

# NEWSLETTER



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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### April news...!

Hello, & welcome to our mid autumn edition. After a crispy, dry start to March, recent regular, gentle rains have been most welcome & hopefully bode well for a good planting season.

Thank you to everyone for your patience in waiting for this week later than anticipated newsletter. Your understanding is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to our neighbouring APS Heathcote group on hosting their inaugural Plant & Flower Show on Saturday April 15th. A successful, busy day by all accounts. Well done to all involved. Photos of the day have been posted to the APS Heathcote Inc. Facebook page, to which, a link can be found on [page 17](#) of this newsletter. APS Heathcote Inc. extend their thanks & gratitude to all our APS Mitchell members who supported their flower show (a goodly number of you all told), it was "great to see you all!"

Speaking of plant shows & sales... Planning for our own Spring Plant Expo & Sale is well

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underway & we'll begin providing details in coming newsletters. This year, we've already been blessed with the gifting of 2 stunning, hand crafted raffle prizes for our Expo: A silver pendant by Leah Mae, and a framed artwork by Maureen Thomas. Thank you ladies for your amazing work & generosity, it is hugely appreciated. Deep thanks & appreciation also to Dawn McCormack, who has been working hard on the fundraising front, having secured a number of other promises of sponsorship support from local businesses, towards this year's Expo raffle prizes.

In the meantime, if you're needing another plant sale to attend, APS Yarra Yarra group are hosting their Autumn Plant & Book Sale on Saturday April 22nd. More details and a link to their website can be found on [page 17](#).

Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday May 8th. Contributions big & small are hugely appreciated & always needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by Monday May 1st.

Email to: [jjn.wgff@gmail.com](mailto:jjn.wgff@gmail.com)

Happy autumn gardening & cheers until next time, Jeanine



"Corymbia" Painting by Maureen Thomas.  
Photo: Maureen Thomas

### 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 to 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 April 17th - 7pm](#)**  
Evening meeting  
Guest speaker:  
Paul Macgregor -  
Flora of the  
Tallarook Forest.
- **[Monday May 15th 7pm](#)**  
Evening Meeting  
Guest speaker to  
be advised.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**  
APS MITCHELL  
SPRING PLANT  
EXPO & SALE—  
**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 21st  
9am -3pm**



*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.**

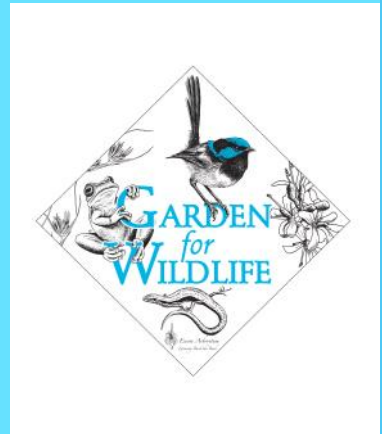
**For further information visit**

**<http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/gardens-for-wildlife/>**

**or contact Gerry: Email: [g4w@apsmitchell.org.au](mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au)**

**Ph: 0403 983 330**

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



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

**John Taylor Room, Kilmore  
Library, Sydney Street,  
Kilmore Vic 3764**

**Doors open 7:00 pm**

**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



## *April Meeting— Monday 17th 7:00pm*

For our April APS Mitchell meeting, Paul Macgregor will be joining us to give an overview of the flora of the Tallarook Forest' Particularly new findings, plus some history of the forest (relevant to how the ecology there is now sitting) and an overview of some of the threats to the ecology and possible ways to address these. Paul has lived for 20 years on the eastern edge of the Tallarook Forest and is the lead campaigner for BEAM's (BEAM Mitchell Environment Group Inc) Save the Tallarook Forest campaign, which, has been running since 2020. He is also treasurer of the Victorian Forest Alliance that is made up of a committee of long-time forest campaigners with years of experience, which, have a small team of dedicated staff and campaigners helping to achieve their mission of protection and restoration of Victoria's native forests.

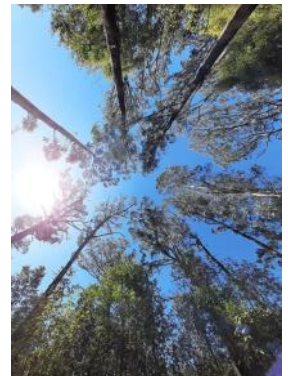


Photo: Danielle Hickford

Do come along and hear about this wonderful natural forest asset that is just at our door step. 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...*

APS Victoria are moving closer to launching an online membership fee payment and renewal system later this year. More details to follow in coming newsletters.

For all membership enquiries please contact Christine: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: [mitchell@apsvic.org.au](mailto: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/>

