

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

February 2024

Volume 11, Issue 1

February news...!

Hello & welcome to our 1st Edition for 2024. Well! What a start to 2024, floods in January, & now in February extreme storms, fires and power outages. Our thoughts go out to fellow APS members across the state adversely effected by these events. May your friends rally around you giving solace & support during difficult times.

This month in Mitchell we return to meetings in the John Taylor Room & have one of our own presenting on Botanical Nomenclature, a topic many of our members have been looking to gain knowledge on. See page 2 for details.

Planning for our 2024 Expo is well underway & we have had to reschedule our Expo date to the 7th of September. More information on this is in the November meeting report (from page 3) and Norbert's President's Report (page 10).

Chris Cobern, the Upper Merri Landcare Facilitator has sent us information on a fabulous, free, Landcare event being held at Beveridge. See page 16 for information & a link to bookings. There is also updated information



Eremophila phyllopoda x spatulata is a natural hybrid found in very small numbers where both parent plants grow together Information & Photo: Russell Wait

& links for the Gardens for Life Conference on page 15.

Our next newsletter will be due for issue on or within a few days of Monday March 11th, 2024. Contributions big & small are hugely appreciated & always needed. If you can help out with items of interest please send them in by Monday March 4th, 2024. Email to: jin.wgff@gmail.com

May the rest of 2024 treat us all kindly.

Warm wishes until next time, Jeanine

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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



One of the Emerald Moths *Chloroma* sp. on *Prostanthera lasianthos* 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.

• **Monday February 19th, 2024. 1st Evening Meeting for 2024: Doors open 7:15pm. Main presentation from 7:30pm**

**Guest Speaker: Dr Judy Rutter
Topic: Botanical Nomenclature
See page 2 for details.**

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

• **Save the Date: APS Mitchell Spring Plant Expo & Sale Saturday September 7th 2024**



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 7:15 pm 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).



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](#)

February Meeting: Monday February 19th Doors open 7:15pm Guest speaker from 7:30pm

For our first meeting of the year, we return to the John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library, where Dr Judy Rutter will be giving a presentation on Botanical Nomenclature.

Judy is a long time member of APS Mitchell, has a background in science, botany, biology and teaching. Her talk will cover the basic rules for naming of Australian Plants using the binomial system. She hopes that attendees can bring along some specimens from their gardens, to see if we can work out the correct names from the information given in the talk. Please bring some species you know the specific name of and some you that you don't.

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. Doors open 7:15pm with main presentation from 7:30pm.



Eremophila spatulata Photo: Russell Wait

Memberships...

Our paid up membership numbers now stand at 35. 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 contact our group secretary Ian: Phone 0438 270 248 or Email to : secretary@apsmitchell.org.au Further information, contact details, etc. can also be found at our website: <http://www.apsmitchell.org.au/membership/>

November Meeting & AGM Report - Remnant *Banksia marginata* of Mt Disappointment & the challenges of forest protection ...

By Jeanine Petts

I am very pleased to report that we had a great turn out at our November meeting with 22 in attendance, which, included newer members, regular meeting goers, and some long-time members whom we wish were able to join us more frequently and we very much enjoy seeing. It was lovely to see you all and look around a room filled with people.

Norbert called us to our seats around 7:40pm, wasting no time in introducing our guest speaker, Trevor Viénet, mentioning that Trevor has lived many years in the Spur Road area, runs the Facebook group [Friends of Disappointment](#), and is a member of the [Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee \(MEAC\)](#).

Trevor began by thanking our group for the invitation to speak, letting us know that he would be speaking without any AV technology, then going on to explain that Spur Road was called Main Mountain Road. While a student at Camberwell Grammar, he made his first trip to Mt Disappointment in 1969, attending the Bambara School Camp (otherwise known as No.2 Camp). Walking, Billy Boiling competitions, just two of a number of other forest-based activities that were enjoyed at the time. Further visits continued in the 1970's for walking and cycling etc, as Trevor found himself drawn back after developing a keen interest the area. He maintained connection with the forest, eventually purchasing his forest surrounded, 170acre property at the top of Spur Rd. Bambara Camp was run by the Salvation Army, however, unfortunately, it was completely burned out during the 2009 fires. Camp No 1 is still in use, and in summer, fire crews make their base there.

