



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**

**OCTOBER**

-

**NOVEMBER**

## **ENQUIRIES**

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

## **FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE**

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

**VISITORS WELCOME!**



## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Irene Kelly - Gardens 4 Wildlife**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

**Janet Hodgkiss – Living on the Edge**

## WEEKEND WALK

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Garden Visit to Maureen  
Schaumann**

**10am – 12 noon**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

Hope you are enjoying spring. The days are longer, if not necessarily warmer now but it is a lovely time of year, especially with the wheezing and chirruping of baby birds making a nice background track to the regular daily sounds.

Spring is a good time to look for orchids too and Jack Airey introduced us to some local and Victorian orchids at our last evening meeting. You can read more about his talk, and our Saturday morning walk to look for orchids, in this newsletter.

I attended the last APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting and the APS Victoria AGM. A couple of things came up at the COMM that you may be interested in or can help with. One of them is in connection with the 2020 Banks-Solander commemoration exhibition, and the other is a request from Neutrog for social media contributions. Please see the items in this newsletter. At the AGM we welcomed a new president, Chris Clarke, and Chris Long is now officially the secretary. Please use [president@apsvic.org.au](mailto:president@apsvic.org.au) to email Chris Clarke, and [secretary@apsvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@apsvic.org.au) to email Chris Long.

There are still plenty of spring flower shows and plant sales, workshops and talks on the go, so don't forget to have a look for the dates of these in the 'Items of Interest' section of our newsletter or the attached flyers. We only have a few more meetings, plus a garden visit, scheduled for the remainder of the year. Chris has provided more details about the lovely garden we'll visit, so I hope you can make it.

And last but not least, I'm pleased to report that two well-known members of our group have received awards from APS Victoria. Maureen Schaumann has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership, and Shirley Carn has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation. Congratulations to both of you!

Chris and Nicky have each written more about you and your awards in this newsletter, so rather than

duplicate what they have written, I'd just like to say from all of us at Foothills, thank you Maureen and Shirley for your passion, dedication and your work over the years with Australian native plants. In your own individual ways, you have helped engender and foster an interest, if not a love, for Australian plants amongst the general public, you have inspired, enthused and got us to try new things, and we have all learnt so much from both of you because you are so very generous with your time and knowledge. We are so pleased and proud to have you as members of our group, so thank you and congratulations again on your awards.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## **Next Day Meeting Tuesday 8th October**

**Irene Kelly - Gardens 4 Wildlife**

Irene Kelly is passionate about the potential and scope that habitat improvement on private land can make for biodiversity. Irene is a long-time committee member of the Knox Environment Society (KES) and volunteer in the KES Indigenous Plant Nursery. She is co-founder and volunteer in the Knox Gardens for Wildlife Program and a member of the Steering Committee of Gardens for Wildlife Victoria, facilitating the role out of Gardens for Wildlife across Victoria. A key role of the community members on this steering committee is to provide mentoring for individuals who are promoting the adoption of the program in their municipality.

Knox's GFW program began 14 years ago and is delivered to the community by a partnership between Knox City Council and the Knox Environment Society. The program has 885 participants spread right across the municipality and continues to grow. As a participant in the program, residents receive a visit from GFW volunteers who provide on-site advice on simple "doable" actions that can be taken in the garden that will assist the local wildlife, both flora and fauna, plus provide connection to the local bushland reserves. Irene, who has been a volunteer garden visitor for the life of the program, is not an expert, but is dedicated to the ethos of the Gardens for Wildlife program which is a sharing of collective community knowledge, experience and success with wildlife gardening and

at the same time enjoying the personal benefits of making connections with other likeminded members in our local community.

We look forward to hearing Irene speak to our day meeting on Tuesday 8th October 2019 at 10.30 am.

**Nicky Zanen**

## **Next Evening meeting – Wednesday 23rd October**

**Janet Hodgkiss – Living on the Edge: How some Australian plants adapt, survive and thrive in difficult growing conditions**

I was inspired by an article I was proofreading for work that had to do with the subject of plants and difficult growing conditions, and it made me think a bit more about how some plants have adapted, and indeed why they have adapted to live in certain places because there is more to it than just plants growing on windswept, cliff edges. Only a few of the examples in the article I was reading were Australian natives, so I set myself a task... to bring this topic to you, and from an Australian plant only point of view.

## **Our last daytime meeting – 10 September 2019**

**David and Barbara Pye on Melton Botanic Gardens**

We had such a lovely talk from David and Barbara Pye who trained in from Bullengarook, and spoke to us about Melton Botanic Garden.

The garden has a low rainfall and this enables unusual plants to be grown there. The garden follows a watercourse to a lake, complete with island which is being rehabilitated with indigenous plants suitable for ground living birds. Access to the island is by the Yellow Peril.

They have a good collection of Western Australian plants which are reaching peak flowering now, but there will still be lots to see right up until Christmas. Some plants featuring now are *Acacia denticulosa*, *Grevillea dielsiana*, *Grevillea nivea*, *Grevillea flexuosa*, *Grevillea magnifica*, *Pimelea physodes*, and lots of hakeas. The South Australian bed has lots of

Correa pulchella varieties, Olearia pannosa, and several lasiopetalums. Myrtaceae are well represented in the garden, including Eucalypts, Melaleucas, and Verticordias.



Acacia denticulosa (Photo: David Pye)

The Eucalyptus arboretum covers about 7 acres and was mostly planted in June 2011 with some additional species added later. Plants mentioned included Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha (fuscia gum - divided from E. forrestiana several years ago and is on the cover of Growing Australian this month), E rhodantha which has not budded as well this year but usually flowers for ages from August to November. Other notable eucalypts in their collection of over 100 dry country species are woodwardii, torquata, wylenseis, formannii and pyriformis. The eucalypts are planted in groups of mostly 3-5 plants. They found the Euclid resource (now on line) terrific to choose eucalypts for planting. Eremophila glabra Kalbarri Carpet is used as one of many understorey plants. Other plants in the understorey are Xerochrysum viscosum, Chrysocephalum apiculatum, C. semipapposum, Correas and a large assortment of Eremophilas. A garden guide to the dryland Eucalypts can be downloaded online at

[https://www.fmbg.org.au/docs/DrylandEucalyptsOfThe\\_MBG\\_Aug2019.pdf](https://www.fmbg.org.au/docs/DrylandEucalyptsOfThe_MBG_Aug2019.pdf)

They showed informative plant name labels which cost \$20 each funded by APS Vic, and used these to label many of the Eucalypts which are part of a nationally recognised plant collection

A sensory garden has been planted near the depot which is wheelchair friendly and enables disabled people to work in that garden.