# February Meeting Report - Hidden Valley Railway Reserve...

By Jeanine Petts & Norbert Ryan

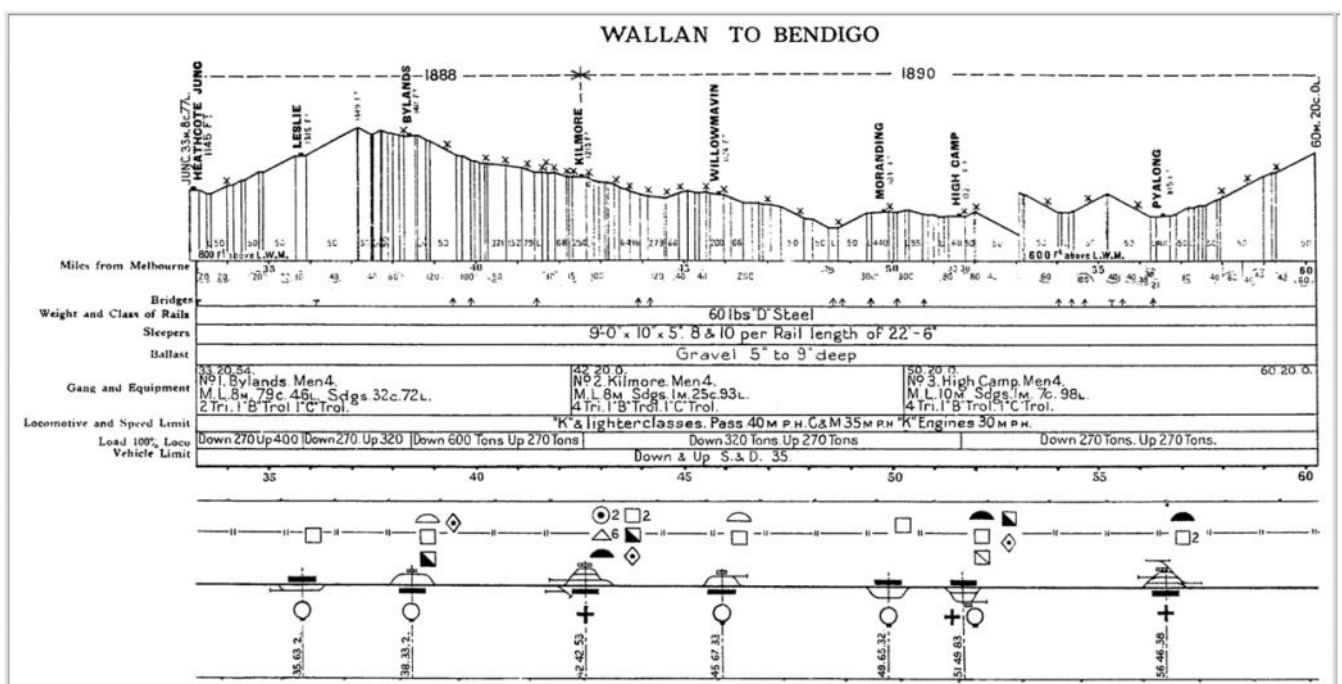
A pleasant February evening saw around 17 APS Mitchell group members return to the familiar and comfortable surroundings of the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library. We had our usual hustle and bustle of setting up, laying out supper, tea coffee cups etc. signing in, remembering to take a plant raffle ticket as we pay the meeting fee (still a mere \$2.00 per person), along with meet, greet and a few words of catch up here and there after our holiday season break.

Norbert called us all to our seats at an earlier commencement time of 7:30pm, welcomed everyone, then moved quickly into his presentation on the Hidden Valley Railway Reserve, starting with some history of the old train line and the current Hidden Valley Railway Reserve site.

The Hidden Valley Railway Reserve was brought to the attention of the Mitchell Bicycle Users Group, Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail-Trail and [Wallan Environment Group](#). A working group was set up to undertake working bees at the site etc., which, both Norbert and Gerry Ho attended. Gerry, "our resident botanist" has also been involved in identifying and assessing the remnant native flora contained in the reserve. The site is a 1.2km stretch of the Heathcote Junction – Bendigo line that was shut down in 1968. The remainder of the line was sold off in 1972, however the 1.2km section in Hidden Valley was not sold and remains under the purview of VicTrack.

Wallan Environment Group (WEG) contacted VicTrack for approval to manage the site, which, was granted. However, the approval to manage has to be renewed every 3 months. Initial works on the site included tidying up and dealing with invasive weed species, beginning with the larger woody weeds and clearing fallen trees. WEG has obtained a grant from Landcare to clear large areas of gorse and blackberries.

Norbert has spent some time delving into the history of the reserve site and referenced articles found on <https://oldplaces.com.au/> authored by John Heazlewood and Grahame Thom. John Heazlewood's family owned and lived at Laurel Vale, part of which, comprised the land either side of Arkell's lane and the [Leslie Railway Siding](#). On the south side of Arkell's Lane, clearing of fallen timber and stumps did not occur until the late 1960's when the area was finally sown for grazing. As mentioned earlier, the last train was run on the line in 1968. The Heathcote – Bendigo section had closed in 1958 due to the construction of Lake Eppalock.



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## *Hidden Valley Railway Reserve continued...*

*(Continued from page 3)*

The section of the railway line on which Leslie Siding was sited, contained some of the steepest inclines in the state, some instances estimated at 1 in 50, as it climbed through this section of the Dividing Range. We were shown a historic works diagram of the line's gradients, with the heights above sea level at station points being: Heathcote Junction 349m, Lesley Siding at the 400m mark, and the highest point, just before Bylands being 430m. By comparison the current microwave communications tower at the top of Pretty Sally is at around 530m.

Leslie station's primary purpose was for the collection and transportation of firewood. The transported timber was being cut from surrounding areas, including from what is now Hidden Valley, at that time largely covered in bushland. Currently, only remnant pockets of bushland remain intact, and worryingly, these pockets are as yet unprotected, vulnerable, and potentially still under threat. The Leslie Siding made news in 1910 when a fatal goods train accident occurred. Near Tooborac a brake-line failure was recognised and half of the wood-laden wagons were left at Tooborac. Hand brakes were applied to the shortened train for the descent to Heathcote Junction but the train bolted. Unfortunately, due to the presence of a freight train on the main line, the runaway train was diverted onto a short, dead-end line where it climbed a 20-foot clay embankment and overturned.

