



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

WE HOLD TWO MEETINGS EACH MONTH

DAY MEETING

Date: 2nd 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 2018

**JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER**

ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/apsoothills

VISITORS WELCOME!



Membership

Your membership is due and a membership form can be found in this newsletter

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 10th July

Helene Wild – A brush with Botany

Helene Wild is a Melbourne botanic artist with an international reputation.

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 25th July

AGM and Quiz night

Hi Everyone,

Well winter has certainly set in and given us some biting cold days and frosty nights to balance out our summer heatwaves, so I was thrilled to see so many of you brave the icy weather to come along to our June evening meeting to listen to Carolyn Landon's talk on the history of botanical illustration and how Celia Rosser's magnificent monograph on the Banksias came about.

While the room did indeed get distinctly colder as the evening wore on, there were very few complaints and I thank you for that. I really do appreciate your patience in putting up with the various inconveniences as we still feel our way and settle into our new venue. I am pleased to report though that an after-hours heating switch has been located, so our next meeting should be much more comfortable.

Our next evening meeting is our AGM and Quiz night and Ross McDonald is setting the questions for us this year. I think he's planning a few curly ones, so it should be good fun. Our AGM is also where the committee is dissolved and new one elected, so if you wish to nominate someone or wish to volunteer to be on the committee yourself, then you'd be very welcome because a changing committee helps keeps things fresh and vibrant.

Memberships are due in July – please see the form included with this newsletter. Chris Larkin will be at both the day and evening meetings in July to collect membership subscriptions if you wish to pay her directly. If you're paying cash, then please ensure you have the correct amount.

Preparations for our quarterly gathering in August are coming together nicely. We're going to need your help on the weekend as well as beforehand, so will be looking for volunteers nearer the time. See the separate item in this newsletter that outlines our programme in more detail and think about where/how you can help. We've already had

registrations start to come in too, so don't forget to register yourself! A form went out in the June Growing Australian but for your convenience we are including one with this newsletter as well.

See you at the next meeting and Keep Warm!

Janet

Last Evening Meeting

June's Evening meeting – Carolyn Landon's history of botanical art and Celia Rosser's story.

Carolyn Landon, author of *Banksia Lady* Celia Rosser, Botanical Artist gave the evening meeting an excellent talk this month which touched on the history of botanical illustration and then focused on how Celia Rosser's development and dedication as an artist, culminated in the production and publication of the magnificent monograph on the genus *Banksia*.

From Carolyn we learnt that the earliest drawings of plants were very stylised, such as the *Dracunculus vulgaris* depicted on papyrus dated to 1450 BC. There appears to nothing recorded until about 70 AD when Dioscorides, a surgeon with the Roman army recorded the existence and medicinal value of hundreds of plants. Plants continued to be depicted in stylised forms for centuries thereafter, mostly in herbals but in the 15th century the first botanical paintings started emerging. As engraving and printing techniques developed there came a shift from the production of herbals to florilegia. The term florilegium refers to a collection of botanical paintings that is dedicated to plants other than medicinal or merely useful plants, and florilegia became popular in the 17th century when wealthy people commissioned artists to record the new, rare and exotic plants (such as tulips) that had begun appearing in Europe from Turkey and the Middle East. Modern florilegia tend to record collections of plants such as those from a particular garden or place, or a particular group of plants and they are among the most expensive books to produce because of all the work that is required to produce them.

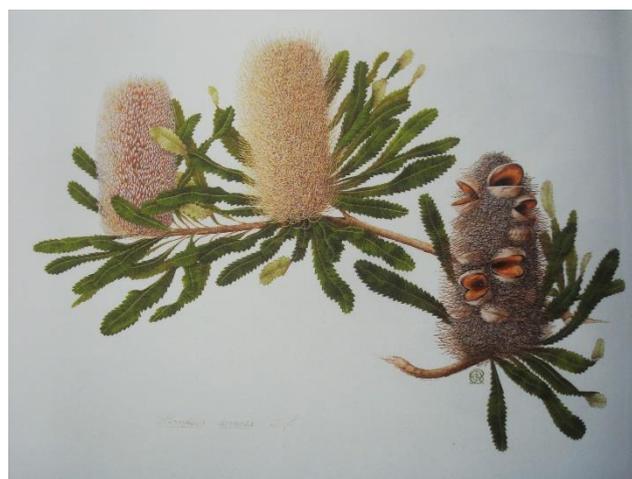
This brought us to *The Banksias*, a true florilegium in that it is a collection of paintings of the entire genus *Banksia*, and most remarkably, all done by Celia Rosser. Carolyn told us the story of Celia Rosser as she grew up and developed her talent, the

difficulties she encountered while trying to pursue her art and at the same time fulfilling her roles as a wife and mother in the 1950s, the influence of and being championed by some of the greatest names in botany, finding herself at the core of the Monash *Banksia* Project and the publication of the magnificent three volume monograph, to meeting the Queen, receiving a prestigious award from the Linnean Society and gaining recognition for her extraordinary achievements.

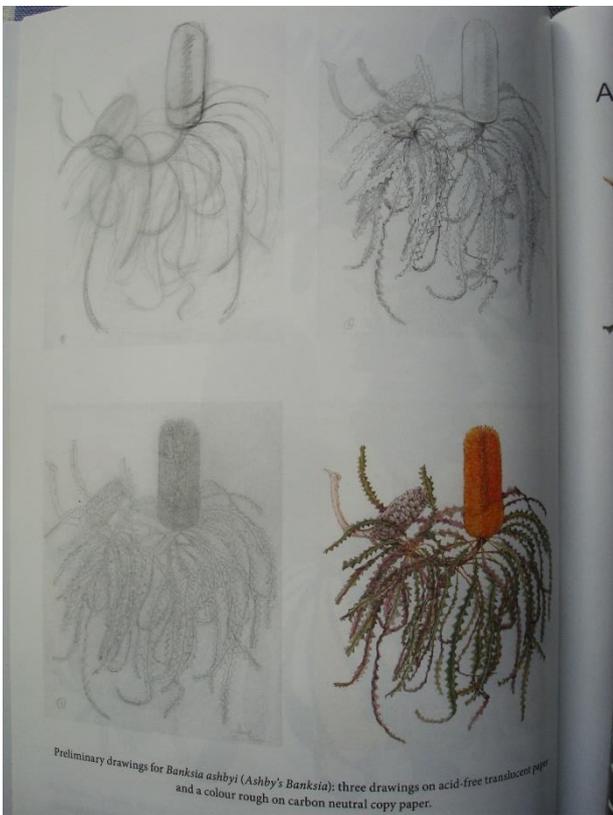
Carolyn had also brought her copy of Volume 1 of *The Banksias* for us to look at, and her husband Larry was on hand to carefully turn the pages of this precious book for us. Carolyn had showed us the process by which Celia studied, sketched and finally painted, so on seeing the paintings it was impossible not to be awestruck by the incredible attention to detail. I can see why it took 25 years to paint the entire genus. A fascinating talk and an incredible glimpse into the life of a truly talented artist.

