



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 2019

**AUGUST
-
SEPTEMBER**

ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/apsoothills

VISITORS WELCOME!



Membership Fees are due

See Membership form and instructions in the July newsletter.

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 13th August 2019

**Miriam Ford –
Mint Bushes and Allied Genera**

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 24th July 2019

**Chris Larkin –
For the love of Hakeas**

Foothills Facebook Page

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Hi Everyone,

I always like July even though it can be a gloomy time of year weatherwise. We are still in the cold, wet depths of winter but have you noticed that the days are getting a little longer... only by a little bit each day but happily it's no longer pitch dark by 5.30pm!

We held our AGM and Quiz at our July evening meeting. Your committee for 2019-2020 was also chosen at the AGM. It remains largely unchanged from last year, and my thanks again to everyone who served on the committee last year and to those who volunteered to carry on in their roles. My thanks too to Pam Yarra, who volunteered to join the committee again as an ordinary committee member.

'Ordinary' committee members, while not having any specific duties, play an important role in bringing new or alternative ideas to the group, they help with spreading the load when required, and help with our succession planning. It's good to have a changing committee too, as this keeps our group from stagnating, so we'd love to have some more ordinary members on the committee. Please have a chat with me or anyone else on the committee if you think you'd like to join us, even if it's just for a year to see how things work. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Your committee currently consists of: Leader: Janet Hodgkiss, Deputy Leader: Liz Triggs, Secretary: Nicky Zanen, Treasurer: Chris Larkin, Newsletter Editor: Kerry Davis, Ordinary Committee Member: Pam Yarra.

Our Quiz was good fun too, with Shirley Smith setting us some great questions that were neither too hard nor too easy! We had plenty of laughs and Shirley organised a good range of prizes for us, so here's a big thank you to her for making it such a festive evening. I won first prize... a great little *Correa* and some yummy chocolates. I think I have an unfair advantage with the quiz though, particularly as I proofread our newsletter for Kerry and a lot of stuff stays fresh in my memory for quite a while, so I will be sharing my prize with you at our next meeting. I can't split up the correa but you'll be pleased to know that I have decided against throwing it into the crowd like a bride's bouquet! I am working on a safer means of deciding who will get to enjoy it.

Liz presented our best of bench which was already showing plenty of colour. We had Leigh's showy *Acacia 'Scarlet Blaze'* with its gold-flecked, red pom-poms and the always delightful *Eucalyptus caesia*, which Nicky has growing in her garden. We had a 'dainty, tiny flowers, small leaves theme' with a selection of *Thryptomenes* including 'Payne's Hybrid', the Grampian's *Thryptomene T. calycina*, *Thryptomene 'Nadja'*, and *Thryptomene 'Little Mingenew'* which only gets to 60cm in height. *Micromyrtus ciliata* with its small flowers and tiny leaves also fitted into this theme. Other plants on the table included *Zieria 'Pink Crystals'*, *Hardenbergia 'Free 'n Easy'*, *Grevillea jephcottii*, *Guichenotia macrantha*, *Epacris purpurascens*, *Eremophila maculata*, a golden *Lechenaultia*, *Backhousia citriodora*, *Siegfriedia darwinioides*, *Correa lawrenciana*, *Correa bauerlenii* and *Persoonia pinifolia*. Thanks everyone who brought specimens for our best of bench, and for our raffle. You are all gems!

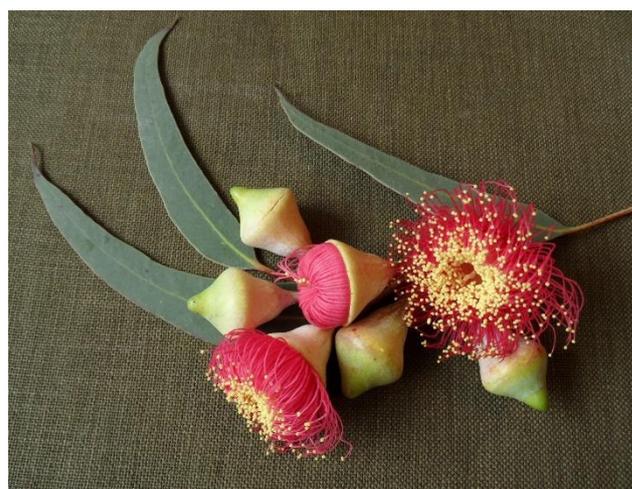
Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their Foothills membership. If you haven't done so yet, for your convenience we have included the forms and instructions in this newsletter again. Thank you for your continued support!

