



## OCTOBER MEETING

### Wednesday 25 October, 2023

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

#### Chris Clarke: Alpine Plants

Chris Clarke will take us on a photographic journey of our alpine plants. His photographic collection and plant knowledge has been acquired over 15 to 20 years while leading APS Keilor's biannual trip to the high country.

His talk will cover the geology, growth patterns and variety of plants, with a sprinkling of pictures of insect life. Come along to enjoy the diversity and beauty of plants growing in this quite unique, and one might say challenging, environment.



## Garden Visit

### Sunday 29 October, 2023



Come and enjoy a Sunday morning stroll around Deb McMillan's garden, Rosella Rise, in outer east Melbourne. For more details see page 10.

#### Plant Profile

Chris Larkin found two hakeas that are new to her. Read more on page 10.

#### Spring Gardens

Monika Herrmann talks about some of her favourite flowering plants in her spring garden. Read more on page 12.

## Hi Everyone,

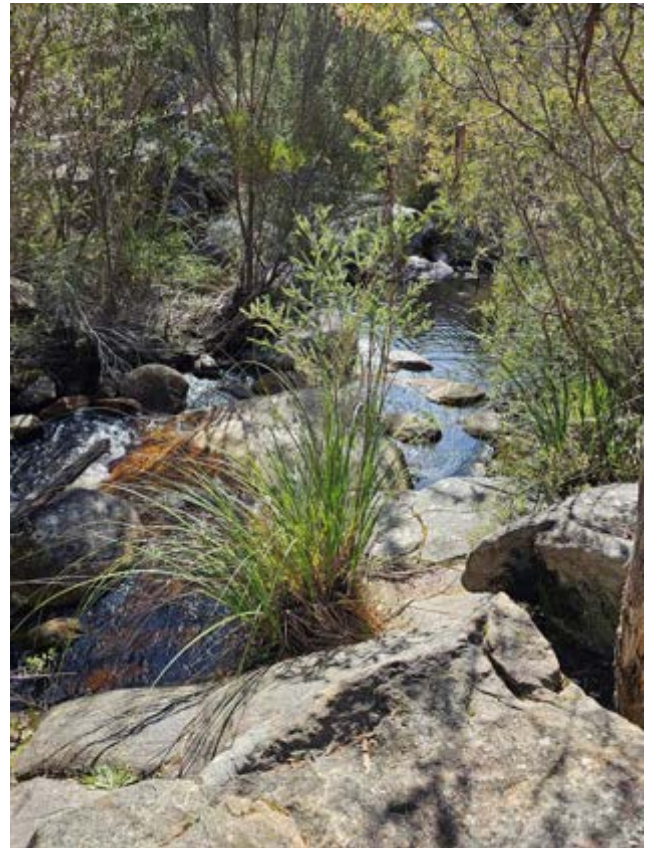
I was very sorry to miss Janet's talk on the wildflowers of Antonio Park. I know how much time and effort goes into preparing a talk for the group and every time a group member steps forward, we give thanks, many thanks. It's great that several of our members have given talks to the group and hopefully will again. Two shorter talks by a couple of members is also worth considering. I might be looking to partner-up myself!

I decided to put off talking about Melaleucas for 12 months, substituting it with a talk on the trip Bev and I took in July from Perth to Darwin. The decision to do a talk on the trip was made before we set off, so it gave focus and meaning to the pictures I took at the time. Reviewing them afterwards to put them in a PowerPoint has fixed much more of the trip in my mind. A shame I didn't have my new phone with the you-beaut camera at the time.



Ana taking in the big view (Photo: Chris Larkin)

I missed Janet's talk because I stayed in the Grampians in the week following the Quarterly Meeting, and APS Vic CoMM and AGM hosted by APS Grampians Group. The lively group, celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, organised several activities over 4 days, leading into their annual flower show at Pomonal. Much of the Grampians' bush looked wonderfully healthy with lots and lots of wildflowers to see which is undoubtedly the result of recent kinder rainfall years. The landscape is spectacular with good big viewing points like Boroka Lookout, the Balconies and Mt Zero but the intimate landscapes of streams and pools are also special. They are inspiration to anyone wanting to create a water feature at home.



