



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 2019**

**APRIL**

-

**MAY**

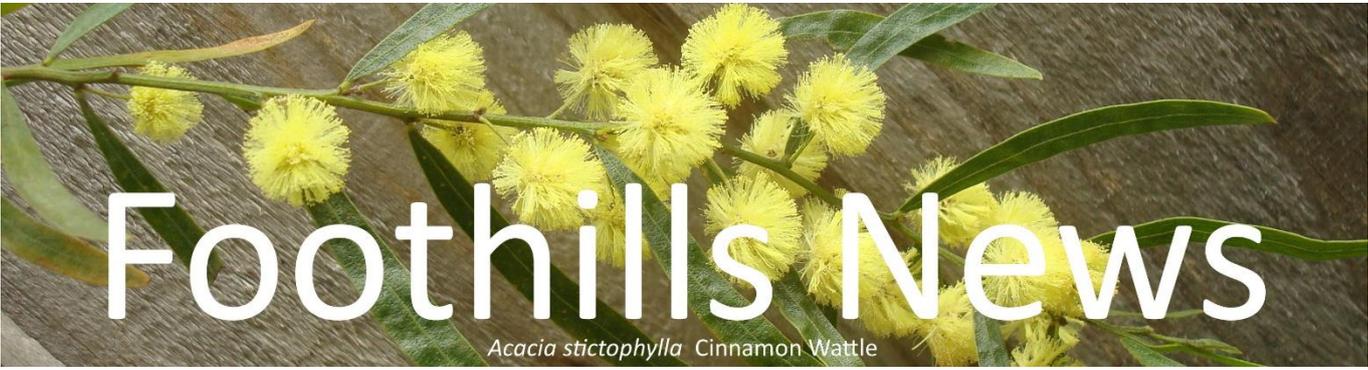
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## **VISITORS WELCOME!**



# Foothills News

*Acacia stictophylla* Cinnamon Wattle

APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

April Newsletter 2019

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 9th April 2019**

**Chris Larkin – Wildflowers of the Wimmera, between Edenhope and Horsham**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 24th April 2019**

**John Harris – Wildflowers of the WA Northern Sandplains Kwongan**

**Foothills Autumn Working Bee at Knox Park Primary School**

**Saturday, 27th April, 2019**

**10am – 12 noon**

**Foothills Facebook Page**

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**Hi Everyone,**

The days are definitely getting cooler and shorter and while I love the warmer weather, I'm pleased that our upper 30 and 40+ degree days are now behind us until next summer. We've already had a couple of rain showers (and some hail and bit of snow just for fun) which has been nice but it's been a bit of a shock to the system given the abruptness and intensity of some of those downpours! I hope we get some good, soft, sifting rains this winter to help our gardens but more importantly my wish for good rains is for our farmers because they are the ones really doing it tough. We look with sadness at our dry gardens and crispy plants but I can't begin to imagine what it must be like for the farmers whose vast 'gardens', be they pasture or crop, wither and die, and along with it, their livelihoods. For their sakes, I'm hoping that the El Nino weather event that is currently at ALERT status, is not going to develop any further.

A happier subject is our last evening meeting on hedging with native plants. I've only heard positive comments about the evening, so "Well Done Liz!" for a great presentation and for bringing such an interesting topic up for discussion. There was heaps of useful information and you can read all about it in this newsletter.

Don't forget our autumn working bee at Knox Park Primary School at the end of April. Kerry and Shirley put in a lot of time and effort at the school, not only with keeping the gardens in great shape but also in maintaining our good relationship with the school. They do an incredible job and certainly deserve some extra help from the rest us, so I hope to see as many of you as possible at our working bee. As with everything Foothills, it's always a very sociable affair, so even if you can only spare a half hour, please come along because every little bit helps and we'd

love to see you. Oh yes... and the morning tea/pre-lunch yumminess... you won't be wanting to miss that!

See you next time.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## **April Evening Meeting Wednesday 24th April 2019**

### **Wildflowers of the WA Northern Sandplains Kwongan – John Harris**

John Harris is the Director and Principal Ecologist/Zoologist of Wildlife Experiences, a Croydon-based ecological consultancy and wildlife tourism business. After leaving university last millenium, he worked as a secondary science and maths teacher for nearly 20 years before branching out into a career that encompassed his lifelong passion for nature and education, forming Wildlife Experiences in 2011. He works as an ecological consultant on projects across Australia as well as leading tours to see Australia's unique flora and fauna. One such tour, the "Kwongan Discovery" tour is the basis for this presentation.

