



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 2020**

**FEBRUARY**

-

**MARCH**

## **ENQUIRIES**

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

## **FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE**

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

**VISITORS WELCOME!**



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

February Newsletter 2020

## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Adventures of Barnsey & Willy  
Western Australia 2017 – Part 2.**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Dr. Sapphire McMullen-Fisher  
Fabulous Fungi**

## Propagation Day

**Saturday 29th February 2020**

**Foothills Propagation Day**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

**Hi Everyone,**

Hope you've had a lovely break over the festive season, a good start to the new year, and that you're all coping with the heatwaves we've been having.

It's been a rather rough season with all the bushfires in our part of the country this summer, and our thoughts and hearts go out to those who have been affected by the fires. I hope that by the time this newsletter goes out, the worst of it will be behind us and people can start rebuilding their lives. Sadly though, it is going to take the vegetation/bush and our wildlife, a long time to recover too.

On a happier note though, we had a lovely break-up at Chris Larkin's house in Lysterfield at the beginning of December, with the most perfect, early summer weather. The sun was sunny, the breeze balmy, the temperature just right, and of course the company perfect! Thanks again for having us Chris. It was a truly delightful way to end the year.

Our calendar is coming along nicely and we kick off our evening meetings with Dr. Sapphire McMullen-Fisher who will be talking to us about 'Fabulous Fungi'. Fungi are often misunderstood and overlooked but they are vital components of our ecosystems, so this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about them.

We've got our propagation day on the leap day of this leap year which can only bode well for great propagation success. See you there!

Something that will also be well worth doing over the next couple of months is visiting the Australian Plants Revealed exhibitions that are running from mid-February through to mid-April. See the details in this newsletter and the pdf attachments, as well as the inserts that were in your Growing Australian magazine for further information.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon after the summer break!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## Next Evening Meeting – Wednesday 26th February 2020

### Dr Sapphire McMullen-Fisher - Fabulous Fungi

Sapphire is an ecologist who has special interest in the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the macrofungi and mosses.

She has been active with Australian scientific groups such as the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Australian Bryophyte Workshops, Education Subcommittee of the Australasian Mycological Society and numerous community groups including many fungi groups, field naturalist clubs and Landcare groups. She is involved in Greening Australia's Habitat Conservation and Management Course and the new Victorian Nature Stewards program.

To read more about her research profile and articles she has written, have a look at Research Gate ([https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sapphire\\_McMullen-Fisher3](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sapphire_McMullen-Fisher3)) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sapphire-mcmullen-fisher-24434935/>). Sapphire is also part of the Fungi for Land team and you can read more about it at: <https://fungi4land.com/>

Having lived in four states and travelled across Australia's landscapes, Sapphire has been involved in many of the fungal community groups over the years and she particularly enjoys getting out into the bush to discover fungal treasures as often as she can.

If you were intrigued by the photos of the many different fungi that Peter Bellis showed us in November during his talk on Fraser Island, then you will not want to miss Sapphire's talk where you will find out heaps more about the wonderful world of fungi.

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## Next Day Meeting – Tuesday 11th February 2020

Our first meeting for 2020 is Tuesday 11th February when our own Ray Barnes and fellow Yarra Yarra member, Mike Williams, give us a further talk on their botanizing expedition in Western Australia, titled "Adventures of Barnsey & Willy Western Australia 2017 – Part 2."

They gave Part 1 last year, and in our March newsletter I wrote "... on Tuesday we were able to not only experience the Nullarbor but also to pop into the many nature reserves that Mike always makes a point of visiting. Mike has done this trip many times since the 1990s. ... Mike showed us so many spectacular scenes and interesting plants."

Now we head further west. If you've ever visited this area, hearing and seeing their photos is a great way to refresh any memories, and even better if you're considering a visit in future. Hope to see you there!

Parking around our meeting venue, the Victorian Field Naturalists Hall, was a troublesome issue last year, and I had hoped to creatively solve this problem. However, that is botched by more building and renovation works. But this morning I went to the area around the RSL this morning on my way to work, just after 9.15 am, and found plenty of 4 hour parking available. This is a short walk away from the hall.

On the way I saw the most magnificent Illawarra Flame Tree flowering, true to its name, the *Brachychiton acerifolius*, down Main Street.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Foothills Propagation Day – Saturday 29th February 2020

Yep! It's propagation day time again!

