



February 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

Website for APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Inc. is

www.apswilsonparkberwick.org.au

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

Congratulations Alex

Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia in The General Division

Alex was awarded this medal for service to Conservation and the Environment.

Service includes:

Volunteer Guide, (now Garden Ambassador), Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, since 2004 and Volunteer, since 2001.

President, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 2004-2006 and Member, since 2001.

President, Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, 2005-2011 and Committee Member, 1994-2013.

Member, Wilson Park Branch, Australian Plants Society Victoria, current and Founding Member, Wyndham District, since 2007.

President, Werribee River Association, 2005-2011 and Member, since 2002.

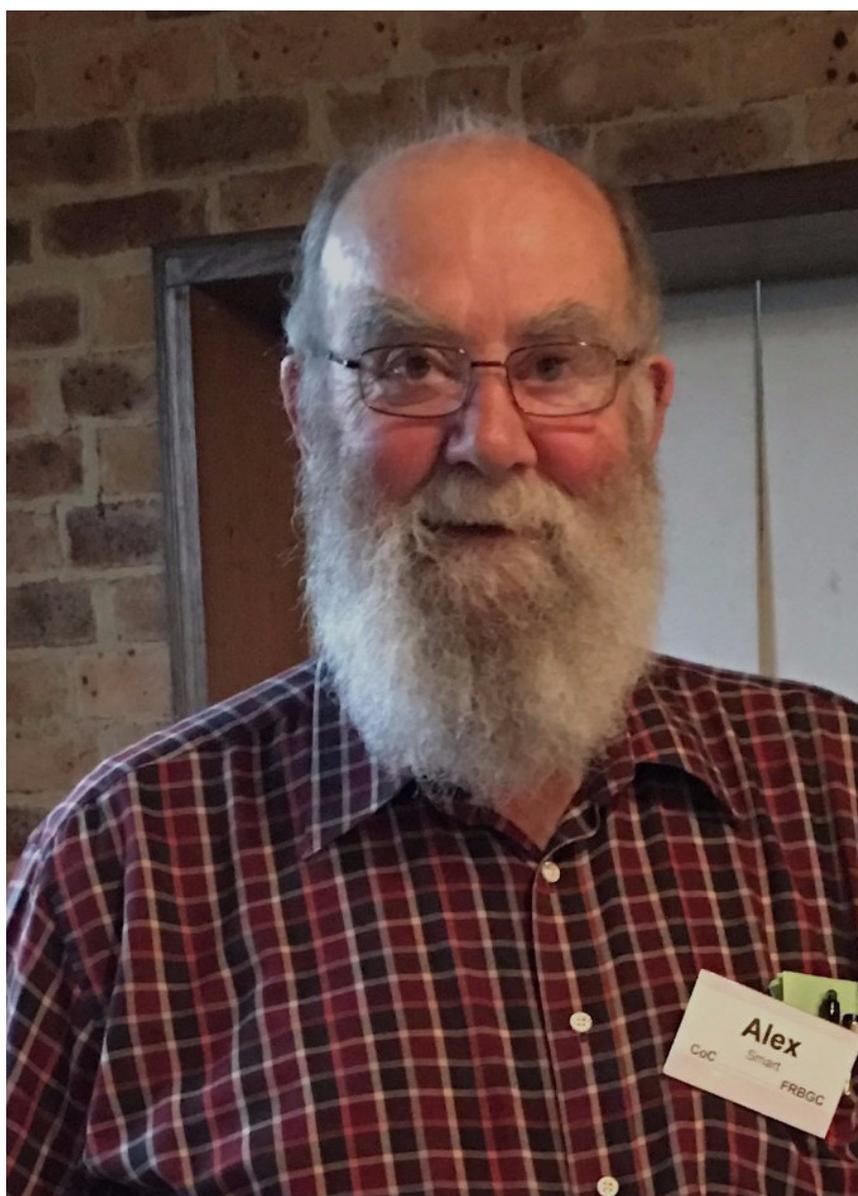
Member, Western Melbourne Catchments Network Inc.

Past Treasurer, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Member, since 1989.

Member, Friends of Merri Creek, 'for many years'.

Member, Pascoe Vale Naturalists, 1985-2000.

Awards and recognition includes:
Recipient, Centenary Medal, 2001.
Honorary Fellow, Metrology Society of Australia, since 2003.



Robin Allison's Living Memorial Orchid Walk in Cardinia Reservoir Park

Robin has a wonderful knowledge of the terrestrial Orchid hot-spots particularly around Berwick and up to Belgrave. Wendy and I were delighted when Robin offered to show us *Spiranthes australis*, common name Austral Ladies Tresses (the beautiful little flowers spiral up the flower stem). When we arrived at the site below the dam wall in the Cardinia Reservoir Park Robin explained that some years ago 4WD's were driving through the orchid area and churning through swampy spots on which these orchids rely. She mentioned this problem to Park Rangers and they promptly installed a row of bollards. Since then the orchids have been protected.



With Robin's approval I suggest it would be appropriate for us to declare open the 'Robin Allison Living Memorial Orchid Walk' and we hold a pilgrimage there between Christmas and New Year. Seasons vary so we would need to check the site before confirming a date for a pilgrimage.

– Alex Smart

Did the pilgrimage occur as planned, I have not received any information regarding this? –Editor

Master Plan of RBGC Gardens

Jill Burness attended our meeting in November 2016 and provided us with an interesting insight to the Master Plan of the RBGC Gardens.

