



Foothills News

Acacia stictophylla Cinnamon Wattle

APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

November Newsletter 2022

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tony Slater PhD – Wildflowers of the Wimmera and Whitehorse

Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Rd, Knoxfield.
7.45pm.



FOOTHILLS END OF YEAR Break-up/Get-together

Saturday 3rd December, 2022, 12 noon, at Kerry Davis' house. Details on page 3.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

ON THE BENCH

Championing a cascading Kunzea

Chris Larkin looks at a tough, adaptable plant that's hard to beat. See page 14.

Australian plants in pots and containers

Our October meeting was a hit!

See a small selection of the plants members are growing in pots and containers on page 4.



Hi Everyone,

Our October meeting was very popular and I was pleased to see so many members keen to take part, and talk about the Australian plants they are growing in pots.

We saw a wide range of plants being grown in all manner of pots and containers. Everyone's enthusiastic input meant that it turned out to be a much longer evening than usual but I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. Thanks again everyone for getting into the spirit of it and showing us what you're growing in pots.

We had a few visitors at our meeting as well and it's always great to share our passion with them. Alex Stalder was one of our visitors and I'm pleased to report that she has since joined our group as a member, so welcome Alex, from all of us at Foothills.

Our last meeting for the year is our November meeting and we have Tony Slater coming to talk to us about the wildflowers of the Wimmera and Whitehorse. The two areas appear unrelated but Tony will explain what the connection between the two is. If you haven't already seen Tony's Guide to the Eucalypts of Whitehorse and Surrounds then you'll find the link in this newsletter. It is a downloadable key the Eucalypts we can find in our area and although it focuses on Whitehorse, many of the species are found in our Foothills area too. The guide contains a useful key and a glossary of all the terms and is a brilliant way to hone your skills in Eucalypt identification.

If you were unable to attend the ANPSA conference in Kiama in September, they have uploaded several of the presentations that were recorded at the conference to their YouTube channel. There are over twenty of videos so you're sure to find something interesting. The link to the channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AustralianPlantsocietyNSW>

Of particular interest amongst the many presentations, is one that features our very own Chris Larkin, who presented in a chat room

session entitled "Plant Selection and Management in Garden Design". You can see Chris in action at: <https://youtu.be/BBILep5laWE>

I hope you've saved the first Saturday in December for our end-of-year break-up/get together. It's at Kerry's house this year and as it's always such a pleasant, festive and relaxed occasion, I'm looking forward to spending the time in your good company as we end our Foothills year.

See you all next time.

Janet Hodgkiss

November Meeting: Tony Slater - Wildflowers of the Wimmera and Whitehorse

Tony Slater PhD is a Botanist with 40 years' experience in botanical and agricultural research in native orchids, the Australian flora, cut flowers, potatoes and grains.

His research on native plants required a strong understanding of the Australian flora, taxonomy and ecology. He is a Life Member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society (Vic group). His Master's degree was on the reproductive biology of a native orchid, and his PhD was on improving the breeding methods in potato. He has published extensively with 2 theses, 52 peer-refereed scientific papers, 8 books, and over 200 industry articles, reports and book chapters. Recently, Tony has been volunteering with the City of Whitehorse Environmental Education program and leading community walks in local bushland reserves to educate the community about the local flora.

In 2021 Tony published a guide to the eucalypts of Whitehorse and surrounds.



Screenshot from Whitehorse City Council website: Council's Tree Education Officer Belinda Moody with volunteer Tony Slater

If you are interested in Tony's guide to the Eucalypts of Whitehorse and Surrounds, you can download a copy of the guide at:
<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/trees-and-gardens/trees/eucalypts-whitehorse>

Foothills End-of-Year Break-up Get-together

Saturday, 3rd December, 2022, 12 noon

This year, we'll be getting together on the first Saturday in December at Kerry Davis' house.

We'll have our usual bring-and-share, and Foothills will provide cooked chicken, a couple of large quiches, a selection of breads/rolls, sparkling mineral water, tea and coffee.

The address and time details are at the bottom, and please also bring the following:

- 1) Your own crockery, cutlery, cup and/or glass.
- 2) A plate to share (e.g., salad, side-dish, nibbles or snacks, dessert).
- 3) Something to drink if you want something other than water, tea/coffee (e.g., soft drink, wine, beer).
- 4) Camp chair (Kerry says they have plenty of chairs but if you have one that you can keep in

your car, in case we run short, that would be handy).

Date: Saturday, 3rd December, 2022

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Kerry Davis' House

Address:

(Melway

Pop the date in your diary and see you there!

From the Secretary

Welcome to New Member

A very warm welcome to Alex Stalder from The Basin, who joined us after the FJC Rogers Seminar.

I'm not sure if we have formally welcomed Ana and David McCloskey. It has been terrific to see you so involved and thank you all for coming on board.



Waratah in my garden

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

Australian plants in pots and planters

What a great evening we had at our October meeting when we discovered what we're all growing in pots and containers.

There was a terrific range of plants, a wide variety of pots and containers, and most interesting, was that we had very few overlaps! People were also happy to share what has both worked and not worked for them.

We had bush foods and climbers, shrubs providing food for wildlife, enthusiastically flowering orchids, special plants that people are keen to try growing, loads of pretties, plants grown specifically for their foliage, some wonderful combination plantings and even a couple of trees!

It means we're all trying different plants, and by the looks of the images, doing pretty well with growing them too! The range also shows there's no reason why everyone, even if they only have a couple of square metres of space, couldn't try their hand at growing any Australian plant that took their fancy.

