



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

October Newsletter 2022

OCTOBER MEETING

Members' Meeting - Australian Plants in Pots

Wednesday 26th October 2022

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



For details on how to join in this members' meeting see page 2.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday **8th November**, 2022, 12 noon.
Day Meeting Reunion at Maranoa Gardens

Saturday **3rd December**, 2022, 12 noon.
Foothills End of Year Breakup/Get Together at
Kerry Davis' house.

PEAS ON THE BENCH

Bossiaeas are Boss!

Chris Larkin looks at some of the peas we've had on our bench on page 9.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tony Slater PhD - Wildflowers of Whitehorse and the Wimmera

See page 12 for more information.

HOCHKINS RIDGE WALK



Great walk and great company! See more of the plants we found on our walk on page 6

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Spring is definitely here with the days noticeably lengthening and signs of new life everywhere, from the greening buds and bright flowers to the plaintive begging of baby birds and increased bee and insect activity.

It also wouldn't be spring without the usual capricious weather and that's sure keeping us on our toes! Wild swings in temperatures and days that can't decide if they want to be winter or summer, and such a lot of rain too. I'm not complaining though. It doesn't do to complain about rain, even though there's currently some widespread flooding, just in case you jinx it!

We had a fantastic turn out at our last meeting where Liz gave us a grand talk on Lake Mountain. She looked at the changing face of the mountain over time and her experience of it in different seasons. Her slides showed how lush the vegetation is now, and the different angle from which she approached the subject, gave us all food for thought.

We also had a great walk at Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve on the Saturday following our meeting. We saw loads of things and it was a very pleasant and relaxed way to spend a Saturday morning.

Our next meeting is a member's meeting on growing Australian plants in pots. Read on further to see how you can participate.

In September, I went to the APS Vic COMM and the APS AGM, both of which were hosted by APS Loddon Murray in Swan Hill on the Murray River. The main venue was the Pioneer Settlement, which was very interesting in itself, and APS Loddon Murray had also organised a couple of garden visits too. At the AGM, Miriam Ford was elected our new APS Victoria President, with Robyn Tyson as Vice President and Chris Long staying on as Secretary. The annual report and minutes of the AGM will be in the December issue of Growing Australian.

Next year, the September COMM and AGM will be hosted by APS Grampians. They were meant to host it last year, and had all sorts of things planned as it was also their 40th Anniversary, but as you know, we all ended up in lockdown over that time so they had to cancel everything. It's all on for next year though and they're planning to do all the things they wanted to do last year. This includes a whole week of events starting with the COMM and AGM on the first weekend, garden visits, and then short day-trips or tours during the week and culminating in the annual Pomonal Wildflower Show the following weekend. If you're interested in having a spring mini-break in the Grampians, then keep the last week in September free. Accommodation in the area may be at a premium over that period, so if you're keen to go, then booking your accommodation early would be a good idea.

We've got a couple of Spring plant sales coming up, the Cranbourne Friends' Spring Plant Sale and the Ballarat Native Plant Show, both on the weekend of 22-23 October, if you need to stock up on plants or are looking for fillers to replace things that may not have liked our icy winter nights. I'm not sure I have much more space in my little garden but plant sales are a bit like catnip to me... can't resist them and I often come away with an armful of plants and a happy dopey grin on my face!

See you all next time.

Janet Hodgkiss

Growing Australian Plants in Pots and Containers – members' meeting guidelines

The idea for this meeting is to learn/find out from each other what Australian plants we are growing, or can grow, in pots and containers, what has or hasn't worked for members, and whether or not container growing might be something you'd like to try for yourself.

It will follow a similar format to our five slides night and you are encouraged to contribute and join in by taking photos of the plants you are growing in pots, so you can show them to us and talk a bit about them on the night.

We'll start off with a mini-presentation by Janet who has been gardening entirely in pots for the past 15 years, and then we'll look at what other members are growing.