In the nursery they don't use bottom heat or misting. The ambience is just right underneath the 50% white shade cloth, and cuttings are watered by hose daily. Polystyrene boxes provide an even

temperature. It all works well and many plants are produced each year.

They have just added a third small poly houses (no building permits needed for these) to help grow things on a bit quicker over winter.

There was so much more from their talk, and I really appreciate that the Pyes have checked these details for me.

**Nicky Zanen**

## **Our Last Evening Meeting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Orchiding with Jack Airey**

Our September evening meeting was an excellent introduction to local and Victorian orchids by the very personable Jack Airey. We were fortunate to be able to follow this up on Grand Final morning with a walk to look for orchids... or to use the correct terminology... we went 'orchiding' with Jack.

Jack's presentation took us through the basics of what the orchids we are likely to find in our area are, i.e. they are seasonal, deciduous, terrestrial native orchids with a dormant phase. There are approximately 410 species in 30 genera in Victoria and 74% of these occur in just four genera, namely Caladenia (98), Pterostylis (91), Prasopphyllum (70) and Thelymitra (44). 170 species are endemic (or very close to endemic) to Victoria. The labellum (a modified 3<sup>rd</sup> petal) can vary greatly and some have calli (bumps) or marginal teeth. Most species of the Victorian orchids flower from March to November.

We looked at how to go about finding orchids and Jack suggested looking at books, searching on the internet for friend's groups and photographer's websites, local council websites, Facebook pages and groups and natural history groups such as RFNC, FNCV, ANOS and ANGAIR.

Of great value were Jack's 'orchiding' guidelines. First of all, find some orchids, then enjoy them, take a photo of them and identify them. Jack's most vital guidelines are however the following:

- 1) Stop! Don't approach the orchid because of...
- 2) Look down to see the orchids you were about to squash and
- 3) Approach with caution. These last three guidelines seem obvious but it is surprising how easy it is to forget them in the excitement of the moment when you first spot an orchid. Not rushing in to look at something means you won't inadvertently squash or trample plants you haven't

seen (some of them are quite tiny) and in looking around more carefully, you'll often spot other species in the area too.



Approach with caution and look down! Common Bird Orchid almost unnoticeable amongst the leaves (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Stop! Believe it or not there are four Maroonhoods in this picture (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Jack also mentioned some of the places that were good to go looking for orchids, and showed us images of some of the orchids you might encounter in these areas. The Grampians and Anglesea, although further afield, are great places to look for orchids, and closer to home there are several bush reserves, both large and small, that are well worth a visit. These include Warrandyte State Park, Hochkins Ridge, The Dandenongs, Langwarrin Flora & Fauna

Reserve, Tindals Reserve, Baluk Willam Reserve and the FJC Rogers Reserve, to name a few.

Jack is passionate about orchids and this enthusiasm rubs off easily onto you. His images were absolutely superb, so you can imagine what a thrill it was for those of us who went orchiding with him, to discover some of these beauties for ourselves.



Our group looking for orchids on the roadside (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Keen orchiders Liz and Viv, photograph a Mountain Greenhood with Jack Airey (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Our walk at Baluk Willam Reserve was partly cloudy and rather cool but that didn't dampen our spirits in the slightest, especially when we spotted our first orchid. In total we saw 14 species (although two weren't quite in flower yet), which is a really good number for a morning's walk. Some of the greenhoods were nearing the end of their flowering time but we got a glimpse of things to come, with the buds of the sun orchids and the leaves of the tongue orchids.

We also got quite well exercised because apart from the gentle walking, it is impossible not to crouch down, bend over or squat to admire and photograph the orchids. There were plenty of other things in flower too, so while you were waiting your turn to

get close up and personal with an orchid, there was much to admire and enjoy. Doing something like this is much better than being in a gym any day I reckon, and getting to do it with such good company too is a big bonus.

Liz has put pictures up on our Facebook page from our walk, so have a look there too to see some of the images she took, and I'd like to thank Jack once again for taking us on a very enjoyable orchiding excursion because we all had a really good time!

Here is a list of what we saw on our walk: *Acianthus caudatus* (Mayfly Orchid); *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers/Fairies); *Caladenia major* (Syn. *Glossodia major*) (Wax-lip Orchid); *Caladenia parva* (Small Greencomb/Brown Clubbed Spider Orchid); *Caladenia oenochila* (Wine-lipped Spider Orchid); *Chiloglottis valida* (Common Bird Orchid); *Diuris orientis* (Donkey Orchid); *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (Brown Beaks); *Pterostylis alpina* (Mountain Greenhood); *Pterostylis melagramma* (Tall Greenhood); *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood); *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Maroonhood); and *Cryptostylis leptochila* (Small Tongue Orchid - leaves only); *Thelymitra* sp. (Sun Orchid - leaves and buds only).