Here is a selection of what you shared with us.



Liz Triggs: *Banksia spinulosa* in a very large terracotta tub is very popular with the birds (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Debbie McMillan: *Citrus australasica*, Finger Lime, in a spot well-protected from the wind and getting a couple of hours morning sun (Photo: Debbie McMillan)



Janet Higman: *Dendrobium kingianum* grows happily in a hanging basket lined with the bark from a paperbark tree (Photo: Janet Higman)



Nicky Zanen: Bush food in a wine barrel - Mountain Pepper, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, is in a semi-shaded spot under a pergola, while *Rhododendron lochiaie* in a small terracotta pot provides a splash of colour when it's in flower (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Debbie McMillan: *Eremophila cuneifolia*. Pots can be used in the garden to provide a bit of height and can be a feature in themselves (Photo: Debbie McMillan)



Chris Larkin: Variegated *Acmena* is grown for foliage interest and the cream glazed pot complements the foliage too
Pot size: 270mm (H) x 300mm (W)
 (Photo: Chris Larkin)



Ross and Pam McDonald: Potted specimen of *Grevillea quercifolia* flowering well
 (Photos: Ross and Pam McDonald)



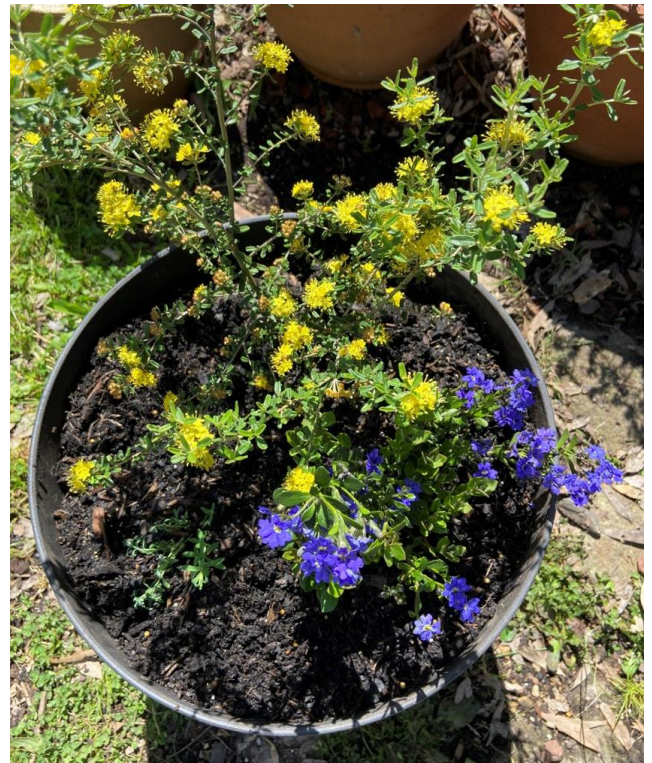
Monika Herrmann: The blue of *Brunonia australis* Blue Pincushion (still in bud) and the bright yellow of *Chrysocephalum ramosissimum* complement each other well in this terracotta pot (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



Debbie McMillan: *Brachyscome* 'Brasco Violet' spills over and softens the edge of a metal container (Photo: Debbie McMillan)



Chris Larkin: The new growth of *Agapetes meiniana* (from QLD) is flushed with red
 Pot size: 650mm (H) x 350mm (W)
 (Photo: Chris Larkin)



Monika Herrmann: Another blue and yellow combination. Here a bright yellow *Phebalium squamulosum* provides height and the vivid blue *Dampiera stricta* 'Cobalt Blue' will fill out and cover the soil beneath
 (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



Kerry Davis: Tetratheca from outside Tumut State Forest (NSW) thriving in a terracotta pot
(Photo: Kerry Davis)



Shirley Smith: The idea was to have the mauve flowers of the *Eremophila nivea* and the darker purple-blue of the *Dampiera* in this pot. The combination may not be creating the desired effect here as the *Eremophila* has grown a bit too vigorously and become leggy
(Photo: Shirley Smith)



Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Pine)

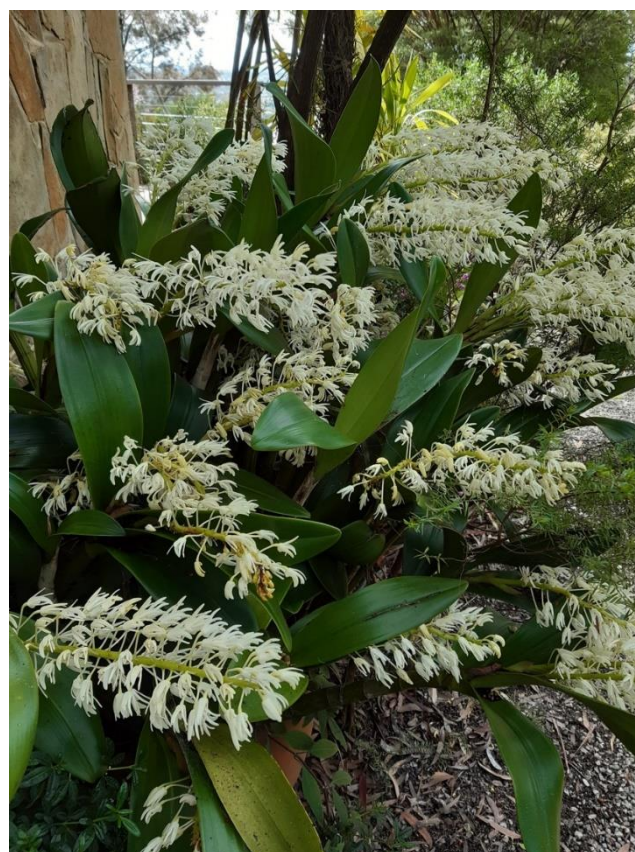


Wollemia nobilis (Wollemi Pine)

