



# May 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>).

## Six Months in the Garden

The past six months has been a most interesting and varied period for us out in the garden. 2017 was a very good planting year for us, with about 350 new plants being added across the garden. Additionally, there were numerous losses, particularly with young hibbertias, but in general the correas fared very well. Planting continued through January 2018, but then the rain clouds went on vacation and the whole gardening game changed.

From the beginning of February 2018, the very hot, dry period set in seriously, so the planting regime was basically suspended until conditions moderated. For almost 2 months we watered, plus mulched up the slow stream of dead and dying plants. I had learned that other folk had lost numerous correas; we lost the odd correa, both newly planted and well established, but in hindsight this was at a nuisance level, not a disaster one. The main task was to employ the watering cans and hoses to regularly water the freshly planted and young plants, plus those older plants that began looking tired. We employ a system of placing a flower pot or tube on the name stake of each plant as it is placed out into the garden, a different sized pot or tube for each different planting session. This we found to be a highly useful guide as to the watering requirements for each plant.

Once into April, the dry remained, but the days shortened and the heat moderated, so we were once more able to resume planting on a limited scale, taking considerable time and care with watering. Being resident here now for just over 7 years, the number of planting spaces has



*Correa reflexa* (running creek)



## Six Months in the Garden – *continued*

shrunk drastically, so now we must be most selective as to what is selected to insert into those last remaining small spaces. The smaller plants now being selected include mainly correas, hibbertias and epacris, mostly cutting grown on site. We aim to retain at least 2 specimens of each correa variant in our garden; so, if a correa loss is experienced, that is to be replaced as a highest priority, even if there is a waiting period for that to happen. We do not wish to lose our long time friends.

Finally, the rains arrived with high winds and hail. The household cooling system was turned off one day and the heaters switched on the next, but at long last the daily watering regime could come to an end.

Over the summer, we removed the cuttings from the bottom heat in the hot house and placed them in a shade house where there was no direct sunlight on them. The small pots of cuttings were placed in trays, without any coverings, and watered 2 or 3 times daily by a hose. This method worked extremely well over the period of excessive heat. This meant that we now have our planting bases all covered, plus there is a number in excess that we may be Santa with, and distribute them to fellow enthusiasts.

In our climate we find correas to be quite hardy and adaptable. One notable variant is *Correa reflexa* Running Creek. We have a very happy specimen that for its first years grew happily in full shade. With the removal of a nearby tree, the plant was then in full sun, but it kept on growing as if nothing had changed.

A quick check showed that about 70 correas have been in the garden less than 6 months and are all becoming happily established. The autumn-winter correa show has commenced, and we shall soon enjoy the fruits of the garden as much as will the honeyeaters.  
– *Bob O'Neill*

## Jamie Simpson's Talk on Bushfoods

Our APS members were pleased to welcome Jamie Simpson to our meeting in April.

Jamie now lives in Gembrook and operates his business "Walkabout Education". From his childhood he remembers he has been told that his family has Victorian Aboriginal heritage with the Bunurong people through his mother.

He has now spent many years researching and learning about Australian plants and how they can be used for food and a sustainable life. Everything the Aboriginal people required for food, shelter, and tools had to be provided by their environment. A didgeridoo, possum skin, wadis of various sizes, strings and ropes were part of his display.

Green stone cutting implements were not used with the force from their hands, but placed in position for cutting bark or skins, then hit with a harder wadi to become a cutting implement. Shields used for fighting were cut from *Exocarpus cupressiformis*, (or Cherry Ballard). For the one on display, Jamie cut the shape from the tree and while the article was still green wood, an Aboriginal elder created the design on it. *Zanthoxylum* minor and major flower spikes were used together and twisted until the heat created embers and a fire.

*Pimela axiflora*, Bootlace Bush, offers bark that is stronger than hemp. The bark of the long stems was stripped away to find the strongest fibre. Large tree fern branches provided protection. There are many plants, fruits and berries that could be promoted and marketed.

Recently Jamie took part in an initiation ceremony and has become a respected member of the Bunurong Community. Part of their advice to him was that we all feel spirit of the country. When a person feels a love and special bond with a particular place, that becomes the spirit of country.

With the assistance of the local Bunurong Community, Jamie has recently written "Bush Foods and Survival Plants of South-east Australia". It lists 100 plants categorised into seeds, fruits, foliage, roots, fungi and others that we could learn about and be encouraged to use.