John will discuss Western Australia's unique Kwongan vegetation community, home to some of the most spectacular wildflower displays. The Kwongan covers approximately ¼ of the South West Australian Floristic Region (approximately 76, 000km<sup>2</sup>), one of the 25 original biodiversity hotspots identified worldwide and the first in Australia. He will look at some of the key plant families and locations along with an array of wildflowers that can be observed at different times of the year.

If you are interested in finding out more about his "Kwongan Discovery" tour, please see the flyer on page 12 of this newsletter.



***Dryandra (Banksia) carlinoides***

(Photo supplied by John Harris)



***Macropidia fuliginosa* – Black Kangaroo Paw**

(Photo supplied by John Harris)

## **Next day meeting**

Chris Larkin will be taking us on a visit to north west Victoria, covering the Edenhope area, the Wimmera and Horsham. This is a most entertaining talk and I am looking forward to it.

I am still toying with the idea of a visit to Melton Botanic Gardens on a Tuesday. Definitely in spring after David and Barbara Pye have given us a talk on the gardens, but also in autumn, now looking at May. We'll discuss at our next meeting.

**Nicky Zanen**

## **Foothills Autumn Working Bee at Knox Park Primary School**

**Date:** Saturday, 27th April, 2019

**Place:** Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Rd, Knoxfield

**Time:** 10.00am – 12 noon

**Bring:** Secateurs, gloves and weeders/trowels are very useful. We also have access to plenty of other gardening equipment so the most important thing really is yourself! Don't forget your hat and sunscreen or... windbreaker, scarf and beanie depending on the weather.

Your extra help at this working bee will be invaluable and Kerry and Shirley will have a list of jobs that need doing for you to choose from, so you'll be able to pick one that suits your level of fitness/ability. Jobs could range from weeding, pruning and

deadheading to planting, raking and sweeping, or even something more energetic such as digging or spreading mulch. There's always plenty to do, the time goes quickly as you chat with friends, and admiring your handiwork at the end is always very satisfying. Oh yes... and the morning tea/pre-lunch yumminess I mentioned earlier... you won't want to be missing that!

So, see you there okay?!

Janet.

## March Day Meeting

The Burke and Wills story never featured in my childhood so when I saw a talk at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne about the Beckler Project I couldn't wait to hear more about their expedition. Instead I stepped into a world of the most amazing project – Beckler's Botanical Bounty - an Artists' Project.

The idea that a group of people would follow in the footsteps of Beckler to find plants that he had collected a century and a half earlier, illustrate them to scientific standards and prepare the specimens for the botanical collections at both Melbourne and Sydney Herbariums, blew my mind.

I went to see an exhibition of some of the work that has been done over the past eight years, displayed at the Art Gallery of Ballarat a year ago, and literally bumped into our last day meeting speaker, Dr Roslyn Glow.

Dr Glow told us about Hermann Beckler, (1828 – 1914) who was the medical man and botanical collector for the Expedition. He was a Humboldtian.

Alexander von Humbolt (1769 – 1859) was a polymath and the founder of biogeography. He combined a romantic view of nature with an intense desire to know and describe every natural phenomenon.



Hermann Beckler  
(Photo: Off WEB)

At Menindee Beckler resigned from the Burke & Wills Expedition and while waiting for his replacement he collected plants, 120 taxa in the Menindee area. To date the Project have found about 90, but not all specimens are complete. The group has travelled to Menindee for nine years. The Project was self-initiated and self-funded by all artists who are taking part. Mali Moir leads the group.

Roslyn mentioned how often synchronicity has benefitted the project. For example the artists happened to meet Andrew Denham from the Office of Environment and Heritage NSW . Since then Andrew has given his time each year to help locate and to accurately identify the specimens.

