



JUNE MEETING

Wednesday, 26 June, 2024

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

Jason Caruso: Small Eucalypts

Would you like a eucalypt in your garden but feel they're just too big?

Luckily, there is a huge variety of eucalypts that are worth trying in smaller gardens and Jason's talk will highlight some interesting smaller eucalypts.

Even if you still don't have the room, there is the option of trying one in a pot.

Come along and be inspired to plant an unusual eucalypt in your garden!



L: *Eucalyptus preissiana*

R: *Eucalyptus pachyphylla*

(Photos: Jason Caruso)

Exciting discovery of an unusual butterfly in Knox!

For more on this special find, see page 6.

Fantastic Five Slides

This members' meeting was a hit as usual. If you missed it, see page 3 for a small sample of what we saw.



Fantail Rhapsody by Annemieke Mein
(Photo: Shirley Smith)

MEMBERSHIP renewals

Membership renewals are coming up soon. Please see page 7 for more details.

Hi Everyone,

We have had some lovely Autumn weather lately as we slip into Winter. May has been low on rainfall so far but the good rainfall in April is holding us in good stead. The job of pruning and planting goes on here endlessly. You've got to love it!

Thank you to the people who turned up for our Saturday May 18 working bee at the school. Only seven of us but we made a noticeable difference with weeding, planting and mulching. Many hands make a difference. In this case, 7 x 2 hrs = 14 person hours of work!

There have been a number of comments on how enjoyable the last meeting was. Five Slides gives people the opportunity to learn a little bit more about the interests of other members. We might learn something because of the information or story told by the slides and the person presenting them; we might see something of great beauty like some of Pam McDonald's pictures of fungi or Monika's tree trunks, or see something truly rare like the recent aurora captured by Janet, but beyond that we learn something about each other. Thank you one and all for being there, whether you brought five slides or not. Thank you, Janet for being a great technician enabling the evening to run smoothly.

Chris Larkin

The Dusky Antechinus

Sorry to show you another dead animal, but thought you might be interested to see this little mouse to rat size creature – a Dusky Antechinus – *Antechinus swainsonii*.

The Dusky Antechinus is found from southern QLD to Tasmania. This particular animal was found on the side of the Warburton rail-trail between Mt Evelyn and Wandin with a creek

running below the track. The book I have on Australian mammals lists four species of antechinus. Google tells me that at last count there are 15 species and several more subspecies. They are marsupials although the females have less of a pouch and more of a fold of skin.



Dusky Antechinus (Photo: Chris Larkin)

This antechinus is a rich chocolate brown above and pale grey below. It is the largest of the antechinus and has the darkest coat. You can see it has quite a pointed muzzle and five toes, with one, like our hands, opposing the others. It can burrow into stream embankments or under logs to create grass-lined nests. They forage for food in the undergrowth; small animals, insects, worms, lizards etc., or on low limbs of trees.

According to 'Key Guide to Australian Mammals' by Leonard Cronin. They reach maturity at 11 months old, and copulation is generally violent and may last 6 hours. Males then die a few weeks later due to hormonal stress around mating. Around a month later, females give birth to up to 10 young but only the ones that can latch on to the 6-8 teats available will live. Firmly attached, she drags them around for around a month and they are weaned by around 75 days.

The antechinus story does not read as a happy one. Threats are controlled burns, cats and foxes.

Chris Larkin

Five Slides

Here are some pictures from our Five Slides meeting in May. We saw, and heard, some lovely things from eleven of our members.



Pam Yarra – *Hardenbergia comptoniana* planted in an old tree stump. It started flowering really well many years later after two *Melaleucas* that were shading it were removed. It is climbing up two stakes that have wire strung between them, and is very popular with the bees.



Bev – Showed us photos from two exhibitions she went to: the BBC Earth Experience exhibition (Attenborough’s Seven continents) at the MEC; and Transformations: Art of the Scott sisters – an exhibition at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum in Lilydale.



Nicky Zanen – found these stately *Corymbias* lining a street in the Western Cape, South Africa.



Chris – Loves the play of light in the shallow water at Seaford Beach. The coastal vegetation found in this area, shown here in Keast Park at the northern end of Seaford beach, is what contributes to the beauty of this area.



