

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

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Volume 10, Issue 7

November news...!

Hello & welcome to our very late November 2023 edition & last newsletter for the year.

Christmas is just around the corner and our Christmas break-up & garden visit is being held on Saturday December 2nd. Announcement was made at our November meeting and an email sent out on Tuesday November 21st with full information. Reminder details can be found on page 2.

I have finally written up Emma McLaughlin's Native Bee talk presented at our September meeting & the report begins on page 3. The report on our November meeting will be published in our February 2024 edition.

We extend a huge thank you to everyone who has come along to meetings, activities and in particular our Expo, contributed, volunteered & helped out in anyway throughout 2023. Our members, friends and supporters are a fantastic bunch of people that we feel privileged to know, enjoy time with & deeply appreciate the gift of shared interests, time and enthusiasm for all things native plants.

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Epacris longiflora

Photo: J Petts

Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday February 12th, 2024. Contributions big & small are hugely appreciated & always needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by Monday February 5th, 2024. Email to: jin.wgff@gmail.com

Warmest of thanks & very best wishes for Christmas 2023, the festive holiday season & the coming New Year.

Ho, ho, ho & cheers for now, Jeanine

Can you help? Assistance with Gardens for Wildlife needed...

Can you help please?

We continue to seek volunteer/s to assist with the Gardens for Wildlife program. If you have an interest in gardening for wildlife, and a bit of time available, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information please contact Ian Julian:

Ph:0438 270 248 or email: aps.mitchell@gmail.com



Australian Painted Lady
Vanessa kershawi on
Chamelanium x Verticordia
Photo: J Petts

Mitchell Diary Dates ..

In the interests of everyone's health, we 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.

• **Saturday December 2nd 3pm Christmas Celebration & Garden Visit** See page 2 for details

• **Monday February 19th, 2024. 1st Evening Meeting for 2024: Doors open 7pm. Main presentation from 7:30pm**
Guest Speaker: Dr Judy Rutter
Topic: Botanical Nomenclature

• **Monday March 18th, 2024 - Evening Meeting. Doors open 7pm. Main presentation from 7:30pm**
Guest Speaker to be advised



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 7:00pm with main presentation from 7:30 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).



Christmas Celebration & Garden Visit Saturday December 2nd- 3pm

Christine & Ian are graciously welcoming APS Mitchell members and friends to a Garden visit & BBQ:

Held on: Saturday December 2nd at 3pm.

Where: 395 Camerons Creek Road, Sugarloaf Creek.
[Get Directions](#)

Cheese platters & BBQ Meats provided

BYO: Drinks, chairs, either a salad or dessert to share (see RSVP info below), & bathers & towel if you'd like to swim in the pool (weather permitting).

Please RSVP to Christine - Ph: 0458 238 270 or email ccram1959@gmail.com advising the following:

- Who is attending & Number of guests.
- Dietary requirements (if any).
- What salad or dessert you are choosing to bring.

The Gardens for Wildlife Program in Mitchell Shire is facilitated by APS Mitchell & 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/>

Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

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

We ask members and guests to follow important COVID Safe 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.

For further Covid Safe information see [Covid safe facility plan](#).



Anyema quandang Grey Mistletoe
Photo: J Petts

Memberships...

As of November our membership remains at 25 paid up members. 2023/2024 renewals & new memberships are now via the APS Victoria online system with payment made direct to APS Victoria. Access the system at: <https://apsvic.org.au/membership>. Login on the [APS Vic website](#) using your email & membership number. Your membership number is printed on the front of your Growing Australian magazine envelopes. See the last page for further details. For those without computer access or needing assistance please do contact Christine: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer: mitchell@apsvic.org.au Further information, contact details, etc. can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

September Meeting Report - Australian Native Bees...

By Jeanine Petts

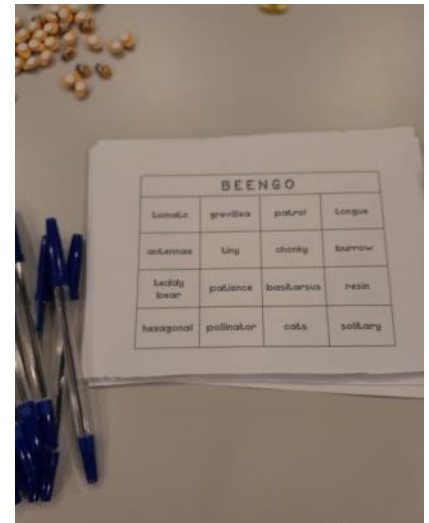
Our September meeting saw a goodly attendance, with around 24 people coming out to enjoy an informative and most entertaining guest speaker presentation. Apologies to those who arrived a little early and found the John Taylor Room locked and in darkness. Our keeper of the keys was running a little behind, thankfully, we only had a shortish wait before we were able to unlock and begin setting up. None the less, Norbert was calling everyone to our seats a little after 7:35pm to introduce our guest speaker, Emma McLaughlin, to talk on Native Bees. Emma is a member of Heathcote APS District Group, and a qualified Speech Pathologist for whom an interest in native bees is “just a sideline”. Emma pointed out that she has not completed any degree for formal study on bees, only that she has had an enthusiastic interest in recent years.