Note: I photographed a couple of the pages from Carolyn's book *Banksia Lady*, to show a little of what we saw on the night, so they are not the best and I also hope I haven't contravened too many copyright laws! It's a lovely read, so do try get yourself a copy if you don't already have one. I've also included a picture from the internet showing Celia signing Carolyn's copy of *The Banksias*. I thought you might like to see it because that was the book with the big pages that Larry was turning for us.

Janet Hodgkiss



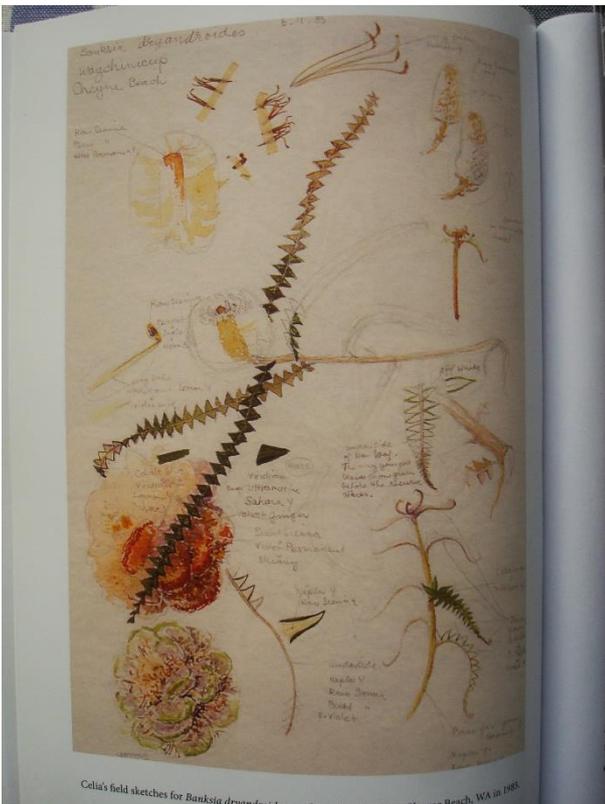
Banksia serrata – the one that ignited Celia Rosser's passion (Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



Celia Rosser's preliminary sketches and colour rough (Photo: J. Hodgkiss)



Celia Rosser signs Carolyn Landon's copy of The Banksias (Photo: <http://thestar.com.au/?p=15363>)



Celia Rosser's field sketches and notes (Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Last day meeting – June 2018.

Gary & Gunbarrel Hwy, West of Alice – Rolf & Monika

With the intention of joining the APS Kimberley Tour last year Rolf & I decided to drive to Broome and then fly to Kununurra, the start of the tour.

The Gary Hwy, constructed by Len Beadell, heads west from Alice Springs through several aboriginal communities and crosses the Canning Stock Route. We then travelled to the Rudall River N.P or Karlamilya, an oasis in the desert and then through the Pilbara to Broome. Four permits are required to transit aboriginal lands.

Following heavy rains earlier in the year the 'desert' was lush with many plants in flower. Slowing down and speeding up on the corrugations after constant botanical stops, tested Rolf's patience!

After the Kimberley tour, we picked up our car in Broome and then made the return trip through Meekatharra, Wiluna and then along the Gunbarrel Hwy back to Uluru. One of the most savoured experiences was that we met no-one for 3-4 days

along part of that stretch. The magnificent panoramas were an absolute pleasure to travel and walk through.

The following is a small selection of the many plants that we saw.

Monika Herrmann



Acacia retivenea (Photo: Rolf & Monika Herrmann)



Amyema nestor (Photo: Rolf & Monika Herrmann)



Ptilotus exaltatus (Photo: Rolf & Monika Herrmann)



Kiwirrkurra Road (Photo: Rolf & Monika Herrmann)

Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills – a weekend of exploration and discovery.

Our Quarterly Gathering programme has been designed with a good mix of gardens to visit and bush reserves to explore. Some of these will include guided walk-and-talks and some not.

You can choose to visit the gardens and the bush areas, or just the gardens, or just the bush areas because the programme has been designed to include a flexible self-drive, explore-and-discover element with maps and notes, so that you can discover for yourself why we love our Foothills so much.

The idea is that you can do as much or as little on the main programme as you want and if you don't get to see all the bush reserves on the list over the weekend you can come back to explore later on. Visiting the bush reserves at various times during the year and especially through spring as it progresses, is almost addictive because plants come into flower at different times so there is always something to see or discover that may not have been there the week before.

Our Saturday programme starts with registration and morning tea at the Kilsyth South Baptist Church Hall, Liverpool Rd, Kilsyth South. There will be book sales and plant sales at this venue throughout the morning, so you can pop back at any time to pick up treasures in between garden and bush visits.

In the morning we have two gardens open in The Basin/Boronia area. Bev Fox and Val Henry's gardens are both close to the registration venue and to local bush reserves such as Wick's Reserve, Doongalla Forest Reserve and Roselyn Crescent reserve, while Bateman St reserve in Wantirna is just a short drive away. Bateman St is a hidden gem of remnant valley heathy forest, an endangered vegetation type, and its existence will always hang in the balance as the Healesville Freeway is proposed to occupy most of the site when and if it is built. If you don't get to Bateman St reserve in the morning, then explore it



on your way to, or after you have visited the gardens and bush reserves in the afternoon.

After lunch, a bit further afield in Knoxfield, are the gardens of Kerry Davis and the Knox Park Primary School. Kerry's garden, while relatively small is a delight and not far from the school. Foothills has a long-running connection with the school, and its gardens which are planted with Australian natives, tie in closely with surrounding natural bush areas. Here you can join a guided walk through the gardens and into Lakewood Reserve, to which the school grounds are connected via a short bush corridor.

