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NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.

mitchell@apsvic.org.au

PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

October 2018

Volume 5, Issue 9

October news...!

Hello, and welcome to our mid spring edition!

What a busy time it is with our Annual Plant Expo & Sale almost at hand. First up, a big thank you to those members who have advised you will be helping out with set up, on the day or providing flowers—your assistance is very, very much appreciated! Further details regarding Expo set up can be found below.

We have received news from some of our Expo stall holders...Philip Vaughan regrets that he is now unable to join us & will hopefully return to support us next year. However, there will still be a hall chock full of sellers and displays.

Among them, Janet Hand has recently confirmed she will be bringing the wonderful Birdlife Australia display. If you love our native birds, do take the time to say hi & have a chat with Janet, as she will have great info to share.

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday November 12th.

Contributions to our newsletter both large and small are always enthusiastically welcomed.



Correa reflexa var. *nummulariifolia* "Lemon Twist" Photo: Jo & Paul Liddy

Extra plant photos in particular (along with the odd article), are this editors delight! Please send your contributions in by Monday November 5th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Happy gardening, hope to see you at a meeting or spring event sometime soon.

Cheers until next time! Jeanine ☺

Inside this issue:

October & General Meeting Information Pg 2

Membership Pg 2

Gardens for Wildlife news Pg 2

September Meeting Report - Acacia: Small Wattles Pg 3

Singapore Gardens by the Bay Spring Plant Expo Pg 9
Pg 10

Reminders, APS Vic Diary Dates etc... Pg 11

Committee & Contact Information Pg 11

Spring Plant Expo - Friday set up... Flowers needed!

Our Spring Plant Expo & Sale is just days away! With the hall booked for 2 days set up will commence from:

1pm on Friday October 19, at the Kilmore Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street, Kilmore.

Coming along and helping out with an Expo is a great way to get to know your fellow members, and with our current lower than usual membership numbers, all assistance is very much appreciated. Even if you can only help for a short time or just bring plant specimens along, we will be very grateful of your time and assistance.

Please remember that plant specimens labelled with their ID is also a huge help and time saver. Fresh cut specimens along with dry nuts and seeds can be dropped off at the hall anytime from 1pm to 5pm during Friday set up. Nut & seed specimens can also be brought along to our Monday October 15th Meeting and left with a committee member. For further information contact: **Norbert: Ph 0428 180 651 Ian: Ph 0438 270 248**
Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- **MONDAY OCT 15th 7:30pm MEETING**
Guest Speaker:
Ron Litjens—
"Faunascaping Your Garden"
- **SATURDAY OCT 20th, 9am–3pm**
APS Mitchell Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore
- **MONDAY NOV 19th, 7:30pm MEETING & AGM.**
Guest Speaker:
Glenn James—
"Spidentify"



Gardens for Wildlife news...

By Barbara Moss

Hello Everyone!

Come along and hear Ron Litjens at the October APS Mitchell meeting – Ron is an entertaining speaker and will be talking on 'Faunascaping your garden'. Ron will also be talking about the Aussie backyard Bird Count and the Wild Pollinator count – both great citizen science projects that help you learn about the wildlife visitors to your gardens. See the main article in the newsletter (below) for more information on our next guest speaker.

There is a wildflower walk at Colin Officer Flora Reserve in Broadford on Sunday Oct 14 – 10-12.30pm. For more information – see the back page or <https://www.apsmitchell.org.au/gardens-for-wildlife/g4w-activities/>. G4W will be present at the APS Mitchell – Plant Expo the following weekend in Kilmore. Please come and visit us there. New memberships will be available on the day.

You can follow g4w via Facebook - @g4wmitchell. You are welcome to post information there and read the posts- Enjoy!

Membership is \$20 and includes a selection of 6 local plants, a range of booklets and a sign for your gate. New members are welcome.

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

Commencing 7:30 pm in the
John Taylor Room, Kilmore
Library, Sydney Street,
Kilmore Vic 3764

Entry \$2.00 Gold Coin

Guest Speaker

Door Prizes

Plant Sales

Fertilizer Sales

(APS Mitchell Slow Release
fertiliser \$5.00 per 500g)

Use of the APS Mitchell free
Library (See Pauline)

Supper & Chat

VISITORS VERY WELCOME

Members & Visitors are
encouraged to bring along
exhibits for our "Show & Tell"
Flower Specimen Table

Please label plants



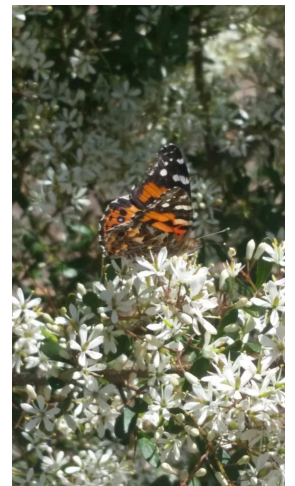
October Meeting – Monday 15th 7:30pm...

