

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY MITCHELL GROUP INC.

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PO Box 541, Kilmore Victoria, 3764

Inc# A0054306V

September 2019

Volume 6, Issue 8

September news...!

Hello and welcome to our first spring edition for 2019...

Our newsletter is out a little earlier than usual this month, hopefully in time to remind & encourage as many people as possible to go along to the Wildflower Walk at Janis Baker's on Sunday September 8th—see details at right. One local wildflower that is coming into bloom in my garden is *Kennedia prostrata* (see right).

With spring's arrival, the days are warming up & we've even had a little rain. Hopefully that will continue & bode well for having plenty of flower specimens on display at our Spring Plant Expo & Sale. Remember we'll be needing a hand or two & please let Ian know if you can help out, email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au or phone: 0438 270 248. Further information & updated Expo details will be in the October newsletter.

Our next newsletter will be issued on or within a few days of Monday October 14th.

Contributions to our newsletter both large and



Kennedia prostrata - Running Postman
Photo: J Petts

small are always very, very welcome!
Please send contributions in by Monday October 7th. Email to: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au or post to PO Box 381 Pyalong Vic 3521.

Hope to see you at a gathering sometime soon & cheers for now,

Jeanine ☺

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Kilmore Creek Master Plan...

Mitchell Shire Council have sent word that the Draft Kilmore Creek Master Plan will go out on public exhibition from Friday September 6th. They will be launching an Engaging Mitchell website this week, where interested people will be able to download the full document and fill in a survey. A Drop in session is organised on Thursday September 19, and the consultation period will end in the first week of October. The council would like to hear our members thoughts on the draft plan, so please contribute if you can.

The full Landscape Master Plan documents can be obtained through <https://engagingmitchellshire.com/> where you can also fill in a short survey or leave comments on the plan.

Drop-in session:

Council Officers will be available to discuss issues and opportunities for both the Kilmore Creek Landscape Master Plan and Hudson Park Master Plan at a drop-in session being held in September:

Date: Thursday 19 September 2019

Time: 13.30 – 20.00

Venue: John Taylor Room at the Kilmore Library
12 Sydney Street, Kilmore VIC 3764

Mitchell Diary Dates..

- SUNDAY SEPT 8th
WILDFLOWER WALK:
2:00pm at 320 Jeffrey's lane. (Next to Mt Piper lane.)
Wear sensible shoes and clothing, e.g., coat in case of rain.
Further details to be advised via email.
To receive further details please register your interest by contacting Ian:
Phone/text: 0438 270 248
Email: mitchell@apsvic.org.au
- MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th 7:30pm –
EVENING MEETING:
John Taylor Room, Kilmore Library
Guest Speaker:
Geoff Lay - Flora of Wilsons Promontory
- SATURDAY OCT 19th, 9am-3pm SPRING PLANT EXPO & SALE
Kilmore Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore
- MONDAY OCTOBER 21st, 7:30pm –
EVENING MEETING:
Guest Speaker to be advised.
- MONDAY NOV 18th, 7:30pm MEETING -
Guest Speaker: Glenda Lewin - WAMA:
Wildlife Art Museum of Australia



Gardens for Wildlife News...

By Ian Julian



Tawny Frogmouths in the Garden
Photo: Ian Julian

Over the winter months the Wallan Market brought eleven new members to Gardens for Wildlife, taking membership to seventy six. We will be at the market again in September with some plants for sale. Now that spring is here with more daylight hours and warmer weather, the spring flowers will start to show their splendour and along with that will come the weeds. Our gardens don't need the poisons and pesticides that destroy your gardens soil and biodiversity, instead hand weed and top up your mulch. It's also time to start feeding your plants and through APS Victoria's agreement with Neutrog Bush Tucker is available at APS exclusive prices.

We be sending order forms out by the end of the month. Also during Spring there will be many activities to be involved with; the Goulburn Broken CMA is running a paddock tree photo competition (see page 13), and the Backyard Bird Count -You don't need to be an expert birdwatcher — most of the people who have a go are regular members of the community who simply have an interest in birds, or like to get outside in the fresh air. From students to CEOs, children to grandparents, and remote outback communities, to those in our inner cities, a passion for birds is a pastime that has long connected Australians. [Register for the 2019 Aussie Backyard Bird Count](https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/#register) <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/#register>

**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

**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



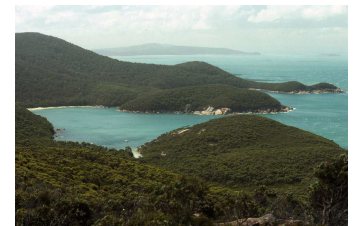
September Meeting: Monday 16th 7:30pm...