Jill, Landscape Planner, is a wonderfully passionate advocate for the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Now that the Australia Garden is completed a public consultation process has been carried out so that staff can re-assess their plans for the future of the Gardens.

Jill emphasised that: "A botanic garden is no longer a walled garden, separated and inviolate. It spills out across the suburbs involving the community in new relationships and conversations with plants, and with each other".

Apart from continuing the maintenance and improvement of the Australia Garden for both horticulture and scientific purposes, the remaining 300ha of natural bushland also needs to be promoted.

The Gardens is becoming surrounded by subdivisions, so the co-operation with these areas becomes critical to provide safe habitat for the Garden ecology and the inclusion of corridors for native fauna through the district.

The Botanic Ridge subdivision abuts the southern boundary of the Gardens and a school will be built there. Garden staff have been negotiating with developers to ensure the interest of the school in preservation of the Gardens.

Some of the other proposals are new wetland area walks and an increase in the number of walking tracks, improvement in the previous farm area vegetation. Public transport issues remain a problem but a proposed train station closer to Clyde should improve the situation.

Jill's talk initiated a number of questions and suggestions towards the future of the Gardens demonstrating the amount of interest and support that exists throughout the community.

– Wendy Smart

Recycling

Recycling is a good way to help the environment and save you money and get some garage space back. The more things we can keep out of landfill the better. Remember, it's not just you getting rid of stuff that someone else may treasure, but also exploring the recycling goods to use yourself. Make sure then when you donate however it is reusable – many charities waste money sorting through rubbish that they then have to pay to send to landfill.

Two great ways to recycle garden and kitchen scraps is a worm farm and composting. Worm farms will digest kitchen scraps, just keep the farm cool in summer. Or compost, using a bin or even just bury it in the garden.

Local councils usually have a waste and recycling programme, as well as regular kerbside pickups. Check these out on your local council website for more details. There are also programmes that recycle electronic items such as phones and batteries, so look these up for one local to you. Make it easy to recycle by having a small bin for recycling in the kitchen, so materials can be thrown straight in.

There are a few things that you may do unthinkingly that have some bad effects on the environment, even though you may not see them. Pouring petrol, paint or solvents on the soil will not make them go away. The many chemicals in these liquids will soak down through the soil and reach the water table, and possibly poison your own trees. Otherwise they keep on soaking right through to groundwater, and spread from there. Once in groundwater, many break down into even more toxic chemicals. Contaminated groundwater is extremely expensive (millions of dollars) to clean up, and can often just not be done. Many places rely on groundwater for drinking, agriculture or irrigation. Chemicals poured on the ground can travel a long way from their spill point, reaching rivers, streams and the ocean, and poisoning people and creatures on the way.

Along the same lines, don't pour or wash solvents and rubbish down the stormwater drain. These are all connected to rivers and eventually the ocean, which bears a heavy load already from human activities. Don't make your yard a further burden on the environment by thoughtless waste disposal.

– Reprinted with permission of Cindy Tomamichel

Bird's Nest Fern

Bird's-nest fern is a common name applied to several related species of **epiphytic** ferns in the genus **Asplenium**. They grow in a tight, nest-like clump with a lingulate leaf rosette and are usually epiphytic, growing in trees.

Species known as bird's nest fern include:

- **A. nidus** (bird's-nest fern)
- **A. australasicum** (crow's-nest fern)
- **A. antiquum**
- **A. serratum** (wild bird's-nest fern)



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

Our first meeting for 2017

Some information about what is planned for our first meeting for 2017

1. Inspect APS plantings in the carpark with Trevor Seppings, Horticulturalist, who has taken over responsibility for this area
2. Visit the Wilson Botanic Park Nursery and growing area with Trevor.
3. Check the Lakeside Promenade to speculate on how APS-WPB may benefit from its use.
4. Brief meeting (perhaps less formal than usual) to consider.

4.1 Invitation from Friends WPB to participate in 'Celebrating Community Groups' on Saturday April 1.

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park are inviting not-for-profit Community Groups to use this occasion to publicise activities, recruit new members and perhaps raise funds via a sales stall.

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park will cover publicity and there would be no charge to APS-Wilson Botanic Park (Berwick) Inc. Space would be provided in the Amphitheatre or the Lakeside Promenade.

Expressions of interest are required by February 17.

4.2 Update Members on Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Easter Sunday April 16. This presents a huge opportunity for APS-Wilson Botanic Park (Berwick) Inc. as it would be expected to be very busy

The committee is keen to proceed although we recognise that clashes with other commitments may affect the number of volunteers.

5. Friends RBG Cranbourne have provided 16 6inch pots of Kangaroo Paws which we can sell for \$8.00/ pot. They will be for sale at this meeting.

They are Anigozanthos 'Landscape Violet' released for sale by Angus Stewart in November 2016. RRP is \$15.00 pot so they are offered at almost half-price.

The plants are of the reliable tall growing variety and are very well grown.

DIARY DATES 2017

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7: 7.30pm Feb is our General Meeting as February 14 is Valentine's Day. We will be walking around the Gardens.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21: Our first Committee Meeting of the year.

Ian Chisholm, as Vice President of Friends Wilson Botanic Park, has advised that the Friends are looking for expressions of interest in groups to participate in "Celebrate our Community Groups". It will be held on Sat April 1, 2017. The expressions of interest need to be sent before Friday February 17, before our Committee Meeting.

Could you please advise any thoughts/agreement/etc so that we can respond.

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