For our October meeting we have Ron Litjens coming along to speak on "Faunascaping Your Garden"...

Ron Litjens states he "is **NOT** a gardener" but as a keen amateur naturalist has spent many years observing the interactions between wildlife and vegetation both on his bush block in Flowerdale and as a 'townie' in Yea. He is a member of the Strath Creek Landcare Group, Yea River Landcare Group and the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management and is a co-contributor to the popular local nature blog, Focus on Fauna.

One of the beneficial by-products of a garden is the fauna that it attracts. Indeed having pollinators visiting your garden is essential for its success. Ron will discuss some of the factors to be considered when setting up your garden to attract wildlife and will highlight some of the fascinating creatures he has seen.

The presentation will be followed by our Door Prize plant raffle, the flower specimen table (remember to bring something along from your garden) and conclude with supper & chat.



Bursaria spinosa - Sweet
Bursaria & a visiting
Australian Painted
Lady
Photo: J Petts

Memberships ...

The September issue of *Growing Australian* should have arrived in members letterboxes by now. If yours has not arrived, it is a sure sign your membership has lapsed. 2018/2019 membership/renewal forms are still available on our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Alternatively, contact Christine Cram: Phone 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at: mitchell@apsvic.org.au

September Meeting Report...Small Wattles

By Jeanine Petts

Our October meeting saw a fantastic turnout, with around 30 people coming along to hear Bill Aitchison speak on Small Wattles. It proved to be a busy start to the evening, yet Norbert managed to call us to our seats in fairly good time, quickly introducing and inviting our guest speaker to the floor.

Bill began his talk by highlighting the range of heights *Acacia* can grow to, by bringing Australia's largest Wattle; *Acacia bakeri* to our attention. Bill displayed a photograph (taken from a 1929 book) where a man is seen standing beside a huge, towering specimen. *Acacia bakeri* occurs in Southern QLD and NSW, and has been known to grow some 40-50 meters high. However, sadly, in current times, it is a struggle to find such towering, mature specimens. Most of these trees currently found growing in the wild, tend to only reach to around 10 meters high, which, "is a bit sad".

Moving on to discuss the small Wattles, Bill cited a quote from an email by Acacia Study Group members, Warren and Gloria Sheather:

"*Acacia consobrina* is one of a large number of small wattles that would be suitable for cultivation in shrinking suburban gardens. With a few exceptions most wattles available commercially are either tall or shrub-sized species.

How you overcome the paucity of species available to the gardening public is a vexing problem."

Warren and Gloria Sheather, 28 April 2018

Before covering specific smaller species, first a little general information on *Acacia*: The total number of named *Acacia* is 1057, and when you include sub-species, this increases to 1200-1300 overall.

Most *Acacia* are found in hot, dry conditions, with WA being the state with the most species, and Tasmania having the least species. The distribution numbers across states being:

WA: 638. QLD: 275. NSW: 237. NT: 178. SA: 134. Victoria: 109.
ACT: 23. Tasmania: 21.

Acacia are also further divided by botanists into named subsections (subgenera) that have similar characteristics:

Botrycephalae (46 species), *Pulchellae* (27 species), *Acacia* (421 species), *Alatae* (23 species), *Plurinerves* (226 species), *Juliflorae* (290 species), *Lycopodiifoliae* (24 species) (Total 1057 species).

Features of the subgenus *Botrycephalae* are bipinnate leaves, Inflorescences held in racemes, and are all found in the Eastern States. *Acacia debilis* is one example and smaller species covered in this section were:

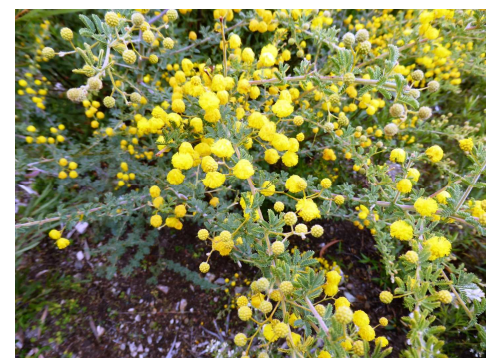
Acacia chinchillensis - Is endemic to the Darling Downs region and usually grows 0.3m-2m in height. In cultivation at Maranoa Gardens there is a specimen that is currently at 6m high, which, is 3 times higher than is usual.