Saturday evening sees us at Eastwood Golf Club in Kilsyth South for dinner. Our after-dinner speaker is landscape designer Sam Cox who is well known for his naturalistic style, having learned his craft under renowned landscape designer, the late Gordon Ford. Sam gets his inspiration from the natural landscape and environment and uses local native plants where possible. Other native plants may be used closer to living areas while indigenous plants are used further away as they require less maintenance and water. Sam is a captivating speaker and his philosophies echo many of our own as we also try to create beautiful gardens that are also sustainable, provide habitat for wildlife and yet still blend harmoniously with our local environment, be it urban or bush. He is a speaker that you absolutely should not miss.

On Sunday we are up in the hills enjoying the varied attractions of the Dandenongs and the main venue for the day is Karwarra Gardens, Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama. There are two gardens you can visit in the morning, one being Shirley Carn's garden in Monbulk and the other being Karwarra. Karwarra is looking great and we are planning a guided walk here. Karwarra's more formal garden elements blend well with the surrounding bush elements, so our connection to the bush and the inspiration we get from our surroundings is very evident here. Apart from these two gardens there is plenty more to explore and discover in the Dandenongs including Sherbrooke Falls and William Rickett's Sanctuary with its interesting sculptures.

We are hosting the APS Vic COMM on Sunday morning as well as the APS Vic AGM which will be at 1pm. We are now also offering a light lunch of soup and sandwiches (at no extra cost) at Karwarra so that after the morning garden or bush visits you can join us for lunch and the AGM. Afterwards, you can explore the hills further or make your way down to

Kuranga Nursery in Mt Evelyn to have afternoon tea at their Paperbark Café.

We are also recommending that on both days, people split into two groups, car pool and swap over as necessary as parking at the various gardens will be limited.

We are looking forward to spending the weekend with you, so see you there!



Out and About

I have in front of me a blank page and a looming deadline, so I have no chance to procrastinate. What troubles me is that I've just been on another Kimberley trip – each day pleasant with temperatures above 30 C and cool overnights. This trip was just two weeks later than last year and I was quite surprised that so many of the flowers we saw last year were not apparent, but orange flowering eucalypts and certain wattles were prolific.

What also troubles me more is the amount of burning off being done in the area. I guess the prospect of a really hot burn and fire that races away versus more frequent cool burns has to be weighed up, but I feel this country is crying. And I couldn't help wondering how long it would be before the full desertification of the Kimberley occurs.

On a brighter note some of the group were very keen birdwatchers and steadily my own skills at using binoculars and identifying birds has improved considerably. All told we counted over 140 species between Kununurra and Broome. And the travel bug is hitting me again – I'm looking at a trip to the Mitchell Plateau and Mitchell Falls next year, and another visit to Mornington Wilderness Camp as a special treat.

Our last day meeting

Monika and Rolf took us on an exhilarating tour along the Gunbarrel Highway. We started in the Olive Pink Garden in Alice Springs and then headed west. They showed us some incredibly beautiful photos of flowers and spectacular scenery. Amongst the flowers was the *Acacia inaequilatera*, described on the web as a 'somewhat gnarled, glabrous tree with a thick, corky bark'.

The guide on our Kimberley tour had recommended a side track, but it was one that he had not actually been on. The Hermanns drove it and the one photo they showed us made me wonder how they ever got through it.

A thoroughly entertaining and information talk, as always. Thank you both Monika and Rolf.

From the Web, "The **Gunbarrel Highway** is an isolated desert track in the [Northern Territory](#), [South Australia](#) and [Western Australia](#). It consists of about 1,350 km (840 mi) of washaways, heavy [corrugations](#), stone, sand and flood plains. The Gunbarrel Highway connects Victory Downs in the

Northern Territory to [Carnegie Station](#) in Western Australia. Some sources incorrectly show the highway extending west to [Wiluna](#). The road was built as part of Australia's role in the weapons research establishment called [Woomera](#) which included [Emu Field](#) and [Maralinga](#), both [atomic bomb](#) testing sites. The name comes from [Len Beadell's Gunbarrel Road Construction Party](#) so named as his intention was to build roads as straight as a gunbarrel."

Nicky Zanen

Next day meeting

Helene Wild – A Brush with Botany

Helene has been involved with APS Foothills for several decades now as she always provided us with the gorgeous cards and calendars we used to sell at Stringybark Festival. She still sells at the Yarra Yarra Flower Show each year.

Helene comes from a family of artists including a great grandmother who established and taught in her own art school, a grandfather who was a seascape painter and an aunt who was a brilliant painter of people portraits. Helene has broken with family tradition because she prefers to paint detailed studies.

Her work is in collections worldwide including the State Botanic Art Collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne; in the Castlemaine Art Gallery and the City of Brimbank.

Helene will share insights and her experiences with us. I think this is a talk that will be most interesting and one that will inspire us to pick up a pencil or a brush to have a go ourselves.

Nicky

Australian Plants Society Victoria

Foothills Group Inc.



Quarterly Gathering 18-19th August 2018



APS Foothills invites you to come
and discover with us the

Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills



Visit Gardens and Wild spaces
After dinner Speaker Sam Cox
Plant Sales Book Stall

Includes APS Vic COMM & AGM

foothillsqly@gmail.com

Information on Membership Renewal 2018-19

- To be a member of Foothills you must be a member of the parent body – Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc (APS Vic).
- It is possible to renew your financial membership of both APS Vic and Foothills at the same time. Your APS Vic membership will be forwarded to the APS Vic Membership Officer for you.
- If you have already renewed your APS Vic membership directly or via another branch, you will only need to renew your Foothills membership.

The price of membership renewal

- APS Vic memberships have increased slightly this financial year
- Foothills memberships remain the same and have not increased since 2015. It is cheaper to receive your newsletter electronically and we encourage you to do so.
- This year it is possible to pay for the quarterly national newsletter called 'Australian Plants'. This is an optional extra.

When to pay and providing your details

- Please pay promptly and preferably by the end of July.
- No matter how you choose to pay your renewal please complete **the MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM** and include it with your payment if paying directly to the treasurer or by post. If paying by electronic transfer, or directly at the bank, post or email the form to celarkin@bigpond.com.au

Ways to pay memberships:

1. Pay at the July meetings. The Treasurer will attend the daytime meeting on 10th July and the night meeting AGM on 25th July. Members can pay their membership subscriptions by cash (exact money please) or cheque.