**Janet Hodgkiss**



*Pterostylis pedunculata* Maroonhood  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Pterostylis alpina* Mountain Greenhood  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Pterostylis nutans* Nodding Greenhood  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Pterostylis melagramma* Tall Greenhood  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Lyperanthus suaveolens* Brown Beaks  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Diuris orientis* Donkey Orchid  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Caladenia carnea* Pink Fingers  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Caladenia major* Wax-lip Orchid  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



This *Caladenia parva* Small Greencomb/ Brown Clubbed Spider Orchid is only 10-25cm tall  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



*Caladenia oenochila* Wine-lipped Spider Orchid  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



The tiny *Acianthus caudatus* Mayfly Orchid. This one is past its best and is starting to form a seed capsule  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Side view of *Chiloglottis valida* Common Bird Orchid. These orchids are only about 6cm tall (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

## Hakeas – a postscript

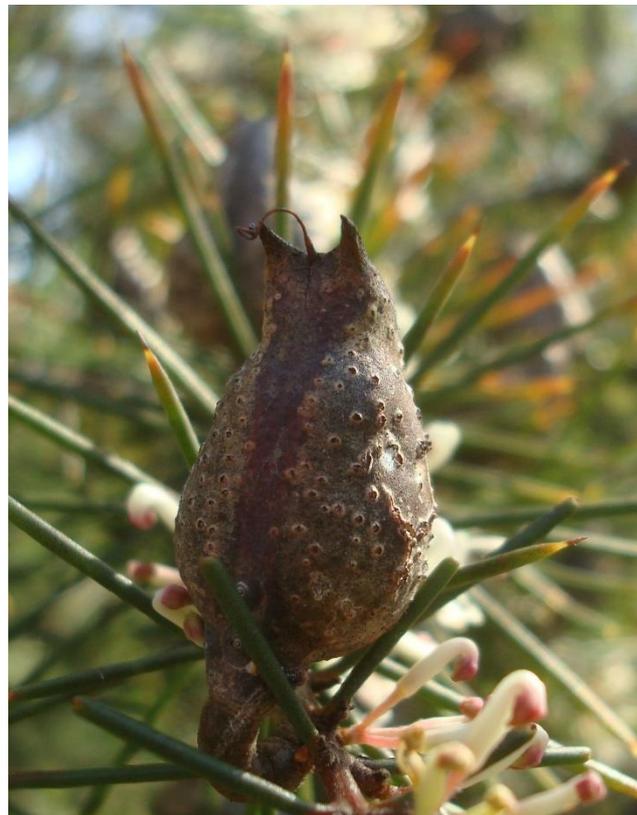
As I drove away from the meeting after giving my talk on hakeas last month, I suddenly thought – my goodness me all that talk and I have failed to mention what the distinguishing features of a hakea are. How is a hakea plant different from any other, especially those close relatives the grevilleas?

The most distinguishing feature I would think is their extremely woody seed capsules which are persistent in many cases. *H. multilineata*, *H. elliptica* and *H. neurophylla* are good examples in my garden. This feature isn't shared with grevilleas. Also, the upper and lower surfaces of hakea leaves are similar but in grevilleas they are dissimilar. These are two very simple visual ways of telling the difference between these two genera.

### Chris Larkin



*Hakea neurophylla* woody seed capsules (Photo: Chris Larkin)



*Hakea sericea* (Knobbly Sitting Cat) seed capsule (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

## Banks-Solander 2020 commemoration

The exhibition entitled “Australian Plants Revealed – 65,000 years of Traditional Plant Use and 250 Years of Science” will run at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery from 17/2/20 – 17/4/20. This is only a few months away now and preparations are proceeding well. Alex Smart will be distributing a list of herbarium specimens to be exhibited in the main gallery, and is seeking photos from members of APS Victoria to accompany the specimens. When we have this list, we will circulate it and if you can help out, then please do. Aunty Irene, Aboriginal Elder, will provide the aboriginal name for the plants exhibited, where known, and an explanation of how the plants were used.

Lectures will also be presented by Bruce Pascoe and Tim Entwisle. 200 people can be accommodated in the auditorium for these lectures and reservations will need to be made via TryBooking. APS Vic members will have priority when booking. The smaller gallery will display art works owned by Maroondah Council.

APS Victoria and Karwarra Gardens will host a Banksia exhibition from 18/2/20 – 18/4/20, and an

opening ceremony is planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. The title of this exhibition is “Australian Plants Revealed – An Exhibition highlighting Banksias and Unique Australian Flora”.

Dallas Boulton asked for anyone with extra ideas to contact her and advised that more assistance will be needed closer to the time. She has asked Foothills for help on two afternoons up at Karwarra; at the opening ceremony on the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, and again on the afternoon of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Help is required in the form of having people on hand to talk to visitors about Australian plants and to answer any questions they may have, or to direct them to people at Karwarra who can help them with their queries.

I think it is great that Foothills can be included in this way, and it also gives us a bit of exposure too. I'd be thrilled if you'd consider volunteering in any capacity, even if you can only manage a couple of hours (Karwarra is usually open on Sundays from 1-4pm). If you can help, please contact me (Janet) or Nicky, either directly, or drop us an email at [foothills@apsvic.org.au](mailto:foothills@apsvic.org.au) and we'll work out the details. Thanks in advance for your participation!

**Janet**



*Brachyscome multifida*

(Photo: Kerry Davis)

## **Congratulations Maureen Schaumann for being awarded 'Honorary Life Membership' by APS Victoria.**

Not all of you will know Maureen Schaumann but she is a very familiar face to people who attend the Foothills Day Meeting, as well as many of the long-term members of APS Vic.

What even people who attend the day meeting will probably not know, is Maureen's incredible history and passion for Australian plants over the last 46 years. In recognition for her work in promoting the plants she loves, Maureen has just been awarded 'Honorary Life Membership' of APS Victoria.

Congratulations Maureen! You have well and truly earned this award and deserve many thanks for your contribution to our knowledge and appreciation of daisy plants in particular.

All members will have a chance to visit Maureen's lovely garden this October. See the item in this newsletter for details.

The following are the salient points of the submission detailing Maureen's contribution in various ways to the promotion, propagation and growing of Australian plants. Read on:

At her late husband Vic's urging Maureen Schaumann attended her first Australian Plant Society meeting around 1973/74. After seeing the flowers displayed on the specimen table it was love at first sight. For Maureen this started a long relationship full of passion and adventure that is still alive today.

By the second meeting of the Waverley group Maureen attended she had agreed to take on the role of secretary when the incumbent stepped down. She held that role for around 6 years while also being in charge of the meeting's suppers.