The artists have built good relationships with the local community and injected much needed tourist funds into it. A final trip is planned for September 2019 although the circumstances in Menindee with the lack of water and the overall condition of the area will make things difficult, if not futile. They are calling for volunteer botanists and field naturalists who can help find and identify plants, to join them in one final push in Spring, to try to find as many of the 120 plants on Beckler's list as possible.



Menindee Lakes (Photo: Off WEB)

Roslyn told us about many searches far and wide as she looked for *Goodenia cycloptera*. The final identification requires observation under the microscope. Many examples of related species that weren't quite right were found and discarded over three successive years. Then she literally tripped over the right one, literally next door to their motel. *Verbena officinalis*, a weed introduced by Europeans was recorded by Beckler, and thus is included in the collection.

The challenge for the group is to find a permanent home for the paintings. Hopefully including recompense for the art work.

This has been a fun project and we were very lucky to be able to hear Dr Roslyn tell us about it.

“The work has established a permanent verifiable comparative collection which will act as an invaluable resource of lasting significance for scientists, land managers and historians. It provides a rich data resource for further scientific study, including location maps for each species collected, in a format compatible for entry into The National Herbarium Victoria’s MELISR plant collection data base. We thank Mali for organising the project, her leadership, support and encouragement.” From the information provided about the Exhibition.

I’m hoping to ask Roslyn to speak to our evening meeting later in the year.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Hedging with Australian Plants

Our March evening meeting was a members’ meeting where Liz Triggs expertly presented a topic that many of us may not have given much thought to. It turns out that while a Lilly Pilly may be the first thing that comes to mind when ‘Australian’ and ‘Hedge’ are put in the same sentence together, this is most definitely not the case.

The broad definition of a hedge is this: a fence or boundary formed by closely growing bushes or shrubs. This tells us what a hedge IS but if you ask, as Liz did “What is it for and what does it do?” then a hedge immediately becomes a lot more interesting. So, what is the job of hedge? We discovered that a hedge can screen, buffer, hide, create a visual barrier, divide and protect, and that there are good hedges, informal hedges and really awful hedges too!

The good hedges are those where the right plant has been chosen for the right place and which are looked after. Looking after a hedge means providing it with good soil, food and water, and trimming/pruning it regularly or when required to keep it in shape. A good hedge can also be informal. This means keeping it under control with regard to height and width but allowing its natural form to shine through. Really awful hedges are those which have suffered from neglect (poor soil, no food or sufficient water), have not been trained from a

young age, or are simply not the right kind of plant for a hedge.

Some of the most spectacular hedges that you’ll see are those where people can afford to pay someone to prune it regularly because then it doesn’t grow unevenly or become lanky. Pruning regularly is key with hedges because pruning causes the plant to become dense and bushy which allows it to grow properly into what it is supposed to be and allows it to do its job. A well-grown hedge can be used to simply extend the height of a boundary fence or it can be allowed to grow through the railings between the plinths of a wrought iron fence where it can provide extra visual interest.



**Callistemon hedge extending the height of a boundary fence**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**Syzygium hedge growing between plinths creates visual interest**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**This hedge is suffering from neglect. It has been allowed to shoot up from the original hedge line and the new growth is not consistent along its length either. It has also become patchy near the bottom in places**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

Choosing the right plants and pruning from a young age will help your hedge be a good hedge. Choose plants that naturally have small or narrow leaves, or leaves that are densely packed on the stems. Prune from a young age... from the day you plant them in fact. Giving them a trim at planting and regular trimming or pruning thereafter encourages the dense, bushy growth you're after.

Westringias are natural candidates for hedges because their small leaves contribute straight away to the dense bushiness you're looking for in a hedge. They can also easily be kept pruned to whatever height you desire. Try *Westringia fruticosa*, *Westringia* 'Wynyabbie Gem' or *Westringia* 'Jervis Gem'.



**Layers of Westringia hedges used to good effect on a slightly sloping block**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

Callistemons have narrow leaves that are densely packed on the stems. They bush out well after pruning so try *Callistemon* 'Great Balls of Fire' or *Callistemon* 'Little John' for a neat hedge.



**Callistemon 'Great Balls of Fire' demarcating the edge of a driveway**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

We are very familiar Lilly Pilly hedges. Their glossy, dense leaves create lushness, they grow quickly and respond well to pruning, so most *Syzygium* species and cultivars will make good hedges. Try *Syzygium smithii*, *Syzygium* 'Bush Christmas', *Syzygium* 'Orange Twist', *Syzygium* 'Backyard Bliss' or *Syzygium* 'Christmas Cheer'.