Geoff Lay is very kindly traveling some distance to be joining us at our September meeting, & will speak on the Flora of Wilson's Promontory....

Geoff has been a keen bushwalker, naturalist and photographer for over 50 years, having now collected over 40,000 images of Australia. His "humble" ambition is to photograph every plant and fungus in Australia, & after 50 years is 25% of the way there. He joined the Maroondah branch of Australian Plants Society over 30 years ago. Later joining the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, which, has a keen fungi group. For some time he has also been fortunate enough to be a volunteer at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

The talk will consist mainly of beautiful pictures of Wilsons Prom taken over many years – first visiting the lighthouse in 1968. At the Prom, majestic mountains plunge directly into the ocean; the water is tinted brown, the rocks are covered in orange lichen, and there are glorious beaches everywhere. Flowers and other flora clothe park, especially in spring. You will be able to see the beneficial effect of the bushfires which burnt almost the entire park in the 2000's and cleared out the overgrowth of Tea Tree and *Kunzea*, and allowed great variety of flora to grow again.

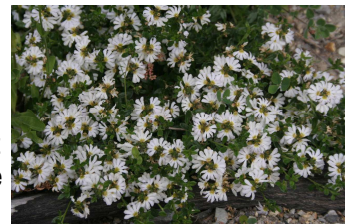
As always, supper and chat will follow the presentation, & visitors, guests and friends are very welcome at APS Mitchell meetings.



Above: Refuge Cove from
Kersops Peak

Below: *Scaevola aemula* at
Telegraph Track

Photos: Geoff Lay



Memberships...

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2019/20 membership subscriptions. For any members yet to renew, please do so ASAP, & remember that a renewal/membership form needs to be completed and returned to our Treasurer, Christine each year. Payment can be made either to Christine at a meeting, via Direct Deposit, or mail a cheque to PO Box 541, Kilmore. Membership Enquiries: Ph: 0458 238 270 or Email to the attention of the Membership Officer at: aps.mitchell@gmail.com Membership information, forms and contact information can be found at our website: www.apsmitchell.org.au

August Meeting Report - *Prostanthera* & Allied Genera...

By Jeanine Petts

With a couple of key people away along with a few other apologies for the evening, our numbers were down a little compared to recent meetings. So it was, that 15 members turned out on a rather brisk August evening to hear about *Prostanthera* & Allied Genera. Mike Williams left plants for sale at home this month, as Miriam Ford had instead, brought along a range of *Prostanthera* that were made available for sale at the end of the evening.

We were called to our seats a little after 7:30pm, with Norbert quickly introducing Dr Miriam Ford, advising that Miriam's prior career had been in science research, and that she was currently quite involved with APS Yarra Yarra, APS Victoria, and organising the next FJC Rogers Seminar.

Miriam took the floor, thanking us for the invitation, saying it was good to be here, and to enjoy a tour of the countryside as well while visiting with us. She then went on to explain the presentation on *Prostanthera* & Allied Genera would consist of 2 brief videos of a slide show set to music. The first on *Prostanthera*, the second on allied genera, and each would be followed by a short talk...

There are approximately 90 species of *Prostanthera* and among the species seen in the first video were:

- *Prostanthera lasianthos*
- *Prostanthera cuneata*
- *Prostanthera ovalifolia*
- *Prostanthera teretifolia*
- *Prostanthera striatiflora*
- *Prostanthera walteri*
- *Prostanthera aspalathoides*
- *Prostanthera serpyllifolia*
- *Prostanthera cryptandroides*
- *Prostanthera galbraithiae*
- *Prostanthera ovalifolia purpurea*
- *Prostanthera densa*
- *Prostanthera nivea var indua*
- *Prostanthera rugosa*
- *Prostanthera spinosa*
- *Prostanthera stricta*
- *Prostanthera scutellarioides*
- *Prostanthera incana*
- *Prostanthera magnifica*



Prostanthera lasianthos - Victorian Christmas Bush
Photo: M Ford

The genus *Prostanthera* is a member of the Lamiaceae (Mint) family, sub-genus Prostantheroideae, and along with its allied genera have been chosen by APS Yarra Yarra district group as the topic for the upcoming 2020 Biennial FJC Rogers Seminar, which, the group are hosting. It was Mike Williams who first suggested these genera as the topic for the 2020 Seminar, and both Mike and Miriam have been hard at work sourcing and collecting species specimens ahead of next year's event.