See you next time.

Janet Hodgkiss



Acacia 'Scarlet Blaze' (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Eucalyptus caesia buds and flowers
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Epacris purpurascens flowering at Cranbourne Gardens (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Next Day Meeting

Miriam Ford: Mint Bushes & Allied Genera

APS Yarra Yarra will host the 2020 FJC Rogers Seminar and our chosen topic is Mint Bushes and Allied Genera aka LAMIACEAE, subfamily Prostantheroideae. There are around 90 Prostanthera species with many still being discovered. They have highly aromatic foliage and often stunning flowers in profusion with colours ranging from deep purple, pink to white from early Spring through Summer & even Autumn for some species. They grow in all sorts of places & tolerate a wide range of conditions. The Allied Genera include Westringia, Dasymalla, Pityrodia & 13 others. The talk will centre on the mint bushes (Prostanthera species) with the last section bringing in the Allied Genera. It will be a multimedia presentation with some videos, some slides and some plants to engage the olfactory senses along with the visual.

About the Speaker: Miriam grew up in western Queensland, then studied at the University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane (1970s) where she did a Science (hons) degree followed by a Doctorate in Biochemistry & Cell Biology. After a 3 year postdoctoral fellowship in London, UK where she added molecular biology to her repertoire she returned to Melbourne (late 1980s) where she worked in cancer research then developmental neurobiology for 25 years before leaving that profession having tired of the grant writing merry-go-round. She undertook a teaching degree (both Steiner education & Grad Dip) and then opted instead to establish a psychology private practice in Hurstbridge with her husband Michael as psychologist and herself as Practice Manager. In addition to that work she spends much time indulging her passion for gardening with Australian Plants. She is currently the Leader of APS Yarra Yarra.

Nicky Zanen

Next evening meeting – Wednesday 28th August

For the Love of Hakeas – Chris Larkin

Chris currently grows 22 different species or subspecies of Hakea. Her collection, and interest, has grown, and although some favourites are now deceased, trying out new plants is still the go with two more beauties freshly planted.

Chris' collection grew from a slow start. Each year, over many years, when she went to the Geelong plant sale, she would go to a particular grower and after starting the conversation negatively with comments like "Ah, hakeas are all big and prickly", she would then be persuaded by this gentle man to buy a couple. It wasn't a hard sell, perversely that wasn't necessary but really, why was she so curious to grow these plants?

Maybe it was because they aren't so commonly grown around here and she wanted to see what they looked like, and although Chris says "Yeah sure, many but not all, are lethally prickly!", many of them are very showy and most are very long flowering.

So, come along and hear about this wonderfully diverse group of plants and see why it is one of Chris' favourites.

Janet Hodgkiss.

Our last daytime meeting – 9 July 2019

Thank you to all the members who came to our last meeting which was a members' day covering hedges. There weren't many slides from the floor, but I really appreciated the input from our fellow members.

I also particularly wanted to thank Janet for the terrific write up she put in our newsletter earlier this year, and Liz for her help.

We missed Maureen Schaumann who had the flu, and she has since sent a lovely note of thanks for the card 'which certainly helped to brighten my day'. Thank you to all the members involved.

Nicky Zanen



Fairy Garden in the Fitzroy Gardens as an example of formal hedging. With a by word - the little kiosk was closed when I went there in July. Totally abandoned. (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Day time best of bench with Barry Sanders (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

News from APS Victoria

As you will have read in the June Growing Australian, Amy Akers was stepping down as seed bank curator. Marj Seaton has been appointed as the new seed bank curator. Many of you would remember Marj from her time as Membership Officer and as APS SE Melbourne delegate to COM meetings.