Emma had come along wearing furry boots, and donned a pair of antennae as she began the presentation. These were to emphasise two identifying bee features, namely, that bees have “hairy legs” and long antennae. While explaining a little more about her talk, Emma passed around some “BEENGO” sheets for each person to take, advising that as the talk progressed, we were to tick off words on the sheet as we noted them throughout the presentation. Among resources used for the talk were the books; *A Guide to Native Bees of Australia* by Terry Houston, which Emma referred to as her “bible”, *Bees of Australia A Photographic Exploration* by James Dorey, an Educational Game called *Native Bees of Australia* with illustrations by Gina Cranson, websites including: <https://www.aussiebee.com.au/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beeawareofournativebees> along with a few other resources (see slide pictured at right). Emma mentioned that she had been careful to seek and receive approval for the use of images and information from the Aussie Bee website shown in her presentation (as these are subject to copywrite).

We were advised to ask any questions at any time through her presentation. The next two slides shown were photos taken by Emma in her garden, one, a native pea plant visited by native bees with the question posed “did you know Australia had native bees before this talk?” To, which, it looked like all of the audience members raised their hand. The next photo showed a native bee on white Pigface flowers (an introduced species) and was followed with the explanation that the Taungurung word for bee is “mimgan” (pronounced “mimgun”) and “mimganbulok” (pronounced “mimgunboolok”) means many native bees.

Emma shared that she lives on a 20acre property north of Heathcote, and her garden contains “mostly” native plants, some African *Leucadendron* and other species, which, she calls her Gondwanaland. A vegetable patch is another feature of her garden. She outlined the talk would start broad, then cover topics including: What is a bee? What is an Australian ‘native’ bee? Native bees vs honey bees, types of native bees, Victorian native bees, and how to attract native bees to your garden.

Continuing on, we were shown news that a new bee species had been



“Beengo”

Photo: J Petts



Native Bees of Australia Game

Photo: J Petts

resources



Slide image provided by Emma McLaughlin



A native bee on Pigface flowers.

Photo: Emma McLaughlin

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September Meeting Report - Australian Native Bees continued...

(Continued from page 3)

discovered. Dr Kit Prendergast, an expert specialist researcher (ecologist), had been surveying bees at Kings Park WA and came across a bee with a distinctive looking “snout”. (The bee has been named *Leioproctus Zephyr* and the ABC article can be read at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-05/native-bee-species-discovered-perth-kings-park-snout/101616420>)

Essentially, pollinators are anything that moves pollen from male to female flowers, and this includes bees. Insect-loving plants produce pollen that is heavy, sticky and full of protein. Many insects and some mites are specialized to feed on pollen, and are referred to as palytivores. Bees are 145 million years old and co-evolved with flowering plants. They feed their offspring pollen, and have branched hairs that help make pollen collection more effective. Belonging to the order Hymenoptera (that encompasses all bees, wasps, and ants), bees are in essence, “vegan wasps”.

A true or false question/statement was posed: All bees sting? With the answer being: False, not all bees sting. Bees have: Big eyes, 2 pairs of wings, a pinched waist & hairy legs to collect pollen, with the Basitarsus (first tarsal segment in the leg of an insect) being the hairy area of a bee leg. The following table was shown that details the differences between bees, wasps and flies:

	Bees	Wasps	Flies
Wings:	2 pairs	2 pairs	One pair
Waist:	Narrow	Narrow	Broad
Hairs:	Branched/feathery	None or simple	None or simple
Pollen:	Carry (on legs or abdomen)	Do not collect	Do not collect
Antennae	Long with many segments	Long with many segments	Short – 3 segments
Eyes	Side of head	Side of head	Front of head
Basitarsus	Long, broadened	Same as other leg segments	Same as other leg segments

Moving back to a close-up photo of the photo of a bee on a pigface flower, Emma pointed out that pollen could be seen on the legs, and two pair of wings, noting that this was a female bee as only females collect pollen. Male native bees ‘patrol’ looking for mates or wait on a flower (for passing females), and congregate together at night. Differences between a “He and She Bee” was detailed in the following table:

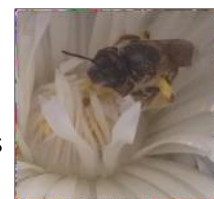


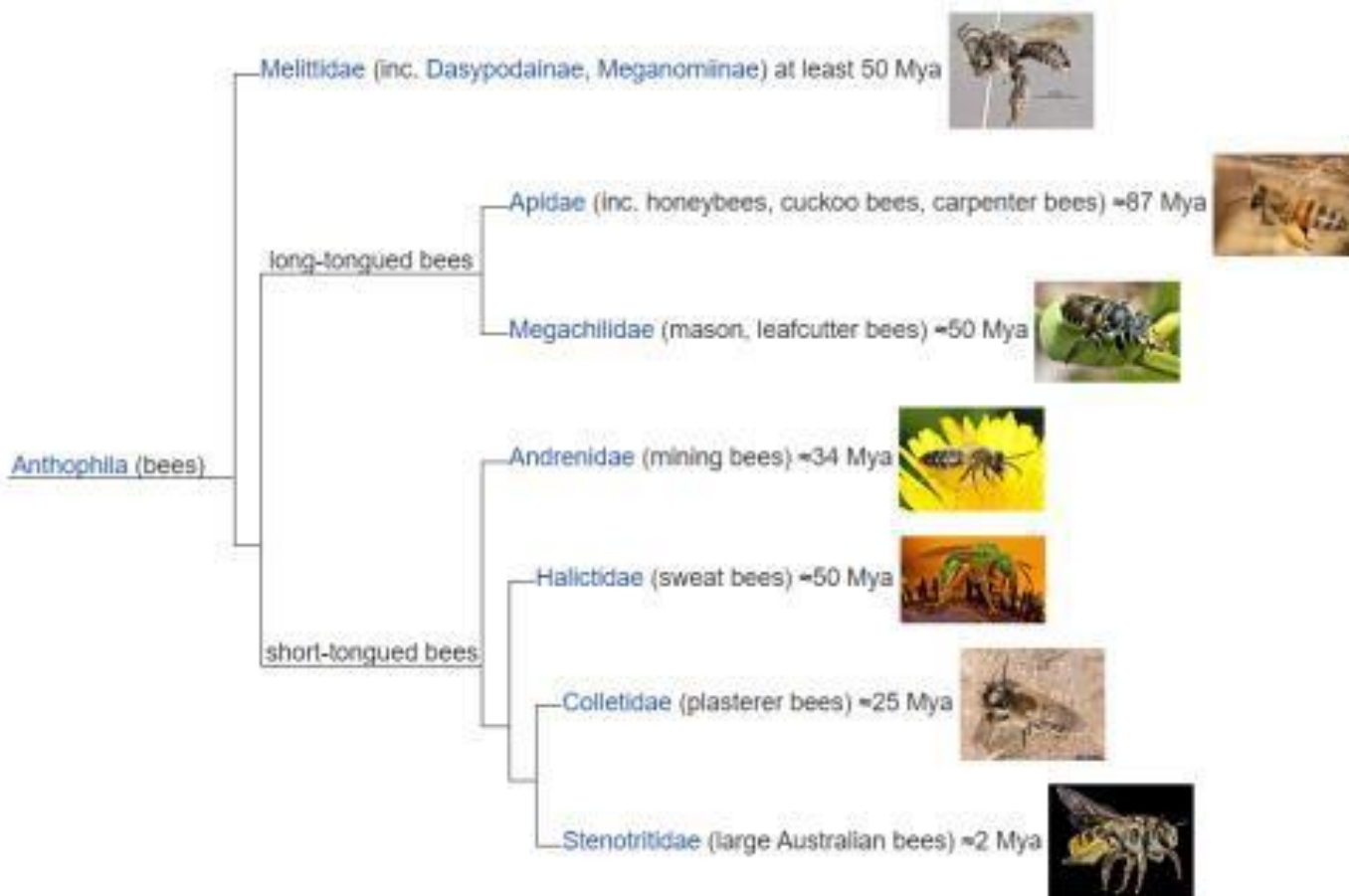
Photo: Emma McLaughlin

Feature	Details	Female	Male
Sting		Yes	No
Carries pollen		Yes	No
Behaviour	On flowers	Heaps	Not much
	In nests/burrows	Yes	No
	Congregate at night	No (in nest)	Yes - Often in same place
	Looking for mates	No	YAAASSSS • “patrolling” • resting on opening buds
Antennae	Segments	12	13
Terga (dorsal abdominal segments)	Number	6	Most have 7
Facial markings	May differ between females and males		(Continued on page 5)

September Meeting Report - Australian Native Bees continued...

(Continued from page 4)

In answer to the question “What is an Australian ‘native bee’? Australian native bees are bees that have not been introduced to Australia. There are over 1700 species in Australia and they are very diverse in size, colour and behaviour. Several species are found in Central Victoria, including the Mitchell Shire and Heathcote regions. The following cladogram from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee> shows the bee families:



The European Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* is an introduced species that was brought into Australia in 1822 for honey production. They vary in colour, and can look VERY similar to native bees. 2 factors that help to identify them are that they are the only bees in Australia to drink from freshwater sources (e.g., bird baths) and are the only bees in Australia to make a hexagonal celled hive. In addition to *A. mellifera* there are 5 other introduced species.