Stream and pools (Photo: Chris Larkin)

WAMA (Wildlife Art Museum of Australia) is being established at Pomonal. According to the information on its website when it is built it will be Australia's national centre for environmental art situated on 16 hectares of land. The building has not yet commenced but there is a section of garden well underway that will showcase the flora of the Grampians National Park, or Gariwerd National Park. The importance of the



flora of Gariwerd can't be understated. It has one third of all of Victoria's flora and much of it is endemic to the region. A flora hotspot!



**WAMA garden** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



**Ephemeral wetland** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

We were very lucky to visit a seasonal wetland on private property which boasted the second

largest river red gum in Australia. The stream flowing through the property overflows its banks every year, creating a magical extensive water world with red gums growing in it and beside it. The owners even canoe on it.



**Ana peers inside the big red gum**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

I am typing this on a wet Tuesday. Thankfully wet after what I believe was the driest September on record. And unseasonably hot and windy to make matters worse. If this is the new regime then the plants have a long way to go to adapt after so many kind years.

**Chris Larkin**

## **Retrospect and Prospect**

An afternoon talk with Richard Aitken.  
See attached file for details.

## September Meeting: Antonio Park – Janet Hodgkiss

At our September meeting we looked at Antonio Park, another of our 'local' bush reserves. While Antonio Park is not strictly local in terms of where Foothills meets, it is classed as Valley Heathy Forest – the same endangered EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class), as a few other reserves in the Knox area such as Bateman Street Bush Reserve in Wantirna, and the bushland surrounding Knox Park Primary School.

Antonio Park itself is a rare and valuable piece of Valley Heathy Forest, as it is a true remnant that has survived intact for over a hundred years of settlement and development by Europeans.

We looked at where it is in relation to Knox Park and Bateman St and how it functions as both a park and bushland reserve; the geology, geography, climate and soils; European settlement and early industry in the region; the legacy of the Antonio family legacy and how Antonio Park came about; management and threats to the park; the flora and wildlife; and we also looked at where we'd be going on our Saturday morning walk.

### Location/description

Antonio Park is a 7.2 ha bushland reserve near the eastern border of Mitcham in the City of Whitehorse. It is bounded by Whitehorse Rd to the south, Deep Creek Rd to the east, and Edgerton Rd to the north.

The southern section has a playground and picnic area with tables shaded by tall eucalypts, The northern section, sloping downhill towards the north and Yarran Dheran, is protected remnant bushland and has several walking trails and paths running through it.

While the main bushland area ends at Edgerton Rd, Antonio Park continues across road in the area called the New Lands, a fairly narrow valley carrying Deep Creek. The steeper western side

of this valley has some remnant forest while the eastern slope is more park-like and includes a path that runs downs towards Yarran Dheran.

### Geology, geography, climate, and soils

The underlying geology of the area is comprised predominantly of Silurian and Devonian sedimentary rocks – turbidite sandstones, conglomerates and folded marine mudstones that are between approximately 350 million and 450 million years old. These sedimentary layers are easily seen in road cuttings along the Eastern Freeway and at the eastern portal of the Eastlink tunnels.

The resulting landforms are plains of low undulating hills and valleys, criss-crossed by creeks and waterways. The soils derived from such rocks are loams and clays with impeded drainage which are dry in summer.



**Folded marine mudstones: eastern portal of Mullum Mullum-Melba Tunnels**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The climate, like much of Melbourne, is temperate with no distinct dry season. Summers are warm and susceptible to extended hot and dry periods. The Dandenong Ranges also have a great influence on local weather patterns.

The geology, geography and soils, along with climate, determines the type of vegetation in an area. Before settlement by Europeans, and before land was cleared for farming, housing and industry, the plains were covered in small expanses of grassland in the otherwise forested parts of what is now Ringwood, Mitcham and



Box Hill. The grasslands and forests, and the wetlands on the creek lines, provided diverse habitats for a wide range of animals and birds. Most of the natural vegetation has been lost, but some still exists in roadside and bushland reserves, and Antonio Park is one of these.