The new contact details will be published in the September Growing Australian, and the email stays the same - seedbank@apsvic.org.au

Nicky Zanen

From the Secretary

Our mail box is in Boronia and most of the time it is quite empty except once a year when our members renew their membership and post cheques.

However, this month we received an invitation to visit "The Gannawarra". This shire covers Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook and is close to Kerang Lakes, Gunbower National Park and many surrounding wetlands, forests and reserves.

An added attraction is Gunbower Island, home to the locally known 'Eagle Tree' – a marvellous example of a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* which is over 1000 years old and the largest and tallest example of this species in Victoria.

If you're tempted to take up the Gannawarra Shire Council invitation to visit, check out www.visitkck.com.au.

Also in the mail box was a letter from the Australian Plants Society, Alice Springs, enclosing 3 excellent flower identification brochures that they have recently helped produce. "Central Australian Flora – Forbs and small Shrubs"; "Central Australian Flora – Trees, large shrubs, grasses and sedges", and "Flora of the Katherine area". These can be ordered from them at \$5 a copy. Contact apsalicesprings@yahoo.com.au.

Every three months we receive the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria quarterly magazine with its hundreds of enclosures. We receive this because our group's insurance is covered through APS Victoria who in turn are covered through the RHSV. This also entitles our members to take part in the annual Hanging basket competition held during MIFGS.

And finally, the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc publicising their Melbourne Orchid Spectacular 2019. This is being held in the Boxhall Pavilion, KCC Park (State Dog Centre), Friday 23rd August.

Nicky Zanen

Open Gardens

Habitat Gardens – an invitation from Pam Yarra

Pam Yarra has extended an invitation to Foothills members to visit her habitat garden on Sunday 25th

August. This is a follow-on from the APS Maroondah meeting on Friday 16th August.

The speaker at the Maroondah meeting will be AB Bishop, co-author of the book "The Australian Native Garden" with Angus Stewart, and more recently her own book "Habitat", a practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden. Pam's garden features in this book on pages 108-109.

Foothills members are welcome to attend both the meeting and the garden visit.

Maroondah meeting: Friday, 16th August, 8pm, Australian Unity Hall, 8 Main Street, Blackburn, 8pm.

Visit to Pam Yarra's garden: Sunday 25th August, 2pm, 65a Dickasons Road, Heathmont.



Pam's habitat garden connects to a corridor leading to the Dandenong Creek and other reserves in the area

Open Garden – September

Bob O'Neill will be opening his garden to the public again this year with all proceeds going to the soup kitchen. Tea and coffee will be available for purchase and Bob has 500 plants for sale as well.

The following information is provided by the Open Gardens Victoria Website

Yallaroo, 7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South. Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September, 2019; 10.00am - 4.30pm. Entry is \$8, students \$5 and under 18 free.

This garden is testament to the owners' knowledge and passion for Australian plants, and is filled with a huge range of Australian plants from every state. The garden evokes the feel of the bush in some parts; in others, formal elegance. Every inch of ground has been developed whether for floral

display or for productive food growing. And every plant is labelled!

A long driveway welcomes visitors to the house – its length filled with beds full of colourful plants including correas, eremophilas, hibbertias, dampieras and several large signature Brachychiton rupestris trees.

The owners have a special love of correas, grevilleas and leschenaultias and there is an amazing variety throughout the garden. While the front garden feels a little like walking through the bush along winding paths, closer to the house the garden has a more formal feel with a fernery and many kinds of zygotacti.

The rear garden features a huge covered orchard where peach, figs, apple, plums and apricots thrive, including a macadamia and loquat. There is also a vine-covered colonnaded walkway, a private courtyard garden, a propagating area and hothouse.

Bob's garden will be aired on ABC Gardening Australia on 23rd August.