In 1981 Maureen had a car accident that was not very serious but it did make her think hard about what she had contributed and achieved in her life. Clearly she wanted to do more, to go deeper in some way on something. That is when she decided to start up a study group. As you would all know a study group is affiliated with the Australia wide parent group, ANPSA – Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) – with membership open to people throughout Australia and overseas.

The purpose of a study group is to investigate and share information with the purpose of furthering our knowledge and understanding about something in particular with regards Australian plants. Maureen's

two favourite flowers were *Brachyscome multifida* and *Helipterum rosea* (now *Rhodanthe rosea*) so she took the decision in 1981 to start a group called the 'Brachyscome and Helipterum Study Group'. As the study group grew, and the range of plants increased, the group became known as the 'Australian Daisy Study Group' in 1986. There were three members of the group at the start, Maureen's long-term friends Judy Barker and Joy Cook, but soon the membership soared to over 100 with getting newsletters out a mammoth task. Maureen remained a member of this very active group that ran for twenty-seven years until it went into recess in 2008. Over the years eighty incredibly detailed newsletters were produced from October 1981 to March 2008. They can now be accessed on the website.



Rhodanthe at Wartook Gardens  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

There were monthly meetings initially at Maureen's home, lots of field trips to collect seed and for a long time an annual meeting with guest speaker held at Judy Barker's home. Maureen and Judy Barker also toured Victoria speaking to local groups, spreading the word about the value and beauty of Australian daisy plants. As ambassadors to the broader public, the group sold plants they had propagated at Peg McAllister's open garden days and at various venues including the Geelong, Berwick and Tynong North plant sales.

Maureen was leader until the start of 1988 but she was always a driving force at the heart of the group. Knowledge grew as did the desire for a concrete outcome to their efforts. This resulted in the first of three publications by the Daisy Study Group in which Maureen was a key participant and co-author. The first publication in 1987 was 'Australian Daisy's' for Gardens and Floral Art' published by Lothian. This was followed in 1995 by 'Australian Brachyscomes' and in 2002 'Everlasting Daisies of Australia: Identification, Propagation, Cultivation'.

After the 'Australian Daisy Study Group' went into recess in mid 2008, Maureen still had a deep interest and need to continue to investigate and report on Australian plants. She was able to do this with a small group of friends meeting monthly to study small Australian plants for the garden. The work of this small group was the 2009 publication 'Collect and Grow that Seed: Small Australian Plants'. A few friends still meet to 'talk plants' on a monthly basis with Maureen as keen as ever to learn, to share and enjoy what Australian plants have to offer.



Xerochrysum bracteatum 'Diamond Head'  
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

Nicky Rose initiated a day meeting for APS Vic members around 1998/99. This meeting started in Rowville but for most of its life has been held in the Field Naturalist Hall in Blackburn not far from the station. The meeting is one of two meetings it is possible to attend if you are a member of the APS Foothills Group. Not long after Nicky started this day meeting Faye Candy and Maureen Schaumann took over responsibility for the meeting. Faye led the meetings while Maureen organised the meeting's program of speakers. These two people continued to work as an effective team for around 5 years. Maureen continues to have an active role with this group attending meetings and selling the plants she propagates mainly from seed.

Maureen has an interest in the scientific and an eye for the beautiful. She has designed her own garden, featuring a soak in the front and back of the house. She could be described as a disciplined gardener who actively manages the garden to maintain her vision rather than crowding by over-planting. The garden has been visited by APS Vic groups many times over the years. Maureen's garden was featured in chapter 3 of Diana Snape's 1992 book 'Australian Native Gardens: putting visions into practice' before the changes to include soaks was made to the garden in 1995 and 1997.

Maureen is an enthusiast for Australian plants with an enquiring mind, a willingness to share and an eye for beauty. She has taken her love of Australian daisy plants and Australian plants more broadly to a deep level of appreciation and understanding and communicated so much of her knowledge to fellow enthusiasts and the public at large. She has made an invaluable contribution to our knowledge of some of our most engaging plants.

**Chris Larkin**

## Garden visit to home of Maureen Schaumann

**Date:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 10am to 12pm

**Address:** 88 Albany Drive, Mulgrave (Melway 80 D4)

I do hope all members, Day and Evening meeting members alike, will take the opportunity to visit Maureen's garden. Maureen has a long standing passion for Australian plants and she has developed a most unique garden to showcase their beauty. Maureen's garden has soaks as a significant feature in both the front and back gardens. These soaks allow water to collect after heavy rains but otherwise they remain as dry depressions. In landscaping terms, these generally dry ponds act as visual voids surrounded and defined by the plants that frame them. It is all quite cleverly and beautifully done.



Maureen Schaumann garden (Photo: Chris Larkin)

There is so much to enjoy in this garden and so much to learn. As the weather becomes drier soaks, like swales, are another way of harvesting water for the garden. Maureen's garden didn't always have these features. They were retrofitted so you just might be inspired to look at doing something like this in your own garden.

Maureen is also a mistress of pot culture and she has quite an orchid collection. Please don't miss the opportunity to visit this wonderful garden. Morning tea will be provided.

**Chris Larkin**

## Nomination for Certificate of Commendation – Shirley Carn

Shirley is one of our members who has a long track record of truly inspiring hundreds of people to grow Australian, by example.

She is one of our Society's treasures by being a passionate promoter of Australian native plants; a true ambassador.

For the past thirty years she has not only opened the two gardens she developed in Monbulk at least once a year, (and sometimes up to three times a year), to support various charities including the local Country Fire Authority (CFA), Oxfam, the Burnley Institute and fundraisers for AIDS, but also continuously welcomes all manner of groups including Probus and horticultural societies to visit.

Shirley has close relationships with leading native nurseries and willingly shares her cuttings with them as well as trialling plants for them.

Shirley is an active and crucial member of the APS Foothills Group. She also volunteers at Karwarra Gardens and is on their committee, and is a regular competitor who spreads the word of 'growing Australian' in the flower shows run by the Ferny Creek Horticultural Society. She is also an accredited judge for Ferny Creek. In the 1980s and 1990 Shirley was an active member of the SGAP Lilydale Group.