2. By Electronic transfer. Please include surname and initials as reference and/ or membership no.

Account Name:Aust. Plants Society (Foothills) Inc

BSB no. 633-000 (Bendigo Bank)

Account No. 1163 99387

3. Make a deposit at any Bendigo Bank branch using the bank account number in Method 2. No charge will be made at a Bendigo Bank branch. Deposits can be made at other banks, but a fee may be charged.

4. Post membership form and cheque made payable to APS Foothills Inc. to PO Box 65, Boronia. 3155

Any questions. Ring your treasurer Chris Larkin on 9752 7837 or email celarkin@bigpond.com



APS Foothills

MEMBERS SHOULD COMPLETE THE RENEWAL FORM EACH YEAR. TO HELP US KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP-TO-DATE.

NEW/RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

For new members and for those renewing membership for 2018/19

Note: This is a combined membership form for both APS Victoria and the APS Foothills Group. If you complete this form, please disregard any APS Membership Form that was sent out to you with your APS Victoria "Growing Australian" magazine in June. Your details and the appropriate payment will be forwarded to APS Victoria by Foothills.

I wish to join APS Victoria (for new members only)

I wish to renew my membership

Title/s _____ First name/s _____

Surname/s _____

No. and Street/Road _____

Suburb/Town _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Association. Signature _____

Membership of APS Victoria.

Please indicate membership type by ticking below. All membership types include one copy of the Growing Australian newsletter each quarter.

Single membership \$35

Family/Household membership \$40

Student Membership \$26

I have renewed membership directly with APS Vic/via another group/APS life member \$0

OPTIONAL – ‘Australian Plants’ publication of ANPSA delivered with ‘Growing Australian’ \$15

SUB TOTAL (APS Vic Inc.) \$

Please **ADD** membership of APS Foothills Group Inc.

Single/Family/Household - electronic newsletter \$20

Single/Family/Household - posted newsletter \$30

COMBINED TOTAL \$

Please make Cheque/Money Order payable to: "APS Foothills Inc." and mail it to PO Box 65, Boronia, 3155. Or direct deposit or EFT to Australian Plants Society Foothills. BSB 633 000 (Bendigo Bank). Account 1163 99387. Use your surname as the reference. Then email this form or the date, amount banked and reference, and your confirming details (name, address, phone number, email address) to celarkin@bigpond.com (Chris Larkin, Treasurer – 9752 7837)



Foothills News

Acacia stictophylla Cinnamon Wattle

APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

August Newsletter 2018

Quarterly Meeting

Foothills Quarterly Gathering 18-19th August

Remember to register!

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 14th August

A members' day

Questions and Answers, hosted by Ross MacDonald.

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 22nd August

Island Life – Shirley Smith

Plants, birds and wildlife of islands that Shirley has visited.

Hi Everyone,

It was so good to see so many of you at our AGM and Quiz. You'll find the questions and answers to the quiz in this newsletter. My thanks again to everyone who served on the committee last year and to those who volunteered to carry on in their roles. Our new committee is however a bit short of members and it would be really good to have more people on-board to brainstorm ideas with and to share or spread the load a bit more evenly. If you're interested in volunteering, for a specific role or perhaps just as an ordinary member with no set role, or simply want to know more about the committee, please know that you're always very welcome to discuss things with me, or anyone else on the committee at any time. We look forward to hearing from you. Your committee currently consists of: Leader and Acting Secretary: Janet Hodgkiss, Deputy Leader: Liz Triggs, Treasurer: Chris Larkin, Newsletter Editor: Kerry Davis.

The Quiz was jam-packed with brain-benders set by our quizmaster, Ross McDonald and ranged from easy to more challenging, rather tricky, difficult and then practically impossible to answer! As we are an easy-going group, we don't take things too seriously but those who achieve best in their category still deserve a prize, so well done to winner of the higher scores category, Shirley Smith and well done to joint winners of the lower scores category, Gwenda Waite and Viv Osborne.

There is plenty starting to flower, so best of bench (well in our case, best of low coffee table!) was looking splendid. Val fought off Kerry to be our best-of-bencher, and her delightful sense of humour and light-hearted approach showed us that learning about plants doesn't have to be all serious and studious. It was great way to round off the evening.

Our quarterly gathering is also just around the corner. If you haven't registered yet, please do, and sooner rather than later too, as we need to start



Diane, Liz and Shirley weeding the butterfly garden at Knox Park Primary School (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Next day meeting

Next day meeting – 14 August. A members' day, Questions and Answers, hosted by Ross MacDonald.

I hope as many people as possible can attend this meeting in August. Nicky will be overseas and Ross has kindly stepped in to run a members' questions and answers session. This follows on from the questions he will be setting at the APS Foothills AGM, and allows folk to ask as many questions as they like to tap into the incredible knowledge we have amongst our members. Also, it is peak flowering time so bring in as many flowers as you can which gives us more opportunity for sharing.

Nicky

Last day meeting – 10 July 2018.

It was lovely to welcome Helen Wilde and Alex, her husband, to our meeting.

Helene took us through her personal journey of art and how her work has evolved over the years. I found this a very interesting talk, presented with so much passion and her love of her subjects certainly shows through her work.

She started by telling us how one can define botanic art, giving us various examples including Margaret Preston's stylized waratahs and the native wildflowers of Daisy Rossi who painted in the impressionist style.

In Grade 4 she started painting natural history subjects in her Nature Study lessons. "By the end of

that year, her work book was swarming with colour pencil drawings and watercolour paintings of the flora and fauna she had studied in class". Her teacher asked if he could keep the little booklet she had created. She regrets that she gave this to him. Helene's key message was to start with a simple subject, and one of her sources for inspiration is the local greengrocer shop.

Sometimes it is tricky to get live material and Helene has a good relationship with various organisations who have loaned her potted plant material for special projects. She is particularly interested in painting indigenous flora from the local reserves within the City of Hobsons Bay and has a special relationship with the staff at Newport Lakes Native Nursery. One of her absolute favourite subjects is the *Corymbia ficifolia*.

Amongst projects Helene has worked is the 'Native Orchids of Mt Alexander Shire' commissioned by the now defunct Midlands Orchid Society who donated the original watercolour to the Castlemaine Art Gallery .