### **History of the region and European settlement**

In the early 1860s, this large undulating tract of land to the east of Melbourne, known then as the Parish and Shire of Nunawading (now the City of Whitehorse) was predominantly untouched bushland, and sparsely populated.

Early settlers pastured sheep and cattle, grew various crops to feed their families and later planted orchards (cherries, apples, pears) and vineyards. The area was one of the main sources of firewood and charcoal for use in homes and industry in Melbourne, and timber became available as the land was cleared for farming.

In the 1880s, as Melbourne grew, the demand for bricks increased. The clay in the area was found to be of high quality and the number of brick, tile and pottery works that had already been established quickly grew. Wood from the nearby forests was used to feed the kilns.

The Australian Tessellated Tile Company (Est. 1886), and the Daniel Robertson brick and clay tile works in Nunawading (Est. 1853), along with their associated quarries, were both situated within two kilometres from where Antonio Park is now, so it is incredible that this piece of bushland escaped being completely denuded. By this time, the railway line to Lilydale had also been built so transporting the bricks and tiles to the city was easier than ever.

Aerial photographs from the 1940s show there were still some tracts of native bushland left in the area, although much of the land was already being farmed and under orchards. The aerial photographs over the intervening years to the 2020s show how quickly the farmland, orchards, open spaces, and remaining forested areas were swallowed up by housing and development.

Open space is scarce nowadays, in particular bushland areas, so the pockets of remnant bushland that do remain are doubly precious.



**Daniel Robertson brickworks in 2010**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

### **How Antonio Park came about: the Antonio family legacy**

In 1892, Thomas Antonio purchased a bush block in Whitehorse Road where they built a single-roomed wooden shack. The family spent time on the property on weekends to clear the land. In the early 1900s they bought the adjacent land on Deep Creek Road and built a permanent home. Remnants of their garden are still present in the formal/picnic area part of the park. The weekend shack was on the land which is now part of the Antonio Park Primary School ground. The shack burnt down during bushfires that swept through the area in 1962.

The Antonio family chose not to clear the bush from their entire property, and in the early 1950s the Antonio brothers donated their land to the former Nunawading Council on the condition the property remain in its natural bushland state. The family continued to live on the property until 1963. Around this time, with the consent of the Antonio brothers, the Education Department acquired five acres of the former Antonio property from the Council to

establish a primary school. In the mid-1970s the Council purchased land from Charles Schwerkolt to replace the land sold to the Education Department for Antonio Park Primary School. This is known as the Antonio Park 'New Lands'.

In 2012, the City of Whitehorse bought the property at 21 Wattle Valley Rd, which adjoins Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve, using funds from the open space development fund. The future of the property was apparently hotly debated with some councillors wanting it sold for development, but in 2019 the majority of councillors supported it being turned back into open space. In 2020, the house was demolished to create a small park and wildlife corridor that now links Yarran Dheran to Antonio Park. In consultation with local residents, some of the original structural garden plants were retained in this park. Eucalypts have been planted and the garden beds are now interplanted with many locally indigenous species to integrate this corridor with the surrounding bushland.

### Management

It is a rare treat to be able to walk through places like Antonio Park and experience the natural bushland that existed in this landscape before European settlement.

Being completely surrounded by an urban area means that weed species also cause problems, but they are monitored and managed by the Whitehorse City Council, and the Friends of Antonio Park holds working bees and does a lot to remove invasive species and prevent damage to plants and wildlife.

This forest is however always at risk of being destroyed by bushfire. Tree canopy cover is extensive, large mature trees dominate, and there is plenty of dead wood in the understorey which adds to the fuel load. It's not clear if there is any sort of fire regime, or what measures the council has in place to minimise/manage the risk. Dogs on leashes are allowed in the park but the numbers of dogs allowed to roam off-leash is increasing and is an ongoing problem. Not only do they disturb and chase wildlife,

including kangaroos and birds, they create new paths through the bush damaging smaller plants, and because they are off-leash their owners tend not to pick up after them either.



**Antonio Park (bottom); New Lands above and to the left; Wattle Grove link (narrow strip)**  
(<https://map.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/index.html>)



**The weeds are quite pretty!**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

### Flora/Vegetation

Antonio Park is classified as Valley Heathy Forest – an endangered EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class) in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.