Trevor told us that nothing had prepared him for the 2009 fires, even with 30 years plus experience as a firefighter (with the CFA). He witnessed blue flame above the cleared paddocks, and stated that the first thing in a fire situation that fails is communications. Fortunately, his home survived, thanks to a sprinkler system being a primary factor in protecting his house. (For those who are interested, 2 YouTube videos taken by Trevor can be viewed at these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCN7wrMGnjo> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHdVwFI7vo8>.) At that point in time, although a member of the CFA, Trevor's only involvement with his local Landcare group had been to receive plants. Subsequent to the fires, he did join Landcare, and remains an active member of the Sunday Creek Dry Creek group.

Away from home, one of Trevor's favourite spots in Victoria to visit and see *Banksia* species is at Walkerville. Here, you find *Banksia* intermingled with Tree Ferns and growing right to the sand.

Moving to the subject of local *Banksia*, Trevor related that John Hunt (from Wallan) was the person who inadvertently discovered the significant and only site on Mt Disappointment where *Banksia marginata* has been found growing. John used to bike ride up to and around Mt Disappointment, also has an interest in history and is involved with The Historical Mines & Minerals of Victoria Australia Facebook page:



Banksia marginata on Mt Disappointment
Photo: Trevor Viénet



Banksia marginata view of site.
Photo: Trevor Viénet

(Continued on page 4)

*November Meeting Report-Remnant *Banksia marginata* of Mt Disappointment & the challenges of forest protection continued...*

(Continued from page 3)

<https://www.facebook.com/Theundergroundminesofvictoria/> . Unknowingly at the time, he took a photograph in a remote spot in Diggers Gully at “Seldom Seen Falls”, which, in a corner of the photo, showed 3 *Banksia marginata* growing some meters up on the side of a steep cliff. Located were one live tree and 2 dead trees. The live tree reaches 6m in height with a 1.3m girth and is growing at an altitude of 420m above sea level, in an area with an average 920mm annual rainfall. Its age is estimated at around 40-50 years old. The trees survived the Black Saturday Fires due to their protected site. DELWP now named DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) were notified of the find, and they plan to attend the site and collect seed in March 2024. Trevor went back to the site in April-May 2023 and found that the dead *Banksia* were no longer there. Briefly discussing *Banksia Marginata* seed, it was mentioned that mature fruits need to be 1 year old and will release seed in a 100°C oven.

Trevor has a great interest in history and the locals call the Mt Disappointment area simply “Disappointment” or “Disa”. One way to get people to look after the environment is via education, so in 2018, he created the public Facebook Group [Friends of Disappointment](#) later, a private group, [Friends of Disappointment - Adventure Bushwalking & Mountain Biking](#) also the private Facebook group [Reedy Creek/Strath Creek History and Preservation](#) that is for members who are locals of Reedy Creek, Tyaak and Strath Creek. His long-term plan is to write a book that will include history of Gold Mining, Saw Milling, Logging and the local Fire Brigade. A point of note mentioned, is that recent changes in logging Law now include that wind thrown trees can be logged.