She has also had some interesting projects including Wayne Turville's request for four book covers (three of which haven't been written yet). Two of those book covers have also been featured as jigsaw puzzles.

With an art group at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, one project was to reflect the annual growth cycle of Oak Trees growing in the gardens – a tricky subject matter. The artists were instructed to paint the tree's annual cycle, so paintings had to be put aside while awaiting the next stage of development. Achieving a pleasing composition was a real challenge for everyone.

Helene has used so many different themes for calendars including produce from the greengrocer, and the forest floor, and her 2019 calendar is themed Bush Tucker Plants. Other products illustrated include mugs, cards, paper and cross stitch.

She has a 'lot of fun' in drawing animals and normally works with classical music in the background.

For people interested in purchasing some of Helene's work, she will be selling at the Australian Plants Expo, 8th and 9th September hosted by APS Yarra Yarra in Eltham.

Nicky

Out and About

Thank you to Chris Larkin for both attending our day meeting, to collect membership renewals, and for baking me a cake so I could properly celebrate my birthday. My own oven was broken and on the day all my usual cake bakers were missing or unable, so it was lovely to finally celebrate a day later. Next year the meeting falls on my birthday!

I leave for a visit to Canada and South Africa to visit my family, and at my front door the *Hardenbergia violacea* is just about to flower magnificently. I wouldn't be surprised if it is still going full steam on my return.

Enjoy the next couple of weeks and please do support both the next day meeting on the 14th August and the wonderful Quarterly Gathering weekend planned for the 18th and 19th August.

Nicky

Foothills Evening Questions (max 39 points)

1. When did Kerry change the Newsletter masthead?
2. How many slides were allowed in the July 2017 slide night, and who was the only person reported as adhering to this limit?
3. Who was the convenor and first Leader of Foothills Group?
4. What is the Aboriginal name of the Bungle Bungles?
5. What local festival was initiated by Foothills, now run by Knox CC?
6. How did River Red Gum get its botanical name of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*?
7. What was the site of APS Vic's first plant sale, what was the year, and on whose property was it held? **Up to three points.**
8. Name three Myrtaceae genera excluding *Eucalyptus*, *Callistemon*, *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, *Corymbia*.
9. How many petals does *Asterolasia hexapetala* normally have?
10. What was the title of Cathy Powers' talk in November?
11. What is a common feature of Myrtaceae leaves?
12. What was the name of the fringed blue-mauve flower in Royce Raleigh's talk?
13. Name all current or past Foothills members who have been elected as APS Victoria President.
14. What is the theme of the 2018 FJC Rogers Seminar?
15. A group of plants have adapted a root system able to maximise uptake of one element. Name three genera, type of root, and the element.
16. What plant is shown on the cover of 'Growing Australian' June 2018 issue, and after whom was it named? Extra **five points** for his full name.
17. On the APS Vic Facebook page, two APS members who received an honour on QBD are mentioned. Name **one or two for a point each.**
18. When and where is the next APS Vic AGM to be held?
19. What was different about the evening group's 2017 Christmas breakup?
20. Whose photo appeared twice in the Feb 2018 Newsletter?
21. Name the latest *Banksia* to be named, and after whom it was named.
22. What is the preferred colour Clonex for native cuttings?
23. Name two species with lemon scented foliage, and a citrusy name.
24. In the May Newsletter there was a photo of a motor bike with some Foothills members. Name as many as you can for **one point each.**
25. What is meant by the suffix 'ensis' in a plant name? Give an example for an **extra point.**

Foothills Evening Answers

1. November 2017
2. Five, Nicky
3. John Coath
4. Purnululu
5. Stringybark Festival
6. Type specimen found in 1832 in a garden near the Camaldoli monastery near Naples
7. Alvina and George Smith's farm 'Tyalge' at Tynong North in 1987
8. *Acmena*, *Actinodium*, *Agonis*, *Astartea*, *Austromyrtus*, *Backhousia*, *Baeckea*, *Beaufortia*, *Calothamnus*, *Calytrix*, *Chamelaucium*, *Darwinia*, *Eremaea*, *Eugenia*, *Homoranthus*, *Hypocalymma*, *Kunzea*, *Micromyrtus*, *Myrtus*, *Regelia*, *Scholtzia*, *Syzygium*, *Thryptomene*, *Uromyrtus*, *Verticordia*, *Waterhousea*
9. Five
10. "Grasslands - A disappearing Habitat"

11. Surfaces commonly dotted with conspicuous oil glands, so leaves are often aromatic
12. *Thysanotus multiflorus*
13. Ross McDonald 1978-82, David Davie 1982-86, Nicky Zanen 1997-2001
14. Goodeniaceae
15. Proteaceae (*Grevillea*, *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Hakea*, etc.), proteoid, phosphorus
16. *Lechenaultia formosa*, named after Jean-Baptiste Louis Claude Theodore Leschenault de la Tour (1773-1826)
17. Maria Hitchcock, Dr Dean Nicolle
18. Sunday 19th August at Karwarra Gardens
19. It didn't happen
20. Bev Fox
21. *Banksia rosserae*, (*Olde & Marriott Nuytsia* 15 (1), 2002), Celia Rosser
22. Purple
23. *Corymbia citriodora*, *Zieria citriodora*, *Backhousia citriodora*, *Boronia citriodora*, *Darwinia citriodora*
24. Bev Fox, Faye Candy, Anne & Phil Jackson, Val Marburg, Nicky Rose "pertaining to," "originating in" *Ac jibberdingensis*, *Ac chinchillensis*, *Corymbia arnhemensis*, *Euc camaldulensis*
25. "pertaining to," "originating in" *Ac jibberdingensis*, *Ac chinchillensis*, *Corymbia arnhemensis*, *Euc camaldulensis*



Melaleuca citrina (Photo: Kerry Davis)



Isopogon formosus (Photo: Kerry Davis)

Ross McDonald

Working Bee at Karwarra for Quarterly Gathering. Been wondering how you can help? Here's how...

Join us for a weekday working bee to be held at Karwarra Gardens. Come and socialise and help spruce up the garden at the same time. Date and time still to be confirmed so keep an eye out for them.



Eucalyptus 'Summer Red' (Photo: Kerry Davis)



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

September Newsletter 2018

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 11th September

**Trevor Blake - Thomasias
and Lasiopetalums**

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 26th September

Charles Young – Sturt Desert Pea.