See the guidelines below for how to join in:

- 1) Bring *FIVE slides of plants you have in pots on a USB on the night - this is the easiest and best option.
- 2) Alternatively, email your images to us no later than 5pm the day *before* the meeting, so that we can download and collate them. Send your images to: nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk
- 3) Be prepared to talk about your plants in pots when it's your turn. The information below would be very useful to share with us, so it might be a good idea to make some notes and jot things down before the meeting.

Information guidelines for each plant:

- Plant name
- Type and size of container (e.g., 500mm plastic pot, tall terracotta container, old teapot, etc.)
- Growing medium (type of soil or potting mix; own blend?)
- Aspect and growing conditions (i.e., direction it faces; sun, shade, part shade, etc.)
- General plant characteristics.
- Growth management (i.e., fertiliser, watering, pest/disease management)
- What you particularly like about the plant or why you are growing it in a pot.
- Other information, e.g., plants you have tried which haven't done well in pots, plants you'd like to try etc.

* If you have more than five plants in pots that you'd like to talk about, we won't be *too* strict but please don't be upset if we find we have to limit the number of slides you have or the length of each discussion. We may find we need to do this just so that everyone gets a chance to talk about their plants.

Looking forward to seeing what you're growing in pots, and what promises to be an enjoyable and very informative evening.

See you all there!

Janet Hodgkiss

September meeting report: The Life and Times of Lake Mountain

At our last meeting, Liz Triggs gave us a lovely talk about Lake Mountain, telling us about her association with it and her perceptions of it over time and across different seasons.

Liz began her talk with a bit of background about Lake Mountain, a mountain peak in the Victorian Alps. It's a cross-country ski resort in the winter and is used for bushwalking and mountain biking in the summer. There is also no lake at Lake at Lake Mountain, being named after George Lake who was the surveyor general of the area.

Liz has been going to Lake Mountain since she was a child and it's where she learnt to cross-country ski. As a family they visited the mountain a lot, and in those days, there were barely any facilities. They always went in winter, loving the snow and snow gums covered in ice, and for her, the mountain was always the same, and she never gave thought to the fact that it might look very different in the summer or that it might change over time.

Change did come to the mountain after a visitor centre and other facilities were built in 2004, Liz hoped they weren't ruining the mountain

because she says the charm of the alpine environment is the space, the sky, the bush and the peace.

Although it brought even more, and devastating change to the mountain, Liz didn't dwell long on the 2009 Black Saturday fires that ravaged the area. They were a very significant event in the life of the mountain, with the fires burning everything except the visitor centre.

A great concern, when the bush has been burnt like this, is that it's very vulnerable, particularly the soil, which can be severely damaged through erosion by wind, rain and frost. Low temperatures, a short growing season and humus-poor soil also means that plant recovery is slow but Liz pointed out that for Lake Mountain, the reset button had been pushed.



Bush regeneration in 2011 at Lake Mountain
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

Two years after the fires, in 2011, Liz wanted to see how the landscape was recovering and visited Lake Mountain with Chris and Bev. There was already good regrowth up to 1.2m with grasses, wildflowers, bushy snow gums that were resprouting from their lignotubers and many new little plants. There were lots of dead sticks on the ground and exposed soil amongst the plants but the water in the ponds and streams was clean.

There were also birds and insects, and Liz says the reappearance of these is important as they are not only pollinators but also indicators that the landscape is able to support life again.



Regrowth in 2022 (Photo: Liz Triggs)

When Liz visited the mountain in January 2022, she said everything looked different again. She hadn't visited the mountain for many years and eleven years after her visit in 2011, she says the plant growth and development is significant, and described the bush as lush, with lots to see. In reality it has been an incremental change but for her the change was sudden and had a bigger impact.

Walking through the bush in summer, she noticed that the dead branches made good perches for birds, there were lots of plants in flower and plenty of insects in amongst them.



Lush foliage lines the paths
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

The lushness of the growth was evident in Liz's photos and she said the 'layering of plants' was worthy of any garden.

There were large stands of trigger plants everywhere and clumps of senecios, with one senecio plant she looked at, hosting a whole little insect world of its own.