Another local historical project that Trevor instigated, was the commissioning of a memorial on Mt Disappointment to recognise 8 young RAAF pilots and crew members, who died on the mountain in a number of aircraft crashes. Trevor approached the RAAF with the idea, and was advised that to gain approval, he must find and contact relatives to gain their consent. Which, he successfully worked to do, culminating in an unveiling ceremony being held at Blair’s Hut just before Covid Lock Down. Three sisters of one lost pilot were able to be among attendees at the unveiling. For those who may be interested, 2 local newspaper articles can be read via the following links:

<https://ncreview.com.au/2021/05/04/mount-disappointment-fundraiser-for-raaf-pilots-who-died-in-fatal-crashes/>

<https://ncreview.com.au/2021/08/10/the-memorial-they-never-had-eight-raaf-pilots-who-died-on-mount-disappointment-honoured/>

The forest faces increasing challenges on a number of fronts. Suburbs are getting closer with resulting pressures getting higher. The forest is needed for recreation, as an example, one site Trevor mentioned was Andersons Gardens camp ground in Clonbinane. Some of the issues of concern are:

- 4WD vehicles causing damage to roads and access tracks. Of particular concern is that damage is occurring to a level where emergency vehicles are being prevented access.
- The damage caused by 4WD vehicles increases erosion.
- Rubbish dumping.



Banksia marginata measuring girth
Photo: Trevor Viénet



Banksia marginata flower spike
Photo: Trevor Viénet

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

- Fire risk increasing with climate change.
- Illegal firewood logging. Cases have been reported of a person or persons with chainsaws actually felling trees at 4am in the morning. In another such event, rubbish was left behind and 4 stumps burning.
- Sambar Deer are a real problem, and are creating their own “deer highways” through the forest.
- Shooters (not discriminating hunters) who are just shooting anything are a general problem.

One of the things that can help the forest are people getting out and respectfully enjoying the forest. We need more walks created and a focus on passive recreation, along with places for picnics etc. Some walks suggested by Trevor were:

- Loop Track from Blair’s Hut to the summit is a beautiful loop walk.
- The track at Andersons Garden.
- A short walk at Strath Creek Falls (500m each way & steep in parts).

In closing, Trevor explained a little on how Mt Disappointment gained its name, mentioning that the story would make a great 2-person comedy. It was named during the Hume and Hovel expedition who, on reaching the summit, couldn’t see due to the thick forest. Hume then had a fall, cutting his leg, barely missing an artery, and couldn’t continue.

Lastly, on the subject of trees, Trevor shared a final historical anecdote that at one time, there were tramways built right through the forest. These were specifically for transporting cut timber out, of which, an enormous amount has been cut and carted since colonisation.

Our evening plant raffle followed next (ahead of the AGM), with Russell Wait providing the plants:

- *Eremophila nivea* is endemic to the Wheatbelt region of WA and forms a shrub growing to 1.5m high x 2m wide. It bears felty, silvery grey leaves, and stems with dense white hairs. Flower colour can be white, pink or more generally lilac, with flowering occurring in spring. They are sensitive to humidity making grafted plants the best choice. Grows best in an airy, sunny site in well-drained soil, and is tolerant of most frosts.
- *Eremophila calorhabdos* is a very erect, sparsely branched shrub that can grow to 3m wide x 4m high, bearing grey to green leaves, and produces magenta pink to red flowers near the tops of branches during spring and summer. It is endemic to WA, grows in full sun and tolerates heavy frost.
- *Eremophila racemosa* is endemic to WA and forms a rounded shrub growing to 1.6m high, bearing narrow green leaves. Flower and bud colour can be somewhat variable with corolla colours ranging from white, lemon, yellow to bright red. Bud colour usually differs from the flower colour and can be white to pink and most often orange. Best suited to a full sun site in well-drained soil and tolerates most frosts.

The lucky winners were Ray, Janis & Victoria.

Moving into the AGM, Ian took the floor explaining that our AGMs are usually kept as short as possible, asking if everyone was o.k. with that. Of course, all hands went up.



Eremophila nivea

Photo: Brian Walters
https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/eremophila-nivea/



Eremophila calorhabdos

Photo: J Petts



Eremophila racemosa

Photo: B Mau

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Continuing on, Ian said that the business part of the evening should only run to about 10 minutes, and on inviting Norbert to the floor, jokingly said, “depending on how long Norbert takes for his President’s Report”.