This EVC is characterised as low, open forest to 15m tall with a sedgy/grassy understorey that includes small ericoid shrubs and grass-trees, various sclerophyllous species and a diversity of grasses and herbs. It is believed to have occupied a large proportion of the low plateau-like area of outer eastern Melbourne, but is now largely cleared with few intact remnants.

Tree canopy cover is 30%, while the understorey comprises immature canopy trees, large, medium and small shrubs, small or prostrate herbs, tufted graminoids (grasses and sedges), scrambler or climbers, ferns and various bryophytes and lichens.

Characteristic upper storey tree species in Antonio Park are *Acacia melanoxylon*, Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*), *E. goniocalyx*, *E. obliqua* (Messmate), *E. radiata* (Narrow-leaf Peppermint), and *E. cephalocarpa* (Silverleaf Stringybark), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark)

Taller understorey or middle storey species include various smaller acacias, *Bursaria*, *Cassinia*, *Cherry Ballart*, *Kunzea ericoides* (Burgan), *Olearia lirata* and (Prickly Tea-tree).

Smaller species in the understorey or lower storey include *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and several pea-flowered species including *Daviesia*, *Platylobium*, *Dillwynia*, *Hovea* and *Hardenbergia*. *Epacris impressa* gives its heathy name to Valley Heathy Forest, while *Pimelea*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Brunonia*, *Blue Squill*, *Leucopogon*, *Hop Goodenia*, and *Hibbertia australis* (Guinea Flower) add splashes of white, blue and yellow.

Various grasses grow in the park, and tufting or grass-like plants include *Gahnia radula*, Small Grass-tree, *Lomandra filiformis* and *Dianella*. Lily-like or tuberous plants are very noticeable in spring when they are in flower. Trigger Plant appears seemingly out of nowhere, as do the Milkmaids, Creamy Candles, Early Nancy and Chocolate Lilies, as well as bright yellow Yam Daisies and the equally bright but not often seen *Hypoxis hygrometrica* (Golden Star).



***Hibbertia australis*; *Dianella revoluta*, *Pimelea humilis*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, *Brunonia australis*, *Epacris impressa*** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



***Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Dichopogon strictus*, *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Burchardia umbellata*** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Antonio Park has various climbing and twining plants. Clematis has starry creamy-white flowers and feathery seed heads, *Comesperma* appears like a lacy sky-blue haze amongst the plants, while the Twining Fringe Lily is a bit shy and hard to see. More obvious is the Common Apple-berry (*Billardiera scandens*) and the showy *Pandorea*. The twining green stems of the hemi-parasitic *Dodder-laurel* can easily be mistaken for *Comesperma*, except that it doesn't have colourful flowers.

There are a number orchids in Antonio Park too. The Nodding Greenhood Tall Greenhood come



up first in late winter and are followed in spring by *Diuris orientis* (Donkey Orchid), *Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid), and Waxlip Orchids. If you're lucky, you might also be able to spot the well-camouflaged Brown Beak Orchid.

Close at ground level, and well worth crouching down to see, are hidden gems in the form of sundews, Scented Sundew and Tall Sundew, and various mosses and lichens. This ground level habitat is also home to various groundcovers including Bidgee Widgee, *Dichondra repens* and *Hedera violacea*, as well as a couple of ferns.



**Twiners and climbers: *Comesperma volubile*, *Billardiera scandens*, *Thysanotis patersonii*, *Pandorea pandorana*** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

There's plenty of wildlife at Antonio Park too. Larger animals include kangaroos and possums, while smaller animals include large and small birds, lizards, skinks, the odd snake, and a wide variety of insects.

Antonio Park is small but one that packs a big punch. It's worth visiting any time of the year, but as plants flower at different times, you may need several visits during the spring months to catch them all!

#### References:

<https://whitehorsehistory.org.au/nunawading/>  
Brennan, N, 1972, *The History of Nunawading*, The Hawthorne Press, Melbourne.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Antonio Park Walk

We had a lovely walk at Antonio Park on the Saturday following our meeting, despite it being a suddenly, and rather hot 29°C day. Apart from myself, our band of keen bushland explorers included Diane, Shirley, Monika, Rolf, Betty, Leigh, and Liz. We wandered through Antonio Park looking and then continued down through Antonio Park New Lands.