The FJC Rogers Seminars are held every two years and were named in honour of Fred Rogers. Fred was a leader and passionate advocate for native plants and native plant societies. He became a member of the then Society for Growing Australian Plants during its early years, and was heavily involved in recruiting members, and establishing district groups including the APS Maroondah and

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August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 3)

APS Wimmera groups. Fred had an interest in Hakea, and along with Royce Raleigh and Paul Kennedy had planned a seminar on the species that was to be held in 1995. Sadly, Fred passed away before this first seminar was held, which, was then subsequently dedicated in his name. Since then, different district groups host these biannual seminars, and Yarra Yarra Group's 2020 seminar will be the 13th.

The sub family Prostantheroideae has two tribes: Chloantheae and Westringiae. Within these tribes are 17 genera: *Brachysola*, *Chloanthes*, *Cyanostegia*, *Dasymalla*, *Dicrastylis*, *Hemiandra*, *Hemigenia*, *Hemiphora*, *Lachnostachys*, *Microcorys*, *Muniria*, *Newcastelia*, *Physopsis*, *Pityrodia*, *Prostanthera*, *Quoya* and *Westringia*.

There are 2 species of *Brachysola* and in the region of 90 species of *Prostanthera*. A great literary work on *Prostanthera* is the book titled *Cradle of Incense* by George W Althofer (now out of print). It is the story of Australian *Prostanthera*, was published in 1978, and contains detailed information on species from all over Australia. Interestingly, of the species covered in the book, 65 are located in NSW within a 150km radius centred on Burrendong (near Dubbo), hence the inspiration for the book's name "Cradle of Incense".

Another source of information on *Prostanthera* & *Westringia* has come from the Study Group of the same name. The group was active for a number of years, but has since lapsed, with its last newsletter being issued in June 2006. Thankfully, Bruce Grose of APS Yarra Yarra Group was an active member of the study group, had retained, and was able to make newsletters available for seminar research. Likewise, Robert Miller- the last leader of the group (from NSW), has also been able to provide advice.

The genus *Prostanthera* was named by the French botanist Labillardiere, who voyaged around Australia in the late 1700's. The name is derived from the Greek word *prostheke* meaning an appendage and anther, in reference to an appendage on found on the anthers of *Prostanthera* species. The genus is endemic to Australia and belongs to the world-wide family of plants in Lamiaceae that have aromatic leaves.

Prostanthera lasianthos, Victorian Mint Bush, was the first species in the genus that was named. Although its common name references Victoria, the species is one of the most widely spread, being found from Tasmania, through Victoria and right up into both New South Wales and Queensland. The first sample taken and used for identification and naming was from a Tasmanian specimen. The name *lasianthos* means woolly hairs and is in reference to the fine hairs that cover the flower.

Foremost of a number of commonly cultivated species is *Prostanthera ovalifolia*, which, comes in many forms. It is endemic to New South Wales, also in Victoria and Queensland. The leaf shape is oval to lance shaped and a pink flowering



Appendage on *Prostanthera* anther.is
Image: Supplied by M Ford



Prostanthera lasianthos, note fine hairs covering the flower. Photo: Miriam Ford



Prostanthera ovalifolia (From Merle Webb's Garden) Photo: Miram Ford

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August Meeting Report continued...

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form is among the variety available.

Two other commonly cultivated species are:

Prostanthera rotundifolia – This species is a bush food sometimes referred to as Native Sage, and its natural range is also New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. *P. rotundifolia* has round leaf shape and a variety of forms with a range flower colours being pink, purple & white.

Prostanthera incisa – Is mostly found in New South Wales and also known as Native Thyme, as it is intensely aromatic.

The *Prostanthera* species is classified into 2 sections based on flower morphology (flower shapes), which are: *Prostanthera* & *Klanderia*;

Prostanthera section *Prostanthera* have a bell-shaped flower with a short corolla tube that is narrow at the base, an erect 2-lobed or notched upper lip that is shorter than the lower lip, with the lower lip having 3 lobes and the middle lobe being largest. The calyx is also a distinctive feature (as in all *Prostanthera*), where the calyx is two-lipped. The upper calyx lip in this group is recurved and the lower lip folded upwards. This group tend to be insect pollinated and the visual example shown was *Prostanthera cryptandroides*.

Flowers of the *Prostanthera* section *Klanderia* have a long corolla tube with the upper lip concave, and the lower lip is not longer than the upper lip. The calyx lips of this group are straight, and almost of equal length. This group is bird pollinated and the visual examples shown were *Prostanthera aspalathoides* and *Prostanthera serpyllifolia*.