A Senecio hosting a variety of life
(Photo: Liz Triggs)



Skinks making good use of the habitat
(Photo: Liz Triggs)



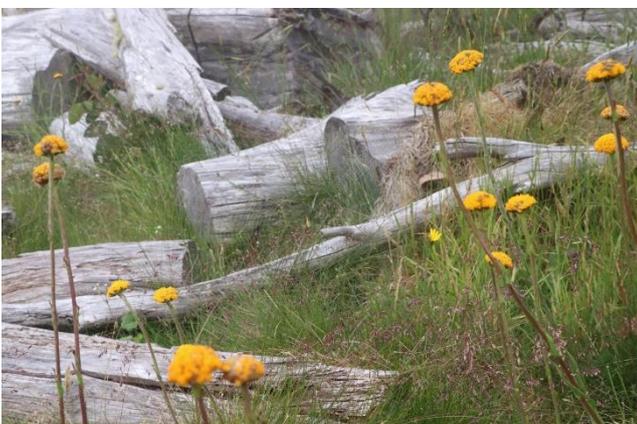
Trigger plants line the edge of the main track
(Photo: Liz Triggs)



Echo Flat in the mist, looking very lush after the devastation of the fires, January 2022
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

Over time long-acting fungi will decompose fallen wood, and it also makes habitat for other things. There are plenty of insects which are food for the spiders, birds and the many skinks that Liz saw.

Liz says she wouldn't have seen any of this going there as a child in winter, and probably wouldn't have noticed, as they were having too much fun skiing. She says her perspective has changed a lot since then and she sees much more now, as it's not just a walk but the plants and wildlife that have names and identities too.



Fallen logs come down in storms
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

Liz finished her talk by saying that she thinks we've all experienced this, where the cumulative knowledge you pick up over the years awakens an awareness of the detail of the environment you're walking through, and you see so much more.

Janet Hodgkiss

Hochkins Ridge Walk

Chris Larkin's talk 'Getting to know the Locals' in August, introduced us to Hochkins Ridge Flora Reserve, so on a perfect spring morning on the 1st October, 15 of us went for a walk to get to 'know this local' and see what we could find.



***Acacia paradoxa* and *Daviesia leptophylla* on one of the bush tracks** (Photo: Liz Triggs)

Chris compiled a very handy list of plants for us, based on what she and Bev had seen in flower about the same time last year. It wasn't intended as a full plant list or an 'activity sheet' to keep us engaged by 'ticking things off' but showed us what we were likely to see and helped us identify what we saw.

We saw quite a few extra species in flower that weren't on the list, so we added them as we went, and Chris and I updated the list after our walk. You'll find the list of plants as a PDF attachment to the newsletter email.