A copy of the book was purchased for the APS library and is available should anyone wish to borrow it.  
– *Wendy Smart*

## MEMBERS

The Committee is asking members to please write articles for the Newsletter. We have thought of rostering members to participate. For next months Newsletter members surnames beginning with "A" and "B" to write a small article of their choice with photos if possible.  
Email: [joysbuck@bigpond.com](mailto:joysbuck@bigpond.com) Address: 13 Anchorage, Blind Bight, Vic. 3980.

# Committee Members retiring

We have a few retirees, Alex Smart is retiring as President, Georgie and Robert Till are moving interstate.

At our AGM in August the Committee will be asking members to consider in taking up one of the following positions: President; Vice-President; Treasurer.

Bob O'Neill will still be one of the Vice-Presidents, but we would like another one. Anyone interested in joining the committee will be most welcome.

Wendy Smart will remain as Secretary.

## Upcoming Events

**MAY 5:** APS Mornington Peninsula. 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, at Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd.

**MAY 12:** APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. From 9 am to 1 pm.

**JUNE 16:** APS Mornington Peninsula host a one day event with an excursion in the afternoon, and an optional informal pub evening meal. Commencing at 10.00 am. Benton Square Community Centre, Bentons Rd, Mornington.

**JUNE 16 to 27:** ANPSA 2018 Kimberley Tour – Kununurra to Broome. Details from Nicky Zanen, email [nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 0401975191.

**JUNE 30 and JULY 1:** APS Ballarat District Group Winter Flower Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

**JULY 21 & 22:** Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Winter Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

**AUGUST 18 & 19:** APS Foothills hosts APS Victoria Quarterly Gathering – Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills – including the Victorian COMM and AGM.

**SEPTEMBER 1:** APS Wilson Park Australian Native Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, 668 Princes Highway, Berwick. From 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. No entry fee.

**SEPTEMBER 8 & 9:** APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.

**SEPTEMBER 22 & 23:** Bendigo Native Plant Group Australian Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive (off Olympic Parade), Kangaroo Flat Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

**OCTOBER 6 & 7:** APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, 10.00 – 4.00 on Sunday.

**OCTOBER 13 & 14:** South Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Flower Show, South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Pavilion, Leongatha Recreating Reserve. 10 am to 4 pm both days.

**OCTOBER 20 & 21:** FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae, co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians. Contact email [fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com](mailto:fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com) or Royce Raleigh, Chairman of FJC Rogers Goodeniaceae Seminar 2018 Committee Phone 5383 6200.

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

# Diary Dates 2018



- TUESDAY, May 8            7.30pm            Speakers will be Irene from Knox Environment Network and Anne from Whitehorse environment Group. They will speak about Gardens for Wildlife Movement. This movement has been taken up by various Councils such as Knox and Casey and there is a great deal of discussion and promotion for the idea.
- TUESDAY, June 12        7.30pm            Speaker will be John Thomson who is President of APS South East Melbourne and Cranbourne Friends. John led a tour in 2017 to Western Australia. Originally from WA and an expert in plants, John has plenty of knowledge and photos of the trip.
- TUESDAY, August 14     7.30pm            Will be our AGM, so please come. To begin the evening we will have Elizabeth Fraser of the Cardinia Environment Coalition. This group is undertaking a development within the Deep Creek Pakenham area to create an Indigenous Nursery and Environment Education Centre to serve the South-east region. It will be an important development and they are looking for funds to complete the project.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY FURTHER IDEAS OF SPEAKERS FOR 2018 PLEASE LET OUR SECRETARY WENDY SMART OR ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER KNOW SO THAT THEY CAN FOLLOW THEM UP.

## Australian Textile Exhibition at the Australian Garden Cranbourne

It commenced on Tuesday May 8th and continues through to Mothers Day on Sunday May 13th. The Exhibition is open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm each day, in the Visitor Centre and the Auditorium.

Once again this year's Exhibition is co-ordinated by Leesa Chandler from Chandlers Cottage and Leesa has kindly donated a quilt which will be raffled to support the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne, and also tempting second and third prizes. An additional incentive to come along is that Friends Members will be able to receive a 10% discount on all Chandlers Cottage items available for sale during the Exhibition – as long as you show your Membership Card. A similar discount will apply to items purchased from the Cranbourne Friends 'Botanical Fabricators' display, with the exception of Raffle Tickets, which are \$2.00 each. The winning ticket will be drawn on the Sunday afternoon. If you need any further information you can phone 8774 2483.

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