Norbert entitled his report “Is it more of the same, or time for change”, with some of the main points mentioned being: (The full report can be read on page 10.)

- On the committee front, Debbie joining us and throwing herself into organising Expos has been a bright spark. Although, with most of us aging, some having health issues, and 2 of our “stalwarts” embarking on regular travel we need to appeal for fresh volunteers and new ideas.
- In reviewing the year, both our Expo and newsletter stand out.
- We are fortunate to count specialty plant growers among our members Russell Wait, Brian & Lorraine Weir, and Mike Williams. Their support of our Expo is second to none.
- Special thanks to Anne and Norman Rose, and Russell and Beryl Wait for their generosity and time for hosting garden visits in July and August.
- Although our Expo had the largest flower display, visitor numbers were slightly down due to competing with the Wallan Market Day. Learning from this, our 2024 Expo will be held earlier in spring, on Saturday September 7th. Our next show will include new floor plans and spotlights for floral displays. Special thanks to all our volunteers who came along to the Friday set up, and again on the Saturday running the show and assisting with pack down. Special thanks to Mike Petts for borrowing and transporting tables, our Entry Desk team, raffle ticket sellers, Dawn for gaining so many sponsors and prizes, and our bakers and providers of cakes, tea and coffee. Special thanks to all our sponsors and donors of prizes. Maureen Thomas’s generously donated painting generated a lot of interest. Special thanks to Bendigo Bank for their financial support and officials attending the Expo.
- Special thanks to our 8 volunteer guest speakers for the year.
- Thanks again to those who support our meetings, our growers, providers of supper and everyone who comes along.
- Lastly, we would love to see more volunteers join our committee and welcome new ideas, suggestions and, expertise.

Next, Christine gave her, very quick, concise Treasurer’s Report before we moved into the election of office-bearers for 2024. (The full report can be read on page 11.) Ian declared all positions vacant and starting with office bearers, we worked our way through the list, results being:

President – Norbert Ryan

Vice President – Dawn McCormack

Secretary – Ian Julian

Assistant Secretary – Judy Rutter

Treasurer – Christine Cram

It was noted that Memberships is now rolled in with Secretary duties due to the APS Vic membership system now being online.

Newsletter Editor – Jeanine Petts

Expo Coordinator – Debbie Packham (It was mentioned that everyone on committee does chip in and help the Co-

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

ordinator out.)

Group Librarian – No nominations, leaving the position vacant for the time being.

Gardens for Wildlife Co-ordinator – No nominations, leaving the position vacant for the time being.

With the election of General Committee members next on the list, Debbie spoke up, encouraging members, sharing that our committee meetings are the absolute best opportunity for treats! You get home-baked goodies and yummy cheeses. It must have done the trick, as this year we welcome new committee member Russell Wait, continuing committee member, Victoria Morris, and returning after a few-years break, Janis Baker.

An enthusiastic round of applause giving thanks and appreciation brought the AGM section of the evening to a close. Next, information was given for our end of year Christmas break up being held at Christine and Ian's, out at Sunday Creek on Saturday December 2nd from 3pm onwards. Advice was provided that meats and nibbles to be provided by APS Mitchell, also for attendees to BYO a desert or salad, drinks and chairs. A paper RSVP sheet was provided on the supper table for attendees to RSVP and nominate what foods they would like to bring, or if anyone had particular dietary needs. Further details would also be emailed out during the coming week and RSVPs welcomed via email or phone.

Last on the agenda came the flower table:

John Pyle had brought in an interesting Sedge species that grows around his dam, and from his garden a very beautiful *Leptospermum*:

Leptospermum spectabile Blood-red Tea Tree or Colo River Tea Tree is a rare species in the wild, only found along a small section of the Colo River near Sydney. It forms an erect shrub growing 0.6-1.5m wide x 2-3m high, bearing showy red-petalled flowers with a large glistening nectar receptacle that bloom during mid to late spring. There are at least three hybrid cultivars, of which, *L. spectabile* is one of the parents. It is a generally hardy plant for temperate climates that will tolerate frost to -7°C, and grows best in well drained soils with a sunny aspect. Propagation is via seed or cutting.