There are 35 species that are endemic to Victoria, with a number of these also endemic to other areas. Some of the species found in Victoria are:

- *Prostanthera arapilensis*
- *Prostanthera aspalathoides* (found in orange/red & yellow flower forms.)
- *Prostanthera cuneata*, Alpine Mint-bush is from the high country but can be grown in other areas and is very aromatic (Miriam recommends it for anyone's garden). It is a lovely low shrub with dark, glossy, green leaves.
- *Prostanthera decussata*, Dense Mint-bush
- *Prostanthera denticulata*, Rough Mint-bush
- *Prostanthera galbraithiae*, Wellington Mint-bush, is a rare, threatened species that was named in honour of Jean Galbraith who lived in the Latrobe Valley, Gippsland. A small population remains in the Holey Hill State Forest, East Gippsland. A plant has been donated by the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for display at the 2020 seminar, from which, 100 cuttings have been taken & will hopefully be available for sale.
- *Prostanthera hirtula*, Hairy Mint-bush



Prostanthera rotundifolia - Pink form

Photo: Brian Walters

<http://anpsa.org.au/p-rotun1.html>



Prostanthera cryptandroides

Photo: M Ford



Prostanthera serpyllifolia

Photo: M Ford



Prostanthera galbraithiae

Image: Tamara Leitch

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- *Prostanthera incana*, Velvet Mint-bush
- *Prostanthera incisa*, Cut-leaf Mint-bush
- *Prostanthera lasianthos*, Victorian Mint-bush of which there are also two subspecies: var. *lasianthos* & var. *subcoriacea*.
- *Prostanthera melissifolia*, Balm Mint-bush

An interesting thing about Mint-bushes is their endemism. Quite a lot of species are highly localised to small and sometimes isolated natural ranges and this often makes species more vulnerable. An example cited was *Prostanthera cryptandroides*, this species has 2 sub species occurring in very limited ranges in New South Wales. Even within a species, some sub-species can be further limited in range and number, therefore much more vulnerable.

Moving on to *Prostanthera* with other features, there are some that like it hot and dry:

Prostanthera striatiflora, Jockey's Cap or Striped Mint-bush is from semi-arid areas and tolerates hot dry conditions.

Prostanthera aspalathoides, Scarlet Mint-bush is another from semi-arid areas of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia that tolerates hot and dry sites. It also comes in 3 colour forms: Red, orange & yellow.

Prostanthera magnifica lives up to its name, and is a most magnificent species with a large, showy, prominent, long lasting calyx. It is also a dry area species and comes from the West Australian sand plains.

Miriam took a minute to read a quote from George Althofer's *Cradle of Incense* where he spoke of *Prostanthera* as unlike any other genus, having bold, handsome foliage and surely all its name suggests.

Another beautiful species shown was *Prostanthera eckersleyana*, from the sandplains of Western Australia, localised to the Wheat Belt. It is a long flowering shrub, and Miriam mentioned one in her garden had been flowering since November. The flowers are large, violet to mauve in colour, and the plant is very aromatic with an interesting crinkly leaf.

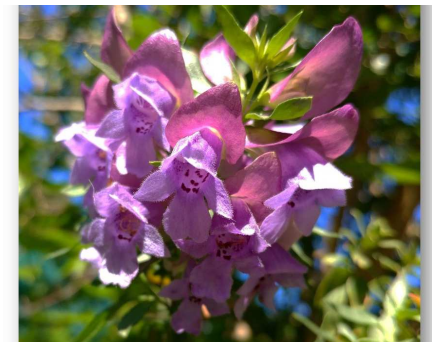
The presentation returned to an image of *Prostanthera lasianthos* flowers, and we were encouraged to see if we could spot the visitor. What pollinates a *Prostanthera* depends on the flower shape, and one of the Keynote speakers at the 2020 FJC Rogers Seminar will be Trevor Wilson who has been researching the correlation between pollinators and floral traits in *Prostanthera*. *Prostanthera lasianthos* is bee pollinated, but, is also visited by birds and flies. *Prostanthera* flowers started as bee pollinated, then later evolved to forms that are bird pollinated, also bee, beetle and fly pollinated. Many *Prostanthera* produce a lot of nectar and *P. lasianthos* produces the highest quantity of nectar among the genus. A frequent visitor to Miriam's garden specimen of *P. eckersleyana* is a wasp (if anyone recognises the species let her know).