Propagating from cuttings is a great way to grow new plants. It's especially useful if you've got some favourites that you want more of, or you've seen some lovelies at a friends' place that you simply are itching to have but that may not be readily commercially available.

If you've not tried your hand at propagation before, then come and learn from some of the propagation whizzes we have in our group. They're friendly, generous with their knowledge and once you get the hang of propagating and how to take cuttings, you'll never look at a plant the same way again.

Bring along pieces of plants (cutting material) you'd like to propagate or share with others and even if you don't have any plant material to bring along, please do join us because there is always plenty of extra material for you to practice your new-found skills on.

**Date:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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

**Time:** 10.00am – 12 noon

**Bring:** Sharp, clean secateurs; Clean pots to place your cuttings into; A container to hold and safely transport your cuttings home; Cutting material; Small watering can or spray bottle if you have one.

**We will provide:** Propagation mix, rooting hormone, a good spot under cover where we are well protected from the elements, and of course morning tea!

PS: it's a leap year and we'll be propagating on leap day, so we're sure to have even better success than usual!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## Christmas Breakup for Day Meeting

It was a typical unpredictable spring day weather-wise when we held our last meeting on 12th November at Maranoa Gardens.

The folk there had set us up to be fully protected from the weather and joined us at lunch time. It was most pleasant and the food offerings were substantial, interesting and varied. The gardens were looking terrific and a group of us went for a walk after lunch. The highlights for me were the Gynea Lily poking out its head in the Fern Gully and the biggest *Xanthosia rotundifolia* I have ever seen. Much bigger than the ones we saw growing naturally near Albany, WA and it made me realise how my plant is struggling in Boronia.

Chris and Glenys Long were our guests. Chris, in his capacity of immediate past APS Victoria president, presented Maureen Schaumann with her Honorary Life Membership, and Shirley Carn with her Certificate of Commendation. Congratulations to both of you.

I want to reiterate my thanks to all the members who continue supporting the day meetings and for their individual input. On Facebook later in the day Maranoa Gardens had a posting that three Tawny Frogmouths had been spotted near the gate. We missed them, but it gives us a good reason to return.

Thank you to Paul and Andrea, and Maranoa Gardens for providing such a super venue.

**Nicky Zanen**



**Paul and Nicky at Maranoa Gardens**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Chris Long talking to the group**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)



**Maureen Schaumann, Shirley Carn and Chris Long**  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## December End of Year get-together

We had the best early summer weather for our end of year get-together/Christmas party at Chris Larkin's place. The weather was perfect, not too hot and not too cold, which made wandering around Chris' garden before lunch an absolute joy and what a lovely relaxing way to end the year - strolling about admiring the views and the plants, and chatting with friends.

Chris has been working very hard in her garden, singlehandedly carting sleepers up the steep slopes to replace some of the old steps, as well as replenishing mulch in various places. All I can say is "Well done, because it looks fantastic!"

Lunch on her shaded back deck was a smorgasbord that included cold roast chicken and bread that Foothills provides (thanks Pam and Liz for getting those for us) and a range of tasty and delectable salads that everyone brought to share. We rounded out our very pleasant meal with another mini-smorgasbord of desserts and fruits. Thank you all so much for the delicious contributions that you brought along, and thanks again Chris, for the venue. All in all, it made for a really lovely day out.

Here are a few photos of the day so that you can see just what a lovely time we had.

### Janet Hodgkiss



**Deep in discussion**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Peter and Liz discuss cameras and settings**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**View over the restful garden framed by trees**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Yum! Lunch!**  
(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)



**Enjoying the garden**  
(Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

## Fungi of Fraser Island – our November evening meeting with Peter Bellis

Peter Bellis gave us a lovely talk to end the year with, by showing us, in particular, the wide variety of fungi he and Jean saw on their trip to Fraser Island earlier in the year.

They went to Fraser Island with their four-wheel drive club, and Peter's talk was not only limited to the fascinating fungi they saw but also the plants of the different vegetation types on Fraser Island as well as the bird and animal life they encountered. Fraser Island is well known for being the largest sand island in the world and although you'd think nothing would grow there, this is certainly not the case as we saw through Peter's slides.