Returning to present day, the next image shown was a current aerial view of the Reserve site and surrounds, on which, Norbert explained the yellow line marks the length of railway land still owned by VicTrack, and the red line indicates the vehicle access extending from the top of Lucca Way, close to Leslie Siding. Norbert also pointed out the subdivision and building works currently happening in the area at the northern ends of both Knight Way and Lucca Way.



Looking at the aerial view, it may seem like there is plenty of car parking space to be available at the end of Knight Way from which to access the reserve, however, bollards block the entry to the reserve, and there is only enough space to park 2 vehicles. Similarly, the plans for the top end of the current Lucca way subdivision show only a roundabout, with no carpark provision. It's as if there has been no realisation of the wonderful potential amenity offered by this reserve.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Hidden Valley Railway Reserve continued...

(Continued from page 4)

Entering the reserve (pictured at right) looks like a road way in parts, and the “wow point” (flora wise) comes at the cutting. There was once a gate to restrict vehicle access (four-wheel drives etc.) to protect the area. Unfortunately, the gate kept being removed (illegally) by a few individuals who chose to drive their vehicles along the track. The next image showed a view looking down into the cutting with Wallaby Grasses in the foreground. The following image, was taken just inside the boundary fence looking into cleared paddocks beyond; this contrasts with what happens when cattle graze vulnerable areas; inside the reserve fence line, dense growth of native grasses, along with *Dianella* and variety other native ground storey flora can be seen.



View down into cutting, looking across Wallaby Grasses in foreground.



View entering Hidden Valley Rail Reserve.

WEG applied for and received a Landcare grant to undertake woody weed control in the reserve and the image at below right shows the mapping of the various weeds needing to be dealt with, which are: Blackberry, Blue Periwinkle, Cape Broom, Elm, Gorse, Holly, Monterey Pine, *Photinia sp.*, *Prunus sp.*, and *Salvia sp.* This work is to be completed during March.



View across *Dianella* and other species to cleared & grazed paddocks beyond.  
Photos: Norbert Ryan

The old railway line forms the northern boundary of Hidden Valley Estate. As mentioned previously, the cutting is part of the site that is richest with native flora. Images shown of a number of the site’s species were:

*Epacris impressa*, which blooms in May, and is found in abundance at the site.

A *Leucopogon* that is possibly *Leucopogon virgatus*, but is yet to be fully confirmed, is another heath found there.

*Hovea*

*Dillwynia cinerascens* Grey Parrot-pea, which bears its flowers at the tips of branches.

*Daviesia leptophylla*

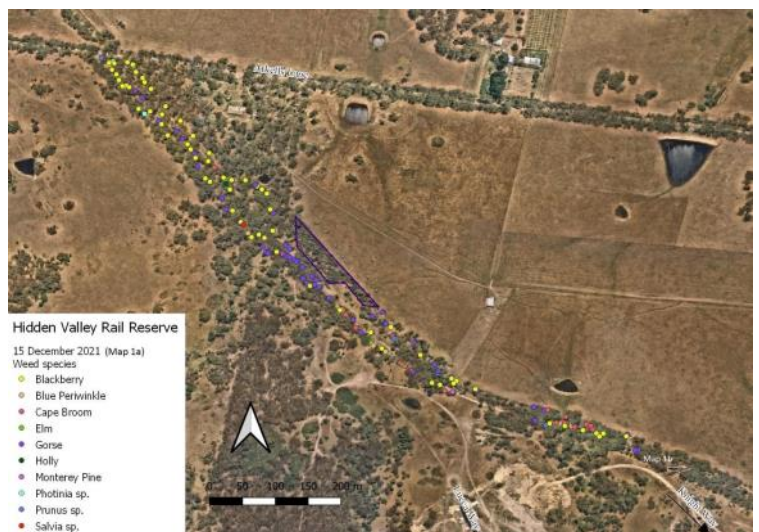
*Daviesia latifolia*

*Platylobium prostrata*

*Acacia aculeatissima* Snake Wattle

*Brunonia australis* Blue Pincushions

*Leptorhynchos tenuifolius* Wiry Buttons



Hidden Valley Rail Reserve weed mapping.

(Continued on page 6)

# Hidden Valley Railway Reserve continued...

(Continued from page 5)

*Coronidium scorpioides*

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*

*Lomandra* sp. possibly *L. filiformis*

*Wurmbea dioica* Early Nancy

*Burchardia umbellata* Milkmaids

*Thysanotus patersonii*

*Diuris chryseopsis?* Yellow Moths

*Ghania radula*

*Billardiera* Apple Berry

*Coprosma quadrifida* Prickly Currant-bush

*Eucalyptus dives* Broad-leaved Peppermint was cut for timber. Used for fire wood.

*Eucalyptus radiata* Narrow-leaved Peppermint. Also used for firewood.

*Eucalyptus goniocalyx* Long-leaved Box is not considered a useful timber so was left alone.

*Eucalyptus obliqua* Messmate is tall growing with persistent bark, and was used for light poles etc. The Imperial Jezebel butterfly is found in the area, and lives on Mistletoe that grows on Messmate gums.

*Eucalyptus viminalis* Manna Gum has flower buds held in groups of 3. Its timber was harvested for flooring.