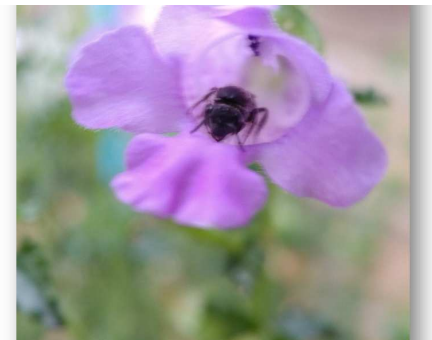
Prostanthera incisa -
Photo: M Ford



Prostanthera striatiflora
Photo: M Ford



Prostanthera magnifica
Photo: Miriam Ford



Prostanthera eckersleyana
Photo: Miriam Ford

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August Meeting Report continued...

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The propagation of *Prostanthera* is usually very easy from cuttings, while not so easy from seed. In cultivation they need good drainage and preferably dappled shade. However, they can tolerate morning sun, but not western sun. They are best planted under Eucalypts and Wattles etc. and happy in sites with leaf litter & leaf mould. Companion plants in the wild are species such as *Kunzea*.

Another feature of *Prostanthera* is that there is now a lot of interest in them for their essential oils. When seen up close the stippling visible on *Prostanthera* leaves are actually oil glands. Among potential commercial applications are use in perfume, confectionary and medicines. In fine analysis there are unique species markers and oil yields can vary among species. Examples are: 0.5 % in *P. cryptandroides*, 3% in *P. aspalathoides* & *P. teretifolia*, and 6% from *P. discolour*.

Next we were shown the video of allied genera slides, and among the images we saw were:

Cholanthes sp.

Cyanostegia sp.

Dasymalla terminalis

Dasymalla axilaris

Dicrastylis sp.

Hemiphora sp.

Lachnostachys sp.

Microcorys sp.

Newcastelia sp.

Pityrodia sp.

Quoya sp.

Hemigenia macrantha

Westringia sp.

APS Yarra Yarra have formed a "Growers Group" for propagation, and of the 90 species of *Prostanthera*, 60 are currently being grown for the 2020 seminar. Growing is also underway with a number of allied genera species, and these are also being grown by the Yarra Yarra Growers Group and Mike Williams, two mentioned were *Hemiandra gardnerii* (pink form) and *Hemigenia* WA species (from Phil Vaughan).

Concluding the presentation Miriam advised that the 2020 FJC Rogers Seminar is to be held at the Eltham Community & Reception Centre on October 24 & 25th 2020. Speakers are; Trevor Wilson, Jeremy Bruhl, Maria Hitchcock, Michael Whitehead, among others (including Miriam). Plant Sales and Garden Visits will also form part of the seminar.

A short Q & A session drew out the following information... New South Wales species are under revision as:

A number of Mint-bushes have been mis-identified

Taxonomy needs to be much tighter

There are "complexes" within the species of:

P. lasianthos

P. ovalifolia

P. rotundifolia

P. cineolifera

Lastly, in answer to the question "do any grow under Gums?", both *P. cuneata* & *P. aspalathoides*

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Hemiandra gardnerii Pink form
Photo: Miriam Ford



Hemigenia WA sp.
Photo: Miriam Ford

August Meeting Report continued...

(Continued from page 7)

were recommended for growing in dappled shade, drier ground under Gum trees.

The floor was then handed over Mike Williams to provide a little information on the four species that he was providing as the evening plant raffle prizes.

The selections were from those endemic to South Australia. There are 11 species found in South Australia and 1 sub species. Of these 7 are rare or vulnerable. Our raffle prizes of the night were:

- *Prostanthera chlorantha*, which, is from the Eyre Peninsula. Growing from 0.3 to 1m high, it has tubular, translucent greenish flowers that occur from August to January. A full sun site and well-drained soil are recommended for this species.
- *Prostanthera florifera* is a rare species with fine foliage and translucent pinkish-red flowers that occur in August – December. Its requirements are: Full sun and well-drained soil.
- *Prostanthera eurybioides*, Monato Mint-bush, is endangered and grows 1m to 1.5 high with an open habit. Requirements are: Full sun and well-drained soil.
- *Prostanthera calycina*, grows 0.3m to 0.6m x 0.5m to 0.7m and has red flowers occurring July – December. Requirements are: Full sun and well-drained soil. Mike also advised that birds love it, and in his garden, frequently break its branches.

Thanks to the generosity of Bunnings and Glenn James, a garden hose and metal hose holder were added to the list of raffle prizes (Many thanks Glenn!). Drum roll please... ;-), and the winners were: Dianne Carroll, Susan Bott, Robert Boyach ((?)apologies if I've mixed names up), Trevor Thomas, Robyn Virgona & yours truly.

Before moving on to discuss the evening's flower table specimens, Norbert let everyone know that the guest speaker at our upcoming September meeting will be Geoff Lay, presenting on the topic of Flora of Wilsons Promontory.

