



# August Newsletter

## Australian Plants Society

### Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc.

Inc. A0028350T ABN 69 324 096 622

Website for Australian Plants Society Victoria is [www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

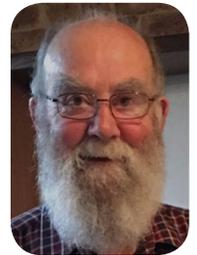
Website for APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc. is

[www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au](http://www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au)

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/APSWilsonParkBerwick>).

## President's Report

### 2016-2017



The year 2016-17 has been another successful year for our group in which members have a range of interests all with connections with Australian plants. These diverse interests combine together to make a small but effective group.

#### *Activities*

A number of activities show that our group punches above its weight.

- The Annual Australian Plant Sale. Year after year the plant sale has provided members and the public with an opportunity to purchase and spread a wide range of Australian plants through the South East many of which otherwise would not be available.

Thanks must be given to Judy Millington whose continuing leadership eases the burden from other members and ensures a successful plant sale. The reputation and success of our plant sale has nothing to do with luck. Rather it is due to experience, excellent organisation and the contributions members have made in various ways by helping with small or major tasks. Thanks to you all.

- Bunnings BBQ. Not all our activities are directly associated with Australian plants. However this fund raising activity qualifies as an Australian Cultural Sausage Sizzle which raises funds used to fulfil some of our objectives. Thanks to everyone who participated in such a busy day.
- E A Owen Conservation Reserve. Several members, supported by locals, helped remove a large number of the invasive *Pittosporum undulatum*. Thanks to Judy and Ralph Smith who supplied all the gear and even morning tea.
- Garden visits in the district provided enjoyment and were of interest to members. We thank those who opened their gardens or made their properties available.

#### *Speakers*

- Many speakers volunteered to share their knowledge and expertise with our group and they all deserve our thanks.

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# President's Report – *continued*

## *Liaison with City of Casey and Friends of Wilson Botanic Park*

- Ian Chisholm has lead our dealings with Casey. Relations with the Wilson Botanic Park's horticultural staff have been excellent with cooperation being freely offered.
- Relations with Casey staff often hit brick walls. An example is our involvement in contributing comments on the Heffernan Report which was commissioned to review Botanical planting and organisation of WPB from the present and into the future. It took a year before the report was handed to APS-WPB for our comments. We submitted comprehensive comments and we are still awaiting a response.

## Special Thanks

- Thanks to all those who served on the committee. Special thanks to Rob Till whose methodical dealing with the accounts, handling of membership, constitutional issues which ensure we remain incorporated and for organising all the paperwork associated with the AGM.
- Joy Buck has fulfilled the task of our APS delegate for many years. Thanks to Joy for keeping us in touch with our parent body.
- Many people outside the committee have also made significant contributions and we thank all of them.

– Alex Smart

# Fascination of Orchid Pollination

Cranbourne Friends RBG Victoria Inc. Special Afternoon Talk. Come and view the 'Native Seduction' Art Exhibition then take in this fascinating talk! 'Fascination of Orchid Pollination' with Mitch Smith Sunday August 13, 2017, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm Australian Garden Auditorium, RBGV Cranbourne Gardens Cnr Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive Cranbourne.

Plants need pollinators! There is so much that we do not know about how pollination of Australian plants occurs. Come to this talk with the subtitle of 'Sex, Lies and Seduction' and become better acquainted with what has been discovered in recent times especially with Victoria's terrestrial orchids.

Mitch Smith has no formal training and is a self-professed ecologist/environmentalist. The ground breaking work by Mitch with Rudie Kuitert on Victoria's orchid pollinators is believed to be the most comprehensive work to date, with pollinators described for approx 150 species of orchids. This is citizen science at its best! Mitch owns Woolenook Native Plant Nursery in Maffra. He works on local re-vegetation and restoration projects and has accumulated knowledge and insights on many aspects of the environment. Mitch also acts as an advisor to current land managers on environmental matters, mostly to do with orchids and grassland management in his local area.

Mitch is a very enthusiastic knowledgeable person and this shines forth in his stimulating presentations. Make sure you do not miss this very special talk! The attached marvellous photographs may entice you to be in attendance! Costs: Members \$20 Non-members \$25 Students \$10 Bookings: Via attached Booking Form or [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au) This talk is being held as an accompanying event with the 'Native Seduction' Art Exhibition that is open through August at the Cranbourne Gardens. For further information: Phone 8774 2483, 0448 013 892.