***Syzygium* 'Bush Christmas' forms a perfect backdrop for the floral display outside Acorn Nursery**

(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

Many *Correas* such as *Correa* 'Autumn Blaze' also work well as low hedges and Liz showed us pictures of *Correa glabra* and *Correa bauerlenii* that have been used in this way.

A few different types of plants are being used as a low hedge surrounding a picnic table at Karwarra gardens. Monika showed us a hedge that includes a *Westringia* and *Callistemon pearsonii* 'Rocky Rambler' and apart from enclosing the area and making it more private, it shows people what can be done with native plants.



**Low hedge at Karwarra Gardens**  
(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

Taller shrubs or small trees that we don't usually associate with hedging can also work well e.g. various Acacias (Acacia 'Minicog' is a popular one), *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash), Grevilleas such as Grevillea 'Coconut Ice', Grevillea 'Moonlight' and Grevillea 'Deua', and *Backhousia citriodora* (lemon scented myrtle). *Backhousia* is a tall shrub or small tree that can get to 6m in height but responds well to pruning and makes an excellent hedge of any height. Its lemon-scented leaves are almost smothered by the fluffy creamy white flowers in summer and early autumn. The flowers attract bees and other insects and the clusters of daisy-like calyces that remain after the stamens have fallen are an added attraction.



***Backhousia citriodora* in its 'half & half' stage**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Moving away from the traditional idea of using a shrubs or trees planted as a hedge, scrambling climbers can also work well as hedges. Paul has a variegated *Pandorea* growing on their boundary. It is in a fairly shady street and the *Pandorea* provides a light colour that helps to mark the edge of the road. The stretch is about 40m long and it is pruned back about twice a year to keep it under control.



**Variegated *Pandorea* used as a hedge**  
(Photo: Paul Birch)

Climbers grown on fences can also function as hedges and the advantage of doing this is that they can be grown in very narrow spaces provided they are given the correct support. Any climber could be used in this fashion and then trimmed back in the same way as you would a hedge. For a very tall hedge vigorous climbers such as *Kennedia beckxiana* and *Kennedia coccinea* work well.



***Kennedia beckxiana* growing on a 3m+ tall fence at Cranbourne Gardens**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

A critical question when it comes to hedges is "How close do you need to plant the plants?" For smaller shrubs a good rule of thumb is three to four plants per metre, and for larger or more established shrubs, one plant per meter will work.



**Space smaller shrubs, such as *Correa alba* at three to four plants per metre. The gaps will fill in quickly and the result will be a good hedge**  
 (Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**Small shrubs spaced at one plant per metre will take a long time to join up, or may never join at all. The result will be a 'gappy' hedge that won't be able to do its job properly**  
 (Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**Larger shrubs, like these nice bushy *Syzygiums*, can be spaced at one plant per metre**  
 (Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

Looking after your hedge is important and getting it off to a good start is as easy as preparing and improving the soil with compost or other organic matter. A fertiliser formulated for natives is also a good idea and this can be given on an ongoing basis to keep your hedge in tip-top health. Don't forget the water, especially at planting time and for the first year at least. As with any other newly planted plants, looking after them well while they are still establishing gives them the best chance in life. If you have an established hedge then choosing the right tool to keep your hedge hedgy can include electric or petrol driven hedge trimmers, long handled shears or secateurs. Hedge trimmers are the tool of choice if you have a more formal hedge or a lot of hedge to

trim. Good brands are well-balanced to minimise any physical strain but there is no ideal one that will suit everyone. If you are thinking of buying a hedge trimmer then the best thing to do is go into a shop and try it out, or borrow one from a friend and see how it suits you. Ideally you should hold it and wield it as you would if you were trimming your hedge at home and get the one that is the most comfortable for you to use, and which will cope with the type and amount of pruning/trimming you will be doing. Last but not least in the tool department are rakes, brooms and leaf blowers because once you've done a whole lot of pruning, you're going to want to tidy things up so that you can stand back and admire your handiwork!