**We took right hand path down, and came back on the left hand path** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The vegetation seems to have suffered a bit from the sudden heat and dry weather of the preceding week or so, but there were still some things in flower, or just coming into flower. The Dianellas and Chocolate Lilies were still in bud with only a few flowers showing, and we came across one or two Milkmaids and Creamy Candles. There were still some pea flowers about, and saw a few Waxlip Orchids. Thanks to Liz's eagle eyes we also saw Brown Beak orchids.

In the New Lands, Deep creek flows through a deep valley with remnant bush on one side. We saw where the creek goes underground through a drain through the triangle before resurfacing as it enters Yarran Dheran. We crossed the road into the Wattle Grove link. This is the property the Whitehorse City Council purchased and converted back to open space. Many of the original garden plants and garden beds have been retained but they have been interplanted with indigenous species, and some eucalypts, to integrate the space with Yarran Dheran on the northern boundary.





**Remnant valley forest: Antonio Park New Lands** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Wattle Grove green link looking back up the hill** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

After looking at the confluence of Deep Creek and Mullum Mullum Creek, we walked along the shared bike path towards Schwerkolt Cottage so that we could investigate the tunnel ventilation shaft and look at the rock strata visible in the road cutting above the tunnel entrance.



**Schwerkolt Cottage** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex was open, so we had a look round there too.

The museum covers the history of the area and has plenty of items on display that reminded a few of us of having used similar items when we were growing up. We walked back up the hill via Edgerton Road and back through Antonio Park on a different path. We rounded out our morning with a very pleasant late morning tea/lunch at the picnic tables under the eucalypts.



**Our walking route superimposed on a satellite photo from Google Earth**

Back home, I plotted our route using Google Earth. Turns out we walked an easy 2.9 km in total. Our route looks like a weird bird though! Thanks everyone who came along on the walk. Your company was fantastic, and it was a really lovely way to spend a sunny spring morning.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Plant Profile:

### *Hakea repullulans* and *Hakea rostrata*

While in the Grampians I was introduced to two new-to-me hakeas; *Hakea repullulans* and *Hakea rostrata*. Both these hakeas grow in southern SA as well as S-W Victoria and both are lignotuberous, a great adaption when it comes to fire recovery.

*Hakea rostrata* plants were growing as part of an understory at Heatherlie Quarry. They were reaching a bit over a metre in height and width. It is a needle hakea with a somewhat open growth habit, delicate white flowers, and plenty of them. The most significant feature was the large seed follicle earning the hakea the nickname 'turkey gobblers'.



***Hakea rostrata* habit and seed follicle**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

*Hakea repullulans* was lightly scattered throughout the forest near the quarry. Not noted for my powers of observation, it had to be pointed out to me. These shrubs, with narrow growth habit, were under two metres. I was struck by the fact they had wide leaves that appeared to grow almost horizontally from the stems. The flowers were high up on the branches and clearly visible. It is claimed in Holliday's book on hakeas that they prefer moist sand and can colonise after fire.

I would certainly like to try this hakea because of both its size and most particularly the narrow upright habit.



***Hakea repullulans* habit and close-up**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Finally, I was made aware that a hakea I do grow, *Hakea rugosa*, also comes from this area. This needle hakea is a dwarf growing under 1m but spreading to 1.5m. It's showing off its white flowers right now.

Reference: Ivan Holliday, *Hakeas: a field and garden guide*.

Chris Larkin

## Garden Visit: 29 October, 2023 Rosella Rise

Bring along a water bottle and a sun hat, and come enjoy a Sunday morning stroll in Deb McMillan's garden, Rosella Rise.

**Date:** Sunday, 29 October, 2023

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**Time:** 10 am to 12 noon

**NB:** This garden visit is on a *Sunday* morning.

Deb says of her garden, "Rosella Rise Native Garden is a small private garden located in Croydon North on a steep 750sqm suburban block. It's jam packed with Grevilleas, Banksias, Eremophilas, Correas and many other flowering natives, including some rare and collectible plants.