Well labelled plants in Bob's garden (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Bob's driveway back in 2014. Come and see how it is progressing (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

APS Foothills Annual Quiz

24th July 2019

Questions

1. Why am I running the quiz night tonight?
2. What was the theme of the Quarterly Weekend run by Foothills in August last year?
3. What is the name of our monthly newsletter?
4. What do the initials MIFGS stand for?
5. One of our members has a case study in a new book by A.B Bishop. Who is that person?
6. Which 3 Islands did Shirley talk about at the August evening meeting last year?
7. What are the common names of: (a) *Acacia melanoxylon*; (b) *Dichondra repens*?
8. Name 3 members of the APS Foothills Committee.
9. What is the Latin name of Possum banksia?
10. Where was the Group Christmas breakup held in December last year?
11. Which member showed photos of her garden taken on a foggy day at the 5/6 or 7 slide night in June?
12. Liz Trigg showed slides of wildlife in her garden including 2 birds sitting in a flowering eucalypt. What were the two birds?
13. Liz Trigg gave an interesting presentation to the March, 2019 night meeting. What was the topic?
14. What are the common names of: (a) *Themeda triandra*; (b) *Hakea nodosa*?
15. What oil did Chris Long talk about at the May, 2019 meeting?
16. Where is the ANSPA 2019 Conference going to be held?
17. Next year there will be a number of events celebrating something that happened 250 years ago. What was it?
18. What is a nodding greenhood?
19. What plant was discovered in NSW in 1994 which had only previously been known about through fossil records?
20. How many acacia species are there? Are there approx. 300/700 or 1000?

Answers

1. The winner of the quiz in any year gets to organise the quiz the next year.
2. Plants & Gardens of the Dandenongs and Foothills.
3. Foothills News
4. Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show
5. Pam Yarra
6. Island 1 King; Island 2 Tasmania; Island 3 Sicily
7. Plant (a) Blackwood; Plant (b) Kidney Weed
8. Three of: Janet Hodgkiss, Liz Triggs, Nicky Zanen, Chris Larkin, Kerry Davis,
9. *Banksia baueri*
10. Kawarra Gardens
11. Chris Larkin
12. Tawny frogmouth and Musk lorikeet
13. "Hedging with Australian Natives"
14. Common names of: (a) Kangaroo grass
(b) Yellow hakea
15. Boronia oil
16. Albany, W.A.
17. Banks & Solander's work on Australian & NZ flora
18. An Australian terrestrial orchid, *Pterostylis nutans*.
19. Wollemi pine or *Wollemia nobilis*
20. 1000

Shirley Smith



AGM Meeting (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Banksia praemorsa (Photo: Kerry Davis)

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

PO Box 65
BORONIA 3155

ENQUIRIES

Email: 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: 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!



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

September Newsletter 2019

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 10th September 2019

**David & Barbara Pye - Melton
Botanic Gardens**

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 25th September 2019

**Jack Airey – A Introduction to Local
and Victorian Orchids**

WEEKEND WALK

Saturday 28th September 2019

**Baluk Willam Reserve with Jack
Airey to look for orchids.**

9.30am – 12 noon

Foothills Facebook Page

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Hi Everyone,

Despite spring's capricious weather, visiting local bush reserves is my favourite pastime at this time of year. I keep an eye out for things I have not seen flowering before, and check on my favourite patches to see if my "usuals" are still there and in good condition. Spotting these old favourites is like catching up with good friends and I must confess, I often come home with muddy knees because I can't resist crouching down to commune with them or take photos!

Spring is also very busy this time of year with plenty of plant shows and plant sales, and it can be tricky choosing what you want to see, or where you want to go so that you don't miss out on anything. Look for the list in this newsletter, and the attached or included flyers, to help you plan your spring adventures.

Many orchids start appearing in spring, and Jack Airey will be telling us more about local and Victorian orchids at our evening meeting. Jack will also lead a walk to look for orchids on the Saturday following his talk, so if you're free on the morning of the Grand Final (don't worry, you'll be home in plenty of time to watch the game!), please join us for what is sure to be a very interesting walk.

Melton Botanic Gardens is the topic of David and Barbara Pye's talk to the day meeting. Come and find out more about this garden that has as its focus, arid zone gardening in general and Australian arid zones in particular.

You can read about Chris Larkin's passion for Hakeas if you missed the evening meeting in this newsletter, and lastly, Happy Spring everyone! Remember to slip, slop and slap if you go out because that sun, while still fairly mild can catch our winter skin unawares!

Janet Hodgkiss.