Ross and Pam McDonald: L: *Araucaria bidwillii*, Bunya Pine, R: *Wollemia nobilis* Wollemi Pine may soon outgrow their pots but look great!
(Photos: Ross and Pam McDonald)



Jean and Peter Bellis: The pinkish-red flowers of *Prostanthera aspalathoides* pick up the colours in this glazed pot
(Photo: Jean Bellis)



Chris Larkin: It has been a good year for this potted *Dendrobium speciosum* which has forty or more flower spikes
Pot size: 320mm (H) x 320mm (W)
(Photo: Chris Larkin)



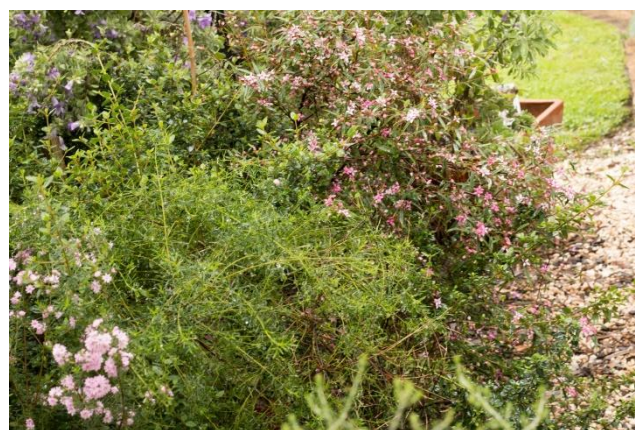
Kerry Davis: A terracotta bowl suits this dainty and airy combination provided by *Actinotus helianthi* Flannel Flower, *Scaevola calliptera* (blue-purple flowers), a white *Tetratheca*, a couple of colours of *Dampiera trigona* and *Dampiera diversifolia* (not in flower). These plants are used for cutting material
(Photo: Kerry Davis)



Ross and Pam McDonald: The conditions *Grevillea tenuiloba* likes growing in can be catered for in a terracotta pot
(Photo: Ross / Pam McDonald)



Jean and Peter Bellis: Growing a Pale Vanilla Lily, *Arthropodium milleflorum*, in a pot allows you to admire its delicate beauty at close quarters
(Photo: Jean Bellis)



Kerry Davis: Growth is so lush you'd never know these boronias are all growing in pots! At bottom left, a double form of *Boronia violacea* and top right is a Boronia hybrid
(Photo: Kerry Davis)



Nicky Zanen: Nicky has had variable success with growing Epacris in her soil but has found that simply sinking the pots they are growing in straight into the ground, is giving her good results. The *Epacris* 'Nectar Pink' (on the left) is seven years old now, and the other is a newer planting
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



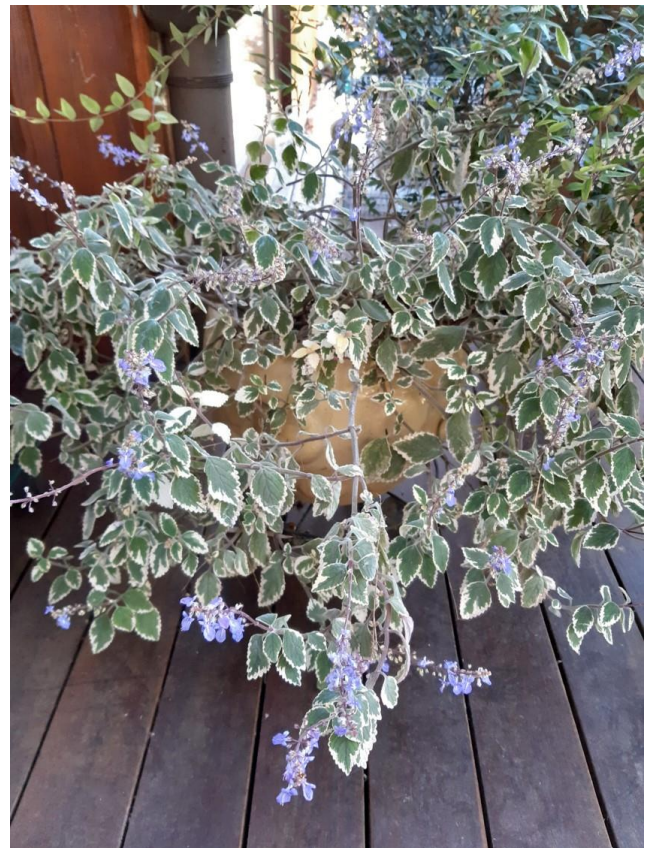
Shirley Smith: *Dendrobium delicatum* thriving in a wooden planter box (Photo: Shirley Smith)



L: *Lechenaultia biloba* and *Thomasia pygmaea*
R: *Isopogon dubius* grow well in chimney pots (Photo: Ana McCloskey)