There are six bee families, of which, 5 have Australian native species.

Family Apidae (pronounced: ay-pid-ee), includes Carpenter bees, Cuckoo bees, Blue-banded bees and Resin bees. Most Australian native bees are either subsocial or quasisocial. In subsocial species the females raise their brood to adulthood, then each new female goes out and on to nest build and raise her brood. Whilst in quasisocial species, the “mother” lays her eggs, provisions them with food, then leaves. After the brood emerges, young females share the nest for a few days, one will take over the nest to lay her eggs, while the rest go out to find their own nests. Females nest in hollows dug in ground, in branches or stems, or in wood or mortar. Roosting males grip branches with their jaws (mandibles), not their legs.



Blue-banded Bee
Photo:
Emma McLaughlin

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September Meeting Report - Australian Native Bees continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Another true or false question/statement was posed: Native bees don't buzz?
With the answer being: wrong. Native bees do buzz.

Some of the species in the Apidae family shown were:

Amegilla cingulata (pronounced: am - egg- ILL - ah sin - gyoo - LAH - tah), the Blue-banded Bee, is a buzz pollinator. Male Blue-banded Bees tend to return to the same nightly roosting place.

Amegilla dawsoni Dawson's Burrowing Bee, are from WA and one of Australia's largest bees.

Amegilla bombiformis Teddy Bear Bees, are found in all Australian states excepting Tasmania.

Thyreus caeruleopunctatus Checkered Cuckoo Bee. Cuckoo Bee species "Hijack" other bee's nests to lay their eggs.

Stingless Bees are smaller than Hoverflies and are the only group of native bee species that build hives. They are only found in tropical areas across Northern Australia. *Tetragonula carbonaria* the Sugarbag Bee is the only species to build hives in an upward spiral pattern.

Bees of the Family Megachilidae (pronounced mega-KYE- lid -ee) includes Leafcutter Bees, Mason Bees and Resin Bees. They are mostly all solitary and tend to roost in existing holes (e.g., between rocks, old wasp nests, hollow reeds, rotting wood etc. Some species are Kleptoparasitic (invade nests of other bees, and lay their eggs near or in the pollen balls that the hosts left for their offspring). Larvae spin cocoons and adult females of most species carry pollen on their abdomen.

Leafcutter Bees are solitary bees and use their sharp jaws to cut neat circles out of leaves to line nests in long tunnels. Both leaves and pollen are left as food for their young.

Family Halictidae (pronounced hal- ICK- tidee) is a very diverse family that are commonly called Sweat Bees, as they are attracted to perspiration. Of the 381 Australian Halictidae species, some are solitary, others form colonies. They nest in hollows dug in ground, or in branches, stems, wood, and mortar. Nests often have a narrow entrance and may have a "guard". *Lasioglossum* species are among those that visit Emma's garden and they are less than thumbnail sized.

Family Colletidae (pronounced coll -ETT- idee) includes Masked Bees and Plasterer Bees (also called Polyester Bees). They make up over half of Australian bee genera and species and are in the "Short tongued" group. Most species are solitary, with a few being quasisocial. Nests are usually dug in ground, or in preexisting cavities (e.g., holes in mortar). Females use mouth secretions to line the nest/burrow with a waterproof capsule creating a cellophane like film.

Masked Bees have distinctive markings on their faces (see image next page).

Family Stenotritidae (pronounced sten-oh-TRY- tid-ee) are only found in Australia and are the smallest bee family with 2 genera. Of which, only one genus,



Male Blue-banded bees roosting
Photo: Fred Hort [CC BY 2.0](https://farm6.staticflickr.com/5784/23491233064_b85bf70b3f_o.jpg)
https://farm6.staticflickr.com/5784/23491233064_b85bf70b3f_o.jpg



Dawson's Burrowing Bees (male waiting for emerging female).
Photo: Linda Rogan EntSocVic
[CC BY-NC-SA](https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/39681691)
<https://www.inaturalist.org/photos/39681691>



Teddy Bear Bee *Amegilla bombiformis*
Photo: Louise Docker [CC BY 2.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3048955)
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3048955>



Checkered Cuckoo Bee
Thyreus caeruleopunctatus
Photo: David Francis [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://uk.inaturalist.org/photos/3424818)
<https://uk.inaturalist.org/photos/3424818>

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September Meeting Report Australian Native Bees continued...

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Stenotritus, occurs in eastern Australia. They are large to very large, hairy, solitary, ground-nesting bees (some nests are over 3 m deep).