Next Day Meeting

The speakers

Barb and David Pye have been APS members for more than 50 years, joined the Society for Growing Australian Plants in 1967. Growing Australian plants was a hobby for many years and was turned into a business for a few years after retirement when they operated Suntuff Natives Nursery. In more recent times they volunteered for the role of constructing a Eucalyptus Arboretum on the Melton Botanic Garden Site. Soon after they took on responsibility for establishing a depot and nursery there, and later the Western Australian – South Australian garden. Being too busy to continue their own nursery they closed it several years ago.

They continue to work in a management role at the garden, as well as giving talks and hosting guided tours.

The talk

The Melton Botanic Garden is the newest botanic garden in the Melbourne area, and is under construction by volunteers on a 24 hectare site. The site has a large area of rehabilitated bush along the watercourse and surrounding a large lake, and some magnificent River redgums. Since 2011, the volunteers have constructed:

- Dryland Eucalyptus arboretum
- Depot
- Plant nursery
- Southern African garden
- Western Australian – South Australian garden (WA-SA)
- Mediterranean Garden
- Indigenous Plant Usage gardens
- Sensory garden

Barb and David will give an overview of the garden and describe the Dryland Eucalyptus collection and WA-SA garden in greater detail. The registered Dryland Eucalyptus collection contains more than 100 species, and the WA-SA garden has several hundred species of plants from that part of Australia.

Nicky Zanen

Next Evening Meeting Wednesday 25th September

Jack Airey – A Introduction to Local and Victorian Orchids

Finding orchids when you're out in the bush is a real treat and Jack will focus on local orchids and good sites to find them. He'll also share a bit of information about other sites like the Grampians and Anglesea that are a bit further away but excellent sites for a trip.

Jack and his family moved to Warranwood 14 years ago, to a house backing onto a reserve with a dam. Wondering what the large purple and black birds running around the reserve were, his wife bought him a birdwatching field guide and his interest in nature took off. He joined the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club in 2008. Back then he was only concerned with birdwatching, but his interests have now extended to fungi, insects, spiders and of course, orchids. Jack regularly leads club excursions and he's currently planning a weekend trip to see Anglesea's orchids.

Jack will also lead us on a walk on the Saturday following his talk. The plan is to head down to Baluk Willam Reserve and spend a couple of hours in the morning looking for orchids. Last year he led a walk there in late September for the RFNC and they found around 15 orchid species, so he says it's a great time to go. We'll finish at lunchtime so people (himself included) can make it home for the Grand Final.

Janet Hodgkiss

Our last daytime meeting – 13 August 2019

It should have been or could have been Friday the 13th. The number of apologies was almost as long as my arm – flat car battery, automatic gates not opening because of the weather, a midwife to daughter's cat, car making clanking sounds, working and two hospitalisations. I hope the folk who have been hospitalized make a quick recovery and that we catch up again next month.

Despite all these absences we had an enthusiastic group of 12 members, and my heartfelt thanks to everyone who did make it. I think all of you would agree the meeting was well worth the effort.

Max and Regina McDowell came as visitors and hopefully we'll see you again. And we welcomed Margaret James as our newest member. Thank you so much for joining our group Margaret.

Our speaker was delayed which gave us a chance of spending more time than usual on the bench. Robin enthusiastically took on this role.

I tried desperately to take notes, but certainly am not as efficient as Janet is for the evening meetings.

There was *Tetrateca thymifolia* and *Epacris purpurascens* (Port Jackson heath) from the Blue Mountains. This epacris is normally found in moist soils or swamps. Shirley brought in more epacrises as well as a *Hovea acutifolia* which she purchased at the Newcastle ASGAP Conference in 2007.

Monika and Maureen also brought in flowers including a *dodonea*, *Phebalium stenophyllum*, *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze', *Grevillea alpina*, a *scholtzia* and an orange *Templetonia retusa*.

One *Alyogyne huegelii* flower. The plant can be cut back according to *Gardening Australia* to about a foot high. The dilemma of pruning this bush is that there are always buds waiting to open.