Janis brought in something a little different to show:

Rytidosperma pallidum Red-anther Wallaby-grass, which, as its common name suggests, bears flowers with prominent red anthers. It is also known as Silvertop and is found across Central, North Central and Eastern Victoria, extending up into much of Eastern NSW, and is mostly found in open woodland and Grassy Forest. A very attractive grass that forms tussocks growing to .30m high x .40m wide producing flowering stems up to 1m. Grows best in well-drained to dryish soils in partial shade and tolerates poorer, low nutrient soils.

Among Norbert's contributions were:



November meeting supper table. Photo: J Petts



Leptospermum spectabile

Photo: Brian Walters

https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/leptospermum-spectabile/



Rytidosperma pallidum

Photo: VICFLORA

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/3f0f9744-26a9-4c27-a01b-243d17b00652>

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

Eucalyptus radiata subspecies *radiata* Narrow-leaved Peppermint fills the air with its honeyed scent when in flower. It is a species found locally, and is common to the cool, wetter areas of Central and Southern Victoria. Buds are held in groups of 11-20 appearing to radiate from a central peduncle, with cream-white flowers occurring October to January. Forms a small to tall tree, growing 10-40 meters high depending on situation. Leaves are strongly peppermint scented when crushed and it is closely related to *E. dives* Broad-leaved Peppermint.

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

Callistemon citrinus White Anzac is a selected cultivar developed from wild specimens found bearing white flowers that were collected from a site in NSW that was colloquially called "Anzac Cove" by its finder, which, is believed to be Anzac Parade in Little Bay. The cultivar forms a spreading shrub that grows to 1m high x 3m wide. White-cream flower spikes up to 10cm long occur from late spring to early summer. It prefers a full sun to lightly shaded site, in dry-moist moderate to well drained soil, and tolerates light frost.

A prostrate *Hibbertia* species

Beaufortia purpurea is a small shrub endemic the southwestern WA that grows to .5-1m wide x .5-1m high. Small heath-like leaves cover the stems, on which, small purple-red flowers are held in globular heads at the tips of branches during spring to summer. It responds well to watering and is reasonably hardy a sunny site in well-drained soil.

Other specimens discussed were:

Eremophila glabra x *veneta* 'Augusta Storm' is one of the specimens covered in Russell's book "Growing Eremophila" (page 209) and he related that its origin is from a chance seedling that came up at Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. It grows as a low, spreading shrub reaching .8m high x 2m wide and bears greenish leaves and purple flowers. Flowering mainly occurs in spring, and following new growth. Grows best in full sun and will tolerate most frosts.

Epacris longiflora is an open spreading small shrub growing around 0.6m high with a spread up to 1m that is found naturally from eastern NSW to south-eastern QLD. There are three colour forms; pink & white, red & white, and all white. Flowers can occur most of the year and it flowers better with some moisture. Prefers shady moist



Eucalyptus radiata subsp. *radiata*
Photo: Vic Flora
<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/1e46e312-c0e4-4cc2-b8ca-c8fb9fe8cca3>



Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Photo: B Mau



Callistemon citrinus White Anzac
Photo:

<https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/callistemon-anzac/>



Beaufortia purpurea Photo: J Petts

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November Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 8)

sites, but will grow in full sun. Place a rock near the root system to hold moisture. It will tolerate some dryness once established.

Verticordia plumosa forms a small shrub growing to 0.5m x 0.5m. It bears fine foliage with purple to pink flowers occurring in spring. Needs a full sun site in very well drained soil and is suitable for container growing.