Ana – *Acacia boormanii* dripping with yellow flowers screen her from her neighbours. They grow vigorously and have a tendency to sucker but are very rewarding trees.



Pam McDonald – Colourful fungi found on a walk in Sherbrooke Forest.



Ross – Has used many of his own photos to create his own backgrounds and screensavers on his computer.



Monika – Beautiful bark. The curled minni ritchi bark of *Acacia cyperophylla* (red mulga or creekline minni ritchi), looks as though it has been chiselled off the trunk; and colour really shows up on two Angophoras in their garden after the rain.



Monika – Garden design inspiration from the High Country.



Liz – A puddle of water in the New Zealand Hill flora reserve in Foster supports young life – the larva of a Dystictid (Water Beetle).



Liz – A beautiful cascade of *Amyema pendula* in the New Zealand Hill flora reserve in Foster.



Janet – Look carefully at your photos when you enlarge them; you may find some delightful photobombing insects! Here is a shield bug on *Kunzea ericoides* in Antonio Park.



Janet – Aurora Australis captured on Saturday 11 May, 2024. This was classified as an extreme aurora event which meant that at its height, even with all the light pollution in suburban Melbourne, it could be seen with the naked eye as a very faint greyish-pink wash in the sky.



Shirley – Annemieke Mein exhibition in Sale. Magical stitched multimedia textile art and free sculptural forms that includes birds, shells, insects, plants and fish. Showcases include materials, diagrams and paintings that document how she plans her artworks.

Exciting Discovery of Green Butterfly in Knox

The Green Butterfly, *Eucalyptica fantasia* was found in the school garden at Knox Park Primary School at the last working bee. Previously sighted in South Africa and New Zealand, this amazing butterfly has a huge wingspan, and in flight the wings look like eucalyptus leaves. The butterfly loves all the *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* in the school garden, and one of its host plants *Goodenia ovata* is also found in the garden. It's a truly amazing insect and we were thrilled to see it in the garden!

Shirley Smith



The Green Butterfly, *Eucalyptica fantasia*
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

Controlling Moss

Do you have a problem with moss growing in your gravel paths?
Do you know how to control it?

I have a lot of moss growing on the shady southside of the house mainly, because it gets less winter sun and stays wetter for longer. As far as I'm concerned it is not a good look and it seems to be increasing with every year. Previously I tried iron chelate which works well,

but the downside is it discolours the stones and any pavers it contacts as well. The result is patches of orangey brown stones and rocks. Not a good look.



Moss before and after vinegar treatment
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

The good news is you can kill moss with none of these side effects by spraying it with vinegar. I am using a cheap double strength one in an old spray bottle with great success.

Chris Larkin

ANPSA 2024 Conference

I gave the ANPSA 2024 Conference a bit of a sales pitch at our last meeting. There is a great range of speakers covering everything in relation to plants; from the soil to the sky, from bushland areas, to botanic gardens and home gardens. You get a choice of which speakers and topics to go to on the Wednesday, and I imagine choosing which speakers to listen to might prove difficult! Three ANPSA conference newsletters, May, June and August, will cover these Wednesday speakers and topics to help you make up your mind.

Members of the public are also invited to attend the AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson. This is a free event which is being held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, 2 October. Phillip's topic is "Connected through Nature" and he will cover the evolution of his work focusing on the importance of working with nature, and looking

at the various design solutions that his team have created to help address the world's extreme weather conditions by mimicking natural environmental systems. Phillip is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. He says, "By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time". Please register your attendance to this free lecture by emailing anpsa2024@gmail.com. For further information call Nicky Zanen on 0401 975 191 or Miriam Ford on 0409 600 644.

For more details about the conference, or to register your interest, please visit our website <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>.

The new venue at The Round in Nunawading is close, so the opportunity to participate has never been easier.

The Early Bird price for registration closes at the end of June, so time is running out if you want to be a part of it at the best price.

Chris Larkin

Find us on Facebook and the Web

Foothills

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

APS Victoria

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

APS Foothills and APS Victoria membership renewal

Membership renewals are due at the end of June, but you can renew any time. All renewals are done online. The APS Vic membership officer expects there will be an automatic reminder come through via the system, but the person who would initiate it is currently overseas. Membership rates remain unchanged from last year: single \$38; household \$44. 'Australian Plants' magazine (optional) is \$20.