Hypocalymma angustifolium flower buds, a promise of the season nearly upon us. *Boronia* 'Pink Passion', *Darwinia citriodora*, *Thryptomene saxicola*, *Epacris* 'Pink Nectar', *Chorizema cordatum*, *Veronica perfoliata*, *Grev jephcottii*, *Grev shiresii* with its barely visible flower, *Acacia leprosa* or *stictophylla*, *Ac trigonophylla* and warrigal spinach, *Tetragonia tetragonoides*.

It was especially great to see the plants that Max and Regina McDowell brought with them including a *Grevillea* Max wasn't sure of but thought was 'Crosbie Morrison', *Thryptomene claycina* 'Little Treasure', *Grev* 'Fire Works', *Grevillea aspera* and *Diplolaena grandiflora*



Day flower bench *Acacia trigonophylla* (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Tuesday's Speaker

Then Miriam Ford spoke to us on Mint Bushes and Allied Genera and the upcoming FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 which is being hosted by APS Yarra Yarra in Eltham. Remember to save the date – last weekend of October next year.

Miriam is extremely enthusiastic both about the subject choice and the plants themselves.

She reminded us that the FJC Rogers Seminars are in honour of Fred Rogers who was a teacher and educator through and through. She has been immensely assisted by a collection of ASGAP Study Group newsletters till 2006 provided by Bruce Grose, and George W Althofer's book 'Cradle of Incense' written in 1978 which covers an area in a rough circle of 150 K radius with the Burrendong Arboreteum, Wellington, Dubbo at its centre.

The origin of *Prostanthera* is *Prosthebe* – an appendage and anther. The type specimen of *Prostanthera lasianthos* was picked up in Tasmania (Recherche Bay by Jacques Labillardiere, 1773 ish). *Lasianthos* means hairs.

Miriam covered so much information and following are some of the gems mentioned.

P ovalifolia - Brundah Mints– pink and purple forms. Recently rescued with the construction of a substantial fence from NSW feral goats (yes, Noel Cartwright and Weddin Community Nursery people) & noted as being under threat by George even in 1978.

P rotundifolia – pink, purple, white, from Victoria.

Some *Prostantheras* like moisture and shade, some grow well in sun. Bush foods include *P incisa* native thyme, and *P rotundifolia*, native sage.

Prostantheras are mostly found in NSW (65 species). Maria Hitchcock is one of the key speakers and is growing a large collection. She is harvesting *P incisa* for essential oil.

Prostanthera cuneata is an alpine mint and needs partial shade.

The rare and endangered *P galbraithiae* was named in honour of Jean Galbraith. One of the two remaining natural populations was burnt out recently south of Sale, but Miriam got one plant donated to her from the RB Gardens. APS YY cannot sell from this plant – it and its progeny are just for display; however, there were stock plants at Maffra (Woolenook Native Nursery), and cuttings have been recently potted on so plants should be available during the Seminar.

P ekersleyana, from NE Perth, is available grafted by Philip Vaughan.

Research undertaken by Trevor Wilson, Sydney Herbarium & Botanic Gardens, has shown that they are pollinated by bees, birds and also beetles and flies depending on the morphology of the flowers.

Most prostantheras grow well in dappled shade amongst wattles and eucalypts. They need good drainage and leaf mould.

A stimulating and interesting talk that whetted our appetite not only to attend the FJC Rogers Seminar but also to get our hands on some of the amazing plants the Yarra Yarra group are propagating for sale.

Nicky Zanen

Our Last Evening Meeting Wednesday 24th August

Chris Larkin – Why Hakeas?

Chris Larkin is passionate about Hakeas and this certainly came through in the lovely presentation she gave at our last evening meeting.

She started us off with the basics: that the genus Hakea is named after Baron von Hake, a German botanical patron; it belongs to the family Proteaceae; they are closely related to grevilleas, which is evident with some of the flowers, and the type plant is *H. teretifolia*.

For Chris, it is the diversity of foliage and flowers that is particularly attractive, and discovering that in a garden situation, they have proved to be tough plants that cope well with dry conditions. They are also very floriferous and tend to flower over a long period.