Liz Triggs: A big green pot with *Eremophila waitii*, *Grevillea lanigera* 'Mellow Yellow' and *Scaevola aemula* 'Alba'. Plants flowering at different times provide floral interest over a longer period (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Chris Larkin: *Plectranthus parviflorus* 'Blue Spires' is a variegated form and brings a feeling of light to shadier spots (Photo: Chris Larkin)



Anigozanthos manglesii in re-purposed, upside-down chimney pots (Photo: Ana McCloskey)



Nicky Zanen: *Hibbertia scandens* Snake Vine in a small narrow pot covers a water tank, although there are suspicions that its roots may have made their way between the pavers into the soil beneath!
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Bev Fox: Maureen Schaumann's *Hardenbergia comptoniana* shows how regular, constant pruning keeps it very compact and encourages masses of flowers (Photo: Bev Fox)



Bev Fox: A double form of *Boronia pilosa* in a terracotta pot (Photo: Bev Fox)

Growing Australian plants in pots and containers

1. Why grow plants in pots?

The obvious answer is “because we can”. Growing plants in containers does require extra work and is more labour intensive than in-ground gardening, especially if your plants are to stay in optimum health. It can however be very rewarding and is often the perfect solution to trying to garden in a tricky situation.

Space may be limited or there may be no access to natural ground, e.g., balcony, paved courtyard, atrium.

You can display or show off a special plant, or have it where it can be admired when it’s looking its best.

Plants are more mobile in pots and can be moved around to take advantage of the prevailing weather and aspect.

You can nurture and grow things in your area that you’d not normally be able to grow in your natural soil, and you can provide the right growing conditions and/or protect them from inclement weather.

When propagating, you can provide the best growing conditions to ensure good results when making cuttings, sowing seeds, and when growing plants on.

Pots allow for impact and flexibility when used in a garden design.

2. Pot and container type, shape and size

The sky’s the limit as to what can be used and the choice is immense! Pots and containers can be made from many different materials and each has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Plastic is light-weight and relatively cheap but can be unattractive. It’s ideal to use as an inner for decorative containers, and is easy to clean, sterilise and re-use.

Terracotta, ceramic, concrete or glazed pots are highly decorative, yet practical. They can however be very heavy, especially when filled with soil,

can break or crack if they fall over, and tend to dry out more easily unless sealed.



Plastic pots may not be attractive but are ideal to use as inners for more decorative pots (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Re-purposed containers in wood or metal can be functional or whimsical, and hanging baskets, troughs and various substrates for orchids and ferns also count as containers.

When it comes to shape and size, avoid containers that become narrow at the top, as repotting will be almost impossible unless either the plant or the pot is sacrificed.

Matching or balancing pot size and plant size helps not only in terms of design but also plant health. A small plant in a very big or deep container can cause problems as the plant won’t be actively using most of the soil, and it may go sour and cause rotting of the roots. Also consider what is feasible in terms what you can manage, or what equipment you’ll need, should you wish to move a pot once it’s planted up.

Provided container size is adequate, large shrubs and small trees can be successfully grown in pots.

3. Media

The choice of which media to use very much depends on what you’re growing.

When it comes to Australian plants you can either use a commercial, ready-made mix formulated for natives which often includes some slow-release fertiliser and water storing granules, or you can blend your own.

If you blend your own you have the freedom to tailor the mix to the plant's needs. For example, you could use a simple, regular potting mix as a base, then add washed river sand or perlite to improve drainage, some home-made compost, and some slow-release fertiliser (if desired). The ratios will depend on the plants. For native epiphytic orchids, a well-drained mix of bark mulch, a small amount of leafy compost and a tiny bit of soil works well. For ferns, a similar mix to orchids can be used, with a bit more compost and soil, or coco-peat, to retain more moisture.

3. Caring for native plants in pots

Caring for any plant in a pot or container includes fertilising, watering, pest and disease control, avoiding physical damage, repotting and pruning.

Fertilising - There's a myth that you shouldn't fertilise native plants but the truth is that all plants require a good balance of nutrients in the soil in order to thrive, and native plants are no exception.

When it comes to plants in pots, the critical thing to remember is that they have limited soil available and can't send their roots out to seek more nutrients and water, so supplementing with a fertiliser may be required to keep the plant in good health.

Australian plants are adapted to our older (low-nutrient) soils and work in conjunction with soil microbes to utilise all available nutrients.

A healthy, living soil is important for this to occur. Plants showing nutritional deficiencies, such as those grown in pots, can be supplemented with organic or slow-release fertilisers which present minimal threats to soil microbes. Some species that grow naturally in phosphorus-poor soils develop 'proteoid' roots. These are extremely efficient at utilising the small amounts of available phosphorus, so excess amounts of phosphorous, such as in a fertiliser, can become toxic to the plant. For native plants, phosphorus in a fertiliser formulation should ideally be < 3% to avoid toxic levels being taken up by plants.

Various forms of fertiliser can be used and these include granular (controlled-release or slow-release) fertilisers, liquid fertilisers and organic fertilisers (both in solid and liquid forms).

With granular, controlled-release or slow-release fertilisers, nutrient release depends on temperature - more when it is warm and plants are actively growing, less when it is cold and growth is slow. Add it to potting mix when transplanting or repotting, if the mix doesn't already contain a controlled release fertiliser. Apply it early spring when soils are warming up and plants are putting on new growth, and repeat in early autumn.



Granular, slow-release fertilisers formulated for natives are low in phosphorus

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Liquid fertiliser is taken up easily by plants. The formulas often contain an organic component such as fish, seaweed, blood and bone and liquid composts, so can be smelly if used on indoor plants, but non-organic liquid fertilisers are available.

