



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

## **WE HOLD TWO MEETINGS EACH MONTH**

### **DAY MEETING**

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
except November, December  
and January.

**Time:** 10.30am

**Venue:** Field Naturalists Hall,  
1 Gardenia St, Blackburn.  
(Melway 47K10)

### **EVENING MEETING**

**Date:** 4th Wednesday of the month,  
except December and January.

**Time:** 7.45pm

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

## **Combined Newsletters**

### **NOVEMBER 2017**

**2018  
FEBRUARY  
MARCH**

### **ENQUIRIES**

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

### **FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE**

[www.facebook.com/apsoothills](http://www.facebook.com/apsoothills)

**VISITORS WELCOME!**



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

November Newsletter 2017

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**End of year / Christmas breakup**

**Venue:** Shirley Carn's house

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**"Grasslands - A disappearing Habitat"  
- Cathy Powers**

An introduction to grasslands worldwide and the mid USA in particular, with an insight into the types of grasslands in Victoria, the flora, some fauna and the negative impacts.

**Venue:** Boronia West Primary School, Tormore Rd, Boronia. Melway 64 J8.

**Starting time:** 7.30 pm.

**Saturday 2nd December  
End of Year / Christmas breakup.**

**Venue:** Karwarra Gardens

**Hi Everyone,**

Welcome to your new-look newsletter! Yes, it does look quite different from our old one and that's because our design hasn't changed for many years. We, that is your committee, decided it was time to update and modernise our look, so we've gone with fresh colours and a clean layout. We would have had a new layout sooner but we wanted to have a photo of our floral emblem for the front page which meant we had to wait patiently for it to come into flower in spring! The new colours look good on screen as well as in print, and they work well even if you choose to print only in black and white. We've got all the usual news items and notices, your favourite regular articles, plenty of photos and in this issue, a little extra something at the back to keep you busy over summer.

I particularly want to thank Kerry for his constructive comments on the design and subsequent help with setting up the new template, especially for his patience in figuring out how to overcome some of the issues we've had with how the template works in different versions of MS Word. He also enthusiastically embraced the idea of a new layout and design which was really encouraging, and continues to do a great job as editor, so a big "Thank you Kerry" from all of us.

Our next evening meeting will be our last at Boronia West Primary School. We've enjoyed having our meetings there over the years but look forward to meeting in our new venue at Knox Park Primary School from February. In preparation for our move, at our last evening meeting we went through and consolidated our library, keeping only the books we deemed to be the most useful and/or valuable, as we can only take one cupboard with us. Thank you to everyone who helped with this process. The books we chose not to keep for our library were

offered to those present at the meeting, and the remainder have been donated to charity.

Our recent Myrtaceae evening was a very floriferous affair and planning for our Quarterly Gathering in August next year is gaining momentum. See the separate reports on these.

I am looking forward to our next evening meeting when Cathy Powers will be talking to us about grasslands. Many of us know Cathy but for our newer members, and for those who may not be very familiar with her, I have included a short biography in this newsletter. Her presentation and talk is sure to inspire us to get out and about to experience the pleasure of a grassland habitat, so see you there.

**Janet**

## Final day meeting for 2017

This is the last day meeting for the year, and we are celebrating with a visit to Shirley Carn's place, 5 David Street, Monbulk on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017, starting from 11.00 am. This gives you a chance to wander around Shirley's garden before lunch.

As is our tradition, we will have a shared lunch so please bring a savoury or sweet to share. Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone is welcome, and if you would like to bring a friend, please do so. Also, let me know if you would like a lift to Monbulk from Boronia. Phone 9761 1933.

If you can, also please bring some chairs. I checked Google Earth for a map and found the photo of the street scene. It is interesting to note just how much Shirley's front garden has changed since this photo was taken a mere three years ago.

**Nicky**



Shirley Carn's garden  
(Photos: N. Zanen)

## Evening Meeting – 22nd November

For our last evening meeting of the year we have Cathy Powers talking to us about "Grasslands – A Disappearing Habitat".

Hailing from the mid-west of the USA, Cathy has long been familiar with grasslands. She moved to Australia with her husband in the mid-1970's and as a dual citizen, she now enjoys the best of both worlds. Cathy and her husband live on the eastern slopes of the Brisbane Ranges and she says she is lucky to count the Brisbane Ranges National Park as her backyard. Cathy has been a member of her local group APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh for over 10 years, and also an executive member of the Australian Plants Society Victoria, which included three years as President. She writes an article for the Royal Horticultural Society Victoria on Australian native flora, which is included in their quarterly journal. Her most recent interest is in moths, and she currently volunteers at Museums Victoria helping to sort out the moth collection in the entomology department.

Cathy's presentation and talk on grasslands is sure to inspire us to get out and about to experience the pleasure of a grassland habitat, so see you there.

**Janet**

## End of Year / Christmas break up

This year we are having our break up at Karwarra Gardens. As usual we will provide cold chicken for everyone but please bring your own drinks and something to share, e.g. salad, nibbles, dessert. Details are as follows:

**Venue:** Karwarra Gardens, 1190-1196 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road (behind the Kalorama Memorial Reserve), Kalorama.

**Time:** 12pm.

**Please Note:** Karwarra is closed on Total Fire Ban Days and during extreme weather – if this is the case our break up will be postponed or cancelled until further notice. If we have advance warning of this, we will let you know as soon as possible of an alternate venue.

**Janet**

## October Day Meeting

Our speakers this month were Royce and Jeannie Raleigh from Horsham. Their presentation was the result of many hours work and study, involving photographs of 'Lesser Known Plants For The Garden', as the talk was named.