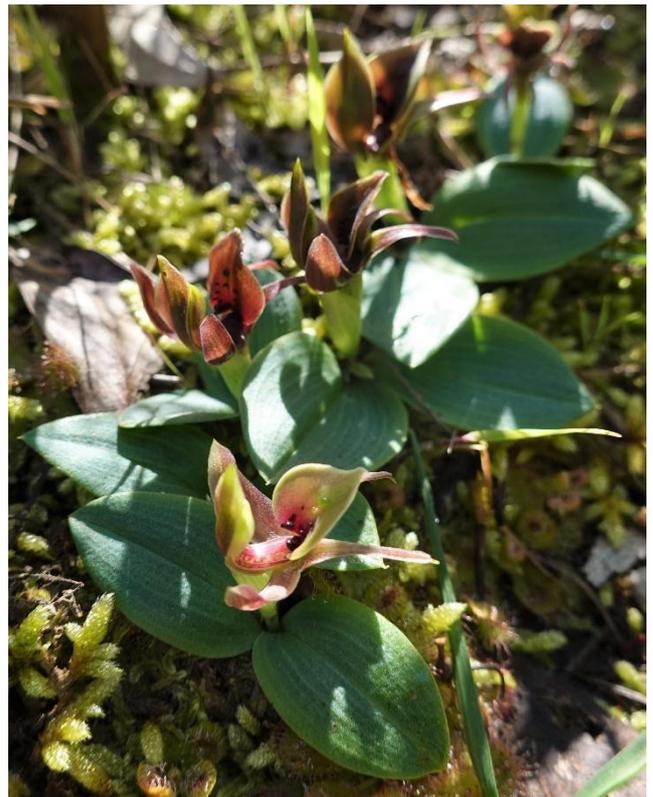
Acacia paradoxa

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Daviesia leptophylla

We saw several different species of orchid with the Wax-lip Orchids providing several very good photo opportunities. The Common Bird Orchids are always very cute and we came across an extensive stand of them right next to the path.



***Chiloglottis valida* (Common Bird Orchid)**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



***Glossodia major* (Waxlip Orchid)**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

More difficult to spot was the Maroon Hood, which, although it too was right on the edge of the path, was well-camouflaged in amongst the grass where it was growing.

We found Nodding Greenhoods and Tall Greenhoods and a Pink Fingers orchid, the white form, too. Some of us saw what we thought was a “Donkey Orchid which was past its best”, but it turns out it was a Leopard Orchid.



L-R: *Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid)

***Pterostylis melagramma* (Tall Greenhood)**

White form of *Caladenia carnea* (Syn. *Petalochilus carneus*) (Pink Fingers)

(Photos: Liz Triggs)

Acacias and the ‘bacon and egg’ pea flowers gave us splashes of yellow and orange, and a bit more difficult to spot were the purple flowers of *Glycine clandestina* and *Hardenbergia violacea*.

There were patches of Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*) catching the morning sun and we admired the incredibly tiny, fuzzy flowers of *Leucopogon virgatus*.



***Stackhousia monogyna* (Creamy Candles)**

(Photo: Liz Triggs)

Plenty of Tall Sundews, heavily in bud, also caught the morning sun with their sticky dewdrops sparkling in the morning rays. We also came across a Small Grass Tree sending up its flower spike loaded with buds.



***Leucopogon virgatus* (Photo: Liz Triggs)**



A tiny caterpillar samples a flower of *Acacia genistifolia* while a small spider looks on

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

We walked all the way down to the feral deer fence which has recently been upgraded to protect several rare and threatened flora species from browsing and trampling.



Feral deer fencing at Hochkins Ridge
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Near the fence, scrambling high up a tree, we found a Wonga Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*). Some of the flowers were just at eye height so we had an excellent view of the inside detail of each flower.

Just where the fence started, with its pretty clusters of white daisy flowers was a Snow Diay Bush (*Olearia lirata*), and scattered here and there through the bush we also saw the bright yellow flowers of Yam Daisies.



L: *Olearia lirata*
R: *Microseris lanceolata* (Yam Daisy)
(Photo: Liz Triggs)

It was easy to miss the tiny Native Violets and the Soft Cranesbill (*Geranium potentilloides*) though, as they were well-hidden in the grass.



L: *Viola hederacea* (Native Violet)
R: *Geranium potentilloides* (Soft Cranesbill)
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The Early Nancy's (*Wurmbea dioica* ssp. *dioica*) were in flower too. These are interesting plants because they have male and female flowers on different plants.

What gets more interesting is that they can also have male flowers and female flowers on a single plant, and sometimes they may have bisexual flowers on the plants, which have both male and female parts!

The photos show some of the differences. See if you can spot the differences next time you see an Early Nancy when you're out walking.



***Wurmbea dioica* ssp. *dioica* (Early Nancy)**
L: Female flowers with enlarged ovaries
R: Male flowers only have stamens
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



***Wurmbea dioica* ssp. *dioicica* (Early Nancy)**
Bisexual flowers with ovaries and stamens
 (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

All in all, it turned out to be a most relaxing morning with just the right amount of walking and stopping to look at things. I was pleased to see so many of you there, especially those of you who are currently nursing dodgy knees and ankles and other bits! You all did very well and I thoroughly enjoyed the company of everyone who came along. Thanks for a great morning!