Acacia terminalis "Pink Sunshine" - This pink form is not yet available in cultivation. Over the past 25 years, the form has proven difficult to propagate and is still a work in progress, with breeding stock numbers still currently being built up.

Acacia leptoclada - Does not produce much seed, but is being grown from cuttings and strikes easily.



Acacia debilis
Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia leptoclada
Photo: W & G Sheather

(Continued on page 4)

September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

Acacia cardiophylla "Gold Lace" - A prostrate form that originally came up in a garden (available at Kuranga Nursery).

***Acacia* subgenus *Pulchellae* is characterized by bipinnate leaves, simple inflorescences and are all from South West Australia.** *Acacia gilbertii* was the pictorial example used for this section and smaller species mentioned in further detail were:

Acacia pulchella - Pulchella means beautiful, and this species is found in the Stirling Ranges, WA.

Acacia lasiocarpa - A ground cover. (currently growing at Melton Botanic Garden)

Acacia guinetii - Is grown by Max and Regina McDowell in their garden at Bulleen. Theirs is a small garden, and Max is a great pruner. This species responds very well to pruning.

Acacia drummondii subsp. *drummondii* - Is one of the most requested species from the APS Victoria Seed Bank.

Acacia varia - Is related to *Acacia drummondii*.

***Acacia* subgenus *Acacia* species are characterized by phyllodes with a single nerve and globular or oblongoid flower heads.** An example is *Acacia brachybotrya*. Some smaller wattles among this section are:

Acacia pycnantha Whipstick form - This form was once grown by Peg McAllister (who only grew special plants in her garden). Unfortunately, Peg has now passed away and her garden no longer exists.

Acacia pravissima Little Nugget - Is a low growing form of the Ovens Wattle, and is good to use as a low hedge. Another *A. pravissima* form is "Cascade", which, is a weeping form that has a larger growth habit than Little Nugget, but it can be pruned to control & maintain shape.

Acacia linifolia - Grows 2-3 meters high and flowers during February - May at a time when not much else is flowering. It is also adaptable to different conditions.

Acacia cultriformis Cascade - This cultivar was developed 40 years ago by Austriflora. It is a very useful plant on embankments and has also been grown as an interesting looking standard (on *A. melanoxylyon* rootstock).

Acacia gordonii - The specimen shown was from Glenorie, NSW and it is now an endangered species due to Sydney's growth and development of urban sprawl that is causing loss of habitat. It is an outstandingly ornamental plant. Cranbourne Botanic Garden has been unable to successfully grow this species due to local Swamp Rats eating the roots.

Acacia maxwellii - There are reports of rapid growth on low rainfall from this



Acacia gilbertii

Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia lasiocarpa

Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia brachybotrya

Photo: Chris Clarke



Acacia gordonii (Glenorie, NSW)

Photo: Wendy Grimm

(Continued on page 5)

September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 4)

ground cover species. One such report was a plant in Horsham growing from 60cm to 1.5 m during 1 six month period (October-March) on a total 3cm of rainfall.

Acacia heterochroa - *heterochroa* means “many colours” and is named for it’s combination red new growth and leaf edges, green leaves and yellow flowers. Generally only lives 2-3 years so is best to keep propagating on a regular basis.

Acacia nervosa - A plant with a lovely fragrance and striking when in flower (also grown by Peg McAllister).

Acacia handonis - From Southern QLD and has large flower heads. A specimen at Maranoa Gardens has been growing there for 12 years.

Acacia rossei - Has very interestingly arranged flowers that are held in clusters near the tips of its branches.

Acacia sedifolia

Acacia aculeatissima - A low growing Wattle that is found in a number of forms and also grows locally. 2 forms mentioned were 1 that has hairy phyllodes and another, which, is red within the center of its flowers.

Acacia brownii - A ground cover.

Acacia gunnii - Gains the common name Ploughshare Wattle from its distinctively shaped leaves.

Acacia amblygona prostrate form – Does not seem to be available in nurseries.

Acacia pulviniformis - Cushion-like in habit. However, be aware it is prickly.

Acacia idiomorpha - A species with hairy seed pods that is not widely propagated but is growing at Kings Park in WA.