Organic, and partially organic, fertiliser is derived from organic sources and is beneficial to soil microbes. It can be plant based, i.e., compost and seaweed extracts, or animal based, i.e., animal manures (cattle, horse, sheep), poultry droppings or fish emulsion. Organic fertiliser can be either in a solid or liquid form. Care should be taken when using any of the solid forms, especially in pots, as it can be quite concentrated and could burn plant roots.

Watering - Water is vital to keep plants alive! The combination of a small irrigation system, if practical in your situation, along with hand

watering works well for plants. Hand watering allows you to inspect plants regularly and an irrigation system allows you to go on holiday without having to worry about your plants not being watered. Hand watering means you can also tailor the amount of water each individual potted plant needs. Clustering pots together helps retain moisture and protects each other from the heat.



A water timer controls the irrigation system and the hose is still free for hand watering - a set-up like this makes it easy to look after pots

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Pest and disease control - Plants in pots can be more susceptible as they are growing under stress. Stress includes being too dry, too wet, too warm, too cold!

Stressed plants are more susceptible to fungal diseases such as inkspot, mildew and root dieback, and insects such as aphids, spider mite, leafminer, mites, caterpillars etc., can also gain hold. If this happens, then an Integrated Pest Management approach is best for both your plants and wildlife.

Physical protection - Mechanical damage caused by wind can cause chaos... and heartache! Ensure pots are heavy enough to withstand being blown over. Mass them together to support each other, or tie or secure them to something to prevent damage.

Re-potting and pruning - This is necessary to keep your potted plants in good health and looking good. It allows you to refresh, renew or rejuvenate the plant, or to change containers if you want a new or different look.

Plants should be re-potted when they have outgrown the container or have died, or overall plant health is waning and the plant is not responding to fertilisers. Plants should also be re-potted if the root ball has completely filled the container or soil has pulled away from the sides of the pot. If this is the case, water will run down between the root ball and pot, straight out the bottom and won't get to the roots, which will dry out too much so the plant starts ailing and may die.

Prune or tip prune regularly, or as plant growth dictates, to keep it compact and in shape. Rotating pots will help maintain even growth. When repotting, you can also give the plant a light root and canopy prune, and repot into the same size container with fresh soil. The key is to keep up with watering and provision of nutrients, and repot into a bigger size every few years if necessary/required.

And lastly, plant selection. We've got the most incredible choice of native plants we can grow and the sky's the limit when it comes to pots, so apart from providing a few essentials to ensure your potted plants thrive, you can do what you fancy and have a whole lot of fun with Australian plants in pots!

Janet Hodgkiss

On the Bench -

***Kunzea ambigua* prostrate**

There was a wonderful array of flowers on the bench at the last meeting. Why wouldn't there be – it's Spring after all.

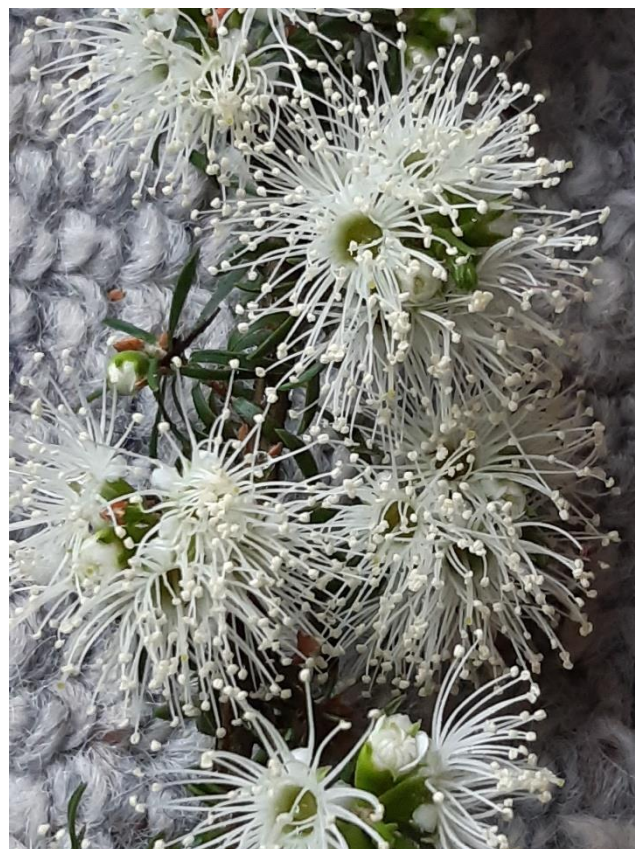
Despite being spoilt for choice I have decided to champion one plant in particular which has proved tough, adaptable and spectacular in flower. Just look at how it is cascading down the back embankment at my place looking like it has been hit by a snowstorm.



***Kunzea ambigua* prostrate cascades down the bank** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

Kunzea is an endemic genus with around thirty-five species found in the eastern states and the south of WA, which has the greatest number. They are woody shrubs or trees with aromatic foliage when crushed. Flowers are five-petaled with very prominent, generally very numerous, stamens, which is clear in the picture of the flower of *Kunzea ambigua* prostrate. While *kunzeas* are generally pink or mauve pink e.g., *Kunzea parvifolia*, *K. affinis*, *K. preissiana*, they

can be red e.g., *K. pulchella*, *K. baxteri*, yellow e.g., *K. muelleri* or white as in the case of the one I am featuring here.