Flower specimens for the evening were:

- *Banksia baueri*, Possum Banksia
- *Philotheca verrucosa*, Bendigo Wax-flower, the specimen was in bud and brought in to show its pink buds, which, open into white flowers.
- *Spyridium parvifolium*, Dusty Miller, an understory plant that has insignificant flowers, but is valued for its interesting foliage.
- *Banksia integrifolia*
- *Grevillea "Cherry Ripe"*, a *G. rosmarinifolia* x

Finally, Miriam also passed a few Mint-bush specimens around for viewing:

- *Prostanthera cryptandroides*, noting the bell-shaped flower and that it is very aromatic.
- *Prostanthera ovalifolia* var. *purpurea*
- *Prostanthera ovalifolia* var. *variegata*

We were also reminded that the APS Yarra Yarra Spring Plant Expo & Sale is on the 2nd weekend in September (Saturday & Sunday 14th-15th), and lists from stall holders of the plants that will be available for sale are currently up on the Yarra Yarra group website: <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/>



Prostanthera chlorantha Image: <https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/SeedsOfSA/speciesinformation.html?rid=3540>



Prostanthera florifera Image: <https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/SeedsOfSA/speciesinformation.html?rid=3542>

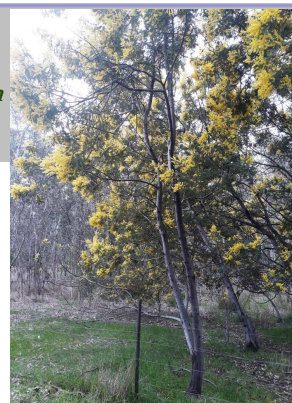


Prostanthera eurybioides - Monato Mint-bush
Image: <https://spapps.environment.sa.gov.au/SeedsOfSA/speciesinformation.html?rid=3541>

Wattle Time...

By Norbert Ryan

From early colonial times the beauty of Wattle flowers has been celebrated. In Hobart from 1854 a sprig of Wattle was worn at regattas to commemorate the discovery of Tasmania; in Melbourne the Victorian Field Naturalists founded the Wattle Club in 1899 to enhance the appreciation of Wattles in their natural environment. This was followed by the establishment of the Wattle Day League in Melbourne in 1909. By 1913 Wattle Day celebrations were held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane on 1st September. However, with the intervention of war the event remained un-gazetted. Finally in 1992, following public support, Bill Hayden as Governor-General declared the 1st of September to be National Wattle Day. Early enthusiasm for Wattles probably accounts for the widespread dissemination of interstate species such as the early flowering Cootamundra Wattle in Victoria.

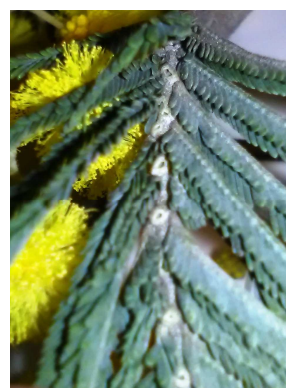


Silver Wattle showing grey trunk, often with silvery patches and silvery grey leaves.
Photo: J Petts

What local species are flowering now? The Golden Wattle is in full bloom and Blackwoods have just commenced flowering. There are also three species with bipinnate (twice divided) fern-like leaves that can be confused but the predominant species flowering now is the Silver Wattle, typically it flowers from July-October. The Black Wattle follows in October-December and the Early Black Wattle or *Acacia decurrens*, a NSW species well established in Victoria, flowers in September-October.

A. dealbata or Silver Wattle

The origin of the species name refers to the white-silvery bark and young foliage. This species can occur as a large tree (6-30 x 5-10m) or a spindly shrub, the bark is a grey-green to dark grey colour. They favour creek lines or scrubby bushland in foothills. The foliage is downy and the leaves are a grey-green to silvery appearance. The leaves range from 4-13cm in length and have 8-20 pairs of pinnae, each holding 20-40 pairs of pinnules, 5mm in length and crowded together. There is a raised gland at the junction of each pair of pinnae. Flowers occur in round balls in terminal racemes. (Structure of seed pods is also another distinguishing feature between these species).



