



# Foothills News

*Acacia stictophylla* Cinnamon Wattle

APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K July Newsletter 2023

## JULY MEETING

**Wednesday 26 July 2023**

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

### AGM and Fun Trivia Night

We're holding a Fun Trivia Night and a free raffle on the night of our AGM. See page 2 for more details and how you can participate.

## Membership renewals are now due

Renew your APS Victoria and district group memberships online. If you haven't already renewed, please see the instructions on pages 8 and 9.



## Five Slides in June

Missed the meeting? Fear not! In this issue, we've included some of the lovely member photos we saw. These beautiful shades of pink correas and epacris are in Liz's garden. See more on page 3.



## Social Media

### Foothills

<https://www.facebook.com/apsfoothills>

### APS Victoria

<https://www.facebook.com/PSVic>

## Hi Everyone,

This is the last 'Hi Everyone' I'll be writing as Foothills Leader. As you will know by now I'm stepping down as Foothills Leader at our AGM and, truth be told, I'm a bit sad about that. I've thoroughly enjoyed being Leader but I'm long overdue a break from the role.

Seven years is a long time and I'm honoured that you've wanted, and trusted, me to be your leader for so long. I feel like I'm running out of energy though, and that I can't give my all anymore, so I need to stop and take stock. I also feel you really need someone else at the helm for a while. Someone with different ideas to mine to spice things up a little and maybe take the group on a slightly different path.

Apart from all you magic people, something I've always liked about Foothills is its 'structured informality'. It gives the group such a welcoming and dynamic atmosphere, that even for someone like myself who is inherently shy (yes, believe it or not, I really am shy!) it's easy to feel completely at home and at ease amongst you.

I love that you're not afraid to go along with crazy ideas like building insect hotels instead of having a 'proper' meeting, you're very amenable to giving us presentations and talks on your travels or subjects that interest you, you're always keen to participate in our member meetings and enthusiastically bring along slides whenever you get a chance, and last but not least, we've never lacked for great array of tasty treats for supper!

So, thanks for making Foothills the great group it is, and may your plants always grow well!

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Next Meeting – 26 July AGM and Trivia Night

We want to make this evening as enjoyable as possible, so we're doing away with the usual style quiz, and instead will have a fun trivia night after the AGM, along with a free raffle.

**AGM:** The Agenda, Previous Minutes, Leader's Annual Report, and Financial Report for the AGM will be sent to you nearer the time. We will also choose a new committee at the AGM. Members who volunteer, not only to replace current committee members who have specific roles but as ordinary members, are always very welcome. We'd love to refresh the committee, so please put your hand up on the night!

**TRIVIA:** No longer will you be on your own and sweating as though you're sitting a high school exam. No Sireeee! You'll be able to form a team and decide on a team name, then combine your knowledge to answer questions that will be on a mix of topics, not just plants. So, if your forte is in the non-plant realm, then you may very well be your team's secret weapon, and lead them to victory and the prize!

The rules are not set for how many in each team, but given our usual attendance numbers, two or three people and up to four or five in each team should work nicely. We've got some tiebreaker questions/tasks in readiness should we need them, and a share-able prize for the winning team.

**RAFFLE:** Please bring along something to donate to our raffle. It doesn't have to be a plant, although plants are always very welcome. Everyone will get a free ticket on the night, and then it'll be the luck of the draw as to when your number comes up and what will be on offer for you to choose.

Should be great night – see you all there!

## June Meeting – Five Slides Night

What a lovely assortment of slides and stories we had at our member's 'show and tell'. From alpine plants, heathland lichens, stunning sunsets, and fat boabs in Broome, to a garden designed with bushfires in mind, striking desert landscapes, a good sprinkling of birds, and of course all sorts of flowers, it's no wonder it's a favourite meeting of mine.

I love seeing what interests our members, what catches their eye, and what their passions are, and I love that everyone wants to share this with the rest of us. The travel photos always give me itchy feet and the beautiful plants members are growing never fail to make me wish I had a slightly bigger garden! Here's a small selection of the photos we got treated to on the night.



***Guichenotia macrantha*** (Photo: Liz Triggs)

**Liz:** The hanging clusters of *Guichenotia* flowers are speckled with tiny hairs. Liz said it was tricky getting these shots as she had to get close to the ground and her efforts were hampered by being snuffled in the face by her dogs who were keen to get in on the camera action. One of her *Banksia* 'Giant Candles' flower heads is growing all wonky, and she's also finally had success growing *Epacris*. Other flowers, in delicate shades of pink, are the *correas* she's growing. Did you see her lovely photos on the front page?