Acacia delphina - So named for its interesting leaves that are shaped reminiscent of a Dolphin.

Acacia chrysocephala

Acacia leptospermoides - Has grey, fleshy phyllodes and can be upright (1-2m) or prostrate in form.

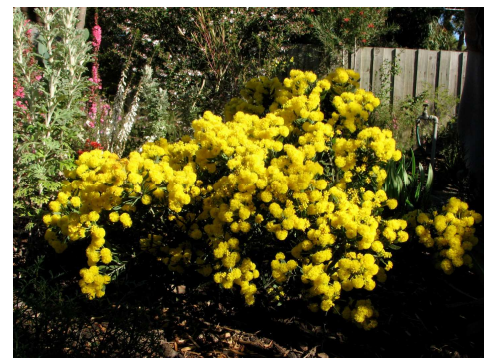
Acacia bracteolata - A species that Mike Williams found in WA and has brought back to Victoria.

Acacia acinacea - The Gold Dust Wattle, which, is widespread through our region.

Acacia glandulicarpa - Hairy-pod Wattle. Found in Western Victoria and SA. It is no longer common in the wild.



Acacia heterochroa
Photo: Karen Russell



Acacia nervosa
Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia handonis
Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia rossei
Photo: Sandra McKenzie

(Continued on page 6)

September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 5)

Acacia rhetinocarpa – Is a rare species from SA. 20 years ago the group COOTS (Conservation of Our Threatened Species) became involved in propagating and working to save this Wattle. In the last 20 years the plant population has increased from 200 to 3000.

***Acacia* subgenus *Alatae* is characterized by winged phyllodes and globular or oblongoid flower heads.** Smaller species mentioned from this section were:

Acacia glaucoptera - A fine specimen is growing at Melton Botanic Garden.

Acacia restiacea - 'restiacea' means rush-like, and describes the appearance of this *Acacia*'s branches.

Acacia willdenowiana - Known as Grass Wattle and also has a rush-like habit.

***Acacia* subgenus *Plurinerves* species are characterized by phyllodes with more than 1 nerve and globular or oblongoid flower heads** – for example: *Acacia retivenia*. Smaller species mentioned from this group were:

Acacia cognata - Of which, there are now many cultivars; Limelight and Mini Cog are just 2 of 17. Flowering is minimal and they are grown for their foliage.

Acacia sp. aff. *farinosa* Dadswells Bridge - Is a species found in only 3 small localities near Dadswells Bridge (Off the Western Highway) that is yet to be officially named. In fact it needs to be named so it can be protected.

Acacia sulcata var. *planoconvexa* - Ground cover.

Acacia declinata - WA species.

Acacia consobrina (The species referred to from the quotation earlier in the presentation)

Acacia redolens - Is grown in California, USA. A thick ground cover that will spread over an area reaching 6m x 4m, which, will screen out weeds and other species.

Acacia enterocarpa - A rare plant from Western Victoria and SA, known as the Jumping-jack Wattle. Wild plants are affected by gall that is preventing seed production. Garden plants are not so adversely affected by gall.

***Acacia* subgenus *Juliflorae* contains approximately 290 species and the group is recognizable by having phyllodes and flower heads in cylindrical spikes.** An example is *Acacia humifusa* which is now appearing on our \$50 bank note. Smaller Wattles noted within this group were:

Acacia hilliana - Also known as Hill's Tabletop Wattle, which may not grow in Melbourne.



Acacia idiomorphba (Pods)
Photo: N & W Marriott



Acacia glaucoptera
Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia retivenia
Photo: Geoff Lay



Acacia humifusa

(Continued on page 7)

September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 6)

Acacia fauntleroyi - An Acacia with Minni-ritchi type bark

Acacia cracentis

Acacia denticulosa - Sandpaper Wattle

The last *Acacia* subgenus discussed was *Lycopodiifoliae*, which, are found in Northern and Central Australia. Features of the group are whorled phyllodes and globular flower heads. The example mentioned from this group was *Acacia spondylophylla* that is also known as the Curry Wattle as its leaves smell like curry.

Next on the evening agenda came the door prize plant raffle, with our happy winners having the choice of 4 *Acacia* species: *A. sessilispica*, *A. phasmoides* (Phantom Wattle), *A. nervosa* & *A. applanata*.