Quick guide on how to renew:

- * Go to the APS Vic website <https://apsvic.org.au/>
- * Under the "Members" tab, click on "Renew Membership".
- * Scroll down to where it says "To renew an existing membership, please first [login](#)".
- * Click on "login", and use your email address and membership number for the password.
- * Once logged in, APS Vic Life Members should choose and click "optional extras" to proceed.
- * All other members – once logged in, simply proceed with making your choice of membership and local group(s). You can join up to three local groups, which is the limit.

Foothills members were great at getting their renewals done fairly quickly, and with little fuss, last year which was fantastic.

NB: As you are renewing your membership, you should not have to fill out any name/street address/phone number details. If you find yourself doing this, or can't log in with your email address/membership number – please STOP and don't proceed! Contact us straight away so that we can check the email address you are trying to use, as you may not be using the correct one. Your membership number can be found on your Growing Australian envelope. If you have any problems, or can't find your membership number, you know you can always contact me (Chris) on 0457 699 206.

Chris Larkin

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 1st July 2024.

Email: foothillsnewsletter@apsvic.org.au

COMMITTEE

Leader: Chris Larkin

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Deb McMillan

Newsletter Editors: Kerry Davis; Janet Hodgkiss

Other Members: Betty Wright; Janet Hodgkiss

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!

A trip to Sale and surrounds

We made it to the Annemieke Mein exhibition at the Gippsland Art Gallery/Port of Sale and were certainly not disappointed. She is such a talented lady; her work is exquisite. Shirley showed us a good range of her work. Plenty of growth and development has taken place in the Sale Botanic Garden since our last visit quite a few years ago. Most of the large trees were planted in the mid 1800s. Sale was fortunate to receive plant stock from Ferdinand von Mueller and advice from William Guilfoyle. It's a pleasant stroll through expansive lawns with Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwilli*), Hoop Pine, (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), large cypresses and eucalypts. One of the magnificent trees, the Gippsland Redgum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *mediana*) is apparently endangered. The two stately Lemon-scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) are from the original plantings recommended by William Guilfoyle. Their growth habit is wide and spreading rather than the upright form normally seen.



Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. *mediana* Sale Wetlands (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Acacia beckleri* Barrier Range Wattle home garden**

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)



Dew drops on webbing spiders' webs on Callistemon, Sale lakes walk

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

We spent several hours in the wetlands just south of the gardens, enjoying a wide range of birds, including Yellow-billed Spoonbills, grebes, teal, anhinga or snake birds drying their wings, and many more. A special treat was to watch a

pair of Azure Kingfishers in action, their bright orange and blue colours are just superb. The two large lakes near the gardens provide plenty of birdlife, local plants and recreation for the locals. The planners obviously take conservation seriously.....and people smile and say hello! An evening stroll through that area



***Araucaria bidwillii* Bunya Pine Sale Botanic Garden** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)

allowed us to see the large flocks of ibis coming in to roost in the trees on a man-made island. On the home front, one of my Barrier Range Wattles (*Acacia beckleri*) has already passed its prime and the other in a shadier position, is in full flower. It's an outstanding, upright plant with stunning, large, golden, globular flower-heads. It's a shame that its flowering time isn't longer. Another lovely plant is Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty', a low spreading shrub which needs plenty of room, is spectacular over winter and is now putting on a wonderful display of deep pink flowers along the stems.

Monika Herrmann

APS Foothills Calendar 2024			
2024	Date		Topic
June	26	Wednesday	Jason Caruso – Small Eucalypts
July	24	Wednesday	AGM & Trivia
	27	Saturday	Winter Working Bee: Knox Park Primary School 10.00 am – 12 noon <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
August	28	Wednesday	Robyn Tyson – Peninsula Reserve
September	25	Wednesday	Deb McMillan – A Collectors' Garden
October	23	Wednesday	Jean Bellis – Geraldton to Perth
November	27	Wednesday	Chris Larkin – Melaleucas
December	7	Saturday	End of year get-together <i>(venue to be confirmed)</i>

The
Australian Plants Society - Cardinia Region
invites you to our next meeting titled

**The Role of Mycorrhizae and Soil
Biota in Australian Soil Health**

which will be presented by
Dr Mary Cole
commencing from

**7:15pm, for a 7:30pm start
Tuesday 11th June**

at the
**Function Room, Deep Creek Reserve
62 Cameron Way, Pakenham, Vic**



Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest

15 June 2024 – Gardener’s Day Out: Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, 8 am to 4 pm. See <http://www.rhsv.org.au/> for more details.