We congratulate Shirley Carn on receiving a Certificate of Commendation from APS Victoria.

**Nicky Zanen**



Shirley Carn (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Shirley Carn's Garden (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## Out and About

It is a day before I head to the airport to fly to Perth and the ANPSA Conference in Albany. I have just returned from Mildura, Swan Hill and Horsham, and there is just not enough time to describe anything.

There were many highlights on the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne tour of North West Victoria, including a visit to Marilyn Sprague's garden in Mandurang and another community garden in Mildura, built from the ground up by volunteers. During the walk around her garden, Marilyn mentioned that in the 1980s, Merv Turner went to

Bendigo to give the plant group a talk. Afterwards he mailed her a box of tissue cultured kangaroo paws of which she still has the original plants.

On returning home I found my *Acacia paradoxa* had toppled over and prevented me from getting to my compost heap. My world crashed! I tried cutting branches and while the secateurs went through the wood easily, handling the branches was impossible. I had to get help, and luckily Andrew and Tanya from Melbourne Tree Care were able to give me a reasonable quote to remove the bush, and fit me in early the next day before driveway repairs would block access. It took Tree Care less than half an hour to remove the tree.

Congratulations to Dot and Bob O'Neill on their open garden in September. Not only did over 700 visitors see their terrific garden, they raised nearly \$5,500 for the Transit Soup Kitchen & Food Support. Fantastic and well done.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Request from Neutrog for social media contributions

Neutrog has asked for contributions for their Facebook page, and as APS Victoria endorses Neutrog's products, if any of you can contribute, it will help build our relationship with Neutrog to our mutual benefit. Please see an excerpt from the letter from Neutrog below, for further information about the sort of contributions they are looking for. If you want to contribute an item it can be sent to Erica at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au):

"As a company, Neutrog are very active on social media (Facebook and Instagram), and publish a monthly newsletter for home gardeners. We use this as a way to communicate to our customers, whilst also educating and inspiring home gardeners around the country.

Years ago, our 'Expert's Choice' branding by-line was introduced to reflect the fact that all of Neutrog's fertiliser products are primarily developed and tested within the commercial market prior to being introduced to the home garden market. This 'commercial market' encompasses experts from groups such as yours, and product endorsements help reinforce this position to give sales staff and home gardeners the confidence to use and recommend Neutrog's products.

As such, we are seeking members of your group who use Neutrog products to write 2 or 3

paragraphs on their use of our products – which ones they use on what plants, what benefits are seen, any tips etc, along with some photos of their plants or garden, and preferably with a photo of them as well, which makes it all the more personable to home gardeners. We find these posts encourage and inspire home gardeners to get the same great results that your members achieve.

We would sincerely appreciate you raising this at your next meeting, or, alternatively forwarding this email to anyone you think would be happy to send us some feedback and story content. Responses can be sent to Erica at [marketing@neutrog.com.au](mailto:marketing@neutrog.com.au)  
Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,  
Evette Franklin.”



Hibbertia empetrifolia (Photo: Kerry Davis)



Lechenaultia biloba (Photo: Kerry Davis)

## 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!**



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

November Newsletter 2019

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Christmas breakup at Maranoa Gardens**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Peter and Jean Bellis – Fungi of Fraser Island**

## End of Year Celebration

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**  
**End of year breakup celebration**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

Summer certainly seems to be trying to nudge spring out of the way with the few little bursts of hot weather we've had. I've enjoyed the warm days and being able to wear short sleeves, but the sunny-ness also reminds me of what is to come... you know, that time of year when our favourite phrase seems to be "Aaargh! It's so hot!", and we're all shiny with perspiration and spend a lot of time fanning ourselves!

My plants are just loving the warmth though and have responded with massive growth spurts. The plants in the bush are caught up in the joys of spring too with everything flowering very enthusiastically. If you haven't been able to get into a local bush reserve yet then I urge you to do so. The orchids are going mad and there is so much colour everywhere, that you'll not be disappointed.

We're coming up to the end of the 'Foothills' year, which means we have one more evening meeting to go, before our end of year break-up in December. This is being held at Chris Larkin's house this year and you'll find more details about that in the newsletter. The day meeting choose to have a Christmas break-up instead of a formal meeting in November, and this year it'll be Maranoa Gardens.

We had a really lovely visit to Maureen Schaumann's garden in October. It made us realise how much we enjoy garden visits and how inspirational they are to everyone, that we are going to try organise more of them for you next year. The stories behind Maureen's garden are as lovely and charming as the garden itself, so rather than do a rush job for this newsletter, I'm going spend some time over the summer holidays putting it all together.

I have done a write-up of my talk 'Adapt, Survive, Thrive' on plant adaptations for you though. I hope you won't find it too long but I thought the people who couldn't make it on the night, might like a bit of a more in-depth report.

We'll send you a reminder about the December breakup, but in the meantime, keep well and see you all next time.

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## **Next Evening meeting – Wednesday 27th November 2019**

**Peter & Jean Bellis – Fungi of Fraser Island (includes flora and other interesting stuff)**

Peter and Jean drove up to Queensland earlier this year and spent some time on Fraser Island. They were amazed at the number and variety of fungi they saw, and will be sharing pictures of these with us, along with stories and pictures of the many other interesting things they came across along the way.

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## **Our last daytime meeting – 8 October 2019**

It was a great way to finish our year with Irene Kelly being our final speaker on Gardens for Wildlife. In her introduction, Irene mentioned that the Gardens for Wildlife program started in Knox 14 years ago and there are now close to 900 participants. It is a partnership between the Knox Environment Society, the City of Knox and many volunteers. (Postscript: Irene just found out that Knox will soon be celebrating their 1000<sup>th</sup> participant.)

In Knox we had 5% remnant bushland which was reduced to 4% when Eastlink was built. Graeme Lorimer's 'Sites of Biological Significance Survey' in 2010 found diverse vegetation types, including areas of significant vegetation remnant on private properties, and even species that do not occur in bushland reserves.