***Banksia* 'Giant Candles'** with its wonky tip  
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

**Kerry:** Visited Broome and showed us a few pictures from his trip, including this boab – not bad for a nature strip planting and... useful for hiding behind too!



**Boab, Broome** (Photo: Kerry Davis)

There was a collective “Ahhhh!” when the following photos went up, and ahhh-worthy they most certainly are!

The moon wasn’t in the right phase for Kerry to get the classic shot of the ‘stairway/staircase to the moon’, but this sunset photo isn’t half bad at all – what do you think?



**Yacht, Broome** (Photo: Kerry Davis)



**Broome sunset** (Photo: Kerry Davis)

Both Kerry and Shirley had Willy Wagtail encounters on their travels. The cute little one on the left hopped and wagged about, with not a care in the world, right at Kerry’s feet at a bus stop.

Shirley says the one on the right has been joining in the bird show at the Desert Park in Alice Springs for seven years and was completely unfazed by one of the stars of the show, a Bush Stone Curlew.



### **Willy Wagtails**

(Photos: Kerry Davis (L); Shirley Smith (R))

**Pam:** Has a variety of banksias in her garden that are hot favourites with birds and the rainbow lorikeets have been enjoying the *Banksia spinulosa* ‘Birthday Candles’ in particular. She showed us some peas that have started flowering in her garden – a vibrant *Chorizema cordata* that is flowering earlier than usual, and the locally indigenous Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata* which is doing very well in a pot.

She has a *Hakea sericea* that she planted to provide food for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, and her *Correa reflexa* ‘Split Bell’ is very popular with the Crimson Rosellas, although they tend to destroy the flowers in their eagerness.



**Correa reflexa ‘Split Bell’** (Photo: Pam Yarra)



***Hakea sericea*** (Photo: Pam Yarra)

**Ana and David:** The *Hibbertia stellaris* that Ana picked up as a raffle prize at one of our meeting is doing very well. Kerry, who is also growing it, says it needs some support otherwise it rocks about in the wind and the roots become dislodged. Staking it or allowing it to grow amongst other plants to give it some support works well. It also seem to prefer a moister soil.



***Hibbertia stellaris*** (Photo: Ana McCloskey)

They also had a lovely trip to the high country with the Cranbourne Friends group and say the skeletons of the trees are still a stark reminder of the extent of the devastating 2009 bushfires



**Skeletons of trees in the High**  
(Photo: Ana McCloskey)

**Shirley:** Showed us some photos from her Adelaide to Alice Springs trip. Walking around Marree they came across this unusual Galah Tree. She said someone had left a tap dripping which had formed a puddle and the Galahs and Corellas had all come down for a drink. She said there were eight or ten dead trees in the town that were all full of birds!



**Galahs and Corellas in the late afternoon sun**  
(Photo: Shirley Smith)

They also visited Coward Springs where they came across large areas of samphire shrubland, and also looked at other springs near William Creek, including one that was called the Bubbler.

Decades ago this would have had more water and the water would have bubbled up higher. The lower water level is due to the lowering of the water in the Great Artesian Basin from all the bores that have been sunk.



**The Painted Desert between Coober Pedy and Alice Springs** (Photo: Shirley Smith)

The Painted Desert near Coober Pedy was another place they visited and Shirley says it is amazing to think that several million years ago this area was all under water and the places you can see today are those that haven't been eroded away completely. She also said they drove along a very bumpy road for about three hours to see the desert but it was well worth the drive.

**Nicky:** Showed us some lizard homes she saw in APS Keilor Plains member, Linda Jones's garden. These are constructed simply from besser blocks and rock gabions and provide a safe place for lizards to sleep. Linda says they also use the lizard homes to terrace garden beds and as a walking path into the garden. Have you got a lizard home or hotel in your garden?



**Lizard hotels in Linda Jones's garden**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Nicky also showed us the new Dry Riverbed garden at RBG Cranbourne which has undergone renovation due to the presence of a pathogenic wood rotting fungus. It'll be good to see how this space develops.