***Kunzea ambigua* prostrate with white flowers**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Kunzea pomifera, known as muntries, has fleshy edible fruits. It was possibly the first of the genus to be cultivated in 1791 in England.

I have not been successful, over time, growing the tall version of *Kunzea ambigua* for some reason, but I have had a lot of success with the prostrate form. I have found it adaptable to a range of growing conditions – moist or dry, sunny or shady, although the tougher the conditions the slower it grows. But it continues to grow. It is also long-lived. The plant in the middle of the picture, showing three of them growing down an embankment, is around thirty-one years old. It is one of my go-to plants, so I have around eight in the garden.

Reference: Elliot and Jones 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants'.

Chris Larkin

Out and About

And suddenly it is November and to my disbelief, this is our last newsletter for the year.

Thank goodness the restrictions for Covid are behind us, although I hope to goodness I don't put a lurgi on us and that restrictions are reintroduced. But at least I've made the most of getting out and about, with visits to Kiama, Swan Hill and Mt Eliza recently.

Just as I was waking up on last Saturday, at 6.15am, I heard Melbourne's breakfast show Costa Georgiadis waxing lyrical about Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn where he had spent a couple of days filming with the Gardening Australia crew. He hadn't known it existed, and also made some complimentary comments about the 'hort' staff at Maranoa. This would include our own member Paul Birch, and Andrea Dennis. If you want to hear this, the link is:

<https://www.abc.net.au/melbourne/programs/saturdaybreakfast/saturday-breakfast/14095608>

On my travels today I came upon a beautiful patch of a prostrate callistemon at Scoresby Village. With the angle of the sun, the tips looked golden. I am always thrilled to see native plants in public places. With the callistemon were *Bulbine bulbosa*, which gave a nice yellow red combination.

Earlier in the day I had taken part in a walk in Westgate Park. I visited the park in October 2019 for the first time, and there were some terrific improvements, especially a new toilet block. The plants have grown astonishingly over the last three years, but unfortunately Parks Victoria did not allow volunteers into the park during our Covid lockdowns and the weeds have run away. No matter, as the park still looks stunning and is certainly worth a stop. It is 40 hectares, has over 170 bird species recorded and has over nine plant communities.



Prostrate Callistemon (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Westgate Park (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

I found two plants in full bloom here that are still in bud in Boronia, it must be significantly warmer there, *Juncea viminalis* and wahlenbergia. But what I loved most was a field of pig face, *Carpobrotus* sp., reminding us of the fields of daisies in the West.

It is a lovely park with interesting views, lots of cyclists and is one of Melbourne's best hidden treasures. A renovated rubbish dump, made

beautiful primarily on the back of hardworking volunteers, and a 19 year old who had walked from Mornington Peninsula to Melbourne and came across this eyesore. Instead of whingeing about it, she set about starting a Friends Group. Twenty years later this is a tribute to her farsightedness and a definite destination to stop at instead of driving over or by.



Field of pig face, *Carpobrotus* sp.
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

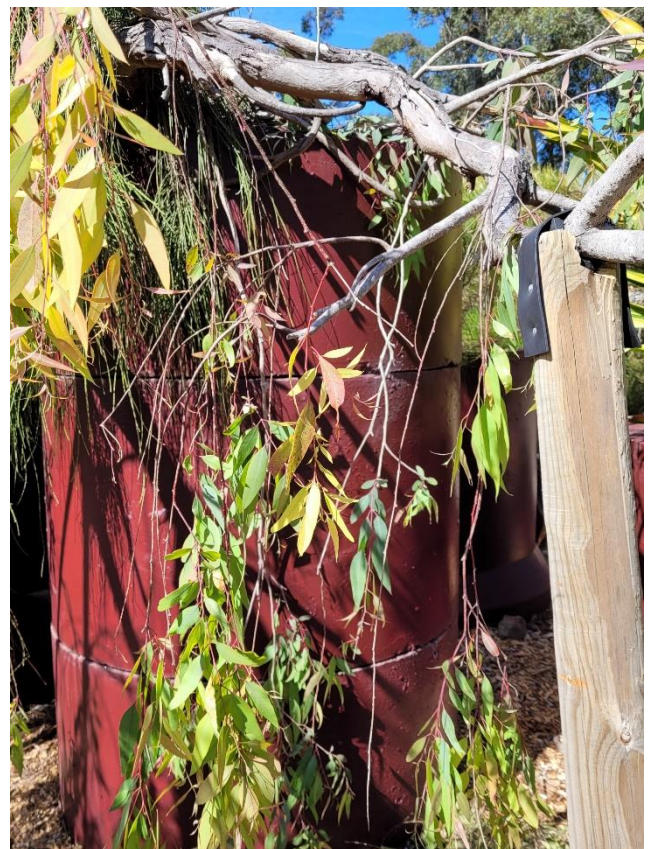
There was such a vibrant atmosphere at our last meeting and fantastic to have so many visitors. Janet did an amazing job of bringing containers to the fore, and left us with so many great ideas and hints. The most important tip for me was to place container plants on upturned saucers during winter so they aren't sitting in water.

There was one slide I didn't include in my collection on the night, but I did want to mention it. It's a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, the River Red Gum, in a pipe seen in the Illawarra Grevillea Garden recently. It took me a while to realize it was a container grown plant, as it spread its limbs all over the place.