There were 110 images altogether, grouped alphabetically by species and 73 of these were exclusively from W.A. Having spent my childhood in Northam W.A. and having been a regular gatherer of *Leschenaultia*, 'Roo Paws', Everlastings and probably many others [ legal then?] I picked up on the very similar climates of that area and the Wimmera Mallie district, so Royce and Jeannie are well placed in Horsham to be so enthusiastic about W.A's wildflowers.

As many of our GAPS members will know, most of our favourite plants from the West seem to have a strong dislike of Melbourne's climate, so it was really good to view the outstanding examples shown by Royce and the majority of the photos had been taken at the Horsham property.

Space doesn't allow for the listing of all those plants, let alone the images accompanying this presentation, but I have picked out some examples for readers of these notes.

**Barry Sanders**



Royce Raleigh at recent meeting  
(Photo: N. Zanen)



*Thysanotus multiflorus* WA  
(Photo: Royce Raleigh)



*Billardiera varifolia* WA  
(Photo: Royce Raleigh)

## October Evening Meeting

### Marvellous Myrtaceae

I know it is a big family, so was expecting a reasonable range of specimens but I didn't expect the very large and delightful selection that you all brought to our meeting. Thank you for raiding your gardens and giving us plenty to look at and talk about. Liz and I wrote down plant names as fast as we could while we were going through them, and even though we managed to jot down the names of over 50 species, I'm sure we still missed quite a few.

At the meeting we took a broad look at the variety of genera we have in our gardens, and which ones we are able to grow fairly easily here in Victoria. Many of the non-eucalypt Myrtaceae are from western Australia where the conditions are quite different to the eastern parts of the country, so it is very exciting to be able to grow so many of them here.



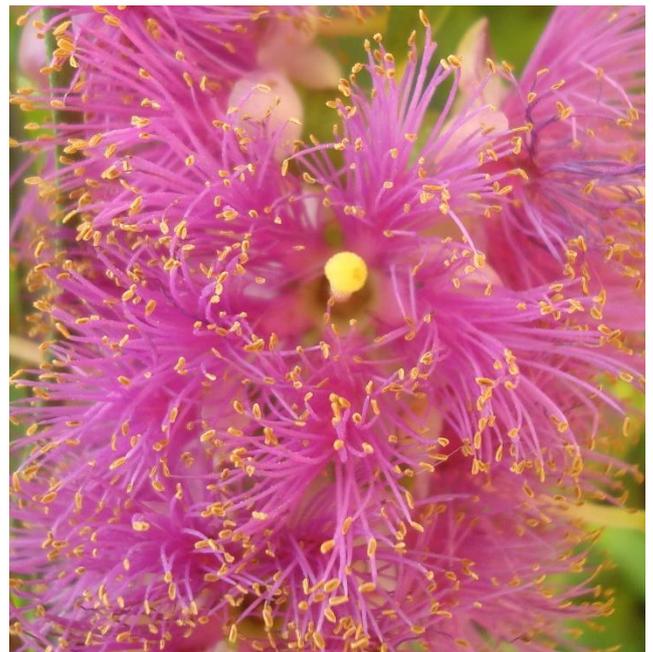
*Kunzea baxteri* x *pulchella*  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



*Micromyrtus ciliatus*  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



*Verticordia* x *Chamelaucium* hybrid  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



*Melaleuca fulgens* Purple form  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

I brought the left-over specimens home to practice my photography on, and was entranced by the myriad shapes, forms and sizes of these non-eucalypt Myrtaceae. The diversity within the family, and the intricate and delicate way the flowers are put together, is nothing short of phenomenal. Time constraints meant we were able to dip briefly and lightly into the Myrtaceae, so it may be worthwhile

looking at more specific botanical or horticultural aspects of the family in the future.

Below is a brief outline of the main family characteristics (compiled from a number of sources – see reference list). The VICFLORA website has an interactive/online key of the Victorian genera and is worth a look. Also, a list of plants from the meeting for your interest (the ones I am confident we managed to note down correctly).



Backhousia citriodora bracts  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



Selection of Leptospermum  
(Photo: Claudia Barduhn)

## Family MYRTACEAE

**Overall characteristics:** Woody shrubs to tall trees.

**Leaves:** Simple; margins usually entire. Often dimorphic i.e. occurring in two forms such as juvenile and adult foliage. Leaves may be opposite, alternate or occasionally whorled. Surfaces

commonly dotted with conspicuous oil glands, so leaves are often aromatic. Stipules minute or absent.  
**Inflorescence:** Variable. Flowers solitary or arranged in umbels or racemes to many-flowered panicles; sometimes aggregated into conflorescences that are head or spike-like.

**Flowers:** Actinomorphic (can be bisected symmetrically in several planes, except *Calothamnus* which is zygomorphic); may be white, pink, red, purple or yellow. Usually five sepals and petals, and many stamens. Sepals often reduced as lobes on the edge of the hypanthium and are often persistent on the fruit. Perianth segments (the sepals and petals) are usually free but may form various kinds of calyptra (caps). Stamens are long and conspicuous and may be free or grouped into bundles opposite the petals. Petals usually free and fall after flowering and are occasionally absent.

**Ovary** usually half-inferior, from almost inferior to almost superior, 1- to multi-locular.

**Style** simple.

**Fruit** usually a loculicidal capsule, nut or berry.

**Distribution and occurrence:** World: c. 150 genera, 3000 species, tropical to temperate regions, mainly S. America, Australia & Malesia. Australia has c. 70 genera, 1400 species, all States.