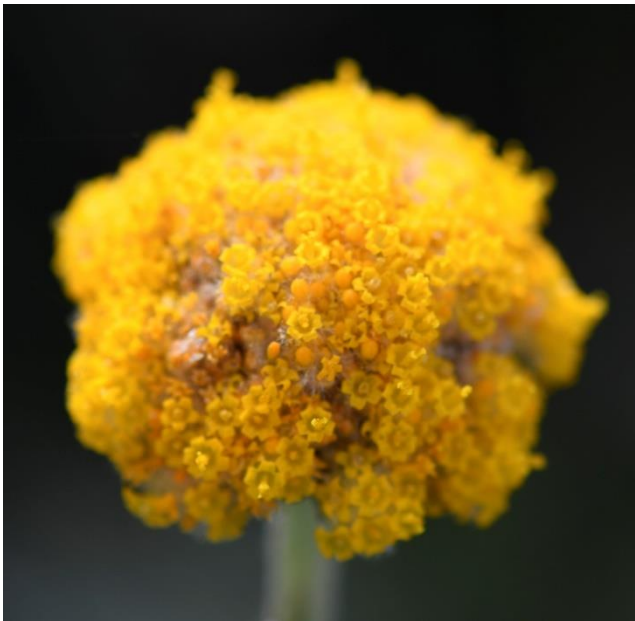
**Dry Riverbed garden at Cranbourne**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

**Alex:** Showed us some of the orchids she had gone hunting for as well as some plants from the High Country. She is very fond of alpine plants and the Gentianella is one of her favourites with the fine purple lines on the petals. She says it's one of the last flowering plants that can be seen at the end of the wildflower season in the High Country in late February-March.



***Gentianella muelleriana* subsp. *muelleriana***  
(Photo: Alex Stalder)

The *Craspedia adenophora* photo was taken on a APS Keilor Plains trip to Mt Buller, and Alex says she likes this photo because you can see the tiny but perfect little flowers that make up the flower head.



***Craspedia adenophora* Billy Buttons**  
(Photo: Alex Stalder)

**Bev:** Showed us photos from a garden she had visited near Avoca which had been designed with bushfires in mind. Closer to the house was a short well-kept lawn that was watered regularly. This means there is little flammable material near the house which make protecting it in the case of bushfire much easier.



**Close-cropped lawn areas all around the house provide little fuel for bushfire** (Photo: Bev Fox)

Further away from the house was a large pond of water that could also be used in the event of a bushfire. Bev said the water was kept moving by pumping it in and out via a windmill.



**A decorative pond doubles as a water source to help fight bushfires** (Photo: Bev Fox)

## Membership Renewals Now Due

**Janet:** What looks like clumps of spongy rubbish scattered in the heathland near Miller's Landing at Wilson's Prom turns out to be *Pulchrocladia retipora* aka Coral Lichen. It grows happily right on the ground and has a very delicate coral-like appearance.



**Close-up of *Pulchrocladia retipora* Coral Lichen, Wilson's Prom** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



***Pulchrocladia retipora* Coral Lichen, growing on the ground at Wilson's Prom**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Keep an eye out for it if you're ever down that way because it is quite startling to see it just growing on the ground.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

\* APS Victoria and District Group Membership renewals are now due.

\* Please go **online** to pay your memberships and follow the instructions below.

You no longer pay through your district group.

\* As a renewing member, you must log in using the link below. Your details will be pre-filled and all you need to do is check them.

\* If you have already renewed your APS Vic membership (or are an APS Vic Life Member) and wish to subsequently subscribe to another district group or optional journal, please refer to the FAQs and notes section.

### How to renew your membership:

1) Go to the membership renewal page:

<https://apsvic.org.au/Login/>

2) *Log in* with your email address and password.

\* If your credentials are correct, a membership page with your name at the top and current membership details will be displayed.

3) Check your membership details.

\* Select/update your APS Vic membership category, optional subscription to Australian Plants journal, and district group(s) as appropriate. NB: always click on the district group drop-down box to ensure that the correct option has been selected, e.g. single, household etc. Foothills has only one category of membership but other district groups may have more than one.

4) Check the amount to pay.

\* If the displayed total doesn't add up to what you think you should be paying, check that you have selected the correct APS Vic category and the correct district group category.

Note that APS Vic fees went up on 1 June 2023.

5) Check your email address, your name, and postal address.



6) Select payment option and enter card details.

7) Click on *Register for Neutrog*, if appropriate.