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Well, have we had an exciting August or what?! The weather has been all over the place, warm then freezing, then sunny, then cloudy, rainy and hail-y, foggy off and on, and very windy at times too. Good springy weather to my mind – feels like the earth waking up and shaking itself after a long sleep but not quite ready to get out of bed yet!

Our quarterly gathering made August pretty exciting for us too. There's more about that later but I'd just like to say here, a massive big thank you to everyone who pitched in to help and to those who came along too. Your help and support was invaluable in making the weekend a great success. Thank you!

We topped our exciting August off with a very pleasant evening meeting. Shirley Smith gave us great talk on Island Life, we had a lovely '5 slide' format photo presentation of our Quarterly Gathering by Liz Triggs, and of course champagne and cake for supper to celebrate Liz's special milestone birthday! Thanks Jean for the scrumptious chocolate cake, Shirley for the champers and to everyone else who provided delectable morsels for us to munch on.

Our Facebook page is now up and running. A big thanks to Liz for setting it up and for the picture of the very handsome Tawny Frogmouth that is our current cover photo. Not a plant I know but a regular visitor to her garden and a great incentive for us to plant more Australian! Pay us a visit and Like us at www.facebook.com/apsfoothills.

We've got some great meetings coming up this spring and they're all nicely botanically orientated too. We're looking at Thomasias and Lasiopetalums at the day meeting with Trevor Blake, and Swainsona formosa, the delightful Sturt Desert Pea, with Charles Young at the evening meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Janet Hodgkiss

Next day meeting

Our speaker for our next day meeting is Trevor Blake. I am a mighty big fan of Trevor's and thrilled that he has agreed to come along. His topic is Thomasias and Lasiopetalums. When I look at the plants I have in my garden, especially struggling to grow under the eucalypts, I hear Trevor's voice encouraging us to grow Thomasias. This is a very interesting plant family. Tuesday 11th September 2018 starting at 10.30 am, set up from 10.00 am.

A reminder that our October meeting will be 'Members' Slides', so now is a good time to get your collection of 5 slides prepared.

September evening meeting – the Sturt (Desert) Pea

At our next evening meeting we'll have Charles Young talking about *Swainsona formosa*, the very spectacular Sturt Desert Pea. Charles's talk will focus on the history, distribution and cultivation of the plant, and the structure, pollination and cultural significance of its showy flowers. The discussion of container cultivation, from nursery stock, cuttings and seed, will cover container preparation, growing media, effective cutting and seed treatments, as well as plant care, maintenance (including pest control) and flowering. Garden cultivation will also be touched on. Bring along and share your personal experiences with this captivating plant!

Charles has had a great interest in Australian plants since his boyhood in Deniliquin, in rural NSW. However, his first love was chemistry and he spent most of his career studying, lecturing and researching the chemistry of the transition metals. In recent years he has indulged his new love - Australian native plants, their botany and chemistry, and garden design and urban greening. In 2014, he completed a Master of Urban Horticulture degree at Burnley and received the Dr Ray Marginson Prize in that discipline. Charles is currently an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University and volunteers as a Garden Ambassador and Orchid Conservationist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Cranbourne Garden. His interest in the Sturt Pea stems from its beauty, its cultural and historical significance, and the challenge of growing it at home.

Island Life - August Evening Meeting

Island Life was the topic of Shirley's presentation and although she's visited several islands, she chose to highlight King Island and Tasmania (Hobart area) which she visited as part of the ANPSA Conference at the beginning of the year, and Sicily which she visited with the Friends of RBG Cranbourne.

King Island was originally covered with forests of Eucalypts and Blackwoods, but they've been decimated by bushfires and land clearing. The most common trees now are Sassafras, Celery top Pine, Swamp Melaleuca and Tea Tree. Shirley noted that many of the plants are the same as those found at Wilsons Prom and coastal Victoria because King Island was once joined to mainland Australia. The numerous wetlands support a variety of birdlife and shearwaters, and fairy penguins breed in the coastal sand dunes. Peacocks, pheasants and wild domestic turkeys also added some exotic interest to the birdlife on the island.



Sealers Wall, King Island (Photo: Shirley Smith)

In Hobart, the conference theme was "Grass Roots to Mountain Tops" and the format consisted of morning lectures and afternoon excursions, with everyone getting to do the same excursions over the 5 days. Excursions included the Inverawe Native Gardens and Kingston Wetlands, Mt. Wellington (where we saw how it goes from forested slopes to the rocky outcrop at the top), the salt-marsh wetlands at Lauderdale, the Tasmanian Bushland Garden in Buckland that is run by volunteers, the Hobart Botanical Gardens and the icy-cold, sub-Antarctic house that features some unique vegetation, and a couple of private garden visits. Then it was off to Sicily. I wasn't expecting to see such a diversity of things, and all on a relatively small island. It is the largest island in the Mediterranean

and has been controlled by Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, Norman and Spanish powers and you can see evidence of this all over the island. The following is just a snippet of what Shirley showed us: very spectacular road bridges; Corleone and its Mafia connections; several world heritage sites, some of which include Greek temples and amphitheatres; vineyards; huge barrels of marsala; Mount Etna (the largest active volcano in Europe) and the Mt Etna violet (*Viola aethnensis*); a monster Moreton Bay Fig that originally came from Lord Howe Island, a 200 year old *Melaleuca lanceolata* and tree ferns that have all been lovingly supported in various ways; glasshouses as far as the eye can see; Baroque towns with exquisite architecture; a flower show with China as the theme; the Grand Canyon of Sicily; fish markets; beautiful ceramic tiles on the risers of steps; chapels; Norman castles; plants that look to us like weeds but are in fact the normal/native vegetation of the Mediterranean (Paterson's Curse, Queen Anne's Lace, Acanthus, Scabiosa to name a few); and a windmill and saltpans that are supposed to be a haven for waterbirds but that only offered Shirley a seagull!

There was plenty more, including a quiz at the end and... well, we didn't do very well in that... but that's only because we were still under enchantment of all the other things Shirley had shown us! For me, being not only mad keen on Australian plants but a mad keen botanist too, seeing all the Mediterranean plants in their native habitat, as well as the caper plant in flower and the pistachio tree in fruit (also Mediterranean natives) really made my heart leap. Thanks Shirley, for taking us to your islands.