### Reference articles:

**ANPSA website:** Chamelaucium and its relatives:  
[www.anpsa.org.au/chamel.html](http://www.anpsa.org.au/chamel.html)

**Australian National Botanic Gardens:** family Myrtaceae:

[www.anbg.gov.au/PLANTFAM/AUST1C.HTM](http://www.anbg.gov.au/PLANTFAM/AUST1C.HTM)

**VICFLORA Flora of Victoria:** online key to Myrtaceae:

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/7cc7f482-9966-4860-a834-2608a8949a0b>

**Florabase:** WA Myrtaceae:

<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/search/quick?q=myrtaceae>

**NSW Flora online:** family Myrtaceae:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=fm&name=MYRTACEAE>

### Plant list:

*Actinodium cunninghamii*; *Astartea fascicularis*, *A. heteranthera*; *Austromyrtus dulcis*; *Backhousia citriodora*, *B. myrtifolia*; *Baekkea ramosissima*; *Callistemon* 'Brogo Overflow', *C. diosmifolia*, *C. 'Hinchinbrook'*, *C. 'Pink Champagne'*, *C. viridus*; *Calothamnus pinifolius*, *C. quadrifidus*; *Calytrix tetragona*; *Chamaelaucium* 'My Sweet Sixteen', *C. uncinatum*; *Darwinia citriodora* Prostrate form, *D. grandiflora*, *D. homoranthoides* (Syn. *Homoranthus*

*homoranthoides*); *Homoranthus papillatus*; *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *H. cordifolium*; *Kunzea ambigua*, *K. baxteri*, *K. parvifolia*, *K. pulchella*, *K. pulchella x baxteri*; *Leptospermum laurifolia*, *L. 'Copper Cascade'*, *L. 'Jervis Bay'*, *L. macrocarpum*, *L. 'Merinda'*, *L. 'Copper Sheen'*, *L. petersonii*, *L. 'Julie Ann'*; *Melaleuca blaeriifolia*, *M. diosmifolia*, *M. filifolia*, *M. fulgens* Purple form, *M. 'Robin Red Breast'*, *M. spathulata* Dwarf form, *M. violacea*; *Micromytrus ciliata*; *Thryptomene calycina*, *T. 'FC Payne'*, *T. 'Supernova'*; *Verticordia x Chamelaucium* hybrid; *Verticordia chrysanthella*, *V. plumosa*.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Out and About

The past four weeks have been incredibly busy. Liesbeth Uijtewaal-de Vries came for a brief visit, and before her I had a cousin from Canada with me. It has been such a pleasure showing both people our wonderful city and countryside.

With Teresa (Canada) a quick visit to Serendip Sanctuary in Lara was a highlight – you can walk through enclosures with kangaroos and emus, just like you used to do in the old days at Healesville Sanctuary. It is a gem of a place to take overseas visitors to.

With Liesbeth we popped in to visit Royce and Jeanne Raleigh at Wartook Gardens, just before they came down to give us a talk. Everything has grown so much, and the whole countryside is green and lush. We were also able to go to the APS Grampians show in Pomonal – the first time Liesbeth has been to a Victorian show. She pointed out that our shows are quite unique and there is nothing like it in the Netherlands. Two gardens were open as part of the show and these were certainly worth a visit. Maybe we can organize a weekend away for APS Foothills members next year?

**Nicky**

## ANPSA 2018 – Hobart

The next Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) Conference starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Hobart. If you haven't booked yet, please do so well before the closing date, 15 December 2017. There are also still spaces on the 'Alpine to Rainforest Tour'. Members who have difficulty with the electronic registration to the conference please contact Nicky on 0401975191 for assistance.



Unique way of displaying Correas – done by Linda Handscombe, APS Grampians. (Photo: N. Zanen)

The Conference will be opened by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, who will also host a reception at Government House on Monday evening.