Verticordia x Chamelaucium is a hybrid that forms a bushy erect shrub growing to 1.2-2m and has fragrant spicy foliage. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils in a part to full-sun position. Showy rose-pink flowers occur in spring-summer. Tolerates drought and light to possibly moderate frost (-4c). Is good for cut flowers. Known to have several hybrid varieties: 'Eric John' 1.5m, 'Paddy's Pink' 2x2m, and 'Susie' 1x1m.

Viminaria juncea is a local/regional species that is fast growing and moderately long lived. It forms a medium to large shrub reaching 1-5m high x 2-3m wide. It is often found growing in swampy depressions or riparian zones and provides seeds for insects and birds, as well as some shelter.

Maureen brought along her painting of Blackwood for everyone to view, which, was very much admired by all.

Finally, closing the meeting, Norbert thanked and presented our guest speaker Trevor, with a gift of appreciation, accompanied by a very warm round of applause from all in attendance.



Eremophila glabra x veneta
'Augusta Storm' Photo:
<https://gcln.org.au/product/eremophila-glabra-x-veneta-augusta-storm/>



Epacris longiflora Photo: J Petts



Viminaria juncea Photo: J Petts



Verticordia x Chamelaucium
Photo: J Petts



Verticordia plumosa Photo: J Petts

President's Report 2023

By Norbert Ryan

Is it more of the same or time for a change? Our committee recruited Debbie Packham last year and profuse thanks to her for throwing herself into organising Expos. However, this is our only bright spot. Otherwise, our committee is a bit older and we have had health issues. Furthermore, the stated intention of two of our stalwarts, Ian and Christine, to undertake extended travel in 2024 will jeopardise our operation. Suffice to say, we cannot continue in the same way. We are appealing for fresh volunteers with new ideas.

The year in review: two things stand out, our beloved newsletter and the Expo. The newsletter is read widely by other APS conferences and is a huge interest for members. However, the burden for this falls almost entirely on Jeanine, and she has been troubled this year by injury and arthritis, for a time restricting her capacity to use the computer. Accordingly, the number of editions as been reduced slightly this year.

We are fortunate to count among our members the specialty growers Russell Wait, Brian and Lorraine Weir, and Mike Williams. Their input for the Expo with provision of prized exhibits has created a show larger than any of our counterpart groups. Special thanks to Anne and Norm Rose, and to Russell and Beryl Wait for opening their properties for garden visits in July and August when wintry conditions normally preclude holding night time meetings.

Despite the Expo event being our largest-ever flower show, the slightly lower attendance than in 2022 was a little disappointing. However, it was market day in Wallan and the large attendance at that event did not lead to more visitors for us. In fact, several families from Kilmore indicated that they could not readily find parking, so did not persevere and attend. Accordingly, in fitting in with busy springtime program of APS flower shows, we are happy to report that we have chosen a new date, 7th of September for 2024's Expo, clear of any clash with local events.

Special thanks to all the members who volunteered on the Friday and Saturday to ensure the efficient running of the plant show. Friday involved the labelling and set up of display benches, also help in setting up the stalls for the plant sellers. On late Saturday afternoon the removal of the displays, cleaning of the halls is very heavy work representing the culmination of two days of concerted effort for the volunteers. Special thanks for Mike Petts for providing a large number of additional trestle tables. Special thanks to those manning the entry desk, raffle ticket and book sales, and to Dawn for attracting so many prizes for our raffles and to those providing home-made cake and tea and coffee on the day. Bendigo Bank is once again owed thanks for their financial support and attendance of their officials at the event.

Improvements foreshadowed for 2024 include that Debbie will fully take over the organisation of the expo, which, has for so long been Ian's domain. An altered floor layout and provision of spot-lights will all improve the viewing of specimens.