With the presentation drawing to a close, Emma shared some points on attracting native bees to the garden. Firstly, on Bee B ‘n’ Bs, the “pretty off the shelf” Bee Hotels from retail outlets such as Bunnings may not be suitable, as the materials used may have been chemically treated. A better option is to create your own Bee B & B. A great resource is the book *Creating a Haven for Native Bees* by Kit Prendergast, which, is available in both an e-book and hardcopy, details can be found at: <https://www.beethecure.com.au/product/creating-a-haven-fo-native-bees-kit-prendergast-book/>

The following table outlined points to remember when creating and installing Bee B ‘n’ B’s:

Feature:	Details
Burrows	A range of size is needed: 3mm – 12 mm diameter. At least 50mm long. Aim for 100mm – 200 mm.
Material	Untreated and weatherproof. Bamboo is a good option. Drill into wooden blocks, or put canes, reeds etc in to PVC pipes or some such.
Protection	Sloping roof with eaves is helpful.
Position	In the open. Facing north? Receives sunlight (but not too hot). Avoid high traffic areas. Off ground (about 1m).



Lasioglossum species Bee on pea-flower Photo: Emma McLaughlin



Noble Masked Bee *Hylaeus bonestus*
Photo: Karen Retra [CC BY-NC https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/334833848](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/334833848)

Native bees generally prefer native flora, especially those with mass flowering blossoms. Suggested species were: Native peas, Bottlebrushes, Eucalypts, Banksias and Grevilleas. Some non-native plants that native bees use are Vegetable flowers, *Solanum* species seem particularly attractive, roses, weeds including Capeweed, Gazanias and Daisies, Lavender, Salvia and Crepe Myrtle. Other tips were:

- Leaf Cutter Bees like to harvest Rose and capsicum leaves.
- Keep patches of bare soil and ‘mud’ in your garden (for burrowing & capping).
- Keep some large trees (for resin)
- Don’t cut off bare plant stems
- Avoid pesticides

Lastly, the jury is still out regarding the issues of native bees versus introduced bees. Both are often seen on the same plants at the same time, and there may be some competition. The NSW Department of Primary Industry has stated that Varroa Mites only affect honey bees and do not affect native bees.

The main take home point is that more native plants equal more native bees. One more mention was that there is an Australian Pollinator week held each year in November, and is an opportunity to contribute to citizen science while learning about your local pollinators. Information can be found at: <https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/>

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September Meeting Report continued...

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It was revealed at the end of the presentation that Debbie had gained the kudos of winning our game of "Beengo". After which, Norbert took the floor and thanked Emma for her presentation and the memorable reminder that bees have antennae and hairy legs. With thankful applause from our audience, Norbert presented Emma with a bottle of red wine by way of appreciation.

Our raffle came next on the evening agenda, with 2 raffle prizes on offer that were supplied by Brian Weir:

Grevillea dimorpha Flame Grevillea is endemic to the Grampians region of Victoria and is a species with variable leaf forms. It grows as an erect to spreading shrub ranging in size from 0.4-3m high and leaf shape can be elliptic, linear, or egg-shaped. Bright red flowers appear during August to December. They are a hardy, long-lived plant in the garden that strikes readily from cuttings.

Grevillea plurijuga is a beautiful species endemic to WA, found in the area south of Kalgoorlie to the lower mid-south near Esperance. It grows as a low lying, dense mounded, or upright shrub ranging in size from 0.6-3m high x up to 3.5m wide. There are 2 subspecies: *G. plurijuga* subsp. *superba* that grows as a dense shrub reaching 2-4m high, producing grey-pink-red flowers on long flowering stems often held above the foliage during September to January. While *G. plurijuga* subsp. *plurijuga* usually grows as a low to dense mounded shrub, although is sometimes found in an upright form to 2m. It produces grey-pink-red flowers on long, downward arching, flowering stems of sometimes 1m or more long that appear from under the foliage during October to December. They are best grown as a grafted plants in eastern states, and will tolerate at least -6c. Some forms have the added feature of pretty red-bronze coloured new growth, and all forms flowers are highly attractive to Honeyeaters.

In typical form, when the tickets were drawn, it turned out that first ticket out was Lorraine's and the second ticket out was Brian's. Lorraine very generously chose to gift the prize to Dawn, and Brian followed suit by donating the prize to Emma McLaughlin. All receiving warm applause in the process.

Before concluding for supper, the following flower table specimens were passed around for discussion:

From Jeanine's Garden:

Acacia acinacea Gold Dust Wattle, a larger growing form from Tallarook that can grow 1-2m high x 2m wide. At 20 years old this particular specimen is now 2m high. It is a fast growing, suckering shrub that produces profuse, bright yellow ball flowers during August to November. Usually found growing in dry areas, they prefer to grow in full sun and tolerate part shade.

Dillwynia cinerascens Grey Parrot-pea is a local/regional pea flower species that produces masses of yellow and orange flowers during August to November. It forms an erect, open to spreading shrub growing to 0.6-1.5 high x 0.5-1.5m wide that prefers semi-shade and is found growing in dry soils.