8) Click the *Review your contribution* button and check that everything is correct.

9) Confirm your contribution by clicking the *Make contribution* button.

If your payment is confirmed, your membership will be renewed and a screen will appear showing that your transaction has been processed successfully.

You will receive a payment receipt via email.

This *Make contribution* step is important as it submits your payment. Ensure that you complete this step, otherwise a pending debit may remain against your card for up to a week.

10) Log out.

Exit the page by closing the tab in your browser, then go to: <https://apsvic.org.au/Login/>

If it shows you are still logged in, click the logout link and you will be logged out completely.

#### FAQs and Notes:

\* Your password is your membership number. It is on your Growing Australian envelope. Contact Chris Larkin (Foothills Treasurer) or APS Victoria membership officer if you need help.

\* Card payment is preferred by APS Vic. Note: credit cards do not attract an extra fee. After card details have been entered, the card payment processor will check the details and, for debit cards, if there are sufficient funds in the account. An error will be displayed as appropriate. If card payment is not working for you, select pay by bank transfer. If paying by EFT (bank transfer), include your membership number and name in the transaction reference.

\* For subsequent optional subscriptions, or if you are an APS Vic Life Member, go to: <https://apsvic.org.au/optional-subscriptions/>

## Winter Garden

There is a certain pleasure in the autumn-winter garden, the freshness that pervades everything, moisture droplets glistening when the sun pops out and after wild and woolly wintery weather that we have just had, including 78 mm of rain for June (no trees have come down so far) it's a joy to wander with a cuppa, and thoroughly enjoy the mood and spectacle of the garden.

Some of the winter flowers are subtle such as the delicate, tiny white flowers of *Cryptandra amara nana* and some bolder plants such as *Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'*, the pinks, white and red *Epacris* of various species, *spyradiums*, *grevilleas*, more wattles coming into flower and of course, the banksias. The small tree, the Mt. Morgan Wattle or Queensland Silver Wattle, (*Acacia podalyriifolia*) with its golden, puff ball flowers, always looks magnificent at this time of year but the rain may have shortened its flowering.



**Prostrate orange/grey-leaved form of *Templetonia retusa***

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

A smaller plant I particularly like is Cockies Tongues (*Templetonia retusa*) of which I have a couple of upright red pea-flowered forms and also the gentler apricot-orange shaded flowers on a grey-leaved prostrate bush. The plant can be variable in colour and form. The thick leathery leaves have a pointed or notched apex (*retusa* meaning notched apex). The first time I saw them growing in the wild was on the Eyre Peninsula and then again on the Yorke Peninsula, SA, so they like alkaline, coastal soils but seem to adapt.



**Red, upright red-flowered form of *Templetonia retusa*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)

They are quite stunning in full flower if they receive plenty of sun but also flower in part shade as mine do, but not as prolifically. It's a great plant for nectar-feeding birds; the Eastern Spinebills were busy flitting in and out. Also it is easy to prune and keep in shape.

**Monika Herrmann**

Ref: Elliot and Jones Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants.



**Red *Epacris impressa* 'Bega' and white *epacris* with *Angophora* trunks in background**  
(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

## **Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2023 Important please check APS Victorian website for cancellations**

**22 & 23 July 2023** – Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**2 September 2023** – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Acoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

**9 & 10 September 2023** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

**16 & 17 September 2023** – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM.

**30 September & 1 October 2023** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**7 October 2023** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

**14 October 2023** – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**30 September to 4 October, 2024** – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria.



## Overseas – United Kingdom

**3 – 9 July 2023** - The Australasian Plant Society based in the UK is putting on a joint display with the Hebe Society in the Floral Marquee at the 2023 RHS Hampton Court Flower Festival, on the theme of ‘Australasian plants for a Changing Climate.’

## GardenSafe – EPA Victoria Initiative

Did you see the item in our latest Growing Australian about GardenSafe?