30 June 2024 – RBGV Cranbourne, Winter afternoon talk, 2pm, Auditorium at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 1000 Ballarto Road, Cranbourne. Dr Garry Price: Alf Salkin’s banksias, contributions to botany, conservation and environmental education; establishment of the Special Collections Area at Cranbourne Gardens. Preceding the talk, at 10 am, the Friends are also offering a guided bush walk to the Special Collections Area. Costs: Afternoon presentation \$25 (non-member) \$20 (member) \$10 (student).

Morning bush walk (must also attend Afternoon presentation) \$25 (non-member) \$20 (member) \$10 (student concession). Find out more and book: <http://thq.fyi/se/89a4b2bd39db>

27 & 28 July 2024 – Quarterly Committee of Management Meeting & APS Bendigo’s 50th Birthday Celebration; full weekend of activities. Venue: “Chasers”, Bendigo Greyhound Racing Track, Bendigo; Self-drive tours to local public and private gardens, Bendigo forests and Landcare projects.

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Goroke.

7 September 2024 – APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan.

14 & 15 September 2024 – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. 10 am to 3 pm. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham.

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

21 & 22 September 2024 – 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.

28 & 29 September 2022 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.



30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, The Round, Nunawading, Melbourne. Host: APS Victoria. See: <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>

2 October 2024 – AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson, 3.30 pm, “Connected Through Nature”. Phillip Johnson is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. This is part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, open to the public, and free of charge.

5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Details to follow.

12 & 13 October 2024 – Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Web: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

23 and 24 November 2024 – APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting and APS Victoria AGM. Host: APS Wangaratta.

2025 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025: Epacridaceae. Host: APS Mornington Peninsula.

2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, planned to be held in Alice Springs.



Australian Plants Society Cardinia Region Inc.

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Free Public Lecture - Everyone Welcome

The Role of Mycorrhizae and Soil Biota in Australian Soil Health

Mycorrhizae are specialised fungi that assist plants in taking up particularly phosphorus from the soil. Ploughing and damaging the soil surface also damage the mycorrhizal biomass leading to loss of carbon from the soil, together with loss of water holding capacity in the face of a drying climate.

Reducing soil disturbance and increasing soil plant cover all lead to a more stable ecosystem with benefits to the soil, plants, and the environment.

Dr Cole describes the role mycorrhizae have played historically in terrestrial plant development and how they may well be the saviour of agricultural land into the future. They certainly maintain the balance of soil health in native systems. Australian soils are unique as are Australian plants and this uniqueness has evolved for a reason. That will be explored in this presentation.

Session Logistics

- Location:** Functions Centre at Deep Creek Reserve
62 Cameron Way, Pakenham, Victoria
- Date/Time:** Tuesday 11th June 2024, doors open from 7:05pm
- Presentation:** Commences from 7.30pm followed by questions
- Afterwards:** Following the presentation native plant cuttings will be shown, a raffle will be drawn with plant prizes and supper will be available

Introducing our speaker

Dr Mary Cole, PhD Plant Pathology, Monash Uni

Research conducted with S.A. DPI & UCLA Davis USA



Dr Cole has a national and international reputation for her work and the practical workshops she conducts, to introduce participants to the importance of caring for the soil and plants. These are run at the lab in Vervale, West Gippsland and in many overseas countries.

In 1980 Mary set up Agpath Pty Ltd <http://www.agpath.com.au> where the team assess specimens for plant and soil pathogens from all over Australia. They assist farmers in improving their soil diversity for healthier production. Students are encouraged to work in the lab under Mary's supervision. Although she has had an incredible academic career, Mary's passion shows through when speaking with likeminded people who also have a passion for Australian plants.

Generously supported by a speakers grant from the Australian Plants Society - Victoria