Our meeting nights have continued in the format of having a guest speaker, special thanks to the 8 volunteers for the year. Meetings then typically have a plant table full of exhibits from gardens. The meeting then adjourns for tea, coffee and home-made cake, and usually the opportunity to buy special plant species that would not normally be available to us locally from conventional outlets. Once again thanks to our plant growers, who also contribute plants as door prizes for our meetings.

In conclusion I would love to see more volunteers join our committee. Everyone volunteering typically brings experience and new ideas and suggestions as to how to improve our association.

Thank you, Norbert Ryan

Treasurer's Report 2023

By Christine Cram

Australian plant society Mitchell Group Inc.

Balance Sheet for the Time Period to

November 20th 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash Assets (Float Petty cash)	51.90
Cash in Bendigo Bank	7064.21
Projector (2012) (D)	355.39
Laptop & Program (2013) (D)	508.00
Laser pointer & 2 speakers (2014)	51.32
Tripod screen (2014)	0.00
Library books	573.25
4 Announcement signs (2013) (D)	150.39
2 double sided & 1 retractable banners (2012) (D)	492.80
Spring plant EXPO banner	407.00
Gardens for Wildlife banner	418.59
Total current assets	10072.85

LIABILITIES

Total current liabilities	0.00
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EQUITY	10072.85
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INCOME

Membership	217.95
Monthly meetings	317.95
Norcen Financial services – EXPO grant	1300.00
Expo Raffle:- Dr Bell	50.00
Kilmore Auto Electrical	200.00
Crimp Hairdressers	100.00
Kilmore Smash Repairs	200.00
Total income	1470.00
TOTAL	4065.45

(Continued on page 12)

Treasurer's Report 2023 continued...

By Christine Cram

(Continued from page 11)

EXPENDITURE

CD Drive	158.95
Speakers' fees and gifts	100.00
Monthly meetings (room hire)	231.65
Expo room hire	589.00
North Central Review	434.00
Australia Post Box hire	153.00
Department of Justice	60.20
Miscellaneous expenditure and petty cash	53.10
Ventraip Australia	183.95
Expo floats	500.00
Replacement Laptop	508.00
New Expo Banners	407.00
TOTAL	3396.35

NETT OPERATING PROFIT 668.35

Financial members 25

C. Cram

C. M. Cram, Treasurer

Dianella amoena

By Ian Julian

Dianella amoena – Matted Flax-lily

Classification

Order - Asparagales

Family - Hemerocallidaceae

Genus - *Dianella*

Species - *Dianella amoena*



Dianella amoena & Blue-banded Bee Photo: Norm Stimson

The commonly named the Matted Flax-Lily is an endangered, herbaceous, perennial plant endemic to Victoria. It has long grey-green leaves growing in clumps from an underground rhizome and has blue-purple flowers in spring-summer. It can grow up to 90cm in high, with its common name referring to its rhizomatous nature, forming large mats up to 5m wide. Its slender, grey-green leaves have a V-shaped cross section, having projections like teeth along the leaf midrib. It can reproduce vegetatively and by seed, displaying fragrant flowers with blue purple tepals and yellow stamens. Buzz pollination by native bees develops dark blue-purple fruits.



It is listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, in Victoria. Listed as Critically Endangered Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Victoria in the June 2023 list.

The current threats being the ongoing clearing of habitat and weed invasion. It is estimated that there only 1400 plants in about 120 locations. We've planted 10 18months ago, 4 in the garden and 6 in the paddock 2 of which didn't survive. The largest shown below reproducing very quickly with the ripening fruit taken by birds.



Dianella amoena form & leaves. Photos Ian Julian

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:

Chris Cobern,
Christine Cram,
Ian Julian,
Janis Baker,
Judy Rutter,
Barbara Mau,
Norbert Ryan,
Trevor Viénet
Russell Wait.

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.