There was also a plaque stating the following:
**Gaunt the Red Gums rise, and brood
In primeval solitude.**
Louis Esson Red Gums 1912

The majestic Red River Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, can be found growing along rivers, creeks, waterways and flood plains. Deeply rooted for protection against drought, the timber is red when first cut due to chemicals that make it more durable. Indigenous Australians used it as a natural antibiotic. It can grow to 45m high but the plant here is a smaller weeping selection called 'Blue Veil'.

Nicky Zanen



***Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, River Red Gum, in a pipe, Illawarra Grevillea Garden**
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Rain, rain and more rain

Your gardens are probably as soggy as ours even though we're on a slope. The water had been pumping out on the lower road where the springs come down, with run-off from the hill.

Surprisingly, so far, only one large tree has come down, falling across my propagation area but amazingly, missing the car, with minimal damage.

We always count ourselves fortunate!

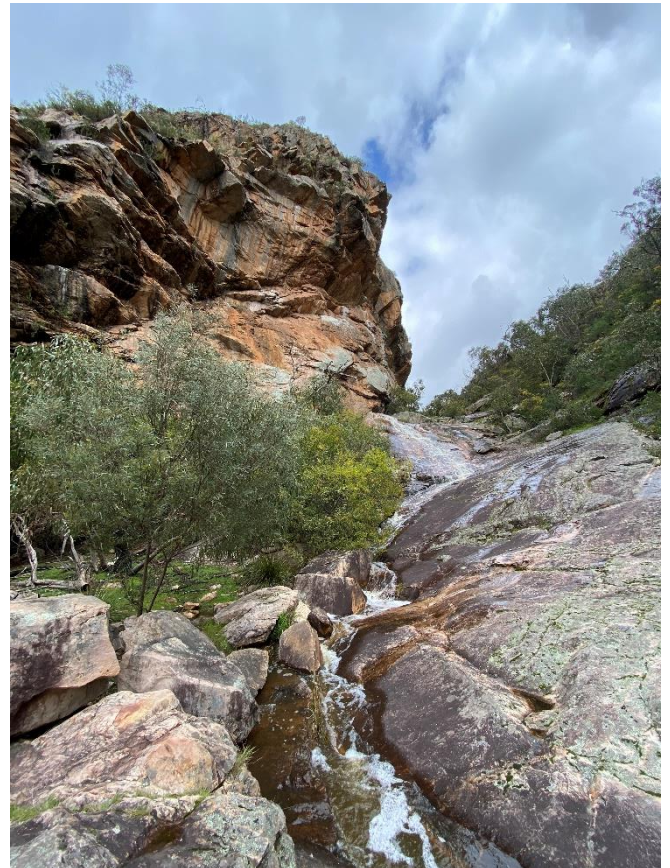
Our total rainfall for October was 239.5 ml, three times our October average and the highest since 2011. It's meant to be a wet summer so it will be interesting to see how the plants requiring dry, hold out.

Apart from drooping foliage and flowers lost earlier, the garden is happy in spring. I was so pleased that my waratah flowered beautifully this year with about 10 blooms on a metre plus bush but the rain damaged them. Last year it had some sort of fasciation where the flowers didn't develop properly.

Little Desert and Grampians

As there was not that much out in flower in late August, we made another quick trip to the Grampians and Little Desert during the second week of October. Even though it was still cold and wet we were rewarded with more flowers and orchids. Golton Gorge displayed large groups of Gnat Orchids in the carpark and *Pterostylis nana* and *goodenias* along the track. Golton Creek was fast-flowing so we didn't go across (didn't want to end in the drink). Good to see that the Peregrine Falcons were still nesting along the sandstone walls. The *Thryptomene calycina* formed a lovely avenue along the Mt Zero Rd with lots of *hibbertias* and *waxlips* everywhere, as well as *Leafless Bitter Peas*. Plenty of birds around too – various *honeyeaters* and *wrens* but the greatest pleasure was watching a pair of *Gang Gang Cockatoos* close by (we call them the 'squeaky-door cockies' because of their distinctive call) It was clearly mating time; they were nuzzling and preening each other, so great to watch.

At Hollow Mountain, there were plenty of *Calytrix*, *banksias*, *hibbertias*, *Grevillea aquifolium*, and up at the caves, *Prostanthera ovalifolium*. Heatherly Quarry always has plenty in flower – *smokebushes*, lots of *hibbertias* and others.



Golton Creek and Gorge

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

Full moon at the Kiata campground in the Little Desert on a surprisingly mild evening was a treat, as were the three mild and sunny days for our walks to Albrecht's Mill (*Eremophila gibbosa* and *Prostanthera aspalathoides* (Scarlet Mint-bush), *Callitris rhomboidea* near camp), the Red Gum Walk and the Stringybark Sanctuary Walk (rare *Acacia glandulosa*) Of course, lots of plants and birds of interest.

One evening the bogans rolled in and wanted to share their boombox with the rest of camp. Don't you love them? They drowned out the frog chorus, the calling boobook owl and the Brush Pigeons! Thankfully, they left next day and we enjoyed the Whistlers, Fantails and cuckoos again.

From Dimboola we accessed the eastern part of the Little Desert along the Wimmera River, a lovely area. Not that many orchids this time.

Flowering along the Pomponderoo Hill walk on fairly sandy, white soils were Asterolasia, lots of banksias, Brown Stringybark and a lookout over heathy woodland.

The book, Birds and Plants of the Little Desert: a Photographic Guide by Ian Morgan, Graham and Marie Goods, is a brilliant book to have on hand for ID when visiting. The photography is superb.