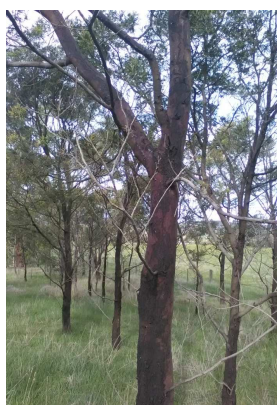
Silver wattle leaf showing glands at base of each set of pinnae, leaf colour silvery grey, pinnules are downy and close packed.
Photo: N Ryan



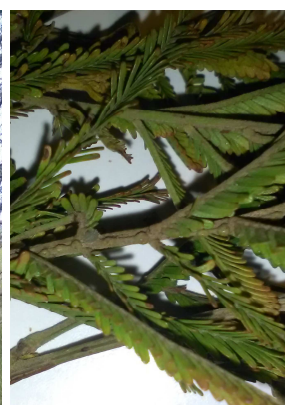
Silver Wattle, flower ball consists of closely packed miniature flowers, stamens and attached anther provide the intense colour. Photo: N Ryan

A. mearnsii or Black Wattle

Within Kenya this species has spread from early established plantations and is considered an invasive pest. The species name is derived from the first description of the species by Mearns, an American Surgeon working in Kenya. This species can be fast growing, to reach a substantial size (8-20 x 6-10m), it also occurs in valleys and shrubby bushland. Mature trees have a rough, dark trunk, often with gum exudates; younger branches are green-brown and the leaves are dark, olive green, 4-15cm with 8-25 pairs of pinnae containing 30-70 pairs of closely packed pinnules of 1-5mm. A distinguishing feature is the distribution of raised glands, occurring at the junction of pairs of pinnae and elsewhere along the rachis. Flowers also occur in racemes.



Black Wattle, cluster of trees post fire, showing dark trunk and dark green foliage; not currently in flower
Photo: N Ryan



Black Wattle leaf, deep olive green colour; see distribution of glands along rachis, not just at base of pinnae pairs; pinnules are densely packed. Photo: N Ryan



Golden Wattle (*A. pycnantha*) Often a shrub or small tree.
Photo: Norbert Ryan

A. decurrens or Early Black Wattle

The species name is derived from the description of the leaves, they are decurrent i.e. with wings or ribs running down the stem from the point of attachment. This is a small tree or shrub reaching a maximum of 15m with a green trunk and dark green leaves ranging from 4-12cm, with 5-15 pairs of pinnae containing 15-40 well separated pinnules (a major distinguishing feature) ranging from 5-15mm. A raised gland occurs at the base of each pair of pinnae. Flowers also occur in racemes.

APS Mitchell
Annual Spring Plant Expo & Sale
October 19th, 2019



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

Native Plant, Flower, & Photographic Displays



Plant & Book Sales
Gardens for Wildlife



APS Victoria - Books

Goldfields Revegetation - Native plants

Joan & Peter Broughton, Ironstone Park - Unusual Native Plants

La Trobe indigenous plant nursery - Indigenous tube stocks

Neil's Native Plants (to be confirmed)

Russell Wait - Eremophila specialist (to be confirmed)

Valley of a 1000 Hills Nursery, David Laurie - Indigenous & native plants

Vaughan's Australian Plants (to be confirmed)

Please BYO bag, or basket as some of our sellers are now plastic bag free

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

Volunteers will be needed to assist with: Donations of specimens for floral display (including nuts & seeds if available), Setting up on Friday October 18th (time to be advised), also on Saturday October 19th with Ticket Sales/Entry, Plant Sales, Catering (Tea & Coffee), Pack up & Clean up etc. Members please remember to take pictures of native plants in bloom in your gardens for our photographic display. Photos can be submitted to Ian Julian at meetings or image files can be emailed - see below:

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:
Janis Baker,
Christine Cram,
Geoff Lay,
Miriam Ford,
Ian Julian,
Barbara Mau,
Norbert Ryan.

APS VIC DIARY DATES...

September 14 - Committee of Management meeting (10am), AGM (2pm). Auditorium, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

September 14-15 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 4pm. Check the APS Yarra Yarra website for plant lists:

www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

Also see page 12 for more information.

September 21-22 - 50th Anniversary of Anglesea Wildflower Weekend and Art Show. Celebrating the area's remarkable biodiversity and

wildflowers. Anglesea Memorial Hall, 3 McMillan St, Anglesea 10am - 4pm.

September 21-22 - APS Bendigo Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 9:30am-4:00pm.

September 30 - October 4 - ANPSA 2019 Conference – *Blooming Biodiversity*. Hosted by Wildflower Society of Western Australian in Albany, WA. Pre- and post-conference tours between 21 September to 11 October.

Key Speakers include Professor Stephen D Hopper AC and Gregory John Keighery. Details: www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au.

October 5-6 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show. Pomonal Hall. 9:30am-5pm on Saturday, 10am-4pm on Sunday.