A key component of the GFW program is providing information to residents in a positive way, encouraging them to protect and enhance existing remnant species or create wildlife habitat. The program also encourages understanding about how invasive weeds, spread from gardens, can devastate bushland and the wildlife that depends on it. A Bio Buddy Scheme has been introduced by the City of Knox to encourage landowners to preserve their bush by giving rate rebates. You don't need to set aside your whole garden (great if you do), but even a small portion set aside to welcome butterflies, birds or other fauna, can be a lifesaving link to the local bushland.

Irene described the Bandicoot Project at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. Developers were encouraged to provide a Bandicoot corridor through the new housing development to allow access from the Gardens to other habitat nearby. Disappointingly, it was not provided and it appears that the culvert provided for the housing development is expected to do the job, losing an opportunity for the residents to learn about bandicoots and celebrate living with wildlife.

Irene listed the following elements as recipes for success:

A tall mature tree, native to the area; A patch of natural mulch for beetles and worms; A clump of dense shrubs where birds can shelter; Nectar plants for honeyeaters; A cat safe birdbath; A frog friendly pond with unpolluted water; A warm sheltered corner for lizards, and daisies for butterflies.

There were a number of other tips. If a tree needs to be cut down, consider cutting to a height where the tree is safe and create artificial hollows. Plant *Dianella* species for Blue Banded Bees. Did you know that native bees are used in commercial hydroponic growing of tomatoes because as buzz pollinators they are excellent for this? Access to clean water is a lifesaver for all wildlife. Hang small birdbaths within dense or prickly shrubs to give small birds security as they drink and bathe.

Irene gave us an excuse not to have to clean all those old spider webs from around the eaves outside our houses - leave them for birds to collect this silk as nesting material. Consider infrastructure for lizards and skinks such as corrugated iron, rocks and stones planted with grasses and other groundcovers. Rocks are not only used for reptiles to hide under, but to warm up on a sunny day.

Irene has replaced traditional lawn with wallaby grass interspersed with bulbines and other wildflowers throughout, and only needs to mow about twice a year. Butterflies use many indigenous plant species for food and shelter, e.g. daisies, lomandras, gahnia, but also need sunny basking spots like rocks to warm up on and fuel their flight. One of Irene's last slides was of musk lorikeets surrounding her bird bath on Black Saturday where they stayed all that hot windy day using the bird bath as an evaporative cooler. It was an absolute pleasure to have Irene as our speaker and we were inspired with being reminded and given new ideas of how to attract wildlife into our gardens.

For more information on Gardens for Wildlife visit <https://gardensforwildlifevictoria.com/>

### Nicky Zanen



Musk lorikeets surrounding her bird bath  
(Photo: Irene Kelly)



Cat safe bird bath next to prickly shrubs  
(Photo: Irene Kelly)

## Our Last Evening Meeting Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

### ADAPT | SURVIVE | THRIVE

#### Janet Hodgkiss

The idea for the talk I presented at our last evening meeting came from an article entitled 'Living on the edge' that I had proofread for work. It broadly looked at how some plants have adapted to not only grow, but thrive in difficult growing conditions. It covered some of the more obvious adaptations, and I thought it'd be interesting to expand the idea further and to look for examples from our Australian flora.

The hot topic at the moment, climate change, directly affect plants, and in turn, us humans who depend on plants for our own survival, and there's no doubt in my mind that climate change is one of the things that influences the phenomenon of evolution. One of the themes in Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species" is the 'struggle for existence', and he says "Hence, as more individuals are produced than can possibly survive, there must in every case be a struggle for existence, either one individual with another of the same species, or with individuals of distinct species, or with the physical conditions of life."

Those physical conditions of life present a real challenge to plants, as they are sedentary organisms. They are however, not as passive as they seem because if they were, they'd have all have died out long. Like the rest of life on earth, they too are fighting for their survival and they do this by adapting and making the most of difficult growing conditions to secure the essential nutrients and water needed for survival.

All plants need Light, Air, Water and Nutrients, so I looked at adaptations that cater to these needs.

**Light:** Getting sufficient light means smaller plants living in forests have adapted to living higher up in the canopy. Epiphytes use their roots to anchor themselves onto the bark of trees, and to absorb moisture from the air and the bark. Examples are the epiphytic orchids *Dendrobium x gracillimum* and *Dockrillia linguiformis*; and ferns like the Staghorn Fern *Platycerium superbum* and Elkhorn Fern *Platycerium bifurcatum*. The Fern's shield leaves are a further adaptation, catching falling leaves and rainwater which decomposes to form nutrient-rich compost.



Staghorn ferns (*Platycerium superbum*) and this *Dendrobium* hybrid are epiphytic on plants  
(Photo: J Hodgkiss)

**Air:** Plants need air for photosynthesis and roots absorb dissolved oxygen from the soil. In waterlogged soil this is impossible, so plants such as *Avicennia marina* (Grey Mangrove), that grow in tidal areas, have developed aerating roots (pneumatophores). These 20cm long roots poke up through the wet soil, allowing the plant to absorb the air it needs. These roots also function to anchor the plant in the soft substrate during the frequent inundation of seawater.



Pneumatophores of *Avicennia marina*, the Grey Mangrove, poking up through the mud to get air  
(Photo: J Hodgkiss)

**Water:** This is vital for a plant's survival, so they have adapted to cope with heat and dehydration, and to minimise water loss, in some ingenious ways. Grey or light-coloured foliage helps reflect the sun's rays, which in turn keeps the plant cooler. Plant tissue may be grey in colour or it may simply be covered in light coloured hairs or waxes. Fine hairs

also protect against drying winds by reducing evaporation, e.g. the light hairs on *Eremophila nivea*, *Eremophila glabra* 'Murchison Magic', and *Leucophyta brownii*.