And finally, Liz said to have some fun with your hedge and to think outside of the usual concept of what constitutes a hedge. We had a couple of good examples of this from opposite ends of the spectrum with the fun and whimsical *Syzygium* dinosaur hedge (one of Nicky's neighbours' creations), a row of tall kangaroo paws growing near Nicky's home which are paid no attention at all by the people who rent the property but flower each year and do a good job of demarcating the boundary between the footpath and the garden, to the elegant rounded mounds of different westringias and correas seen at an open garden in Sorrento, and the informal *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (we think) and *Dodonea boroniifolia* hedges at Grannes Garden near the Stawell that edge a path and serve to hide the rest of the garden from view, while demarcating the path and drawing you into a new area.

**Janet Hodgkiss**



**A 'hedge' of Kangaroo Paws**  
 (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Syzygiosaurus due for a trim**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



***Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (we think) and *Dodonea boroniifolia* hedges line a path at Grannes garden**  
(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**Front end of dinosaur** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Elegant rounded mounds of correas and westringias forming a hedge**  
(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

## Out and About

Thank goodness it has rained again. Suddenly there is inspiration to start planting and purchasing. I started first with the garden at work. This final burst of dry and heat really 'done my brachyscomes in' but it may be that they were well into their second year and just don't last much longer. The garden is in Richmond, faces west and cops the heat of the building, footpath and road. So I took all the *Brachyscome multifida* I had at home and bought a couple of extras from Karwarra, and planted last Sunday after the rain of the weekend. Well, I got quite a surprise. The soil was bone dry. However, the plants are in, and I threw in a couple of Correas. I don't hold out for these for summer but reckoned they'd do okay over the next few months. I can easily replace these next autumn.

What has performed exceptionally well is the *Goodenia amplexans*. I only put them in 6 months ago, but they have survived these harsh conditions. The *Veronica arenaria* have had mixed success, those planted behind grasses which gave them a little microclimate looking good. The pigface has been brilliant in one section, but an area right outside our receptionist's office that had looked like a lawn was destroyed when airconditioning fellows did some work and stomped over the whole area. I removed the skeletal remains and have now planted some babies – they'll thrive again with a bit of luck. Hopefully we haven't seen the last of the rain.

While I was attending the garden at work I also pruned the hedges with new eyes. It was a super talk presented by Liz and it is amazing how one sees the world differently with such a theme.

**Nicky Zanen**



**APS Stand at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Display Garden at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## **APS FOOTHILLS INC.**

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## **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!**



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

May Newsletter 2019

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 14th May 2019**

**Peter Rogers**

**Taking us to Outback Queensland**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 22nd May 2019**

**Chris Long – Boronia Oil.**

**Chris' experiences with it and its cultivation.**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

We seem to be having a bit of an erratic start to our winter season... some warm and hot days, some cool to cold days, warm nights, chilly nights, a bit of rain, and then a bit of no rain! I'm not sure when it is going to settle down but I hope when it does, it settles with a lot more rain!

It's also less than fifty days until the winter solstice which means that the year is speeding by and before we know it, we'll be right into 'Acacia flowering' season and then into 'prowling about our favourite bushland reserves in search of spring flowers' season. That's my favourite season, the prowling about one, because I love looking to see what is flowering, are the flowers late or early or just not there at all? I also like seeing how my favourite reserves are doing compared to previous years and how the previous year's weather patterns have influenced what is in flower. Got to get past that shortest day first though!

We had a great talk by John Harris on the Kwongan at our evening meeting in April, and a great turn out too. It was lovely to see so many of you there and catch up with you again.

Our next evening meeting speaker is Chris Long, our current APS Victoria President, who will be talking to us about Boronia Oil, his experiences with it and its cultivation. I don't know much about Boronia oil at all, so am looking forward to hearing more about it.

I am also looking forward to the last Sunday in May because I'll be celebrating National Botanic Gardens Day at Maranoa Gardens. Find out more about it in this newsletter and hope to see you there.

Until next time then, and say Hi to your plants from me!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## May Day Meeting - 14 May 2019

Peter and Alison Rogers have had an interest in native plants from an early age. Their parents, Fred and June Rogers and Bill and Marion King, were founding members of Society for Growing Australian Plants (Maroondah), and fostered the interest shown by their children today. Peter studied botany at Monash University in the late 70's developing an overall appreciation of plants in general, especially Australian natives.