Janet Hodgkiss

Bossiaeas on the Bench

Last meeting, we had quite few 'egg and bacon' pea plants. On the bench were genus examples of e.g. *Bossiaea*, *Eutaxia*, *Pultenaea*, *Oxylobium*.

As a generalisation, these plants are flowering a month or so after earlier flowering pea plants such hardenbergias and chorizemas.

There were three quite different *Bossiaea* species I will mention here: *B. aquifolium*, *B. ensata* and *B. linifolia* but first an overview. The name *Bossiaea* has been derived from the name of the 18th Century French physician and botanist, Boissieu la Martiniere. It is an endemic genus of

plants with around 50 species. They grow in all states of Australia, from sea level to altitudes of 1500m, and from the coast to the inland. They generally like growing in moist but well drained soils in dappled shade, which means they appreciate a cool root run.

It is worth noting there are three bossiaeas listed in the 'Flora of Melbourne'. *Bossiaea cinerea*, *Bossiaea cordigera*, identified in only one location, and *Bossiaea prostrata* which is more widespread but difficult to spot unless in flower. *Bossiaea aquifolium*, meaning holly leafed, and *Bossiaea linophylla* are both very showy medium sized plants from WA.

I first saw *Bossiae linophylla* growing in Maranoa Gardens anything up to thirty years ago, and once seen never forgotten because of its wonderful graceful, weeping habit. However, it took me many, many years to acquire a plant for my own garden. I have pruned this plant and it has had some die-back, but it does appear to be able to reshoot along its branches and at the moment looks as good as it ever has. Touch wood! Much to my amazement it flowered twice last year.



Bossiae linophylla (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Bossiae linophylla* flowers** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

Bossiaea aquifolium is a bit of a beast with its untidy growth habit and its large size, both of which I hope are obvious from the picture. Yes, this plant must be pruned to keep it in check which no doubt reinvigorates it.

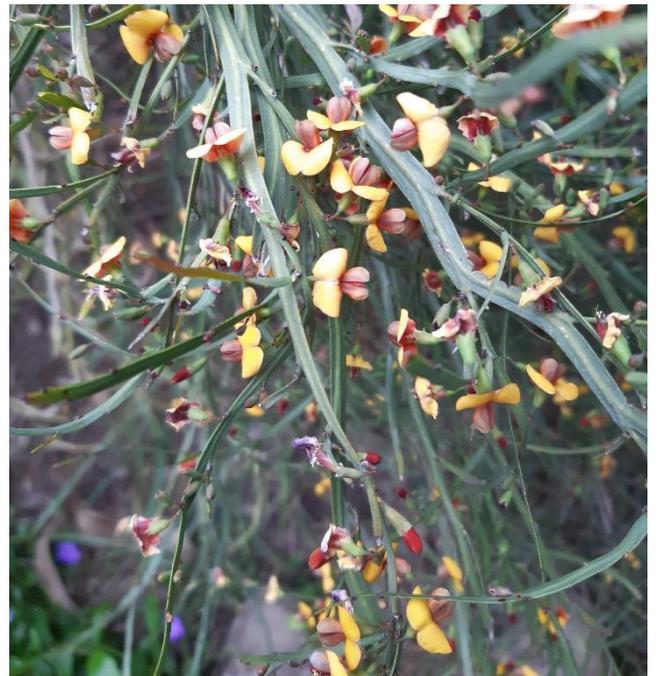


***Bossiae aquifolium* flowers**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Bossiaea ensata is a much smaller understory plant of under one metre. It occurs in QLD, NSW and Vic. It is notable as a leafless plant with flattened stems. Its flowers are solitary, growing on short stalks along the stems. I've had this plant for quite a long while, tucked in amongst other shrubs to give it protection.