People think of Hidden Valley as having some very strange rules. Its Comprehensive Development Plan was set in 1999 and control of the whole 1000Ha was ceded to the developers. Some of the rules include; buildings must be of a Tuscan style, only tiled roofs are allowed, no rotary clothes lines, no Colourbond, there is a listing of suitable tree species with the use of hedgerows discouraged, and in common areas plantings are restricted to Mediterranean species. Other problems within Hidden Valley include, high numbers of Kangaroos (as they do a lot of damage), and some large areas of gorse infestation.

A development map of Hidden Valley was shown, with Norbert pointing out that the lakes were put in by Robert Holmes à Court, with the green areas marked at top centre being the site of most recent development, which, is nearing the top of Lucca way. Adjacent to this area is bushland, which, was clearly seen in the following satellite view image that included an allotment overlay. The next image shown was a map of the Mitchell Shire Council Reserves within Hidden Valley, these areas were highlighted in green and for the most part



Hidden Valley Development map.



Hidden Valley satellite view with allotment overlay.



Hidden Valley Mitchell Shire Council reserves.

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## Hidden Valley Railway Reserve continued...

(Continued from page 6)

are restricted to drainage lines. The bushland currently has unknown status and is not under Shire control. The future of the bushland remains in limbo as there are no conservation zonings. There are several areas of the estate where houses back onto designated common ground. These are largely open grassed areas with no trees, but they are probably given unwarranted status as "reserve" areas. Mitchell Shire has discussed planning options for the future of Hidden Valley, and will attempt to bring these into alignment with Shire policy, but this is to occur only after completion of the current land sales.

Paul Piko has found many native orchid species in the bushland areas off Dolomite Rise and is working on compiling a comprehensive list of species. One of the species found in Hidden Valley is the rare Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium pardalinum*, which, Paul also found growing on Monument Hill. The bushland in Hidden Valley encompasses some steep valleys and the hope is that these areas rich with native flora will be preserved. The focus of the moment (for WEG and other interested groups) is the Railway Reserve area. Unfortunately, rubbish dumping and illegal cutting of firewood in the surrounding bushland areas continues to be an issue. The potential of the Railway Reserve is that it can be a lovely public space for all to enjoy, perhaps even the first step in a future bike path.

In closing, Norbert mentioned that the [Australian Native Orchid Society \(ANOS\) Victoria](#) will be undertaking systematic survey searches in the nearby bushland area in August this year. It is the hope of all the groups involved in this project, that Council will have the capacity to take an active interest in both the bushland areas and the Railway Reserve, and support projects for the Reserve.

Next on the evening agenda came the plant raffle, with three West Australian *Melaleuca* species being supplied by Mike Williams to choose from, all of which, grow happily in his garden at Montmorency. The species were:

*Melaleuca psammophila* can grow to 0.4 to 2-3m high and bears pink-red-purple flowers in spring. It doesn't like frost when young.

*Melaleuca pentagona* forms a spreading shrub growing 0.1-3m high and bears pink-purple flowers in spring. A sunny site in good draining soils is recommended.

*Melaleuca leptospermoides* forms an erect to rounded shrub reaching 0.5-1m high. It bears masses of purple-pink flowers from late winter to early summer. Planting in a sunny site in well-drained soil is recommended.

The lucky winners were Ian, Victoria and yours truly.

Among the specimens brought in for the flower table were:



*Melaleuca psammophila*

Images: G. Byrne

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5954>

(Accessed 11 April 2023).



*Melaleuca pentagona*

Images: I.R. Dixon & L. Strahan

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5948>

(Accessed 11 April 2023).



*Melaleuca leptospermoides*

Images: M. Hancock & R.T. Wills

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/5931>

(Accessed 11 April 2023).

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## February Meeting Report continued...

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*Eucalyptus lansdowneana* Crimson Mallee is endemic to the south western region of the Gawler Ranges in SA. It grows 2-6m high bearing shiny, mid-green, lance shaped leaves, and most often has an open, drooping crown. Dark pink to crimson-red flowers can occur from autumn to spring. It is very drought tolerant and moderately frost tolerant. It is quite an ornamental species and having a lignotuber means it can be regularly cut back to maintain a preferred size and form. Grows best in a full sun site in well-drained soil.



*Eucalyptus lansdowneana*  
Photo: J Petts

*Eucalyptus albopurpurea* (the white form was brought in) has the common name of Purple-flowered Mallee Box, and, as its botanical name suggests, is found in both white, purple and mauve-pink flowering forms. It was previously known as a subspecies of *E. lansdowneana*, which, bears deep pink or red-pink flowers. *E. albopurpurea* is endemic to Kangaroo Island and the Eyre Peninsula in SA. It grows as a small to medium mallee type tree reaching around 5-10m high with rough or persistent bark on the lower trunk/s, and may be single or multi trunked. Sporadic flowering can occur most months of the year, with the main flowering season usually being winter and spring. It tolerates most soils, conditions, is wind resistant, and can be coppiced. A useful plant for screening or shelter when planted in a full sun site, and is good for coastal sites.