Apart from native plants, Peter also has a general interest in nature, especially birds. He is the current Secretary of the Maroondah Group and is the immediate-past President of Ringwood Field Naturalists Club.

As a result of this interest they spend their holidays anywhere in the Australian bush or outback. Finding plants in the wild that we grow in our gardens or a new or rare plant is part of the fun for travel around Australia. They have travelled through outback Queensland a few times and find the vast area fascinating. In his presentation, Peter will take you on a journey from Winton to Threeways (in NT) looking at the flora and fauna found along the way.

### Peter and Alison Rogers



Peter and Alison Rogers  
(Photo supplied by Peter and Alison)

## April evening meeting - Wildflowers of the WA Northern Sandplains Kwongan

Our April evening meeting was a presentation by John Harris from Wildlife Experiences on the WA Northern Sandplains Kwongan. One of their tours, Kwongan Discovery, was the basis for this presentation and it provided a great overview of the region, and the Kwongan in particular.

Kwongan is a Noongar word for sandplain and is an area covered by shrubby vegetation, or a mosaic of woodlands and mallee. Kwongan is part of the SW Floristic Region, covers a quarter of this area and contains 70% of the 8000+ species that are found in this region. Species that live in this area are adapted to fire, drought and extreme summer heat, and plants in the Kwongan are adapted to growing in nutrient-poor soil. The coastal region comprises wind-pruned heathlands, and most of the rainfall in the Kwongan occurs in winter.

The key plant families are Proteaceae (Banksia, Grevillea, Hakea), Myrtaceae (Eucalyptus, Verticordia) and Fabaceae (Daviesia, Jacksonia). Some examples of these families that John showed us were:

Proteaceae - *Banksia prionotes*, *B. candolleana*; *Hakea conchifolia* (with flowers nestled in shell-like leaves) and *H. anadenia*, both of which show the wide range of adaptations of plants to the environment;

Myrtaceae - the Featherflowers, *Verticordia nobilis* and *V. grandis* (a spectacular scarlet Verticordia) and the Laterite Mallee, *Eucalyptus lateritica*;  
Fabaceae - *Daviesia epiphyllum* with bright red pea flowers growing directly on the leaf blade, *D. divaricata* showing a very different plant form and *Jacksonia floribunda*, the Holly Pea.



*Hakea conchifolia* Shell-leaved Hakea  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)



*Verticordia grandis* Scarlet Featherflower  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)

Impacts to the area include land clearing, urbanisation and dieback due to *Pytophthora cinnamomi* as well as inappropriate fire regimes.

Nambung National Park, Lesueur National Park and Badgingarra National Park (two hours north of Perth) are well known for Kwongan.

Lesueur National Park has 7 declared rare flora species, 9 endemic taxa and 111 taxa endemic to the region. It is largely stony lateritic soil. Some interesting plants in this area include *Callitris acuminata* Dwarf Cypress with its characteristic gymnosperm cones, *Gastrolobium spinosum* Prickly Poison (a natural source of the poison 1080), *Banksia tricuspis* Lesueur Banksia which is endemic, *Byblis gigantea* Rainbow Plant, and *Diplolaena ferruginea*.



*Xanthosia tomentosa* Lesueur Southern Cross  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)

Nambung National Park is well-known for the Pinnacles limestone formations which early Dutch sailors thought were remnants of an ancient city. *Sphaerolobium macranthum* is one of the pea flowers found here.

Badgingarra National Park is one of the richest wildflower areas in Western Australia. Local species include the fascinating Black Kangaroo Paw *Macropidia fuliginosa* and the Badgingarra Mallee. Plants in this area are adapted to white sands with few available nutrients.

Hi Vallee Farm is a 2000 hectare working sheep and wheat farm, 400 hectares of which was left untouched and now forms the largest remnant Kwongan vegetation complex. To date, 56 plant families and at least 530 species are represented on the farm. Presently there are more than 130 vertebrate species.