Janet Hodgkiss



View from top of Mt. Wellington, Tasmania
(Photo: Shirley Smith)



Greek temple, Selinunte, Sicily
(Photo: Shirley Smith)



Tree ferns with supports, Sicily
(Photo: Shirley Smith)



View from Erice to Trapani, Sicily
(Photo: Shirley Smith)

Plants and Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills Quarterly Gathering Hosted by APS Foothills

18-19th August 2018

When I read the weather forecast on the Thursday just before our Quarterly Gathering weekend, I must confess that my heart dropped. We'd already had a week of wild winds and freezing temperatures and now we had more of the same, plus some, to look forward to, including rain, hail, thunderstorms and... possible snow in the Dandenongs! Perfect sunny spring weather would've been nice but you know what, I think the incredibly variable weather we got just added a really exciting dimension to what turned out to be a very good weekend.

Saturday dawned crisp and cold but sunny and bright. The space we had at Kilsyth South Baptist Church Hall was excellent. Plenty of room for our registration table, Bill and Sue's book sales table, our plant sales table and our raffle sales table. Around the corner there was a sizeable, but cosy area where we set up tables for lunch, each sporting a colourful posy of native flowers.

In the main area, our registration table looked very festive with a large arrangement of native flowers by Pam Yarra and the superb registration bags that Val Henry made for us. Chris Larkin and Pam ticked attendees off the list as they arrived, and each person who had registered got one of Val's bags that had been filled with a variety of goodies. Each bag also contained a handy folder with the programme for the weekend, along with a map, garden notes and bush notes.



Pam Yarra and Chris Larkin at the registration table (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Once they'd registered, people were content to get a cuppa and a bikkie and chat with friends, or browse through Bill and Sue's books. Liz's plant sales table got plenty of attention too with all the plants on offer being healthy and well-labelled, and I saw plenty of people happily making off with their purchases.



Liz Triggs and Shirley Smith discuss plants (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Another table that got plenty of attention was the raffle table, with Gwenda Waite and Viv Osborne ably taking care of ticket sales. Liz has to be commended for her superb efforts in securing the most astonishing array of really good raffle prizes for us because apart from the weather, I think they might have been the most frequently talked-about thing over the weekend! Not only did she get enough donations to be able to make up nine separate prizes to choose from, she put them together in a way that people commented on how thoughtfully they had been put together: The Osmocote Prize; The Propagator's Prize; The Blue Pot Prize; The Basket Case Prize; The Pest Control Prize; The Bush Tucker Prize; The Watering Prize; The Tools Prize; and the Felco 11 Prize. The Felco box understandably had the most tickets in it (I mean, who doesn't want some brand new Felcos?!) and the lucky winner of those was Bill Aitchison.



Raffle Prizes! (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Colour in Bev Fox's garden (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Vista down the path in Bev Fox's Garden (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Lots of texture in Val Henry's Garden (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Leaf Seat in Val Henry's garden (Photo: Val Henry)

While it was still sunny, everyone headed off to see Bev Fox and Val Henry's gardens with a few choosing to do the bush reserves as well. The weather, which had grown considerably cooler and cloudy as the morning wore on, eventually drove shivering and bundled-up people back to the hall for lunch. The Inner Wheel ladies had provided a delicious spread of tasty sandwiches and slices, all of which went down a treat with a hot cup of tea before they headed out for the afternoon. Because everyone knew the weather was about to change they didn't linger longer than necessary and went across to visit Kerry Davis' garden and Knox Park Primary School where Shirley Smith gave a tour of the gardens and the nearby Lakewood Reserve.



Enjoying Saturday lunch (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

As the last person left the hall after lunch, the weather showed us what it had in store for us – lightning and thunder and then a deluge of fairly good-sized hail. The temperature of course plummeted, and we had a bit of rain too but the storm passed fairly quickly and before long the sun came out again! That was to be the pattern for the

rest of the afternoon, so in between squalls and dodging slippery drifts of hail we managed to tidy up at the hall and get the raffle prizes and flower arrangements over to the golf club in readiness for the evening. Thank you to everyone who helped with putting tables and chairs away and also to Bernard Boulton who did a sterling job with the vacuuming.

I managed to get across to Kerry's in the afternoon, and was lucky enough to see his garden in probably what was to be the last sunny patch for the day, and then dashed around to the school to see how Shirley was doing. She'd just finished with a group, some of whom had gone down to the lake and while we chatted another squall came over, mostly small hail again. As with previous squalls it didn't last too long and when it had passed we were pleased to see the group that had gone down to lake coming up through the school grounds, and seemingly none the worse for having been hailed on! I think us plant people are a very hardy lot, that's for sure!

Our evening and dinner at Eastwood Golf Club went well. The tables looked cheerful, adorned as they were with Pam's posies that we'd used on the lunch tables, the meal was delicious and the company great. Although our advertised speaker Sam Cox unfortunately had to cancel, I am very grateful that Trevor Edwards was able to step in at short notice and help us out. He gave us an excellent talk on what can be a tricky group, the peas, and I know of at least one district group who, on the basis of hearing him at our dinner, want to invite him to speak at one of their regular meetings. Along with the raffle prize draws, we also had lucky chair prizes where the people sitting on the labelled 'lucky chairs' (one at each table) got to take home the flower arrangement in the centre of the table. All in all, I think a good day was had by everyone.

On my way up to Karwarra on the Sunday, I was hoping to see a light covering of the snow that had been expected, and although the road and verges were dusted with white, it was just hail. Karwarra looked magical with the tiny hailstones covering the mulch and lodged in the centres of tufted plants. It was certainly freezing cold up there but again that didn't deter us Aussie plant fans. A number of people not attending the CoMM went to Shirley Carn's garden in Monbulk, where I'm told they had to retreat rather quickly at one point into the warmth of her home when the icy rain started bucketing down. Late morning saw a few people brave the now very chilly weather to join Lindy

Harris for a guided walk around Karwarra, where they came across honeyeaters and spinebills undeterred by the cold or patches of hail, and clearly enjoying their sips of icy-cold *Epacris* nectar. We'd organised hot soup, rolls and sandwiches for lunch and the weather, while not ideal for a leisurely stroll around outside, was absolutely perfect for the delicious minestrone (Pam), pumpkin (Monika), and pea and ham soup (Janet) we had on offer. Our very congenial lunch was rounded out with a 'dessert' of left-over slices from the day before and a huge fruit platter that Chris had prepared. The AGM after lunch went well with business being conducted efficiently and without fuss, and by 2pm it was a 'wrap' as they say in the movies.