*Eucalyptus albopurpurea*  
white form  
Photo: J Petts

*Pelargonium* 'Edna Walling Pop Up' is a selected cultivar of *P. striatellum* - Omeo storksbill, and is member of family Geraniaceae. The parent plant is listed as endangered and known in only 5 populations growing near irregularly inundated or ephemeral lakes; 4 sites in NSW and 1 site in Victoria. It forms a lovely, little, low growing ground cover that spreads via rhizomes, and may develop into colonies up to several metres wide if given space and ideal growing conditions. Leaves arise in basal rosettes and flowering stems reach 0.15m high bearing clusters of pale pink petaled flowers with dark pink-crimson-purple veins. Flowering occurs from mid-spring into autumn with a peak in late spring-early summer. Grows in full sun to part shade in most conditions and is frost tolerant. It does best in cool temperate to semi-arid regions, and likes a good mulch layer in moist soil, although it can tolerate some periods of dryness. A great long flowering, pollinator attracting plant for filling in gaps that can also be grown in pots and hanging baskets.



*Pelargonium* 'Edna Walling Pop Up'  
Photo: J Petts

*Pelargonium rodneyanum* Magenta Stork's Bill is a local species that is commonly found west and north of Melbourne, and is also found in South Australia. It is a showy little herbaceous perennial with dark green leaves that will self-seed, and spreads from tuberous roots. Reaching up to 30cm, the flower stalks bearing bright magenta flowers usually appear from October to February. They grow in full sun to partial shade, in moist well-drained soil, and makes for a most attractive border plant.



*Pelargonium rodneyanum*  
Photo: J Petts

*Banksia serrata* is a widespread species of coastal and hinterland regions of the Eastern States with a range extending from Tas, Vic, NSW and into Southern Qld. It forms a large, gnarled shrub to tree and may reach

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# February Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

around 15m under ideal conditions, less in exposed sites. Grey-green to creamy flower spikes of 20cm or more long occur in autumn. It needs a full sun site in sandy, free draining soils.

*Eremophila* 'Meringur Midnight' is a registered hybrid cultivar developed from a garden seedling found at Swan Hill. It grows as a larger shrub or small tree reaching 5-6m, and bears large, dark purple flowers in late spring to summer or following new growth. It adapts to a range of well-drained soil types and is tolerant of heavy frosts. Prefers a full sun site, but copes with light shade.

*Grevillea* 'Moe Gem' forms a sprawling ground cover growing 0.30-0.60 high and may reach 2-4m wide. It bears ruby red toothbrush flowers and makes an excellent plant for erosion control, slopes and embankments. The specimen growing in Ian's garden has reached 6m wide.

*Grevillea* 'New Blood' is a hybrid developed by Bywong Nursery and forms a "good thick ground cover" that grows 0.30m high x 1.5m wide. It bears deep red flowers from autumn to spring and is frost hardy.

*Prostanthera grylloana* is a tough plant from the Norseman region of WA that grows to 1m.

*Eremophila drummondii* Hyden form. (scan QR code below to view image & more details)

Lastly, before breaking for supper, Norbert explained that the committee had recently discussed the possibility of commencing future meetings at an earlier timeslot of 7:00pm. Following some brief discussion, he then asked for a show of hands from those in favour of the proposed time change. A majority of hands was raised and duly noted, and with the formal part of the meeting at an end, time to enjoy another cuppa, mingle & purchase plants began.



*Prostanthera grylloana* Photo: B.A. Fuhrer  
<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/6916>  
 (Accessed 12 April 2023).



*Grevillea* 'New Blood'  
 Photo: J Petts



*Banksia serrata*  
 Photo Geoff Lay .  
 CC BY-NC-SA 4.0  
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/58481dd5-27b8-4285-881e-4753e4afab7a>



*Eremophila* 'Meringur Midnight' Photo: Russell Wait  
<https://anpsa.org.au/eremophila/eremophila-meringur-midnight/>



*Grevillea* 'Moe Gem'  
 Photo: <https://triggplants.com.au/product/grevillea-moe-gem-in-75mm-supergro-tube/#:~:text=Fast%20growing%2C%20dense%20spreading%20shrub,is%20frost%20and%20drought%20tolerant.>

## March Meeting Report- Norseman to Lake King WA ...

By Jeanine Petts

Arriving a little before 7pm on a pleasant autumn evening, we found a number of members ready and waiting. As the previous timeslot's meeting room users were still exiting, we had to quietly sneak in to begin set up. With plenty of helpers on hand, chairs and tables were set up, the fixings for supper laid out, and plants for sale set out on display in pretty good time. All told, we ended up with 25 members turning out for the meeting.

Before we knew it, Norbert called everyone to their seats, then moved swiftly into welcoming us all and introducing our guest speaker for the evening, Mike Williams. As Norbert invited Mike the floor, he advised that Mike has been an active stalwart of Australian Plant Societies for many years, is a very busy man; having a farm near Echuca, facilitated the establishment of the district groups of Mitchell, Echuca and more recently Heathcote, and in whatever time he has left, grows an enormous number of native plants in his suburban back yard at Montmorency.

Mike entitled his talk "The Adventures of Barney & Willy, Norseman to Lake King" and began by saying that his love of travelling to Western Australia started in 1993, when he "went west" with his family. Then in 1999 he "convinced" (without much effort) friends from APS Yarra Yarra, Regina and Max McDowell, to join him on a WA road trip. That trip, rains had come in around the Kalgoorlie region, which, triggered a good wildflower event. On subsequent road trips into WA, Ray Barnes has taken up the mantle of "jockey" alongside Mike.

The first slide up was a photo of sculpture monuments to John Eyre (Edward John Eyre, the first European to cross the continent from Sydney to the Swan River) and his "offsider" Wylie (a First Nations man from King George's Sound), taken at Kimba SA - a fitting image to start the talk off with.