Light coloured foliage created by fine hairs on *Eremophila* 'Murchison Magic'  
(Photo: J Hodgkiss)

Thick, waxy cuticles and leathery foliage helps minimise water loss through dehydration by forming a physical barrier to drying winds. In coastal areas it also prevents salt particles in the sea spray, or through direct contact, from touching or burning sensitive plant tissues. Some plants have the light colour, waxy cuticle and a mechanism to deal with the salt in the soil as well, by absorbing it and storing it in bladder cells in the leaves. *Atriplex cinerea* (Coastal Saltbush) is covered in bladderlike hairs that collapse and form a silvery, mealy surface. In more succulent plants, the salt is held in bladder cells within the leaves themselves, which gives them a distinctly salty taste, e.g. *Sarcocornia quinquefolia* (Beaded Glasswort), *Tecticornia arbuscula* (Shrubby Glasswort) and *Rhagodia candolleana* (Seaberry Saltbush).



Saltbushes are adapted to manage salt  
L - *Atriplex cinerea*; R - *Rhagodia candolleana*  
(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Another adaptation to minimise water loss is through reduction of surface area. Plants such as *Acacia aphylla* have done away with leaves altogether, and the stems have become the main photosynthetic tissue. In *Allocasuarina* the leaves have been reduced to tiny scales.



Doing away with leaves to reduce surface area

L - *Acacia aphylla*; R - *Allocasuarina* sp.

(Photo: J Hodgkiss)

Vertically hanging leaves, as on eucalypts presents a smaller area to the sun which minimises the surface area of the leaf that receives sunlight. This helps keep the leaf cool, and less sunlight reduces the rate of photosynthesis and therefore the need for water.

Stomatal modifications, such as having fewer stomata on the hotter, upper side of the leaf, or regulating the opening and closing times of the stomata, minimises water lost through transpiration. Some plants such as *Banksia blechnifolia* have tiny hairs in the stomatal pits which further reduces transpiration.



Stomatal pits on *Banksia blechnifolia*

(Photo: J Hodgkiss)

Modifications of plant tissue to hold and store water is another adaptation. Succulents such as

*Carpobrotus rossii*, *Disphyma crassifolium* and *Suaeda australis* store water in their leaves. Water can also be stored in bulbs, tubers, enlarged taproots, e.g. the bulbs of *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood). Plants like *Brachychiton rupestris* (Bottle Tree) and the boabs store water in impressively swollen stems.



*Carpobrotus rossii* has succulent leaves

(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Waiting out adverse conditions and going dormant is another adaptation to securing water for survival. Herbaceous plants may die down, foliage may be dropped or water may be conserved by the plant simply not actively growing. Non-vascular plants, i.e. the bryophytes (mosses, hornworts and liverworts), continually undergo a co-equilibration of their water content with the surrounding environment and rely to a great extent on intrinsic cellular mechanisms to reduce damage to the cells due to water stress.

Some plants have developed fast lifespans so they can complete their lifecycle during short periods when moisture is available, and survive the dry periods as dormant seeds e.g. *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea*.

**Nutrients:** One way to obtain nutrients that are lacking, is to become carnivorous. Carnivorous plants have adapted to, and colonise environments where the soil is thin or poor in nutrients, especially nitrogen. They get some or most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming insects that have been digested by enzymes produced by the plant.

Australia is a biodiversity hotspot for insectivorous plants, with about 240 different native species from 6 genera. *Drosera* (Sundew) is a familiar genus and is one of the largest genera. The leaves can be green, reddish or bronze and they arise from a tuberous root. *Drosera whittakeri* (Scented Sundew) is a low-growing Sundew, while *Drosera auriculata* (Tall Sundew) is a tall-growing species. Some tall growing

species are very tall, as in *Drosera macrantha* (Bridal Rainbow) which can get to over 1m high.

Sundews are characterised by leaves that are covered with glandular tentacles, topped with sticky secretions. Stalked glands secrete a sweet, enzyme-rich mucilage that attracts, traps and digests insects, while sessile glands absorb the resulting nutrient mixture. All species can move their extremely sensitive tentacles in response to contact with edible prey and in some species this response quite rapid. *Drosera glanduligera* (Pimpernel Sundew) can bend these tentacles in towards prey in tenths of a second.

While the Sundew has adapted to supplying its nutritional needs, it's also had to adapt to its reproductive needs. Flowers need to be pollinated, so they are held on stems well clear of the sticky leaf glands so as not to trap their pollinators. Flower colour varies, they open response to light intensity, and usually only remain open for a short period.

Insects trapped by the sticky stalked glands die through exhaustion from trying to escape, or through asphyxiation as the mucilage clogs their spiracles. Death usually occurs within 15 mins.



Sticky glands on leaves trap insects, and flowers are held clear of foliage to allow for safe pollination in *Drosera*

(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Pitcher plants are also familiar carnivorous plants. Our *Cephalotus follicularis* (Albany Pitcher Plant), is endemic to WA and there is only one species in the genus. The plants are low-growing to about 20cm high and have simple evergreen leaves that lie close to the ground, while the insectivorous leaves form 'pitchers' and face outwards. They develop a dark red colour in high light levels but stay green in shadier conditions. Like other species of pitcher

plant, they have a ridged arrangement at the mouth of the opening that prevents prey escaping. The lid over the opening prevents rainwater from diluting the digestive enzymes inside.



*Cephalotus follicularis* - Albany Pitcher Plant  
(Photo: N. Zanen)

*Stylidium*, the Trigger Plants, are considered to be protocarnivorous. They have sticky hairs on some surfaces, such as the flower scape and bud, and have been known to trap and kill small insects but their purpose remains ambiguous. It still needs to be proven that they can absorb nutrients derived from prey, and that this adaptation gives them a competitive advantage, for them to be considered truly carnivorous.

Plants also get nutrients through symbiotic associations with soil microbes, and most plants have mutually beneficial symbiotic associations with fungi called mycorrhizae where the fungi integrate into the plant root and the fungal hyphae form a mycelium (vegetative body). The association provides the fungus with a supply of sugars from the plant, and in return, the plant benefits from being able to better absorb water and mineral nutrients. Mycelia increase the root surface area because they are much finer than the finest roots hairs, so they can penetrate parts of the soil that normal plant roots can't. The cell membrane chemistry of fungi differs from plant cells, so it can mobilise soil minerals and micronutrients that may be in form that the plant is unable to utilise. Mycorrhizae also function as a physical barrier to pathogens and have been found to have a protective role for plants in soils with high metal concentrations and contaminated soils. Fossil evidence and DNA sequence analysis suggests that this mutualism between plants and fungi appeared 400-460 million years ago, when the first plants were colonising land but we are usually unaware of the role fungi play

until we see fruiting bodies that appear on the surface.