I've had several people compliment us on how well things were organised and how much they liked our attention to detail, such as the flower arrangements on the lunch tables, the goodie bags at registration, and the garden and bush notes. They liked the light, open and welcoming venues, the plants and books, the food, the amazing raffle prizes, the gardens they got to visit and the overall friendliness of the gathering. And the weather... well it was an interesting extra and a good talking point but was certainly not a deterrent!

All that remains to be said is "Well done everyone!" and thank you all so much for making the weekend such a success! Go Foothills!

Janet Hodgkiss

Congratulations and thank you!

Despite the sub-arctic conditions thrown at us that weekend, nobody complained; true gardeners just put on their woollies and got out there!

Congratulations to the organising committee for the Quarterly Weekend; you need a *huge* pat on the back. I heard, and overheard, nothing but compliments and admiration for the organisation of the two most successful days.

It was obvious that an enormous amount of work went into the preparations. The selection of venues couldn't have been better, the friendly catering and delicious food was welcoming, and the flower arrangements were lovely, Pam. The enormous amount of time spent sewing the special applied bags to avoid plastic, was just admirable, Val.

I only managed to visit Bev's, Val's and Shirley's garden; all were inspiring. We always take away

ideas in plant arrangement, selection and the general layout for future work in our own gardens.

The descriptions of the gardens and the extensive research for the reserves (Liz) was terrific and invaluable, as well as the photos. Rolf and I visited the Roselyn Cres Reserve on a sunny day and found two large clumps of Greenhoods.

Despite the freezing weather, Karwarra was the perfect venue for the meetings; everyone was grateful for hot soup, and enjoyed the venue in particular. The garden was looking great, floriferous and cheery. The nursery, which was well-stocked, sold large numbers of plants. Also, many thanks to Chris, Bev and Pam for helping, and intending to help, at the prior working bee at Karwarra. The weather again was against us!

Now everyone can relax and I hope that you enjoyed your champagne!

Monika

Last day meeting – August 2018.

Foothills Daytime Questions

Compiled by Ross McDonald

1. Who is Tuesday's most regular seller of quality plants?
2. What was the subject of Peter Rogers' talk?
3. What is the botanical name of the world's tallest flowering plant?
4. Who is the greatest advocate of using cow manure?
5. Who had a birthday cake at the July 2018 meeting?
6. What is the name of the famous botanic garden in Perth?
7. What is Foothills' floral emblem?
8. What is Queensland's floral emblem?
9. How many naturally occurring Hardenbergia species are there?
10. If a leaf is cordate, what shape is it?
11. What is the botanical name of Blueberry Ash?
12. Name the artist who has painted every Banksia species.
13. What was in the free packet in the March 'Growing Australian'?
14. Who spoke about River Red Gum?
15. Who is the current APS Vic President?
16. What did Lindy Harris speak about?
17. Who won the Australian Native Plants Amateur Award for 2017?

18. Is *Burchardia umbellata* a monocot or a dicot?
19. Who was credited with redesigning Karwarra Gardens?
20. Where do APS Grampians hold their annual flower show?

Foothills Daytime Answers

1. Maureen Schaumann
2. Wildlife of Maroondah
3. *Eucalyptus regnans*
4. Shirley Carn
5. Nicky
6. Kings Park
7. *Acacia stictophylla*
8. *Dendrobium bigibbum*, Cooktown Orchid
9. 3 – *H. comptoniana*, *H. violacea*, *H. perbrevidens*
10. Heart-shaped
11. *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*
12. Celia Rosser
13. *Xerochrysum bracteatum* seeds
14. Alex Smart
15. Chris Long
16. Karwarra Gardens
17. Diana Snape
18. Monocotyledon
19. Kath Deery
20. Pomonal

Out and About

My visit to family and friends in Canada and South Africa was terrific – Canada surprised me with its beautiful summer temperatures even being warm enough to swim in Lake Huron; and I'm still trying to recover from the cold temperatures in the Cape. But one has to remember that the Cape (Somerset West to be exact) has the same climate as we do in Melbourne – cold and wet winters, and this year August was no different. I'm finding Melbourne much colder for this time of year than previously, but my garden is full of flowers.

Thank you to Ross McDonald and all our wonderful day meeting members who attended what sounds to have been a vibrant and informative meeting with questions and answers openly discussed. Now I know I should not have any hesitation in missing a meeting.

I have also heard from various sources that our Quarterly Gathering was a tremendous success. Well done Janet and Liz and the team. At one of our

planning meetings I paid for some raffle tickets and unlike what normally happens, actually won a prize. This was delivered to me at Karwarra Gardens on Sunday afternoon and I was most impressed with the beautiful way it was presented. The 'pest collection' wrapped up enticingly, and such interesting products including an insect trap for my heavily wasp infested lemon tree and an Animal Away repellent which I still have to figure out if it will deter both friend and foe. Thanks Liz for recruiting these raffle prizes and also the superb way you presented them.

In the 1990s APS Victoria gave a prize to the best botanical art presented by the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia. I used to attend their openings and thoroughly enjoyed the artwork on display, but lately haven't been able to find out where these have been held. As it happens, the latest show is right on our doorstep – at Burrinja Cultural Centre, cnr Glenfern Road and Matson Drive, in Upwey. From 25 August to 23 September from 10 am to 4 pm. Entry is free. A wide range of animals, especially African animals, are represented and the paintings are for sale.

For people needing a fix of botanical art there is a display at Karwarra Gardens – also worth looking at and available for purchase.

Nicky Zanen

More Quarterly Meeting Pictures



Pam's flowers (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Kerry Davis' garden in between squalls (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Stand of significant Eucalypts in Knox Park Primary School's gardens (Photo: Liz Triggs)



Good signage in Knox Park Primary School's gardens (Photo: Liz Triggs)



**Colour and form in Shirley Carr's garden
(Photo: Liz Triggs)**



**What you can't see here at the garden visit is how cold it was!
(Photo: Liz Triggs)**



**Honeyeater sipping from Epacris at Karwarra
(Photo: Liz Triggs)**

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ENQUIRIES

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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: 2nd 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: 4th Wednesday of the month, except Dec, Jan.

Time: 7.45pm

VISITORS WELCOME!