s best wildflower areas and day excursions will feature new botanic gardens, private gardens and wild areas.

To register your interest go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeseytb9Z872EABLHpeWypQ_rqiEGfmbqDA-jG9PRYKhgUPFA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

A promotional video can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/8ApdryKllwA>

Read most recent news & information in the March 2023 “Gardens for Life” newsletter:

<https://apsvic.org.au/documents/ANPSA/2024/ANPSA%202024%20Newsletter%2020230301.pdf>

**Nurseries
further
afield...**

Edendale Indigenous Nursery: Located in the Edendale Community Environment Farm at 30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095. Open 10am to 4.30pm weekdays and weekends. Phone:9433 3703

Email: Nursery.edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Website: <https://www.edendale.vic.gov.au/Nursery>

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary & Indigenous Nursery:

Located on the La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) campus. Access is via La Trobe Ave (near the roundabout on Main Drive). Open: Sunday to Friday, 10am-3pm (some public holidays may affect opening hours). Ph: (03) 9479 1206

Email: wildlife@latrobe.edu.au

Website: <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife/indigenous-plant-nursery>

Euroa Arboretum:

Located at 76 Euroa Main Road. Their retail nursery Opens Monday & Thursday 12-5pm. April to October each year. (Note that the nursery closes November to March.) A plant catalogue & further information is available on line at: <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/> & <http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-nursery/>

Goldfields Revegetation:

Located at 230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang Vic 3551. Open 7 Days a Week 9am to 5pm. Ph:(03) 5439 5384
Email: info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au Website: <http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/index.asp>

Diary Dates & Other Events continued...



Australian Plants Society

Heathcote Inc

*Plant &
Flower Show*

Saturday 15 April

9am to 3pm

**Mechanics Institute
121 High St, Heathcote**



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Inc# A0054306V

2022/23 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 tick whichever applies) **Application** **OR** **Renewal**

Title:	Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss
Surname/s:	
Given name/s:	
Postal Address:	
Town/Suburb:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

(Please tick 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? :	**Include only applicable APS Mitchell Fee -Tick which applies:	<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: / /
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Neutrog Newsletter APS Vic and Neutrog (www.neutrog.com.au/) have an agreement regarding Bush Tucker; Neutrog's fertiliser developed to meet the needs of all Australian native plants. Neutrog produces a monthly email of interest to gardeners. You will be signed up to receive the email (you can unsubscribe at any time). Or tick: Please don't sent my email details to Neutrog.

Payment by: Tick which applies: Bank Transfer to BSB 633-000 Account No. 159982271 (Bendigo Bank) Please include your surname and post code as reference/transaction details. Please email a copy of your completed form to mitchell@apsvic.org.au

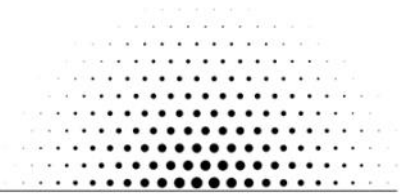
Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC. Posted with your form to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764

Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (usually 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

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



COVID Safe Plan For APS Mitchell Group Inc. Organisation

PURPOSE

Mitchell Shire Council requires a COVID-19 Safe plan for groups and organisations who wish to return using Council owned or managed facilities. The following plan supports a safe approach for building use. Council welcomes the inclusion of any special guidance from your peak bodies and associations where this has been provided.

SCOPE

This plan applies to all people entering the KILMORE LIBRARY JOHN TAYLOR ROOM building located at 12 SYDNEY STREET KILMORE in line with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions identified by the Department of Health and Humans Services.

PLAN

3.1 Pre-Return Risk Assessment

Prior to people attending the site a Risk Checklist must be completed identifying how the requirements for physical distancing and people density will be maintained. A checklist to enact the plan is attached in Appendix 1

3.2 Considering groups needs

Organisers will discuss potential vulnerabilities with all group members and encourage individual participants to consider their own risk and need to attend. The group may need to consider supporting different members depending on their circumstances. Circumstances may have changed post COVID-19, for example they may now have additional carer's responsibility or family members with specific health risks.

Social and physical vulnerabilities that might affect a person attending the facility include:

- Immune-compromised: may limit attendance or may require additional controls
- Social isolation: managing return to social settings may not be easy for some people
- Need to assist family with child minding or other activities

Our plan for managing our members is:

- Sending Covid-19 safe plan to all members with the meeting groups notice
- A copy of the Covid-19 Safe plan with the meeting registration book
- Limit numbers to current DHS prescribed restriction number's
- Update all members as circumstances change

Any person who is unwell should not enter the building. This includes presenting with cold or flu symptoms including fever, runny nose, coughing, sore throat, aches or diarrhea. People with symptoms will be asked to leave.