Grevillea curviloba 'Flat Jack' is a named prostrate form that grows 0.50m high x 2m



Grevillea dimorpha fine leaf form
Photo: J Petts



Grevillea plurijuga short lobe form
Photo: Brian Weir



Acacia acinacea Tallarook form
Photo: J Petts



Dillwynia cinerascens
Grey Parrot-pea Photo: J Petts

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September Meeting Report continued...

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wide, and is a fast-growing ground cover shrub with prickly, bright green leaves. The species is endemic to WA and bears masses of white-cream, fragrant, spider flowers during winter and spring. It prefers a sunny position in most well-drained soils and tolerates part shade. A great hardy plant for use on embankments etc. that is bird & butterfly attracting, tolerates drought, coastal conditions and light frost. Pruning after flowering keeps the plant dense and encourages new growth.

Gynatrix pulchella native Hemp Bush forms an open shrub growing to 2-4m x 2-4m and is a local/regional species found growing near riparian zones and drainage lines. The species is dioecious; having separate male and female plants, and the male plants bear larger flowers. It prefers moist, well-drained soils and will grow in full sun to part shade.

Melicytus dentatus Tree Violet forms an often upright, rigid, spiny shrub that bears masses of highly perfumed tiny, yellow, bell-shaped flowers. Growing from 2-4 meters high by 1-2.5 m wide, it has green oblong to narrow oval leaves. Flowering usually occurs during August to November and the flowers are followed by greenish – purplish or sometimes white-cream berries that are a food source for both birds and lizards. It prefers full sun to semi-shade and requires a well-drained soil, but can be adaptable to different soil types. A hardy, frost tolerant plant that provides shelter for birds.

Olearia lirata Snowy Daisy-bush is a local/regional species usually found as a mid-storey plant that forms a soft, open shrub growing 1-4m high x 2m wide and is a highly variable species depending on situation. In dry exposed areas it may only reach 1m with short, narrow, sometimes slightly toothed leaves, while in a wet forest it can achieve 4m and have larger leaves around 10cm long. It bears grey-blue leaves, and masses of white daisy flowers held in loose panicles that occur September to December. Greyish-white branchlets and undersides of leaves have dense star-shaped hairs. It prefers a moist, well-drained site in semi-shade to full shade, yet will tolerate full sun. Copes with light frost and snow, is a food plant for caterpillars, and useful as a light screen.

Petrophile biloba is a WA species and grows to 2m high. It bears pink, woolly flowers and divided prickly leaves. Can be a straggly plant and pruning helps to control form. Requires excellent drainage and will grow in full sun to part shade.

From Norbert's Garden:

Chamelaucium uncinatum Geraldton Wax is a widely grown species that is native to the west coast of WA, and is often used in the floristry trade. It forms a shrub growing in the range of 1.2-3m high x 1.5-4m wide and has fine, soft, needle-like foliage with hooked tips. There are both coastal and inland forms, the coastal form can have bigger foliage than the inland form. A number of cultivars and dwarf forms are available. Waxy, five petalled flowers of up to a 2.5cm diameter with almost round petals occur in profusion during winter and spring. Flower colour ranges from white into pinks, with colour often deepening with age. Some cultivars have purple-



Grevillea curviloba 'Flat Jack'
Photo: J Petts



Gynatrix pulchella Photo: J Petts



Melicytus dentatus Photo: J Petts



Olearia lirata Photo: J Petts

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September Meeting Report continued...

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red flowers. They can be a bit touchy to grow, and perform best in sandy well-drained soils with a full sun, minimal humidity site. In humid situations they will tend to be short lived. The leaves can be used in cooking to impart a citrusy flavour.

Asterolasia asteriscophora Lemon Star-bush is found along the Great Dividing Range in both NSW and Victoria. It grows as a slender, upright shrub reaching 1-2m high with young branches, backs of leaves and flowers that are covered with brown to whitish hairs. There are 2 subspecies: *A. asteriscophora* subsp. *asteriscophora* that is found in both states, and *A. asteriscophora* subsp. *albiflora* that is found only in small range in Victoria, and mostly bears white flowers. They grow in moist, well-drained soils in a dappled shade to semi-shaded site and tolerate moderate frost.

Leptospermum 'Pink Cascade' is a small, hardy, weeping shrub that is believed to be a hybrid between *L. polygalifolium* and *L. continentale* and grows to 1m high x 1.5m wide. Masses of pink 1.5cm diameter flowers occur from late spring to early summer-autumn. Grows in a full sun to part shade site in most soils, though thrives best in moist and well-drained soils and is frost and drought tolerant.