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

No. A0054306V

Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President:	Norbert Ryan	0428 180 651
Vice President:	Dawn McCormack	
Secretary:	Ian Julian	0438 270 248
Email:	secretary@apsmitchell.org.au	
Assistant Secretary:	Judy Rutter	
Treasurer:	Christine Cram	0458 238 270
Expo Co-ordinator:	Debbie Packham	
General Committee:	Janis Baker, Victoria Morris & Russell Wait.	
Group Librarian:	Volunteer position open	
Newsletter Editor:	Jeanine Petts	0409 029 603
Plant Sales:	Volunteer position open	
Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator:	Volunteer position open	
Email:	g4w@apsmitchell.org.au	

Newsletter contributions: Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts

Email: jin.wgff@gmail.com

Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

For inclusion in the next Newsletter please forward contributions prior to the first Monday of each month.

Local Nurseries ...

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

A & B Trees, Heathcote (Liz Spillane) specialist grower of Central Vic indigenous species.
3 Thompsons Lane, Heathcote.
Sales by appointment. Ph: 03 5433 2236 Email: abtrees3@tpg.com.au

Diary Dates & Other Events continued...**ANPSA Biennial Conference 2024 – Melbourne**

The new website is up & running for viewing all the latest information:

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>

“Gardens for Life”

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th Sep – 4th Oct 2024

A new venue has been announced at The Round in Nunawading, Melbourne, and 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 go to:

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/registration>

A promotional video can be viewed at:

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

Read most recent news & information in the February 2024 “Gardens for Life” newsletter:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/642b608037be792f16c3c944/t/65cae04c6e7e227c2de6089e/1707794511295/February+2024.pdf>

***Nurseries
further
afield...*****Edendale Indigenous Nursery:**

Located in the Edendale Community Environment Farm at 30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095.

Open 10am to 4.30pm weekdays and weekends.

Phone: 9433 3703

Email: Nursery.edendale@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary & Indigenous Nursery:

Located on the La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) campus. Access is via La Trobe Ave (near the roundabout on Main Drive).

Open: Sunday to Friday, 10am-3pm (some public holidays may affect opening hours).

Ph: (03) 9479 1206

Email: wildlife@latrobe.edu.au

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

Euroa Arboretum:

Located at 76 Euroa Main Road, Euroa.

Their retail nursery Opens Monday & Thursday 12-5pm. April to October each year. (Note that the nursery

(Continued on page 16)

Diary Dates & Other Events continued...

Nurseries further afield continued...

LOCAL LANDCARE LEGACY SITE

30 Years On

10am - 2pm

02 Saturday MARCH 2024

The Crest Conservation Reserve, 20 The Crest, Beveridge



closes November to March.) A plant catalogue & further information is available on line at: <http://euroarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/> & <http://euroarboretum.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>

Western Plains Flora

Located at 628 Wildwood Rd, Wildwood Vic 3429

Supplying indigenous plants from the northern and western regions of Melbourne including the Macedon Ranges.

Retail now open Hours:

Mon to Fri 8am – 4pm

Ph: 03 9740 3178

Email: admin@wpflora.com.au

Revisit a local revegetation and habitat restoration project 30 years on.

Eden Park Landcare and the City of Whittlesea direct-seeded the reserve 30 years ago with support from Greening Australia. Recent fauna surveys found 62 vertebrate species on-site including 2 threatened species.

- Participate in nest-box monitoring and an installation demonstration
Undertake native seed collection for future revegetation
Join an expert on a wander through the site to learn about its history and find out what plants have thrived here
Check out the new reptile habitat installation and hear about the results of a recent fauna survey on this site.

- BYO drinking water.
Sausage sizzle provided.

This is an outdoor event and may involve walking over rough terrain.

Please wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear.



Register at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events or scan the QR code, email landcare@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or call 9217 2170 for more information.



A free event but bookings are essential. Use the following link to register: Local Landcare Legacy Site - 30 Years On | Humanitix



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

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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 group secretary 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 group secretary can assist. Please contact: Ian Julian Ph: 0438 270 248 or email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au