Plants at Hi Vallee include: *Grevillea synapheae* Catkin Grevillea, *G. uncinata* 'Coomaloo' (different forms of many species of plant are often named after the area where they are found), *Dryandra carlinoides* Pink Dryandra, *D. sessilis* (a favourite with the honey possums), *D. catoglypha*, *Conospermum glabrum* plus about ten other species of *Conospermum*, *Petrophile shuttleworthiana*, *P. brevifolia*, *P. linearis* (Pixie Mops), *Synaphea petiolaris* with yellow flowers on long stems, *S. spinulosa*, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* Mottlecah, *Verticordia nobilis* (yellow flowers), *V. rutilastra* with yellow flowers that change to orange once they have been fertilised, *V. densiflora* Pink Compact Feather flower, *V. ovalifolia*, *Calytrix leschenaultia* (purple flowers), *C. aurea*, *C. drummondii* Pale yellow flowers, and the Summer Coppercups *Pileanthus filifolius* with hot pink flowers and copper coloured buds.



*Caladenia lorea* at Hi Vallee Farm  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)

Other plants in the Kwongan include: *Isotropis cuneifolia*; *Gastrolobium ilicifolium*; *Gompholobium aristatum* and *G. preissii*; *Acacia moirii*, *A. alata* (white flowers), and *A. stenoptera* (narrow-winged wattle); *Elythranthera emarginata* the Pink Enamel Orchid; *Stylidium cygnorum* (plus a wide range of other different forms of *Stylidium*); *Isotoma hypocrateriformis* Woodbridge Poison; sundews such as *Drosera magna*, *D. barbiger* with orange flowers, and other stilted forms which are adaptations to keep the plants away from hot soil; *Calectasia grandiflora* Blue Tinsel Lily; *Anigozanthos humilis* Catspaw; *Dampiera* spp.; *Waitzia suaveolens*; *Nuytsia floribunda* WA Christmas Tree which has fantastic orange flowers in November (it is a root

parasite until it establishes, with grasses and grass trees being common hosts); *Physopsis spicata* Hill River Lamb's Tails, and *Glischrocaryon flavescens* with its yellow flowers and often mistaken for a weed because it commonly colonises disturbed areas.



*Banksia menziesii* Firewood Banksia  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)

To round his talk off, John mentioned some non-plant life forms that you might encounter in the Kwongan, one of the most unusual-looking being the Turtle Frog *Myobatrachus gouldii* and one of the cutest being the Honey Possum *Tarsipes rostratus*. The frog, resembling a turtle with its shell removed, lives in sandy areas far from any source of permanent water, emerging only after rains, and the Honey Possum, a tiny possum that lives on nectar, will come out to feed on cooler days although it is usually nocturnal.



Honey Possum, Nambung National Park, WA  
(Photo: John Harris – Wildlife Experiences)

If you'd like more information about tours run by Wildlife Experiences, you can contact John Harris at [admin@wildlifeexperiences.com.au](mailto:admin@wildlifeexperiences.com.au) or on mobile 0409 090 955. Also see the flyer that has been included further on in this newsletter.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Upcoming day meetings

For May unfortunately Bev Hanson who was going to speak to us about landscaping is undergoing another operation and is not available. Instead we now have Peter Rogers taking us to Outback Queensland.

In June we have Margaret James speaking on the History and Cultivation of Australian Plants.

And July, we have a members day exploring hedges. We had such fun during the evening meeting that I am tempted to see what our day members can come up with. Please keep an eye out for good or eccentric samples of hedges and prepare to add your photos to the day.

## April Day Meeting

At our last meeting we accompanied Chris Larkin and Bev Fox on several road trips to the Wimmera. The places we visited included the Grampians, Mt Arapiles, Edenhope and Horsham and the gardens of Maree & Graham Goods and other members of the Wimmera Growers Group.

It was good to see the plants found along the roadside, but concerning that many of the scenes of swamp areas and vegetation are slowly disappearing. Also, at the tip in Edenhope where there has been a richness of biodiversity, the Gazanias are taking over.

Amongst the plants Chris showed us were the *Acacia calamifolia* with its thin hooked leaves and bright

yellow ball flowers, *Acacia aphylla*, the leafless wattle (although this one can easily be confused with the leafless bitter pea *Daviesia brevifolia*), *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, *Dodonea viscosa* (also found around Melbourne) and *Wahlenbergia* sp which Chris reminded us don't die out, just die back over summer and *Harmsiodoxa blennodioides*.