Grevillea infundibularis has the species name (infundibularis) meaning fan leaf or funnel leaf, hence the common name of Fan-leaf Grevillea. It grows as spreading to low-sprawling shrub 0.20-1m high with few branches bearing stem-clasping, fan shaped leaves. Clusters of bright red flowers occur in the leaf axils and ends of branches during most months of the year.

Rhodanthe anthemoides Chamomile Sunray is a great plant to have in the garden. It grows on Mt Disappointment and is sold by David Laurie (Valley of 1000 Hills Nursery). A common and fairly widespread endemic species found in the eastern mainland states in a few locations in SA, scattered across Victoria from the Wimmera into the Alps (where it is most abundant), eastern NSW, and up into south east QLD. Grows as an herbaceous perennial that is somewhat variable depending on locality. In general, it reaches 0.30m high, and may be spindly or form nice rounded mounds producing white, sweet smelling, papery, daisy flowers that develop from sometimes pinkish buds, and has a long flowering period from spring through to autumn. Grows best in full sun (preferably morning sun) sheltered sites in moist well-drained soil. Great planted in drifts and as a border plant. Responds well to a light prune after flowering has finished to encourage fuller growth and a repeat flowering.

Xerochrysum viscosum Sticky Everlasting is another commonly found local/regional perennial species that grows to 0.40m x 0.60m and bears bright yellow papery flowers over long periods from spring through summer. A great hardy plant that tolerates drought, frost, grows in full sun to semi-shade and provides long lasting cut flowers.

Philotheca myoporoides Long-leaf Wax-flower is one of Australia's most widely known and grown species that has up to ten subspecies (four in Victoria). It is endemic to the east coast ranging from Victoria, through NSW, up into south east QLD. A hardy fast growing dense shrub reaching 2m that has glandular to warty, aromatic foliage, and bears a profusion of pollinator attracting pink-white flowers in spring. It prefers a



Petrophile biloba Photo: J Petts



Chamelaucium uncinatum

Photo: Dave Blumer

<https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/plants/chamelaucium-uncinatum>



Asterolasia asteriscophora subsp. *asteriscophora* Photo:

Andre Messina [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/)
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/63365f02-b3be-434c-b111-22c1538d4698#&gid=1&pid=11>



Leptospermum 'Pink Cascade'

Photo: Brian Walters

https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/leptospermum-pink-cascade/

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September Meeting Report continued...

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lightly shaded to part shade position in moist well-drained soil, tolerates frost, and when fully established has some tolerance of dry periods.

Olearia phlogopappa a purple flowered form. This species has a total of 9 subspecies with 6 subspecies occurring in Victoria. It forms a shrub growing to around 2m high and is a prolific flowerer (September to January) that is stunning in full bloom. Flower colour forms range from bright blues through mauves, white, magenta and pink. Its greyish green foliage is variable (depending on subspecies), but usually oblong and sometimes toothed. A hardy, if at times short lived shrub suited to well drained, moist soils in full sun or semi shade. Light pruning following flowering will increase vigour and extend the life of this species.

Prostanthera aspalathoides, a yellow flowered form sourced from Mike Williams. Commonly known as Scarlet Mint-bush it 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 a 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 calycina is a red flowering Mint Bush that has the common names of Red, West Coast & Limestone Mintbush. It is endemic to the Ayre Peninsula SA, where it grows in harsh conditions and is classified as vulnerable, facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. It is a stunning specimen plant that is named calycina for its distinctive calyx and grows to a size of 0.2-0.6m x 0.3-0.7m.

Daviesia latifolia just coming into flower now. AKA Broadleaf Bitter-pea or Hop Bitter-pea, it has attractive



Grevillea infundibularis Photo: Murray Fagg [CC BY 3.0 AU](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grevillea_infundibularis.jpg) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grevillea_infundibularis.jpg



Rhodanthe anthemoides
Photo: J Petts



Xerochrysum viscosum
Photo: J Petts



Philotbeca myoporoides
Photo: J Petts



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



Olearia phlogopappa Photo: <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/pi/ct0050-cropped-olearia-phlogopappa-resized-863px/>



Prostanthera calycina Photo: Melburnian - [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1969344) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1969344>



Daviesia latifolia on Monument Hill Kilmore. Photo: Gerry Ho

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September Meeting Report continued...

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leaves and is a very hardy plant. It forms an open, erect to spreading shrub growing 1-3m high x 1-2m wide. Racemes of orange-yellow with flower a maroon marking occur September to December, followed by obliquely triangular seed pods. Adaptable to most soils (except water-logged), and will grow in full sun or semi-shade. The leaves have medicinal properties and were used as a substitute for hops.