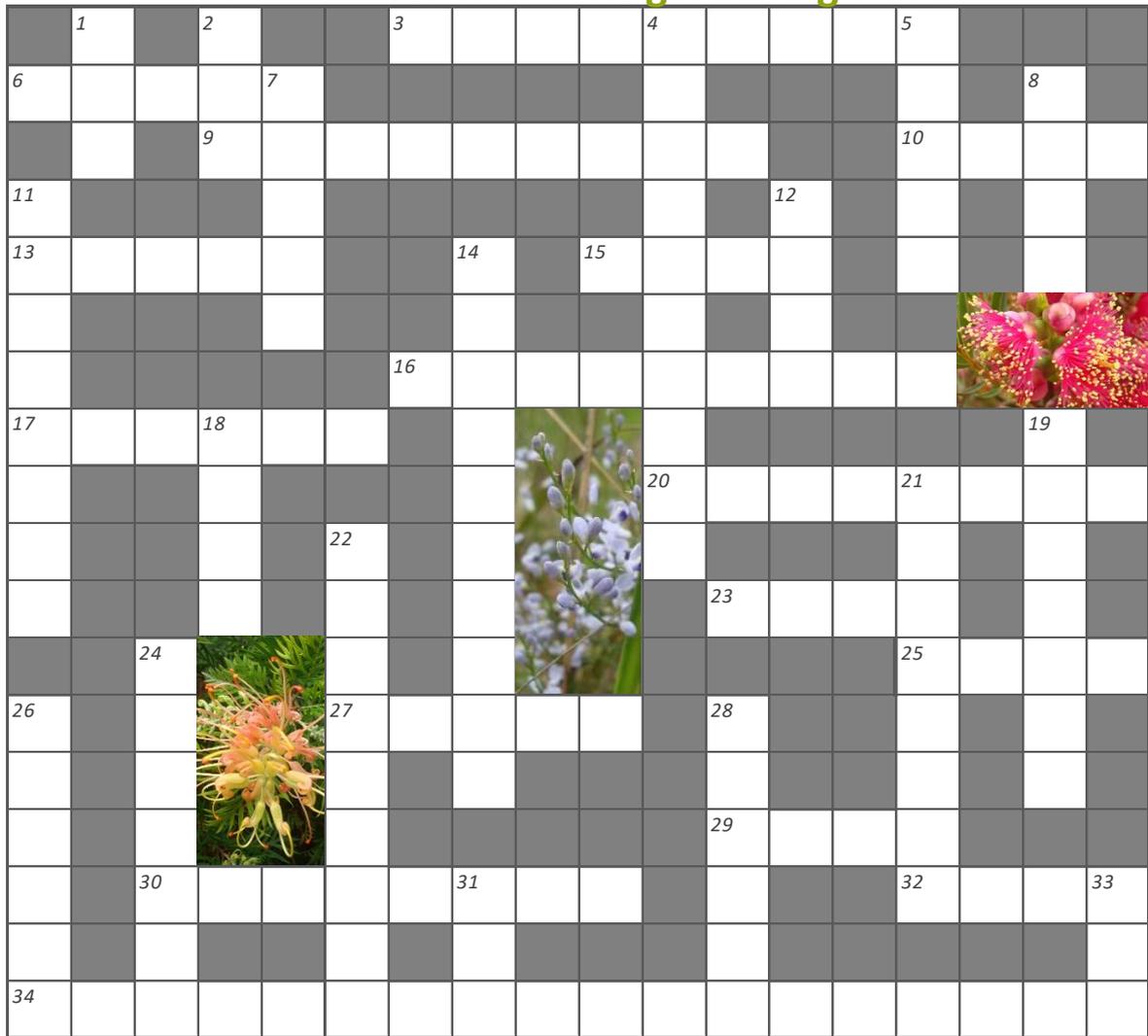
Wrest Point is a beautiful setting for the conference and we will be centred on the Boardwalk overlooking the Derwent River with the talks next door in the Wellington Room. The speaker program will occupy half a day with excursions on the other half. After lunch at Wrest Point on Monday to Thursday and before lunch on Friday all participants will board buses and rotate around all 5 excursion sites, including the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Mt Wellington, Inverawe Native Gardens, Kingston Wetlands, Tasmanian Bushland Garden and the Lauderdale salt marshes with garden visits en route some days.

The AJ Swaby address will be delivered on Tuesday night by James Wood speaking about 'The Seed Bank Story'. This will be preceded by the presentation of the ANPSA Australian Plant Awards when Victoria's Diana Snape is one of the recipients. The Conference Dinner is on Thursday. The keynote speaker on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January is Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick presenting 'Alpine Vegetation of Tasmania'. Members who have already booked and are part-taking in tours that include visits to Tasmania's national parks, for example Bruny Island and the Rainforest and Alpine Tour, need to purchase parks passes. These are \$12 per day per person, or \$30 for a pass valid for 8 week. Passes will be available on the buses.

For more information about the conference, please visit [anspa.org.au/conference2018](http://anspa.org.au/conference2018) or email [asgajian18@gmail.com](mailto:asgajian18@gmail.com). And if you are considering attending ANPSA 2018, book accommodation as soon as you can. January is a spectacular but very busy time in Hobart.

**Nicky Zanen** (Phone: 040 1975 191)

## A bit of fun for when the gardening's done!



### Across

- 3 Northernmost part of Western Australia
- 6 Sheoaks sometimes do this
- 9 Not all members of this genus are shrubs
- 10 Plants that need to be protected and conserved
- 13 Growth hormone
- 15 Long gone feathered friend
- 16 Not quite the Dandenongs
- 17 Largest plant genus in Australia
- 20 Harp-tailed mimic
- 23 Aussie friend
- 25 Can damage plants
- 27 Part of a tree
- 29 Garden implement
- 30 Arid plain dominated by saltbush
- 32 Crystallised honeydew on leaf
- 34 Foothills' floral emblem

### Down

- 1 Not the wet season
- 2 Melbourne winter weather phenomemon
- 4 Bird bush
- 5 Melbourne river
- 7 Keep plants in check
- 8 Ribbit!
- 11 ANPSA 2018 Conference location
- 12 Most plants like it to be free draining
- 14 Not recommended for the Proteaceae
- 18 Mistaken raven
- 19 Leopard and Donkey plants
- 21 Insect accommodation
- 22 Island continent
- 24 Botanical garden for Australian plants
- 26 Muntries, \_\_\_\_ pomifera
- 28 Aquatic fern of arid regions
- 31 Flying fox
- 33 Grass genus

*Answers in next newsletter.*



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

February Newsletter 2018

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 13th February**

### Alex Smart – The River Red Gum

Alex Smart has been involved with Australian native plants for a long time. He was a founder member of APS Wyndham and since moving to Berwick has been heavily involved with the Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne where he was recently President. Alex will take us on a journey of discovery around the idiosyncrasies of eucalypts including how our iconic Red River Gum was named after a tiny place in Tuscany, Italy. It is sure to be a very entertaining and informative talk.

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

### Pam and Ross McDonald – Evolution of their garden.

Pam and Ross' garden has undergone a magical transformation over the years. Come and see how it has been coaxed from an uncleared and undeveloped block covered with weeds, large rocks and boulders to the peaceful haven it is today.

## Propagation Day

**Saturday 24th February**

Propagation Morning at Knox Park Primary School.

10.00am - 12.00 noon

## Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year and all the very best wishes to you!

I was disappointed to have to cancel our End of Year/Christmas breakup, but it just wouldn't have been safe for us to venture up into the hills with the torrential rain we had that weekend. Initially I thought we might be okay, but when reports of dangerous driving conditions and falling tree limbs started coming through, I had to make the call. Perhaps we could have a summer picnic instead, once the worst of the fearsome summer heat is gone of course, so that we can catch up with each other. What do you think?