Mike explained that the presentation would focus on the flora found along the stretch of road, which, branches off from Highway 1 around 55km south of Norseman and travels past the turn off to Peak Charles National Park, then through Frank Hann National Park, finishing at Lake King. Most of the presentation's photos were taken during a 2017 trip (with Ray). Mike and Ray also travelled the same route, along with Cascades Road in 2019. The section of Cascades Road that meets the road through Frank Hann National Park was bulldozed in by farmers of the Cascade region who became tired of having to take the long way round.

In 2017 there had been floods around the Esperance area, which, again produced a good wildflower season. Previously, in 2007, whilst Mike had been on a preparatory drive investigating the route through Frank Hann National Park, the only car he met during the 200km drive was a police car. On stopping to chat and exchange information, the officer



Sculpture monuments to Edward John Eyre, and his "offsider" Wylie at Kimba SA



Map showing Norseman to Lake King.



View along Norseman to Lake King Rd.



*Seringia integrifolia*

Photos: Mike Williams

(Continued on page 11)

# The Adventures of Barney & Willy, Norseman to Lake King continued...

(Continued from page 10)

advised he was searching for a missing person, a man that had wandered off the road, becoming lost, whom sadly became a fatality. A cautionary reminder of the fact that out there, with terrain so flat, similar, and seemingly endless, with so few people around, it is particularly easy to lose your way and end up in trouble.

Moving on, we were led through an array of wildflower images, with a few scenic images thrown in along with the following species:

*Seringia integrifolia* was previously named *Keraudrenia integrifolia*. It grows to 1.5m high, likes disturbed sites, so often grows along roadsides.

*Prostanthera grylloana* grows to 1m x 1m. (A number of salt lakes occur in the area, some of them natural, many however, have been caused by salination due to farming activities.)

*Acacia lasiocalyx* has upper branches that are covered in a white powdery bloom (glaucous), and produces showy, bright yellow spike flowers.

*Hakea multilineata* grows along the roadsides.

*Calothamnus quadrifidus*

*Grevillea excelsior* has a habit tending to "head for the sky then lean".

*Banksia media* is a species that would likely grow in gardens around Kilmore.

*Melaleuca pungens* is a prickly leaved, floriferous species.

*Melaleuca cordata*

*Eucalyptus grossa* grows to 4m x 4m and looks similar to *Eucalyptus preissiana*.

*Dampiera sacculata* forms an arching tuft.

*Conospermum sigmoideum* is one of the forms of Smokebush.

*Chorizema glycinifolium* grows as an open bush.

*Lechenaultia heteromera* Claw Lechenaultia



*Acacia lasiocalyx*



*Prostanthera grylloana*



*Grevillea excelsior*



*Hakea multilineata*



*Banksia media*



*Hakea multilineata*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus* & *Grevillea excelsior* growing roadside.



*Melaleuca cordata*



*Melaleuca pungens*



*Dampiera sacculata*



*Eucalyptus grossa*

Photos: Mike Williams

(Continued on page 12)

# The Adventures of Barney & Willy, Norseman to Lake King continued...

(Continued from page 11)

*Cyphanthera microphylla* forms a dense, small rounded shrub. Its white flowers are slightly tubular.

The journey passed through 2 local council shires. In the photo at right, Peak Charles seen in distance at left, is in Esperance Shire, while Peak Eleanor on the right, is in the Shire of Ravensthorpe.

*Verticordia picta* Painted Featherflower

*Hakea horrida* lives up to its name, as it bears stiff, prickly leaves and is tall; reaching at least 6m.

*Hakea nitida* has an unusual leaf shape with prickly tips.

*Hakea corymbosa* Cauliflower Hakea is very showy.

*Verticordia mitchelliana* Rapier Featherflower

*Pimelea suaveolens* Scented Banjine

*Urodon dasyphyllus* Mop Bushpea bears its showy flowers prominently in a whorl around the tops of its stems.

*Calectasia grandiflora* bears bright electric blue flowers.

*Lysinema ciliatum* bears long tubular flowers and is very showy.

*Boronia coerulescens* Blue Boronia has recently had a name change, and is now known as *Cyanothamnus coerulescens*. Which, has 3 subspecies; *C. subsp. coerulescens* bears flowers in leaf axils (and along with WA is also endemic in SA, Vic and far south-west NSW), *C. subsp. spicatus* bears flowers held in leafy, spike-like racemes and is found only in the regions near Wubin and Muntadgin WA, *C. subsp. spinescens* has spreading spiny branchlets and is only found in WA (across the same WA areas as *C. subsp. coerulescens*).

*Dryandra xylothemelia* is now known as *Banksia xylothemelia* and is a rare endangered species.

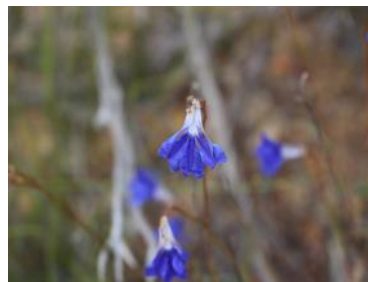
*Grevillea cagiana* Red Toothbrushes is widespread through the region.



View towards Peak Charles & Peak Eleanor.