Dillwynia juniperina is a prickly leaved species that has been in flower the last 4 weeks at David Laurie's. AKA Prickly Parrot-pea or Juniper Pea-bush it is Endemic to Victoria NSW and QLD and grows 1-2m high. In Victoria, it is found in drier parts of North Central, North Eastern and Eastern regions. It forms a spreading shrub with linear leaves that have a spiny tip, yellow flowers with red markings are held in racemes at the ends of branches during August to November. It is a very adaptable species for semi-shaded, well-drained to drier soil sites that provides shelter for birds.



Dillwynia juniperina Photo: Mike Williams

Lastly, one of the Eremophila brought in by Russell Wait:

Eremophila drummondii Drummond's Eremophila was named for James Drummond, a West Australian Botanist, and is a variable species that grows over most of the WA Wheatbelt country. It grows from 0.30m-2m high to 2m wide, and flower colour can be white, pink, or lilac, with flowering mainly occurring in spring or sporadically through the year after rain. A hardy shrub tolerant of most frosts, best planted in full sun. Low growing forms are the most profuse flowering.



Eremophila drummondii Photo: Russell Wait

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,
Emma McLaughlin,
Barbara Mau,
Norbert Ryan,
Russell Wait,
Brian Weir,
Mike Williams.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

APS Victoria endeavours 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

March 20-24, 2024 -

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show - Royal Exhibition Building 9 Nicholson St Carlton.

March 23 & 24 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10am-4pm - Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale.

<https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/group/growing-friends/>

April 13, 2024 - APS Heathcote Flower Show & Plant Sale - Heathcote RSL, 127 High St, Heathcote.

April 13, 2024 - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale - Wirrawilla 40 Lovely Banks Rd

Lovely Banks, Geelong.
8:30am-4pm.

April 20, 2024 - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn plant sale - Eltham Community & Reception Centre 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm

July 27 & 28 2024 - Full quarterly weekend hosted by APS Bendigo.

September 30 - October 4 2024 - ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne - Further details [next page](#).



Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Assistant Secretary: Judy Rutter

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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 tube 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 September 2023 “Gardens for Life” newsletter:

<https://apsvic.org.au/documents/ANPSA/2024/ANPSA%202024%20Newsletter%2020230901.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://](https://www.edendale.vic.gov.au/Nursery)

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://](https://www.latrobe.edu.au/wildlife/indigenous-plant-nursery)

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://](http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/)

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 10am to 4pm. Ph:(03) 5439 5384 Email:

info@goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au Website: <http://www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au/index.asp>



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Inc# A0054306V

2023/24 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & ENROLEMENTS ARE NOW VIA THE NEW ONLINE SYSTEM AT www.apsvic.org.au

(A combined District Group and APS Vic membership is required for insurance purposes)

Multiple district groups may be joined under one APS Vic membership (see the APS Vic website for details of other district groups fees (district group fees may vary from group to group).

Membership Types:	Fees: Note: Membership Year = July 1—June 30		
	APS Victoria	APS Mitchell	Total
Single	\$38.00	\$10.00	\$48.00
Couple/Family (2 adults & 2 dependents)	\$44.00	\$12.00	\$56.00
Student	\$29.00	\$10.00 (single)	\$39.00
Organisation	\$48.00	\$10.00 (single)	\$58.00
Optional Australian Plants Subscription	4 issues:		\$20.00

Membership Instructions – Joining or Renewing:

Go to <https://apsvic.org.au/membership> where a link to detailed instructions for renewing or joining can be found on the page, along with a link for renewing members to login.

If **renewing** APS Vic and/or District Group membership/s as an existing member, you will need the email address you used when joining, and your membership number, which, can be found printed on the envelope your *Growing Australia* magazine arrives in. Alternatively, contact our membership officer for your membership number if needed. Once logged in, check your details are correct before proceeding further with your renewal. You can update your details through the process if necessary.

When renewing or joining: Select your preferred APS Vic membership category, optional *Australian Plants Journal* (if desired), and your district group or groups from the drop down menu. (NB *always* click on the district group drop-down box to ensure that the correct option has been selected: single, household etc.)

To register for Neutrog if you have not previously registered, and wish to do so: Click on *Register for Neutrog*. (Members of participating District Groups can receive a Neutrog newsletter & buy Neutrog products through the [Neutrog online store](#) at special member prices, which are much lower than retail prices.)

Remember to check your totals to be paid are correct, along with your email, name, and postal address etc. before clicking submit. Please note that: Payments are made direct to APS Vic & banking details are made available during the online process.

Card payment is preferred by APS Vic. Paying via EFTPOS (bank transfer) or Cheque is available.

- If paying by card (the preferred method), membership will be immediately renewed; if by another method, membership renewal will be confirmed once the deposited amount has been reconciled.
- If paying by EFTPOS (bank transfer), include your membership number and name in the transaction reference.
- If paying by cheque, write your membership number and name on the back of the cheque.

For anyone wishing to join or renew who does not have online/internet access, our membership officer can assist. Please contact: Christine Cram Ph: 0458 238 270 or email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au