I (and I am sure all of you as well) thoroughly enjoyed Cathy Powers' talk on grasslands at our November meeting. I enjoyed it not only because I already have a soft spot for grasslands and savannas, having grown up in South Africa where they are the dominant vegetation type but because it brought home to me that we have some rather special grasslands of our own right here in Victoria. I am now keen to explore some of the reserves in Victoria that were mentioned (see the separate report for the names of these), and after seeing Cathy's photos of those beautiful prairies, I think I'm going to have to move them up a few notches on my "would love to one day..." list too.

Our final meeting of 2017 also saw us getting together for the last time at Boronia West Primary School. We've had our meetings there for many years but we're looking forward to our new venue in the BER building at Knox Park Primary School. There is plenty of off-street parking and of course the gardens are great too! See further in the newsletter for the address details.

We have a great year ahead with plenty of interesting topics on offer from various speakers, as well as a few interactive member's meetings

planned. We're also hosting the Quarterly Gathering in August and I'm sure that with all your enthusiastic help and support, it's going to be one of the best ever. We're having another planning/organising meeting soon and we'll keep you posted as to where we're at and how you can help/contribute.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

**Janet**

## November evening meeting - Grasslands with Cathy Powers

Well grasslands are awesome, there's no doubt about that! Cathy's talk on "Grasslands - A Disappearing Habitat" along with her photos, introduced us to some of the world's most beautiful places and showed very clearly that a vegetation type that people sometimes brush off as boring and plain, is anything but.



Not all is grass in a grassland! (Photo: Cathy Powers)

We learned that a quarter of the land on Earth is covered in grasslands and they exist on every continent except Antarctica. Grasslands are vegetation types that receive neither too much nor too little rainfall, so they are not too wet to be forest and not too dry to be desert. They are somewhere in the middle and have rich, fertile soils making them the most agriculturally useful land to humans.

There are different types of grasslands, the two main types being tropical and temperate grasslands and they go by different names in various parts of the world: prairies in the U.S. Midwest, savanna in Africa, steppes in central Europe/Asia and pampas in South America. They have grass as the dominant vegetation and support a range of herbivores, with

some of the larger herbivores being elephant in the savannas, bison/buffalo in the prairies and in the Australian grasslands, kangaroo.



Bison/Buffalo (Photo: Cathy Powers)

Cathy showed us pictures of Thunder Basin National Grassland (your classic sweeping prairie with waving grasses) and then the Badlands National Park, both in the U.S. Midwest. "The Badlands?" Yes! While it might look like a desert, with its eroded buttes and pinnacles, The Badlands do in fact contain the largest undisturbed mixed prairie in the United States and they also support an astonishing array of plants and animals.



Badlands - eroded landforms blended with mixed grass prairie (Photo: Cathy Powers)

Our attention was then turned to the Victorian grasslands. Cathy showed us pictures from several reserves she has visited, which drew plenty of 'Ooooh's' and 'Aaaah's' as we discovered that all is not grass in our grasslands either. Lilies, orchids and a myriad other flowering plants abound, making grasslands quite possibly the most interesting vegetation type of all. We also have a rich fauna complement in our grasslands and these are not only herbivores, as the open spaces make the

perfect hunting grounds for raptors. See the list at the end for some reserves that are well worth a visit.

Sadly, less than 1% of native grasslands survive and they are now considered a threatened ecosystem. They are threatened in that not all our grasslands are in good health, with the poorer quality grasslands missing their bryophyte crust. These crusts or mats are made up of various mosses, liverworts and lichens, and are known to contribute to the general health and nutrient status of the soil. They are lost due to trampling by domestic animals and frequent fires. Other negative impacts and threats include agriculture, the encroachment of suburbia, invasion by various weed species (there's a naughty South African orchid out there I believe!), herbivores such as European rabbits and brown hares, and introduced carnivores such as feral cats and dogs.



Grassy woodland, Cobra Killuc Wildlife Reserve near Mortlake (Photo: Cathy Powers)

There are still some beautiful remnant grassland sites out there though and some that are worth visiting are: Mulla Mulla Grasslands (Bush's Paddock) in the Shire of Melton; Laverton North Grassland – home to the endangered Sunshine Diuris, *D. fragrantissima*; Cobra Killuc Wildlife Reserve near Mortlake and various grasslands in the Colac/Otway region.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Out with the old, in with the new

Our November evening meeting was the last one for the year. Cathy Powers gave us a talk on the grasslands of Australia and the US. We had a bumper turn up and I was so glad to hear this talk again as it was just as entertaining and informative as the first one.

Underneath all the camaraderie was an undercurrent as we emptied the remaining cupboard and left the Boronia West Primary School

for the last time. I'm not sure that anyone regretted leaving, there were mutterings about the busy road outside and that we had to accept the state of the room as we found it. The previous couple of months have been difficult. At the last minute we had to source a screen - the one we had left behind which belonged to Rex Marburg had been thrown out when the school had a big clean-up of the room. We hadn't used the screen for a while because we could project onto the wall, but recently carpet tiles were put there and this made finding a screen critical. The final insult was the chairs provided for us – these were the very comfortable ones that surrounded the big table, but there weren't enough for the number of people. However, we just put up with it and had a lovely meeting too.

I mentioned the cupboard was emptied. This one will be taken to Knox Park Primary School where we meet in 2018. We'll back to where APS Foothills started!