*Conospermum sigmoideum*



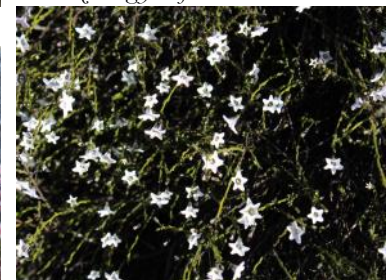
*Lechenaultia heteromera*



*Chorizema glycinifolium*



*Verticordia picta*



*Cyphanthera microphylla*



*Hakea nitida*



*Hakea horrida*



*Verticordia mitchelliana*



*Hakea corymbosa*

Photos: Mike Williams

(Continued on page 13)

# The Adventures of Barney & Willy, Norseman to Lake King continued...

(Continued from page 12)

Gravel pits provide an opportunity for plant germination. In a photo of a gravel pit area that was shown, species growing included: *Lechenaultia biloba*, *Pimelea sp.* *Tetratheca sp.* and *Dasymalla terminalis*.

*Dasymalla terminalis* Native Foxglove is found in a white flowering form in the southern areas of the region. However, as you travel northwards, pale pink, then deep pink flower forms are encountered.

*Grevillea shuttleworthiana*

*Hypocalymma magnificum* was once sold as *Hypocalymma sp.* Cascade before being named.

*Grevillea prostrata*, which, was photographed on one trip, then was subsequently found to have been graded out on later trips, and returned after being graded.

*Lachnostachys verbascifolia*

*Eremophila glabra* is very showy in flower.

*Eucalyptus tenera* pink flowering form. This species is most usually found in yellow flowering forms.

The last flora image shown, was taken at the western end of Frank Hann National Park in 2003, and displayed a floriferous, colourful roadside. This area of the drive is where you'll see the most *Verticordia* species lighting up the roadside in swathes of yellow, white and purple.

Mike's final image of the presentation was of a work of farmers/paddock art, which, was taken at Kulin (pronounced 'Cool-in') WA. Farmers of the region are very creative with their art.

Mike plans routes prior to his trips, utilising side roads though National Parks, and his next trip will be taking in the Mullewa to Wubin Rd, and it's "spectacular flora". In closing, we were urged to put taking a trip across the Nullarbor on our bucket lists, and advised the best time to travel over is in August, making sure to stop and view whales at the Head of the Bight along the way.



*Urodon dasyphyllus*



*Pimelea suaveolens*



*Lysinema ciliatum*



*Calectasia grandiflora*



*Banksia Xylothemia*



*Cyanothamnus coerulescens*



*Dasymalla terminalis*



*Grevillea cagiana*



*Grevillea shuttleworthiana*



Gravel pit flora

Photos: Mike Williams

(Continued on page 14)

# The Adventures of Barney & Willy, Norseman to Lake King continued...

(Continued from page 13)

Drawing our evening plant raffle followed next, with species to choose from being:

*Callistemon sieberi* River Bottlebrush (weeping cascade form) forms a large weeping shrub growing 2-10m high x 2-6m wide with flowers occurring 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.

*Prostanthera cryptandroides*, which, flowers in summer and forms a small shrub that grows to around 1m. It is endemic to NSW and QLD, usually in rocky areas of dry Eucalypt woodland. Grow in well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

*Kennedia prostrata* Running Postman is a great trailing ground cover reaching around a 1-1.5m spread, bearing clover-like trifoliolate leaves, and bright red flowers that can make a stunning display during spring (a white form is occasionally available). It is endemic to all states excepting QLD and NT, and prefers well-drained gravelly soils in a full sun to lightly shaded site.

*Hibbertia pedunculata* is a ground cover growing to a 1m spread that is showy in flower. It is endemic to open forests, mountains and coastal areas from the north eastern corner of Victoria, NSW, and just into south eastern QLD. Prefers a full sun to part shade site in well-drained soil.

Our lucky winners were: Beryl Wait, Julianne Diwell, Sandra Farlow and Ray Barnes.



*Grevillea prostrata*



*Hypocalymma magnificentum*



*Eremophila glabra*



*Lachnostachys verbascifolia*



*Eucalyptus tenera*



Flora at the western end of Frank Hann National Park in 2003.



*Callistemon sieberi*

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



Farmer's art

Unless otherwise credited,  
 Photos: Mike Williams

During our last formal part of the evening agenda, we passed around and discussed some of the night's flower table specimens, beginning with some of Brian Weir's plants:

*Grevillea plurijuga* of which, there are 3 forms, is endemic to the around the area south of Kalgoorlie WA. It is best grown as a grafted plant in eastern states, and will tolerate at least -6c.

(Continued on page 15)

## March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 14)

*Grevillea batrachioides* is endemic to a small location around 300km north of Perth, and was down to around 10 plants left in the wild. It bears prickly, divided, grey-green foliage and pink to cream-pink flowers occur in spring.

*Grevillea eremophila*, which, it was quipped, is Russell Wait's favourite *Grevillea*. It forms an erect shrub growing to 1-5-3m high, and bears creamy white flowers.

Two species that came from Norbert's Garden were:

*Crowea exalata* is lovely little plant endemic to mainly mountain regions of NSW, ACT & Vic that grows to a rounded shrub to around 0.70m. It bears near linear, aromatic leaves to 4cm long and star-shaped flowers of 25mm or less occur over summer and autumn. There are many forms in cultivation, and a variety of colour forms; from bright magenta pink through to white. Multi Petaled forms are also available. It is a very hardy and decorative plant, suitable for full sun to part shade. Great for that little splash of colour and cut flowers.