"The garden was started around 12 years ago as a blank canvas (with the exception of



Agapanthus, Yuccas and NZ Pittosporum cultivars). In the years following, the garden has evolved into a colourful array of foliage and flowers, with a strong focus on wildlife and habitat. Some people have described it as an Australian style cottage garden however, I will let you make your own mind up.”



**A colourful spot in Deb’s garden**

*Optional:* You might like to take a walk around Hochkin’s Ridge reserve on your own after you’ve visited Deb’s garden as it is very close by.

## **News from your APS Vic delegate**

One of the main concerns that came up at the September APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting was the trouble that many groups continue to have in getting members to volunteer for roles on committees. A point was made that members should be reminded that it’s the members who need a committee, and not the other way around, because without a committee the group cannot function effectively and may eventually lead to the group having to close. This problem affects not only district groups but APS Victoria itself, so all members are encouraged to please consider volunteering for committee roles, both at district group level and APS Victoria level.

A critical role in any group is that of secretary, and APS Victoria urgently needs someone to volunteer for the roles of APS Victoria Secretary

and Assistant Secretary (Minutes). Miriam Ford (APS Vic President) and Acting Secretary Chris Long sent us the following messages to pass on to you:

Chris Long (APS Vic’s Acting Secretary), urges and encourages members to volunteer for the role, saying “My health is progressively deteriorating and I will not be able to continue as acting secretary for more than a few months. The earlier we get volunteers, the more time I will have for handover and mentoring.”

Miriam says, “At our recent AGM no one volunteered for the position of Secretary. This is an important position in APS Vic and we need someone to take up the position to keep us running smoothly. Chris Long has been in so many of the top roles in APS Vic over time and really and truly has done more than his fair share. It is now important that he can rest. At present he is continuing as our acting secretary.

We, at APS Vic, do what we do for our membership. Given what I know of the people I have met out there, when I have been travelling around the state visiting District Groups, I know that there must be someone with the wherewithal who could step into this role. You will be supported in the transition. It will be easier if the role is divided into two parts with an assistant, a Minutes Secretary, who will take the minutes at the various meetings held. So, we essentially need two volunteers.

I was heartened by my recent experience at the APS Ballarat AGM where, and because there was often two people taking up the various roles of Secretary and Treasurer, the people who volunteered felt less burdened by the responsibility. They knew they would be supported. They filled all positions at this AGM. Please get in touch with me if you want more information.”

*Miriam Ford (APS Victoria President)*  
*Mob: 0409 600 644*

## Other APS Vic items of interest and requests:

### *Insurance policy cover:*

We have public liability cover for members of APS Victoria and all affiliated District Groups, plus insurance for the books. Public liability cover protects our members from personal financial responsibility in the event of an injury or damage to personal property caused by negligence of a member, for example if a cord across the floor trips someone. Any incident, for which a claim is likely to be made, needs to be reported to the treasurer who will forward the details to our insurer via our insurance broker. Once the incident is reported to the insurance company, the claim is taken out of our control. There is no personal accident cover. No property, other than APS books to a value of \$25K, is covered, including banners.

### *Growing Australian Newsletter Editor:*

The September issue was leaner than usual. A plea is out for more articles to be provided for the newsletter. Even something like “My neck of the woods” contributed by Robyn Tyson in September, would be gratefully received. If you want to contribute, the December issue deadline is 25th October.

### *Seedbank:*

Marj Seaton, Seedbank Curator asked for donations of seeds, especially anything that is a bit different. Seeds need to be cleaned before donation. Particularly popular are low growing daisies, bulbs and tussock type plants.

### *Social Media, and Growth and Development:*

Facebook page: APS Victoria has over 5000 followers. It needs more content. Original photos get shared the most. This is a powerful way of promoting Australian plants. Chris Clarke asked that if a group goes on a garden visit to please send photos.

The Growth and Development sub-committee is in abeyance because of the focus on the ANPSA 2024 conference.