One of the last items to be removed was the Stump. Assembled by John Facey with a pair of Phil Jackson's vintage secateurs mounted on a mallee root, it has a plaque "SGAP Foothills Group, Annual Trivia Quiz Award – *Numquam Pro Responso Stumpus* which John had someone at Monash University translate for him. John too was never stumped for an answer.



Trophy (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Janet was taking it out and I was petrified that she might throw it out so kidnapped it from her. It is now on one of my bookshelves but I'm wondering why my attachment to it and whether indeed I should be throwing it out instead of hanging on to it. Maybe there is another member who would like it?

**Nicky**

## Out and About

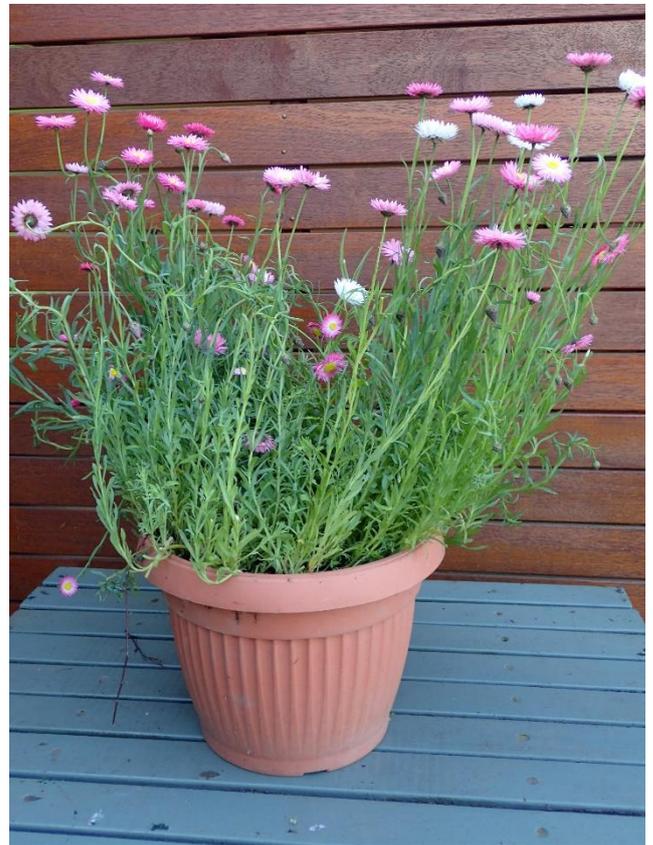
Our last day meeting was held in November in the delightful gardens of Shirley Carn. From memory it was a really hot day and my photos show many members under umbrellas. It was good to catch up with many of our founder day meeting members including Judy Barker and Joan Rand. Naturally Shirley's garden was an awesome display – I reckon she feeds her plants steroids. In saying that, Shirley has told me in the past that she uses cow manure and last spring I put a fair amount around some of my plants. I've been noticing that some of them have grown significantly more than in previous years – maybe there is something in that!



Shirley Carn's garden (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Shirley Carn's garden (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Helipterum roseum Shirley Carn  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

The 2018 ANPSA Conference has come and gone. Four APS Foothills members went to King Island for a pre-conference tour of five days and then we went to Hobart for the conference. During the week we had lectures for half a day, and a day trip for the other half. It all worked well and during the week we got to explore the Bushland Garden in Buckland, Mt Wellington, the Inverawe Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hobart. The speakers' program was extremely varied and interesting.



King Island (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## Evening meeting venue reminder

Don't forget - Our evening meetings are now being held at Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Road, Knoxfield. It is easily accessed from Scoresby Road by turning into Kent Street and following the little dog-leg into Kathryn Road. Parking is in the school carpark. The meeting time, 7.30pm, remains the same.



Banksia King Island (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Bev Fox approaching Pirates Cave  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Most of us also went to Bruny Island for a day trip. All in all a lot of fabulous activity. As always it was fantastic to catch up with old friends – many of whom I met at my first ASGAP Conference in 1995. Hopefully there will be several talks to be presented by our members so we can share the gems of the South.

The next ANPSA Conference will be in Albany, WA from the 30 Sept to 4 October 2019.

**Nicky**



Eucalyptus Summer Red  
(Photo: Kerry Davis)