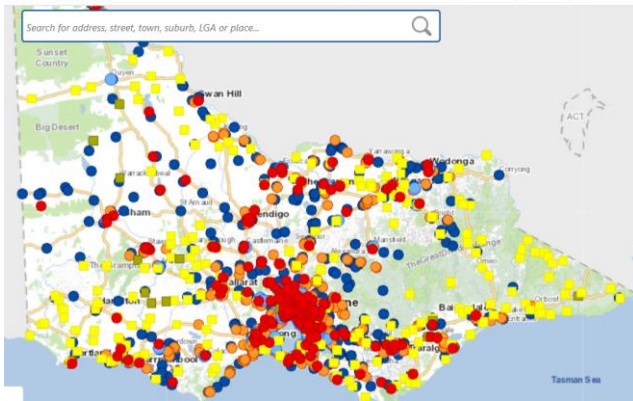
I registered with them through [epa.vic.gov.au/gardensafe](http://epa.vic.gov.au/gardensafe) and they provided a reference number which I used when I mailed off the three packets of soil samples. One from the front garden, one from the back and one from the vegetable patch.

I’ve received the results. The soil textures are approximately 59% sand, 21% silt and 20% clay, classified as ‘clay loam’. Soil health indicators were a little low for both phosphorus and potassium, except for my veggie patch which was just above the mg/kg recommendations.

The results of my trace element assessment were comforting with low numbers for arsenic, copper, manganese, lead and zinc.

The samples were analysed at EPA Victoria’s Centre for Applied Sciences soil laboratory using X-Ray fluorescence spectrometry (nutrients; phosphorus and potassium) and RemScan mid-infrared spectroscopy equipment (soil composition, soil texture, total organic carbon). They warn though that this assessment is interpreted as screening results due to limitations, and is only one tool that helps us to better understand the quality of our soil.

In exploring the EPA information further, I came upon a site “Victoria Unearthed” which captures information on land and groundwater contamination. I thought this was very interesting and have provided a couple of screenshots.



<https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/victorianunearthed>

- Victoria Unearthed
- EPA Priority Sites Register Points
- Victorian Landfill Register Point
- Closed
- Operating
- Groundwater Restricted Use Point
- EPA Audit Points
- EPA Licensed Sites Points

A very interesting exercise.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Latest ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne newsletter

The PDF file, 1 July 2023(6).pdf, is attached to this newsletter for your information.

**Nicky Zanen**

## APS FOOTHILLS INC.

### CONTACT US:

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### Phone Enquiries:

Nicky Zanen: 040 197 5191  
Chris Larkin: 9752 7837

### Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/apsfoothills>

### Visit our Webpage:

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

## MEETINGS

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

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Email: [foothillsnewsletter@apsvic.org.au](mailto:foothillsnewsletter@apsvic.org.au)

## COMMITTEE

**Leader:** Janet Hodgkiss

**Secretary:** Nicky Zanen

**Treasurer:** Chris Larkin

**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Davis

**Other Members:** Betty Wright

**APS Vic Delegate:** Janet Hodgkiss

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*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.*

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**VISITORS WELCOME!**

## A Mound of Mulch

It seemed a good idea at the time. The trees were pruned on our property early in June and there was a truck full of mulch. I asked if I could have half the load, thinking I could 'do something' about a small garden in the carpark near Maxi's in Ferntree Gully. I've been crossing this to get to my sister's place for the past 18 months and was frustrated that it looked so unkempt and unwelcoming.

To and fro I went over the next three weeks, putting down newspaper and slowly covering the area, bucket load after bucket load. It wasn't that big, it wasn't that small. The wind would play games with the paper sending it all over the place. People passed by, many stopped to make positive comments, some totally ignored me. I was just putting the last bucket load of mulch on the patch when the owner of the shopping centre approached me. Where was I from, what was I doing? He instructed me to clear the mulch, he intended putting lawn down, was worried about mulch flying all over the carpark, and I didn't have permission. I should have asked first! He took a photograph of me and of my car registration number. He owns the shopping centre and owns the carpark! So, for the past couple of weeks I have slowly been removing the mulch with the help of one of our members who I am ever so grateful for, and is using it in her garden. Neither of us intended doing this, but the patch is now cleared and looks as bad as it did originally. The mulch on the other hand, has gone to a good home.

Nicky Zanen

## Neutrog Reminder

For members who wish to order from Neutrog, the last day for Spring orders is 17th August 2023. Delivery will be at the beginning of September. The member store is always open so members can place an order at any time. Any queries can be directed to Jacinta Warnest, email [JWarnest@neutrog.com.au](mailto:JWarnest@neutrog.com.au) or phone 08 8538 3513.