Before concluding with supper & chat time, the following great range of specimens that had been brought in for the flower table were discussed and passed around:

Lysiocephalum involucreatum

Prostanthera aspalathoides

Kunzea jacunda

Thomasia hybrid *purpurea* x *solanacea*

Dodonaea subglandulifera

Prostanthera serpyllifolia subsp. *microphylla*

Eremophila lehmanniana

Pultenaea gunnii

Grevillea synapheae

Hypocalymma angustifolia

Hakea purpurea

Chorizema cordatum

Eutaxia obovata (orange form)

Acacia lasiocarpa var. *sedifolia*

Acacia viscifolia

Acacia sessilispica

Epacris impressa

Epacris reclinata

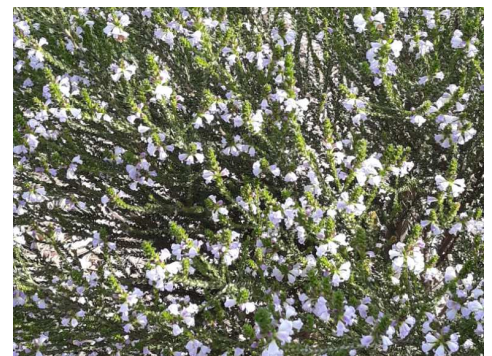
Grevillea dimorpha (from the Grampians)



Acacia consobrina
Photo: Bill Aitchison



Acacia spondylophylla
Photo: Nathan Johnson (flickr)



Eremophila lehmanniana
Photo: J Petts



Epacris impressa (Red form)
Photo: J Petts

(Continued on page 8)

September Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

Philotheca verrucosa (2 forms: Both double flower form & single)

Grevillea laevis

Zieria Pink Crystals

Grevillea Cherry Ripe (rosmarinifolia x)

Grevillea Winpara Gold

Olearia phlogopappa (pink form)

Melicytus dentatus

Acacia drummondii subsp. *Elegans*

Grevillea sericea

In closing I would like to thank everyone for coming along, and also those who brought in flower samples and/or helped out on the evening. Special mention and thanks to the “pantry fairy” who secretly added a banana cake to the supper table.

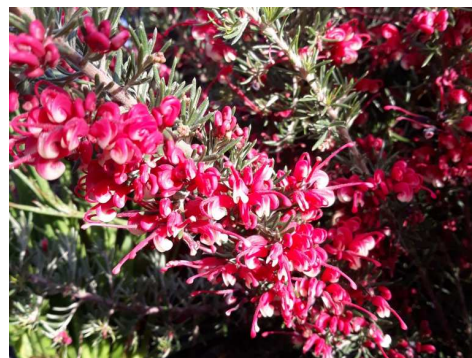
Lastly, extra special thanks also to Bill Aitchison for his invaluable support: For generously providing access to his PowerPoint presentation and permission to use photographs, which, has enabled a great deal of detail to be included in this report.

The support from within our native plant loving community is very much appreciated!



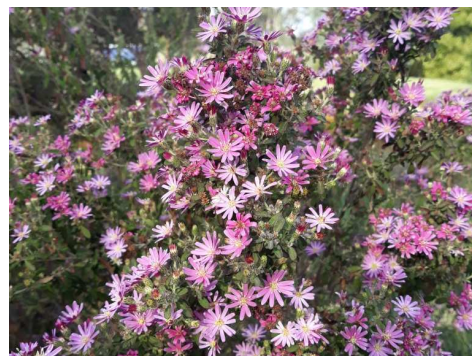
Philotheca verrucosa (single flower form)

Photo: J Petts



Grevillea “Cherry Ripe”

Photo: J Petts



Olearia phlogopappa Pink form

Photo: J Petts



Melicytus dentatus

Photo: J Petts

Singapore Gardens by the Bay...

By Ian Julian



On our visit to family in Singapore we visited “Gardens by the Bay”. It is nature park of 100Ha of reclaimed land. There are 3 main gardens and 2 conservatories; the Flower Dome is 1.2Ha featuring Mediterranean and semi arid tropical featuring an Australian Garden with species including Bottle Trees , Grevilleas, Waratahs, Grass Trees, Kangaroo Paws and many others. The other being the Cloud Forest at 0.8Ha featuring a 42m cloud mountain covered with orchids, ferns, mosses, bromeliads and anthuriums. 2 of the featured Australian plants are a stand of Bunya-bunya tree and Wollemi Pine.



Descriptions of Australian unique biodiversity are given along with impacts of mining, agriculture and the importance and how vital conservation is.