APS Victoria has a YouTube channel. Miriam is the major contributor. We need more videos to post to the channel. Videos are best taken in landscape mode.

### *Study Group Liaison Officer:*

Phil Royce has completed 5 years as liaison officer and a new person is needed to take on the role. If you're keen please contact Miriam.

### *ANPSA 2024:*

Chris Clarke has taken over the role of co-ordinator from Chris Long. The next issue of Australian Plants will be full of information on the pre and post conference tours.

There is a request for everyone to register their expression of interest so that they can get the newsletters delivered straight to their inboxes.

**Janet Hodgkiss** (APS Victoria Delegate)

## Spring Gardens

The late winter-spring garden is a feast of colour and birdlife, although I've noticed many of my spring flowering plants are almost finished. I'm delighted with my waratah that was well-pruned last year and is looking great with fifteen flowers on just over a 1m bush. The year before the flowers didn't form properly.



**My waratah** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



Apart from the large flowers, a smaller, delicate ground cover flowered well for the first time. *Bossiaea prostrata*, Creeping Bossiaea, which I have also found in the bush here, (available from KES) has small yellow-brown pea flowers in a spreading, small clump. Generally found in part-shade to full shade and mine is on a slope where it is well-drained.

Recently I had the good fortune to travel with friends to the Melton Botanic Garden where the eucalypts and banksias in particular, were flowering beautifully, such as *Eucalyptus preissiana*, Bell-fruited Mallee and *Eucalyptus rhodantha*, Dowerin Rose from WA. Of course, there were many other delights and the Friends Group need to be congratulated for their on-going work.

Also, we thank you Janet for your excellent talk giving the background to Antonio Park in Mitcham and then, for guiding our wander through this area, which was quite new to me. We were able to identify many of the plants on Janet's list. A climb up to the air vent over Eastlink near Mullum Mullum Creek and the viewing platform to look over the bush was quite an eye-opener. A picnic in the shade afterwards made for a lovely end to our morning.

**Monika Herrmann**

## Find us on Facebook and the Web

### Foothills

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

### APS Victoria

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



***Bossiaea prostrata*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Eucalyptus preissiana***  
(Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Eucalyptus rhodantha***  
(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

**Shows, conferences, plant sales  
and other items of interest 2023**  
Please check APS Victoria website for  
cancellations

**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



## APS FOOTHILLS INC.

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### 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 6th November 2023.

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

### COMMITTEE

Leader: Chris Larkin

Secretary: Nicky Zanen

Treasurer: Deb McMillan

Newsletter Editors: Kerry Davis; Janet Hodgkiss

Other Members: Betty Wright; Janet Hodgkiss

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!**



<b>APS Foothills Calendar 2023</b>			
<b>2023</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>October</b>	25	Wednesday	Chris Clarke – Alpine Flora
	29	Sunday	Garden visit: Rosella Rise – Deb McMillan’s garden <i>10 am – 12 noon; Note: this is a Sunday</i>
<b>November</b>	22	Wednesday	Chris Larkin – Journeying from Perth to Broome
	25	Saturday	Garden visit: Blackburn Lake Primary School with Chris Larkin <i>10 am – 12 noon</i>
<b>December</b>	2	Saturday	End of year breakup: Kerry Davis house

## Quarry Reserve in Ferntree Gully

Last Saturday I popped into Quarry Reserve in Ferntree Gully. This reserve has been revegetated by Knox City Council and is locally very popular with dogwalkers and fishermen, and people who want to get fit walking up the 100 steps.

I was puzzled when I came upon a plaque on a rock stating ‘This tree has been propagated from seeds of the 400 year old Separation Tree, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum). The original tree was located in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Victorias gathered under the tree to celebrate the separation of Victoria from New South Wales on 15 November 1850. Dated 9th October 2023’.

I could see no tree so presumed the tree had been removed. Vandals perhaps? Then I realized it was the 7th October and that possibly, the tree would be planted on the 9th October (Monday). I wonder if anyone knows?

A couple of plants were flowering – photos are attached.

**Nicky Zanen**



Quarry Reserve Ferntree Gully (Photo: Nicky Zanen)





Plaque on a rock (Photo: Nicky Zanen)