## Out of Season

I found a disorientated butterfly on Saturday morning in a muddy carpark near Nyora. It stayed around long enough for me to get a photo of it – an Imperial Jezebel. Back at home, my *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze' is in full flower. It grows in a pot but I suspect the roots have escaped and that is why it thrives. Its branches swipe me as I walk past it, and I have no idea how to tame it. When I spoke to Bill Aitchison about this he comforted me by saying not to worry about its tardy growth habits; it will be dead soon. This was at least five years ago. I guess I'm not complaining!

Nicky Zanen

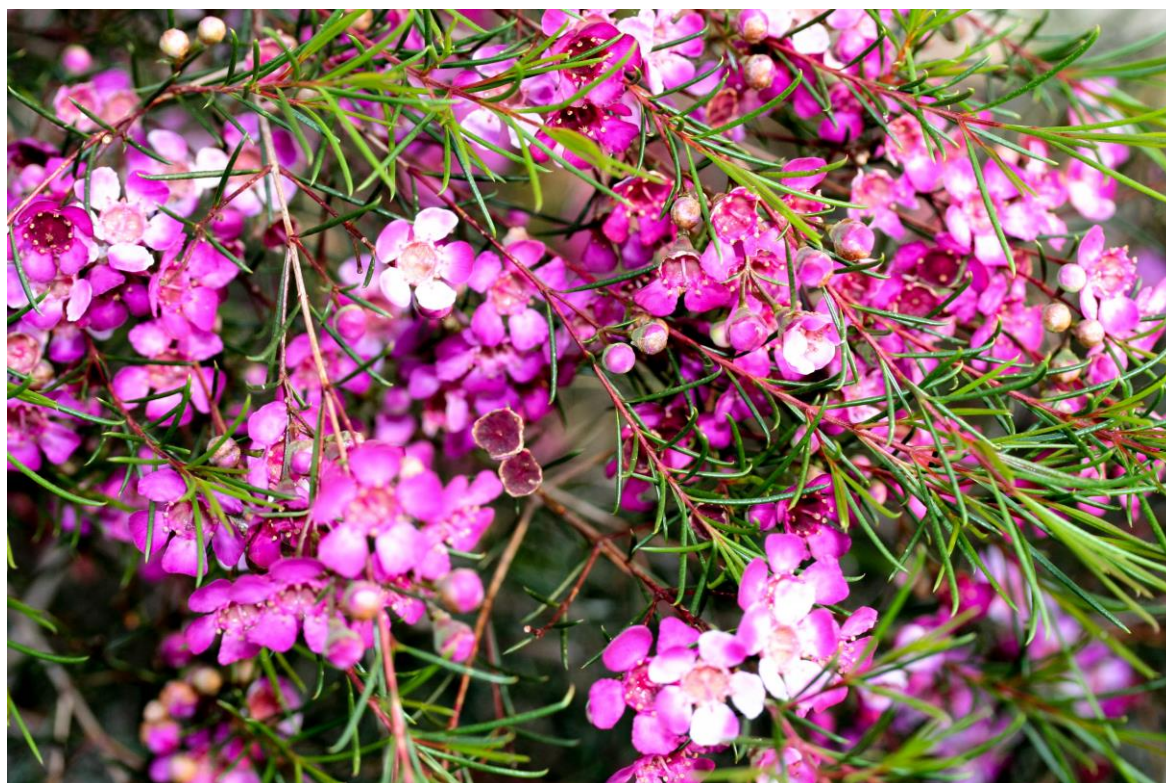


**Mulching project before and after.**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Mulching project intermediate stage.**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

<b>APS Foothills Calendar 2023</b>			
<b>2023</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>July</b>	26	Wednesday	AGM and Fun Trivia Night
	29	Saturday	Winter Working Bee: Knox Park Primary School <i>10.00am - 12noon (to be confirmed)</i>
<b>August</b>	23	Wednesday	Paul Birch – Pats’ Garden
	26	Saturday	Garden Visit <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
<b>September</b>	27	Wednesday	Janet Hodgkiss – Antonio Park Bushland Reserve
	30	Saturday	Antonio Park - Walk <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
<b>October</b>	25	Wednesday	Chris Clarke – Alpine Flora
<b>November</b>	22	Wednesday	Chris Larkin – Melaleucas
<b>December</b>	2	Saturday	End of year breakup <i>at Kerry Davis’ house</i>



**Chamelaucium ‘Purple Pride’** (Photo: Kerry Davis)