### MEMBERS PLEASE!!!!!!

I need articles for the newsletter. So get busy and write an article PLEASE!

Email: [joysbuck@bigpond.com](mailto:joysbuck@bigpond.com)

Photos in their native format jpeg.

If posting photos they will be returned if requested.

Address: Joy Buck, 13 Anchorage Drive, Blind Bight, Vic. 3980

# Boronia megastigma lutea – The Yellow Boronia.

If you wanted a plant for fragrance in spring, then *Boronia megastigma lutea* is it.

From the south of Western Australia, *Boronia megastigma* offers the gardener a number of very attractive shrubs. The species itself with brown flowers, however both red and yellow forms are also available.

*Boronia megastigma lutea* is the yellow flowering form, and the flowers are a brilliant yellow in spring. This is a plant that can be grown in the garden or in a container.

The flowers are small and bell shaped, very fragrant and will cover the plant for weeks. The foliage a good deep green. *Boronia megastigma lutea* Care

Soil preparation before planting includes digging in some well rotted compost and ensuring that drainage is good.

After planting, water in well with a liquid seaweed fertiliser. Mulch around the plant to maintain a cool moist root run.

During long dry periods in summer, the occasional deep soaking may be beneficial.

## Pruning *Boronia megastigma lutea*

This is a plant that benefits from regular light pruning, best immediately after flowering. Always prune during cool weather when the plant has been watered.

## Summary

- Position – Part shade to light shade.
- Soil – Humus rich, moist and well drained.
- Height – Will reach around 1 metres
- Spread – Will spread to around .4 metres.
- Growth rate – fast
- Foliage – Mid to deep green..
- Flowers – Brilliant yellow to lime
- Flowering period – Spring

Drought tolerant – Will require some water during long dry periods.



## APS VIC Calendar Events

August 19 & 20: – Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Biodiversity Symposium on Marine Biodiversity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Details soon on website [www.fncv.org.au](http://www.fncv.org.au).

September 2:– APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, Princes Highway, Berwick. 9 am to 4.00 pm

September 9 & 10: – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre.

*Thank you to Cardinya View Nursery  
for bringing along a selection of tubestock for  
members to purchase.*

# Native Seduction Free Art Exhibition and Carolyn Landon talk on August 10.

To complement Native Seduction, Carolyn Landon, author of "Banksia Lady", the biography of famous botanical illustrator Celia Rosser, will give a talk about the history of botanical illustration at the Elliot Centre at 2pm on Thursday, 10 August.

Native Seduction is an exhibition of botanical art depicting the fascinating relationship between plants and their pollinators. It will be on display daily in the Visitors Centre of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne during the month of August. The paintings have been created by the Botanical Illustrators Group of the Cranbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria. Works by several of their tutors is included. A variety of mediums and techniques have been used including watercolour, coloured pencil, pen and ink and oil. All paintings are for sale. Commission from sales go to supporting the Cranbourne Gardens.

Botanical Art requires careful observation of the subject which is then depicted as a true representation of their plant and, in this case, the insect, bird or mammal that pollinate the plant. An artist will be present each Sunday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to get up close and ask questions whilst watching how the artist develops their work. Also on Wednesday 16th August artists will be in attendance for an informal talk between 11.00 am and 12.00 noon.



*Sandra Sanger "Jezebel Butterflies (delia species) are enticed to the rich nectar of the Drooping Mistletoe, Amyema Pendula Flowers.*

The Botanical Illustration Group meet to paint and draw at the Cranbourne Gardens on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm. A variety of workshops and talks are also held during the year.

The accompanying illustration is by Sandra Sanger 'Jezebel Butterflies (Deliaspecies) are enticed to the rich nectar of the Drooping Mistletoe, Amyema pendula flowers'.

Native Seduction opens on August 1 and runs until August 31 in the Visitors Centre at Cranbourne Gardens. It is free and wheel chair accessible. Opening hours are between 9am and 5pm, 7 days a week.

For further information about the Exhibition contact Margaret Holloway: Tel: 0438 985 382

Email: [illustrators@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au](mailto:illustrators@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au)

*This article was reproduced from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, Website. I like to promote events that are upcoming as we share a passion for Australian Native Plants, flora and fauna.*

*– Joy Buck, Editor*

*Thank you to Facey's Wholesale Nursery  
for their ongoing support in  
donating plants towards our raffle*