They are widely distributed, with most species occurring in south-west Western Australia, around 40 species in the eastern states, and a few in the tropics. Altogether there are about 150 species and the genus is endemic to Australia. They occur on a wide range of soils, generally acidic, and are usually found in woodlands or open forests.

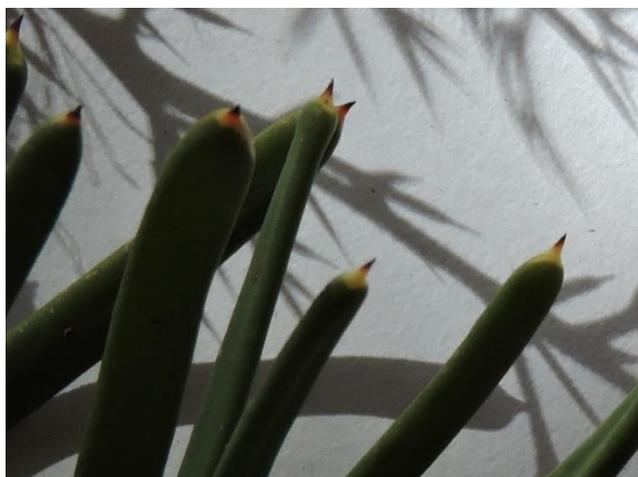


Broad leaf species of Hakea (Photo: Chris Larkin)

Hakeas leaves are all tough and many are very attractive, meaning plants can be grown for this reason alone. The broad-leafed Hakeas have pointy tips but are not necessarily prickly. *H. elliptica* and *H. petiolaris* both have beautiful venation and *H. petiolaris* has a particularly attractive twisted shape to its leaves. Using species such as these where the leaves can be backlit by the sun provides an added dimension that is useful in landscape design. *Hakea conchifolia* has beautiful shell-like leaves that cup the flowers and *H. Victoria*, also with cup-like leaves, is renowned for its very striking colours. Non-broadleaf species such as *Hakea clavata* have hard, needle-like tips, with *H. lissocarpa* being very prickly indeed.

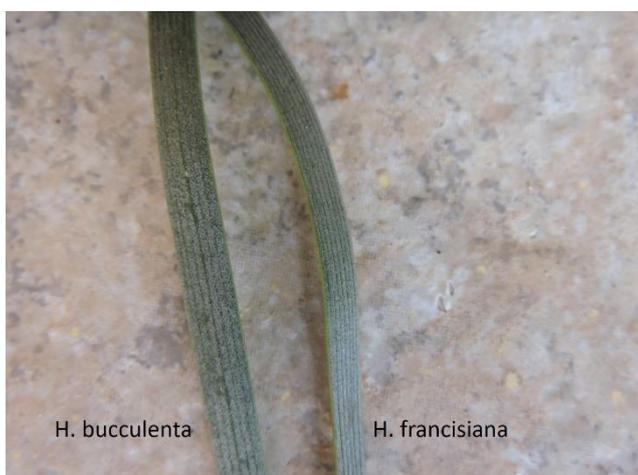


Other leaf types of Hakea (Photo: Chris Larkin)



H. clavata with shadow of *H. lissocarpha*
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Chris went on to say that Hakeas can be identified using their flowers, leaves and seeds but even so, sometimes distinguishing between two species can be very difficult indeed. Examples of this were *H. scoparia* and *H. pycnoneura*, where the leaves, flowers, seeds, growth habit, size and time of flowering are very similar, and they can only really be told apart by looking at a cross-section of the leaf. *H. scoparia* has a star-like cross-section and *H. pycnoneura* has a flattened cross-section with a bulge in the middle. Similarly, *H. bucculenta* and *H. francisiana* both have leaves that are almost identical to the naked eye, and the only way to tell them apart is by looking for the prominent mid-vein of *H. bucculenta*. There is also confusion with species such as *H. sericea* and *H. decurrens*, as they are again very similar in appearance. *H. decurrens* is classified as being one of the sericea groups, and the names have, in the past, been used interchangeably, which further adds to the confusion.