Melaleuca citrina  
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

## Answers to: A bit of fun for when the gardening's done!

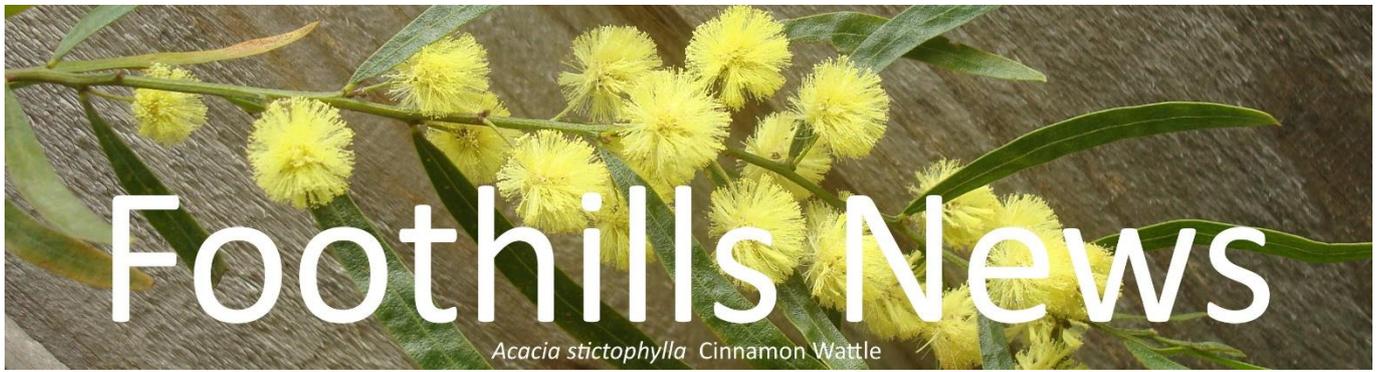
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	Y		<sup>9</sup> G	R	E	V	I	L	L	E	A			<sup>10</sup> R	A	R	E
<sup>11</sup> T				U						M		<sup>12</sup> S		R		O	
<sup>13</sup> A	U	X	I	N			<sup>14</sup> F		<sup>15</sup> D	O	D	O		A		G	
S				E			H			P		I					
M						<sup>16</sup> F	O	O	T	H	I	L	L	S			
<sup>17</sup> A	C	A	<sup>18</sup> C	I	A		S			I						<sup>19</sup> O	
N			R				P			<sup>20</sup> L	Y	R	E	<sup>21</sup> B	I	R	D
I			O		<sup>22</sup> A		H			A				E		C	
A			W		U		O				<sup>23</sup> M	A	T	E		H	
		<sup>24</sup> M			S		R							<sup>25</sup> H	A	I	L
<sup>26</sup> K		A		<sup>27</sup> T	R	U	N	K		<sup>28</sup> N				O		D	
U		R		R		S				A				T		S	
N		A		A							<sup>29</sup> R	A	K	E			
Z		<sup>30</sup> N	U	L	L	A	<sup>31</sup> B	O	R		D			<sup>32</sup> L	E	R	<sup>33</sup> P
E		O			I						O						O
<sup>34</sup> A	C	A	C	I	A	S	T	I	C	T	O	P	H	Y	L	L	A

### Across

- 3 Northernmost part of Western Australia
- 6 Sheoaks sometimes do this
- 9 Not all members of this genus are shrubs
- 10 Plants that need to be protected and conserved
- 13 Growth hormone
- 15 Long gone feathered friend
- 16 Not quite the Dandenongs
- 17 Largest plant genus in Australia
- 20 Harp-tailed mimic
- 23 Aussie friend
- 25 Can damage plants
- 27 Part of a tree
- 29 Garden implement
- 30 Arid plain dominated by saltbush
- 32 Crystallised honeydew on leaf
- 34 Foothills' floral emblem

### Down

- 1 Not the wet season
- 2 Melbourne winter weather phenomemon
- 4 Bird bush
- 5 Melbourne river
- 7 Keep plants in check
- 8 Ribbit!
- 11 ANPSA 2018 Conference location
- 12 Most plants like it to be free draining
- 14 Not recommended for the Proteaceae
- 18 Mistaken raven
- 19 Leopard and Donkey plants
- 21 Insect accommodation
- 22 Island continent
- 24 Botanical garden for Australian plants
- 26 Muntries, \_\_\_\_ pomifera
- 28 Aquatic fern of arid regions
- 31 Flying fox
- 33 Grass genus



## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 13th March**

### **Mike Ridley - Travels to Easter Island**

If heading west, you couldn't go to a further corner on earth but Mike Ridley did. In 2016 he visited the Galapagos Islands and Easter Island and will take us on a tour of Easter Island at our next meeting.

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 28th March**

### **Anthea Davidson - Principles of Garden Design**

An informal but informative round table discussion on garden design. It will focus on how to go about things whether you have an existing garden or are starting with a blank canvass.

## Hi Everyone,

Well, our first evening meeting for the year went very well. We are in our new venue now, the BER building at Knox Park Primary School, which is a very cheerful space with plenty of room for everyone. It works well for setting up rows of chairs for slideshows and there is plenty of room if we want to re-arrange the chairs into a more informal arrangement for our members' meetings. We used the school's projector and screen set-up too, the major advantage of that being that there is no projector or stand in the middle of the room to block people's view. Supper was very sociable as usual - thank you everyone who brought things to nibble on.

Ross McDonald was our first speaker for the year and what he and Pam have managed to do with a rather tricky site over the years is impressive indeed. Very rocky soil and a sloping aspect does not make thing easy and we saw the 'Evolution of a Foothills Garden' from a virgin block of land covered in Blackberries, Boneseed and *Acacia longifolia*, to a garden filled with a great selection of natives, sculptures fashioned by local artists and water features that attract a variety of wildlife visitors. The long extensive view, right across to Port Phillip Bay and the city is what sold them the property way back in 1969. These views became restricted as the trees around them grew up but Ross says that a neighbour below them has had some trees lopped or removed which has opened the view up again. To create a sense of space in their garden they removed some trees in the early days and planted lawns underneath which Pam keeps neat with a ride on mower.

The driveway and paths are constructed using second hand bricks and the placement of paths were dictated to by large rocks embedded in the soil.

Plantings eventually softened the low stone walls that edge the driveway. The ongoing drought about ten years ago saw them install a large water tank and they have since also converted their septic tank to a worm farm, so no stormwater or effluent leaves the property and everything stays on site for the benefit of the garden. Drought tolerant plants have also been planted and they are now trying a selection of Eremophilas in a fairly neglected, dry part of the garden. They are continuously replacing plants and rejuvenating the garden so there is always a good selection of propagated material coming along and plenty of plants ready to be potted up or planted out. Plants in tubs closer to the house can be moved around to where they can be enjoyed and the visiting wildlife and birds also provide ongoing enjoyment, even if some like the ravens are a bit rowdy! Ross finished off by saying that no garden is ever finished and that their own garden is a continuous and evolving expression of their desires, which I think holds true for all of us. Thanks again Ross and Pam for a lovely talk and for sharing your garden story with us.