October 12 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 Hight St, Echuca. 9am-4pm. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, native bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations.

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, Jeanine Petts,
 Victoria Morris.
 Group Librarian: Volunteer position open
 Plant Sales: Volunteer position open
 Newsletter Editor: Jeanine Petts 0409 029 603
 Gardens for Wildlife Co-Ordinator: Volunteer position open. Email: g4w@apsmitchell.org.au

Newsletter contributions:

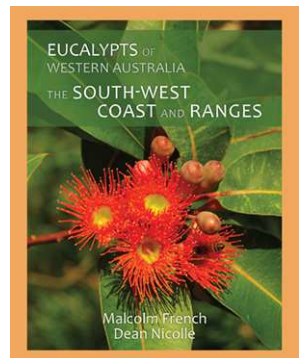
Contributions should be sent to Jeanine Petts
 Email: wattlegum@southernphone.com.au

Post: PO Box 381, Pyalong Vic 3521

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

A new book release from Dean Nicolle & Malcolm French...

Malcolm French & Dean Nicolle have collaborated to produce a new book on *Eucalypts of Western Australia The South-West Coast and Ranges*. The book covers every Eucalypt species occurring along the south-west coast and ranges of Western Australia. Comprehensively describing 147 species and subspecies in total. The region covered by the book extends from Dongara on the west coast to Ravensthorpe on the south coast.



Available via mail order at:

http://www.dn.com.au/Eucalypts_of_WA_SW_Coast_and_Ranges.html

A plant sale definitely worth visiting...

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO
native plant fair Eltham

14 - 15 SEPTEMBER 10am - 4pm

Eltham Community & Reception Centre
801 Main Road, Eltham

Adults \$5, Concessions \$4
Children free

A 'Spring Outdoors' event

Thanks to our major sponsor:
Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd

Organised by Australian Plants Society
Yarra Yarra Group Inc. No. A0039676Y

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO 2019

5 native & indigenous plant stalls
Giftware & decorative garden pots
Native flower & other displays
Books on related subjects
Children's activities
Lots of prizes to win
Refreshments available
Ample parking • Wheelchair friendly

SPEAKERS - WORKSHOPS - DEMONSTRATIONS

SATURDAY 14th September

11am: Kevin Ritchie: Creating hanging baskets with a difference

2pm: Ron Litjens - Fauna-scaping your garden

SUNDAY 15th September

11am: Propagation from seeds & cuttings

2pm: Emmaline Bowman - Garden design with Australian plants

Participants

Birdlife Australia
Helene Wild giftware
Display by APS Maroondah
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary nursery
APS Yarra Yarra growers' stall
Goldfields Revegetation nursery
Vaughan's Australian Plants
SunValley Plants nursery
Crow's Foot Pottery
1st Eltham Scouts
APS Vic books

(Program correct at time of printing)

Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Inc.
Inc. No.: A0039676Y
<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au>
apsyarrayarra@gmail.com • M: 0430513433

Plant lists from the various sellers can be accessed via the APS Yarra Yarra website:

<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/australian-plants-expo/>

Some lists are not yet complete & it is recommended to check each week to see what has been added.

#YearofthePaddockTree Photo Competition 2019 Goulburn Broken Catchment



Theme: Year of the Paddock Tree

Paddock trees are unique and critical elements of our landscape, supporting a range of flora and fauna, cultural heritage values and providing ecosystem services such as shade, shelter and wind protection. The remaining paddock trees across our landscape are under threat.

To highlight their importance and encourage the community to protect these precious and much-loved trees, we've declared 2019 the Year of the Paddock Tree. This photo competition supports the #YPT campaign by encouraging community to connect with their paddock trees through photography.

Categories & Prizes

There will be two categories and two prizes in each category:

18 and Over Category:

Judges' Favourite (\$150 Shepparton Camera House voucher) and Most Unusual Paddock Tree (\$100 Billabong Garden Complex voucher)

Under 18 Category:

Judges' Favourite (\$100 Shepparton Camera House voucher) and Most Unusual Paddock Tree (\$50 Billabong Garden Complex voucher)

Total prize value of \$400

This photography competition has been made possible through a partnership between the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Greater Shepparton City Council, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Country News. Special thanks to Shepparton Camera House and Billabong Garden Complex for providing prizes

**Entries close 12noon
Tuesday 1st
October 2019**

**For further
information or to
submit your entry
contact the:**

Goulburn Broken
Catchment Management
Authority

Tel. (03) 5822 7700

Email
reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au

*Entry form and conditions of
entry are available on our
website at*
www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

*All entries must have completed
an entry form to be eligible*