Monika Herrmann



Eutaxia microphylla

Photos: Monika Herrmann

*Just a little typo correction for one of my photos on the last page of the September newsletter. It was labelled 'Pultenaea', should read Templetonia retusa.



Leafless Bitter Pea *Daviesia brevifolia*



Prostanthera aspalathoides

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<https://psvic.org.au/aps-foothills/>

MEETINGS

Venue: Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Rd, Knoxfield. (Melway 73 C3)

Date: 4th Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov)

Time: 7.45pm

Newsletter Contributions

Please email contributions for the next newsletter to Kerry Davis by no later than: 8pm Monday 23 January 2023.

COMMITTEE

Leader: Janet Hodgkiss

Secretary: Nicky Zanen

Treasurer: Chris Larkin

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Davis

Other Members: Betty Wright

APS Vic Delegate: Janet Hodgkiss

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to First Nations People throughout Australia and to Elders, past, present and emerging.

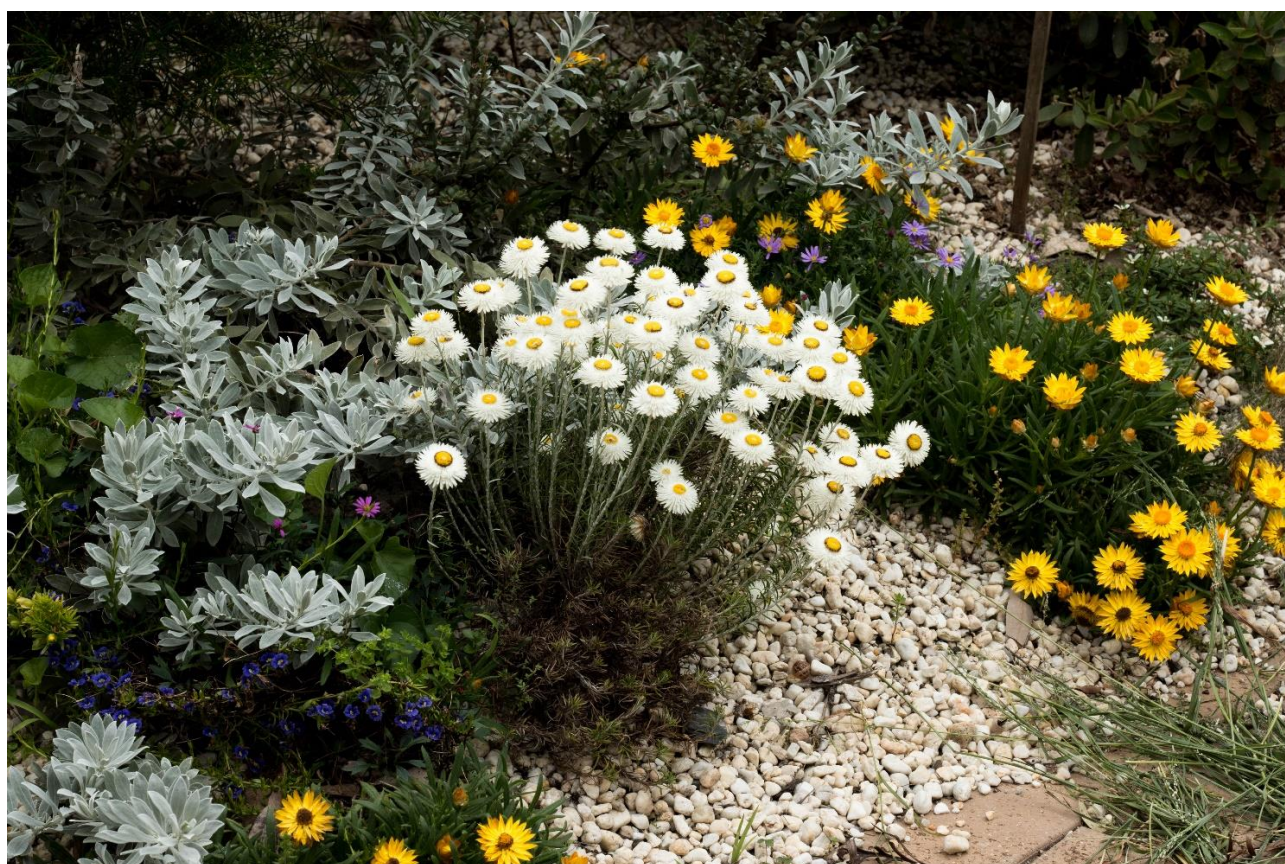
VISITORS WELCOME!



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' (Photo: Kerry Davis)

APS Foothills Calendar – 2022/2023

2022	Date		Topic
November	22	Wednesday	Tony Slater - Wildflowers of the Wimmera and Whitehorse
December	2	Saturday	End of year breakup - Kerry Davis' House
2023			
February	22	Wednesday	Nicky Zanen - Far North Queensland
	25	Saturday	Propagation Morning: Knox Park Primary School 10.00am - 12.00 noon <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
March	22	Wednesday	Ross Shepherd - Banksias in Seaford
	25	Saturday	Banksia arboretum walk - Seaford <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
April	22	Saturday	Autumn Working Bee: Knox Park Primary School 10.00am - 12noon <i>(to be confirmed)</i>



***Chrysophyllum baxteri* (white flower) and *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Diamond Head'**

(Photo: Kerry Davis)