H. bucculenta and *H. francisiana* showing slight difference in mid-rib (Photo: Chris Larkin)



H. orthorryncha flowering on old wood
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Chris also looked at hybrids, noting that there may be more in existence than are commercially available and she grows two hybrid Hakeas. Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' is a particularly attractive, naturally occurring hybrid with clusters of flowers bunched along the length of the stems, and *Hakea laurina x petiolaris* that forms an attractive small tree or tall shrub, with rounded pincushion-like flowers.

Hakeas generally flower in winter to early spring, have bisexual flowers, and a typical cone-like bud that arises in the leaf axil, or in some species, directly on old wood. *Hakea orthorryncha* and *H. bakeriana* are two species that flower directly on old wood. Flowers are generally white, cream, yellow, pink or red but there is one exception, *Hakea lehmanniana*, which has blue-purple flowers.

Chris showed us some of the many Hakeas she has growing at her place, pointing out some of their pros and cons: *H. lissocarpha* is one of the prickliest but earliest flowering, with flowers fading from pink to white, with one drawback being that it doesn't smell good at all when in flower; *H. varia* flowers like crazy and is very prickly; *H. invaginata* has fine leaves and pale coloured flowers giving it a delicate

appearance; *H. bakeriana* is as cuddly as you can get in a Hakea because the foliage is soft and the pointed leaf tips only slightly prickly; and *H. grammatophylla*, a rare species found growing in soil pockets on rocky slopes and in gorges in the MacDonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory, flowers once a year but is long flowering, and is similar in appearance to *H. bucculenta* and *H. fancisiana* but has a more delicately sized flower.



H. grammatophylla (Photo: Chris Larkin)

With regards to growing conditions and the average size garden, Chris says that Hakeas generally like free draining soil and a reasonable amount of sun. As they are often large plants, she suggests that in an average sized garden, good choices include *H. invaginata*, *H. grammatophylla*, and *H. neurophylla* and use taller growing plants like *H. laurina* in the background.

Chris is not finished yet with her adventure with Hakeas and continues to plant species that take her fancy and which she thinks will work and thrive in her garden. Currently, she has 23 different species growing in her garden, she has previously grown six other species, another species has recently deceased, and she has recently planted another three new species. If that isn't a wonderful collection and a serious passion for Hakeas, then I don't know what is! Thanks Chris, for such a lovely insight into a group that could so easily be dismissed as simply "big and prickly".

Janet Hodgkiss

Bob and Dot's garden - Yallaroo

ABC's Gardening Australia visited Bob and Dot O'Neill's garden last year and the segment was aired in late August this year, just in time for spring and for their up-coming Open Garden. Bob and Dot were interviewed by Jane Edmanson and if you missed the show, you can still view it on ABC iView.

The segment showed that Yallaroo has matured nicely over the last few years since Bob and Dot started it, and if you want to see it in real life for yourself then come along to their open day.

All proceeds go to the soup kitchen, tea and coffee will be available for purchase and Bob has 500 plants for sale as well.

Details as follows:

Yallaroo, 7 Hillsmeade Drive, Narre Warren South.
Saturday 14th September and Sunday 15th September, 2019; 10.00am - 4.30pm. Entry is \$8, students \$5 and under 18 free.

Pam Yarra Garden Visit

Recently an invitation was extended to APS Foothills members to join the garden visit organized for APS Maroondah. Pam's garden was in tip top condition, and we had a very enjoyable visit.

Pam had suffered the loss of a massive tree which hacked a major part of her front garden. The benefit of this was that it allows a lot more light into the garden, and part of the tree was carved into a functional seat.

A highlight for me were the two Tawny Frogmouths sitting just outside her front door.



Several of our members chatting together under the Tawny Frogmouth tree. (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Nematolepis phebaloides (similar to Phebalium)
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

This is a monotypic genus endemic in south western WA from the Rutaceae. When I first saw the flowers I thought they were Correas.

It is a dwarf to small shrub from the Eyre and Roe districts where it grows in a range of soils including sand, clay, clay loam and gravel. Limestone is present in some regions. I first saw this at the Grampians Wildflower Show and it doesn't look as if it is performing that well; Pam had two plants flowering prolifically.

Nicky Zanen



Bee hotel artwork (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

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ENQUIRIES

Email: 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: 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!