Thank you Chris for a lovely journey, well worth doing twice.

The *Harmsiodoxa blennodioides* is a member of the Brassicaceae and could be mistaken for a weed. It looks like a dandelion and is also known as May Smocks. This is a new plant for me. More information and images about *Harmsiodoxa blennodioides* can be found at [vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au).

**Nicky Zanen**

## From the Secretary

We took leave of Joan Rand last month. Joan was such a strong contributor to APS Foothills, on our committee, at Stringybark Festival and with the day meetings. Joan joined the SGAP in 1982, and was accorded an APS Victoria Certificate of Commendation in 2014. Her funeral was held on what would have been Steve's 90th birthday.



Joan with her very good friends Val and Rex Marburg  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Joan Rand (centre), Faye Candy on right  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Also in April, Bruce Candy, one of our very supportive husbands, passed away.

We extend our sincere condolences to the Rand and Candy families.

A couple of our other members and past members are going through health difficulties including Olga Shaw and Barry Sanders. We wish you both a speedy recovery.

## Bush Tucker Order

The order has been placed on behalf of our members and Peter Bellis has kindly offered to help with the delivery. I would appreciate payment into my own account or by cash please. The cost to us was \$32 per bag which includes \$2 delivery. Please contact me on 0401975191 if you would like the account number.

**Nicky Zanen**

## The Story of the Wedge Tail Eagle.

**Bunjil** is a creator deity, culture hero and ancestral being, often depicted as a Wedge Tailed Eagle (according to Wikipedia).

But my story actually takes place in Boronia, where Dorset Road has four lanes, on a stinking hot day earlier this year. Local wildlife carers received a phone call to say a distressed Eagle was sitting on the fence in a backyard. Carer arrived to catch the bird but it hopped to the neighbour's place. He realized he wouldn't be able to catch bird by approaching from the front, so went next door. A surprised young man accepted the explanation that there was an Eagle in the backyard, and allowed carer to walk through the house. This he did having to clamber over half naked bodies cooling themselves under a fan in the kitchen. He caught Eagle, wrapped in blanket (he said the Eagle was as gentle as anything) and then walked back through the house. The young man was quite surprised - there had actually been an Eagle in his garden! Eagle was taken to Healesville Sanctuary suffering heat stress.

Moral of the story - keep your eyes in the sky, them Eagles are nearby.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens

A visit is scheduled for our Foothills Group to go to the Melton Botanic Gardens later this year, but I have a hankering for a visit in autumn. Would anyone like to join me?

My plan is to leave from the south east corner carpark at Forest Hills at 10.00 am on Friday 17th May 2019. Lunch is BYO or there are a number of great eateries in the area. The carpark is near the Flora Grove roundabout in Mahoneys Road, Melways 62 C2. Please let me know at our next day meeting or call me on 0401975191.

**Nicky Zanen**



Acacia aphylla (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

## BGANZ Botanic Gardens Day, 26 May 2019

Maranoa Gardens is one of Australia's oldest native botanical gardens and... it's right on our doorstep!

Come along on the last Sunday in May and enjoy the astonishing variety of plants from Victoria and around the country, and celebrate the vital work Botanic Gardens do for plant conservation.

It's a free, family-friendly event brought to you by BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand). Along with various activities, there'll be plant and book sales, and you can enjoy a yummy free lunch/coffee too.

Maranoa Gardens is in Parring Road, Balwyn and is open from 10am - 5pm. See you there!



**BOTANIC GARDENS DAY**

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

10AM - 5PM,  
MARANOA GARDENS  
PARRING RD,  
BALWYN

**MARANOA GARDENS**

Come and celebrate the vital work Botanic Gardens do for plant conservation! Enjoy plant and book sales, yummy food and immerse yourself in our native flora.

[www.facebook.com/maranoa-gardens](http://www.facebook.com/maranoa-gardens)

#BOTANICGARDENS DAY

BOROONDARA  
City of Melbourne



*Acacia denticulosa* Sandpaper Wattle,  
Maranoa Gardens (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Grevillea flexuosa* (Photo: Kerry Davis)



*Templetonia retusa* at Maranoa Gardens  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

## **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!**