Then there is the Supertree Grove structures that are tree like and mimic their function. They vary in size from 25 to 50 metres and they are the environmental engines of the gardens. They are covered in vines, ferns, orchids and many other plants, they also include solar panels for power and lighting, collection of rain water for irrigation and fountains, as well as the air intake and exhaust for the conservatories. One of the trees is the flue for the gardens power station, which, is a biomass boiler using the horticultural waste, with the ash being used for green concrete. The gardens are designed to minimise the environmental footprint and has aim of turning Singapore from a “Garden City” to a “City within a Garden”.



Photos: Ian Julian

APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 20th, 2018



9 am - 3 pm
Kilmore Memorial Hall
14 Sydney St, Kilmore

Native Plant & Flower Displays



Plant & Book Sales
Gardens for Wildlife
BirdLife Australia



APS Victoria - Books
Goldfields Revegetation - Native plants
Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants
Kilmore Mitre 10 - Garden accessories & Native plants
La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks
Valley of a1000 Hills Nursery, David Laurie - Indigenous & native plants



Entry \$2.00 (Children free) - Door Prizes - Raffle

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display & Nuts & Seeds display, Setting up on Friday October 19th (from 1pm onwards), also on Saturday October 20th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc.

Enquiries & further information please contact Ian Julian: Ph 0438 270 248

Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au

Reminders, APS Victoria Diary Dates & Other Events

Thank you

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

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Bill Aitchison,
Christine Cram,
Ian Julian,
Jo & Paul Liddy,
Ron Litjens,
Barbara Mau,
Barbara Moss,
Maureen Runge,
Norbert Ryan.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

October 13 & 14 - South Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Flower Show, South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreation Reserve. 10am - 4pm both days.

October 20 & 21 - FJC Rogers Seminar - Goodeniaceae. Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com or Royce Raleigh: Ph 5383 6200

October 27 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Echuca Masonic

Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca. 9am-4pm. Entry \$2.

October 27 & 28 - APS Ballarat District Group Spring Plant Show and Sales. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens. 10am-4:30pm. A display of flowers and foliage and a large range of plants for sale. Hand painted floral art, books sales and other stall holders.

October 27 & 28 - Cranbourne Friends RBG Spring Plant Sale 10am-4pm.

2019 dates to remember:

April 27, 2019 - APS Geelong Australian Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Rd, Lovely Banks. 8:30am-5pm BBQ, Tea, Coffee & refreshments, book sales, children's activities and a great selection of native plants.

The ANPSA 2019 Conference hosted by Western Australia will be held September 30th to October 4th 2019, in Albany WA. 

Other events see page 12...

Committee & Contact Information

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY, MITCHELL GROUP INC.
PO Box 541, Kilmore, Victoria, 3764 No. A0054306V
Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au
Website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

Committee Members

President: Norbert Ryan 0428 180 651
Vice President: Dawn McCormack
Secretary: Ian Julian 0438 270 248
Email: secretary@apsmitchell.org.au
Treasurer/Memberships:
Christine Cram 0458 238 270
Committee: Bill Barker, Pauline Maloney,
Jeanine Petts.
Group Librarian: Pauline Maloney
Plant Sales: Volunteer position open
Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 5785 1434
Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Barbara Moss
Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Newsletter contributions:

Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts
Email: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au
Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

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

Hibbertia obtusifolia Grey Guinea-flower

Hibbertia obtusifolia growing on a dry, stony slope in Hidden Valley. One of the few understory plants surviving in an area that has been grazed previously and is now carrying a heavy kangaroo population.



Text & photo:
Norbert Ryan



Spring at the Colin Officer Flora Reserve

Join the Broadford Land Management Group at Colin Officer Flora Reserve in Broadford for a wildflower walk.

Colin Officer Flora Reserve is renowned for its orchids, lilies, other herbs and shrubs that reach a peak of flowering in early October.

The walk will include a casual and chatty wildflower walk and a look at the residents of our nest boxes to see if anyone has moved in.

When: 10am to 12.30pm, Sunday 14 October 2018

Where: Colin Officer Flora Reserve, Broadford
Meeting place Broadford Golf Club Car Park,
off Horwood Road, Broadford

RSVP: Peter Mitchell at broadfordlmg@gmail.com
or 0468 795 954

**Broadford Land
Management
Group.**



Wear suitable footwear for bush walking, appropriate clothing and BYO lunch and water bottles.

Morning tea provided.

Contact us:

t: (03) 5734 6200

e: mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

w: www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