There are two types of mycorrhizae, ectomycorrhizae and endomycorrhizae.

Ectomycorrhizae form an extensive, dense mantle around the roots that increases the surface area for water and mineral absorption. Orchids have a symbiotic mycorrhizal relationship and the orchid mycorrhizae are critically important during orchid germination, as an orchid seed has virtually no energy reserve so obtains its carbon from the fungal symbiont. Many adult orchids retain their fungal symbionts throughout their life, although the benefits to the adult photosynthetic orchid and the fungus remain largely unexplained. Endomycorrhizae do not form a dense sheath over the root and the fungal mycelium is embedded within the root tissue itself. These mycorrhizae are found in the roots of >80% of terrestrial plants.



Orchids have a symbiotic mycorrhizal relationship (Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Root nodules are another well-known association in which soil bacteria symbiotically interact with legume roots to form specialised structures called nodules, in which nitrogen fixation takes place. The bacteria absorb atmospheric/gaseous nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) and convert or 'fix' it using the enzyme nitrogenase to ammonia ( $NH_3$ ), which is the form of nitrogen that plants can use to make proteins. In return the bacteria obtain carbon compounds that the plant generates through photosynthesis, as well as a secure environment to inhabit within the plant roots. Some leguminous plants that fix nitrogen include *Acacia* spp.; *Chorizema cordatum*; *Hardenbergia violacea*; *Indigofera australis*; *Swainsona lessertifolia*.

Specialised root structures are also an adaptation to enable plants to obtain nutrients. Proteoid roots, most commonly found in members of the Proteaceae, e.g. Grevillea, Banksia, Hakea, Isopogon etc., are roots with dense clusters of rootlets of limited growth that have evolved on very poor soils that are particularly low in phosphorus. Along with

providing an increased surface area, proteoid root clusters chemically alter the surrounding soil by exuding compounds that facilitate the mobilisation and uptake of nutrients. This means they are particularly good at extracting phosphorus from the soil, which is why growing Proteaceae in nutrient-rich soil, or why adding extra nutrients, especially phosphorus, can be detrimental to their health, because it quickly reaches toxic levels in the plant tissues. All species with proteoid roots can grow in soils with poorly available nutrients, and most do not form mycorrhizal symbioses.

Parasitic plants have adapted in ways so that they can acquire all their nutrients from other plants.

Hemi-parasites are parasitic under natural conditions, but are photosynthetic to some degree. They may obtain only water and mineral nutrients from the host plant but may obtain some organic nutrients from the host as well.

*Cassytha glabella* (Slender Dodder Laurel) and *Cassytha melantha* (Coarse Dodder Laurel), are stem hemi-parasites that obtain nutrients and water by sending haustoria (projections) into the host plants' stems. A *Cassytha* getting most of its nutrients from its host will be yellowish in colour as it does not need to photosynthesise. Lack of a persistent root system means they will die if their host plant dies, as they will not be able to obtain water.



*Cassytha* spp. (Dodder) is a stem hemi-parasite (Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

Mistletoes such as *Amyema pendula* (Drooping Mistletoe) and *Amyema preissii* Wire-leaf Mistletoe are evergreen, aerial, stem hemi-parasitic plants. They are mainly members of the plant families Loranthaceae and Viscaceae and the main genera in Australia are Amyema, Lysiana and Muellerina. Common host plants are species of Acacia, Allocasuarina, Casuarina and Eucalyptus. One reason a mistletoe may mimic its host is that a hormone from the host gets into the mistletoe and influences

the way it grows, or mistletoes may mimic their host to hide from leaf-loving animals such as possums, who know that mistletoes are more tasty and nutritious, than their gum-tree hosts.



L - *Amyema pendula* (Mistletoe) is a stem hemi-parasite; R - *Exocarpos strictus* (Pale-fruit Ballart) is a root hemi-parasite

(Photo: J. Hodgkiss)

*Nuytsia floribunda* (WA Christmas Tree) is a photosynthetic, root hemi-parasite. Almost all species are susceptible to being parasitised, with the haustoria from *Nuytsia* attaching themselves to the roots of nearby plants to obtain water and nutrients from them. In natural settings, *Nuytsia* draws relatively little from each individual host but because it is attached to many other plants, it gets plenty of water and nutrients. Roots and rhizomes spread out and may sucker to form new branches giving the appearance of a grove of trees. *Exocarpos* is also a root hemi-parasite, especially in the early stages of development. More mature plants are less reliant on this parasitism once photosynthesis in their stems is well established, e.g. *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry Ballart) and *Exocarpos strictus* (Pale-fruit Ballart).

There are many ways in which plants have adapted to cope with difficult growing conditions that are not always obvious to the naked eye, so it's always worth taking a moment to think about how they have adapted, and what they have adapted to, and how many generations it has taken for them to not only survive in that environment, but to actually reproduce and thrive.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Out and About

This year has gone by so quickly, and no doubt it will be just as quick when we start up again next year.

The parking around the Field Naturalists Club has not improved as the building works nearby progressed, and I am trying some alternative options as far as parking goes. I hope to have at least one solution to ease this by February.

To start 2020 I have invited Mike Williams and Ray Barnes to take us on the next chapter of their adventures in Western Australia at our February meeting. This needs to be formalised, as also our March meeting when I have invited Bev Hanson to give us a talk on rejuvenating our gardens and looking at ponds. As always please let me know if there is a topic or speaker you would like to hear.

Wishing everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Nicky Zanen**



Maureen Schaumann's garden will feature in next newsletter (Photo: Kerry Davis)



Eremophila racemosa 'Peaches and Cream'  
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

## 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!**