This plan has been communicated to all affected members of the group.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL.

COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 20)

3.3 Return to facilities

3.3.1 Physical distancing measures

Physical distancing measures mean that people from separate households must be more than 1.5 metres from each other. In addition, a minimum space of 2 metres x 2 metres is required for every person in any room they access.

Spaces (e.g. corridors) where there is a potential for people to come in contact with each other may exist in the building. It is acceptable that people walk past each other in these spaces as the amount of time they are together is minimal. However, they are not to stop in these spaces and, if possible, the movement of members should be managed so that people will not physically brush past each other in this space.

Rooms in the building and the maximum number of people allowed (**subject to current restriction limits on total numbers**):

Room Name	Size (width X depth)	Max people (width x depth/2)
John Taylor Room		Max 40 people

Signs will be placed into any room where the maximum occupancy is less than the maximum allowed into the entire facility to advise that people are to wait until the room is vacated.

Cleanliness

Cleaning arrangements for the building are to be documented.

On entry to the building it is advised that every person wash their hands with soap and water or carries hand sanitiser to apply at entry. Everyone should avoid touching their faces.

For this building, at the end of every session any equipment and all tables and chairs used by the members need to be cleaned by the meeting organiser using soap and water with washable or disposable cloths. Spray and wipe is also satisfactory for cleaning.

Chairs with soft covers will, where possible, not be used as these are difficult to wipe down.

Council clean as per schedule arranged with the Contracts Management Coordinator at Mitchell Shire Council. This this has been communicated to each building manager.

(Continued on page 22)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL. *COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan*



(Continued from page 21)

COVID-19 Infection

If a member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the following process will apply:

- Notify members who may have had contact with the person per DHHS guidance
- Ensure the privacy of the individual is maintained
- Seek assistance from Council contact
- Inform Council to arrange a deep clean of the building

3.6 Breach of the policy

Everyone will be treated with respect and it is expected that members will adhere to guidelines to physical distancing to help minimise the risk of COVID-19 being spread. Should someone test positive who attended a meeting space their privacy will be maintained, however Council will need to support a contact tracing regime to inform others.

3.7 Legal Sources of policy

- [National COVID-19 Safe Workplace Principles](#)
- [NCCC COVIDSafe plan](#)
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (VIC)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2017 (VIC)*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC)*

Appendix 1 – Checklist (to be completed for each session and retained by user group)

Before activity

- Date and time of activity _____
- Activity type _____
- Rooms used (e.g. hall and kitchen) _____
- Responsible person name (must be present throughout activity)

The following available:

- Advice on COVID-19 available to everyone –
e.g. www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-covid-19
- Specific vulnerabilities determined and vulnerable group members encouraged to participate in other ways or to make arrangements with organisers for any special requirements to facilitate attendance
- Room sizes and number of people in each room signed

(Continued on page 23)

Covid Safe Meeting Plan...

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL. COVID-19 Community Facility Safe Plan



(Continued from page 22)

- Places where it will be difficult to maintain 1.5m spacing identified
- Signs for 1.5m and COVID-19 displayed
- Attendance sheet available and completed by all people entering facility
- Consideration for leaving doors open to allow access through doors without touching
- Advised patrons to hand wash/ hand sanitise as soon as they enter the building (consider leaving the outer toilet door propped open to avoid touching)
- Soap and water or disinfectant spray and disposable cloth (e.g. paper towel) available to clean surfaces touched
- Gloves available

Other risks to be managed (please list, use reverse of sheet if more space required)

During activity

- Encourage participants not to bring belongings into centre (less to contaminate and clean)
- All attendees have been asked if they are unwell or have a temperature
- All attendees have been asked to wash their hands upon entry
- All attendees have provided their contact information on attendance sheet
- All attendees have been informed about safe distancing (1.5m)
- All attendee have been advised of other risks to be managed (please see list, use reverse of sheet if more space required)

After activity

- All items used (including tables and chairs) washed with soap and water or sprayed and wiped with a disinfectant. This is the responsibility of the meeting organiser
- This form and the attendance sheet completed and stored in a centralised location (e.g. office) – to be made available upon request

Plan completed by:

Name	Ian Julian
Role	Secretary APS Mitchell Group Inc.
Contact Number	0438 270 248
Email	apsmitchell@gmail.com
Date	28-01-2021
Signature	<i>Ian Julian</i>