Bossiae aquifolium (Photo: Chris Larkin)



Bossiae ensata (Photo: Chris Larkin)

References:

Elliot and Jones, *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants - Vol 2.*

M. Bull., *Flora of Melbourne.*

Chris Larkin

From the Secretary

Help at meetings:

Nicky will be contacting members before each meeting to help out with various 'jobs' so that we can spread the load. None of these are too onerous or intimidating, so please help out if you're able. Jobs include:

- Attendance book and nametags
- Greets visitors and new members
- Organise plants for bench and raffle
- Collect raffle money and draws raffle
- Supper - set up urn, cups, tea/coffee etc.
- Set up computer, projector, screen
- Run meeting
- Speaker - introduce
- Speaker - organise gift and/card where applicable
- Speaker - gives vote of thanks
- Best of the Bench - leads the discussion
- Tidy up (all of us)

Monika displays pea plants on the bench at our last meeting (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Reunion for day meeting members:

The day meeting people are having a reunion on Tuesday 8 November 2022 at Maranoa Gardens for lunch, from 12.00 noon.

I'll send an email to those folk closer to the time, but in the meantime, the existing members can save the date.

ANPSA 2022 presentations

If you were unable to attend the conference you can see some of their presentations here:

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

Nicky Zanen

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>

Tony is also leading a couple of walks in Whitehorse before his talk in November. If you are interested, here are the links to register:

* Eucalypts of Gardiners Creek

Friday, 14th October

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/43143114115>

[Z](#)

Sunday, 16th October

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/43145050908>

[Z](#)

* Other walks

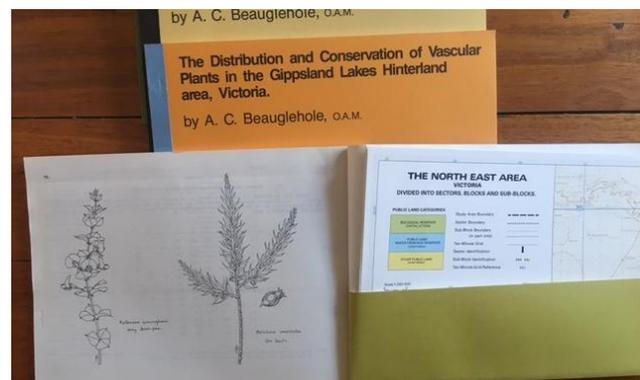
<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/great-southern-bioblitz>

Plant distribution books available - A.C. Beauglehole volumes

We have received the following from Bruce McGinnes. If you are interested in obtaining these books, please contact him directly at the email shown.

A colleague at Geelong Botanic Gardens has boxes of the iconic A.C. Beauglehole Victorian Plant Distribution books she wants to give away. She inherited boxes of them, and they are now sitting in her garage and would like them to go to a good home.

It is an eleven-volume set. See photographs.



Some don't have maps, but Judy who is the holder of the volumes is checking if it was just the sample volumes I received which were lacking maps. Expressions of interest could be sent to me at bsmcginness@gmail.com If there is interest, I could bring them to the next COMM in Keilor, 26th November.

Cheers,
Bruce McGinnes



Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2022

Important: please check websites for cancellations

8-16 October 2022 – ‘Fabulous Peas’ Art Exhibition, hosted by APS Maroondah. Karwarra Gardens, 1190 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama. Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday & Sunday 1pm - 4pm.

15 October 2022 – APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am - 3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.

15 & 16 October 2022 – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. ‘Fabulous Peas’, the typical ‘pea-flowered’ plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

22 & 23 October 2022 – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am - 4pm.

22 & 23 October 2022 – Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10am -4pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

12 & 13 November 2022 – Garden DesignFest Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula organized by various Rotary Clubs. For details visit <https://gardendesignfest.com.au/>

19 & 20 November 2022 – Garden DesignFest Regional Victoria.

19 or 26 November 2022 - APS Victoria Committee of Management quarterly meeting. Hosted by APS Keilor Plains. Iramoo Grasslands Centre and reserve.

Nicky Zanen



Dampiera diversifolia (Photo: Kerry Davis)



Boronia 'Lipstick' (Photo: Kerry Davis)

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: 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 7 November 2022.

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 both past and present.*

VISITORS WELCOME!