*Calocephalus citreus* Lemon Beauty-heads is a pretty, little perennial with grey foliage that grows to 30cm x 30cm. It is locally endemic, and found in all eastern states from Tasmania and right up into Qld. It puts on attractive massed display of lemon-yellow flower heads (in spring and summer) that are most suitable for floral arrangements. Grows best in a full sun site in well-drained soils.

Lastly, three species from Jeanine & Mike's Garden were:

*Dianella amoena* Matted Flax-Lily is of the Asphodelaceae family and is a local rare endangered species that grows 0.20-0.30m tall x 0.30m high. It forms dense clumps of stiff grey-green leaves that have edges which, are rough to the touch. Clusters of bee-attracting, pale blue-lilac flowers are held on stems that reach above the leaves occur in spring and summer, and are followed by blue-purple berries. Grows well in full sun or dappled shade.

*Grevillea rhyolitica* x *victoriae* a hybrid cultivar that was unlabelled at time of purchase (& could possibly be 'Lady O'). Since planting in early 2020 it has grown to around 1-1.2m high, forming a rounded shrub. It bears red spider flowers much of the year, with a main flush over summer. If you like birds this



*Prostanthera cryptandroides*

Photo: Miriam Ford



*Hibbertia pedunculata*

Image: Brian Walters <http://anpsa.org.au/h-ped.html>



*Kennedia prostrata*

Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 16)

## March meeting report continued...

(Continued from page 15)

is one of the most attractive plants that provides cover for smaller birds, brings in pollinators, and is good for cut flowers. It is cold tolerant, frost hardy, grows in full to part sun, and prefers dry to well drained soils.

*Lythrum salicaria* Purple Loosestrife is a member of the Lythraceae family. It is naturally found growing in riparian zones, in moist to wet areas, and is endemic to NSW, Qld, Vic, Tas, S.A, and also widespread in Europe, Asia and North America. Growing 0.5m – 1.5m tall it is an erect herbaceous plant with annual flowering stems produced above ground on perennial rootstock below ground. Spikes of pink-purple flowers occur from September to April, after which, the stems die off, and regrow next season. It is suitable for damp, wet or boggy areas, great for planting around ponds etc. Butterfly & bee attracting.



*Crowea exalata*

Photo: J Petts



*Lythrum salicaria*

Photo: J Petts



*Dianella amoena*

Photo: J Petts



*Calocephalus citreus*

Photo: J Petts



*Grevillea rhyolitica x victoriae*

Photo: J Petts



## Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

### Thank you

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

#### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

APS Heathcote Inc.  
Chris Cobern,  
Christine Cram,  
Gerry Ho,  
Ian Julian,  
Barbara Mau,  
Victoria Morris,  
Debbie Packham,  
Norbert Ryan,  
Maureen Thomas,  
Mike Williams.

#### 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-102380169043080/>

Phone: 0419 878 950 or

Email:

[heathcoteaps@outlook.com](mailto:heathcoteaps@outlook.com)

**April 22 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale.** Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm. Further details including some plant lists can be found at: <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/australian-plants-expo/autumn-plant-sale/>

**April 29 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale.** The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha. 10am-3pm.

**May 13 - APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale.** St Andrew's Uniting Church

Car Park, Gisborne Rd

Bacchus Marsh. 9am-1pm.

**June 24 & 25 - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show.**

Robert Clarke Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles St, Ballarat. Flower Show, plant sales etc. 10am-4pm.

**September 2 - APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale.**

Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick. Sale located in the undercover fruit & vegetable market area. 9am-3pm.



## 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:	<a href="mailto:secretary@apsmitchell.org.au">secretary@apsmitchell.org.au</a>	
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:	<a href="mailto:g4w@apsmitchell.org.au">g4w@apsmitchell.org.au</a>	

#### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts

Email: [jin.wgff@gmail.com](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au) Website: <http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/index.asp>



# AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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

PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

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

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

(Please tick whichever applies)

Membership Type:		Fees: Note: Membership Year = July 1—June 30		
		* APS Victoria	APS Mitchell	Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Single</b>	\$35.00	\$10.00	<b>\$45.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Couple/Family</b> (2 adults & 2 dependents)	\$40.00	\$12.00	<b>\$52.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Student</b>	\$26.00	\$10.00	<b>\$36.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Organisation</b>	\$44.00	\$10.00	<b>\$54.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I have paid/pay my APS Vic membership when joining/renewing with another district group. Which Group? :</b>	<b>**Include only applicable APS Mitchell Fee -Tick which applies:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$12.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10.00	<b>**</b> \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Optional Australian Plants Subscription</b>	<b>4 issues:</b>		<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Total Due:</b>				<b>\$</b>

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.

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b> / /
----------------	------------------

**Neutrog Newsletter** APS Vic and Neutrog ([www.neutrog.com.au/](http://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](mailto:mitchell@apsvic.org.au)

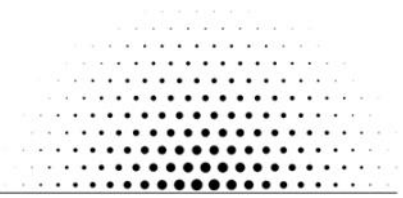
Cheque made payable to: APS MITCHELL INC. Posted with your form to: APS Mitchell Treasurer, P O Box 541, Kilmore Vic 3764

Pay via cash or cheque at an APS Mitchell monthly meeting (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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:**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>28-01-2021</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<i>Ian Julian</i>