Our next evening meeting is going to be a round table discussion on garden design where you'll be able discuss things with and ask questions of an expert, so be sure not to miss it!

See you all next time.

**Janet**



Second hand brick paving and propagation area in Ross and Pam's garden (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Kiwi Sculpture (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

## March Evening Meeting

Our evening meeting in March is a members' round table discussion on garden design that will be hosted by Liz Triggs and led by Anthea Davidson. Anthea has her own garden design business called Plant It Right, is a nursery person at Acorn Nursery in Surrey Hills and has over 20 years of experience in the industry. It'll be a fairly informal evening with perhaps a few slides to illustrate various points, and you'll be very welcome to ask questions throughout and to contribute some of your own experiences to the discussion. This is a meeting not to be missed, as it'll focus on the basics of where to start and how to go about things, whether you are tackling an existing garden or starting with a blank canvass.

## April Evening Meeting (ANZAC Day)

Although our April evening meeting falls on ANZAC day this year, we decided at our February evening meeting that we'd still like to get together especially as we had to cancel our end of year break-up in December due to the inclement weather. We thought we'd make it a festive Foothills night, so we'll have our 'Five Slides' at this meeting and if you bring along a small plate of something to share for supper it's sure to be a very great evening. So, start hunting through your slides and we'll give you more details in the next newsletters.

## Last day meeting – 13 February 2018.

After a very long break it was so good to catch up with everyone. Alex Smart gave us a very entertaining and informative talk on the Red River Gum, and reminded us that although we have so many new plants available, one shouldn't overlook flora which has been around for a long time.

The *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* has the most widespread natural distribution of Eucalypts in Australia, but was named after a type specimen found in 1832 in a garden near the Camaldoli monastery near Naples, in the Tuscan Apennines. Alex showed us a slide of the original type specimen, and one collected by Dean Nicolle in February 2008. It was fantastic to be able to compare the collections of then and now.



Original type specimen  
(Slide provided by Alex Smart)

Alex had many interesting points including that there are three sub species and that northern plants produce lignotubers. He also showed us some beautiful trees around the country.



Specimen collected by Dean Nicolle in February 2008  
(Slide provided by Alex Smart)

River red gums can grow over 400 years. Sadly the eucalypt in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, the Separation Tree, has succumbed to the recent vandalism.

Surprisingly at RBG Cranbourne there are no *E camaldulensis* recorded but the gardens do have *E viminalis* which generally grows where *E camaldulensis* doesn't. There is, however, a mineralized specimen in the lake – 8500 years old, and a structure built of red gum in the kids' playground.

Nicky Zanen

## Out and About

Last Sunday I attended a talk titled "Beckler's Botanical Bounty" at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. There is currently an exhibition at the Ballarat Art Gallery till 27 May of paintings done by members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne artists group.

Hermann Beckler was the doctor on the Burke and Wills Expedition. "During his time in charge of the expedition's supply depot on the Darling River in

outback NSW, Beckler collected 120 plant species in the Menindee region. His original plant collection is now a national treasure, housed at the National Herbarium of Victoria. Over the last ten years these artists have been visiting Beckler's collecting grounds to locate, collect, preserve and illustrate the species he collected in 1860 -61. This extraordinary project is a unique expression of art, science, history and country."

The extent of this citizen science project is amazing. Each of the plants were searched for, sourced, correctly identified, pressed, mounted and then preserved in the same way as the sample of Dean Nicolle's eucalypt. So the Herbarium has two collections, one from 1860 and one from the 2000s. If you get the chance, go to Ballarat to see this incredible art.

The Knox City Council is embarking on an Indian Mynah control program. These birds were imported to control insect pests in market gardens and sugar cane plantations around 1862. They are aggressive and a threat to our native animals and biodiversity. An information evening is being held by Knox Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. Traps are available through the Council.

If you prefer not to participate in Knox Council's Indian Myna Control Program, consider joining [MynaScan](#) to map Myna birds in your local area and help build information about Myna birds across our region.

Knox Lake, situated on the north side of Burwood Highway between the offices of the old Department of Agriculture offices and Blind Creek, is being sold and possibly developed into a wetland. The lake is actually a dam and in an area subjected to huge erosion problems, but is a valuable asset for our area. When I attended an information session one gorgeous Saturday afternoon, it really came home to me that there is a lot more to be said for sitting and reflecting next to a water feature than sitting in a wetland. Let's hope the development considers community sentiment instead of the almighty dollar. There is a public hearing on 9 March 2018 at 10.00 am.

From APS Victoria – Lachlan Garland, editor of Growing Australian, has initiated a project "Great Plant Out". Keep an eye out for a packet of daisy seeds accompanying your next Growing Australian newsletter and take up Lachlan's challenge to grow these.

**Nicky Zanen**



Isopogon formosus (Photo: Kerry Davis)



February evening meeting at new venue. (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## **APS Foothills Inc.**

PO Box 65  
BORONIA 3155

### **ENQUIRIES**

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

### **COMMITTEE**

**Leader:** Janet Hodgkiss  
**Deputy Leader:** Elizabeth Triggs  
**Secretary:** Nicky Zanen  
**Treasurer:** Chris Larkin  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Davis  
**APS Vic & Day Meeting Liaison:** Nicky Zanen  
**Other Members:** Pam Yarra

### **MEETING DETAILS**

#### **DAY Meeting**

**Venue:** Field Naturalists Hall, 1 Gardenia St,  
Blackburn. (Melway 47K10)

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month except Nov,  
Dec, Jan.

**Time:** 10.30am

**Enquiries:** Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

#### **EVENING Meeting**

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

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, except  
Dec, Jan.

**Time:** 7.45pm

**VISITORS WELCOME!**