There are rainforests, eucalyptus woodland, mangrove forests, swamps, sand dunes and coastal heaths. There are long sandy beaches to drive and walk along but also rocky headlands and outcrops which cause the sand to drop out of the coastal currents, thus forming the beaches. The fungi they encountered were found all over the island but mainly in the rainforest areas. Fungi of all and many forms were seen, and to mention just a few, there were the robust and chunky White Punk (*Laetiporus portentosus*) and Ganodermas where the spores fall out of pores not gills, various bracket fungi, the large Leathery Goblet (*Cymatoderma elegans*), and classic mushroom-looking fungi, to a bioluminescent Ghost Fungus and *Cortinarius archeri*, where the distinguishing feature is the bright purple cap that glistens with slime.

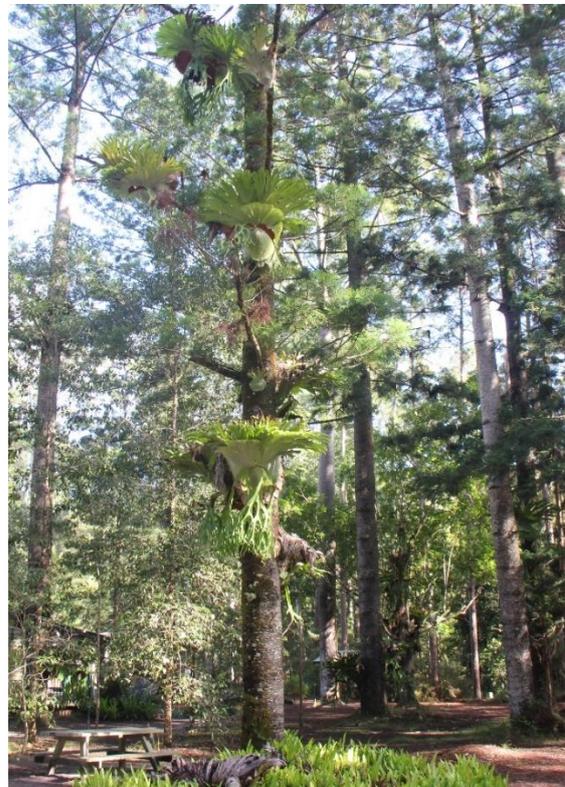


**Leather Goblets and Leather Boot for scale!**  
(Photo: Peter Bellis)



***Cortinarius archeri*** (Photo: Peter Bellis)

The fungi were not the only things to captivate us. Peter showed us several of the plant species found on the island, including sedges and ferns, palms, tea-trees, orchids and sundews, creepers and climbers, eucalypts and acacias.



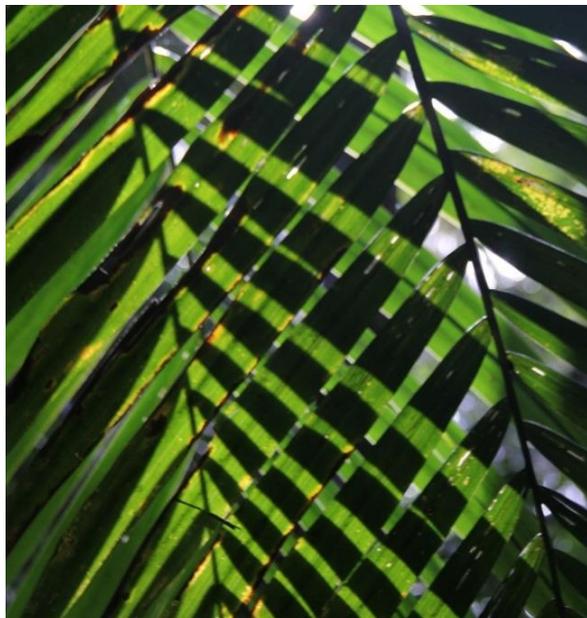
**Staghorn ferns growing all the way up a tree trunk**  
(Photo: Peter Bellis)

Amongst others on the faunal front, they encountered lace monitors, tiger snakes and brown tree snakes, dingoes, plenty of bird species including pelicans (74 different species were identified by a fellow traveller), and various fish species. Peter said the west coast is tidal with mangroves, while the east coast is sandy and that at the northern end of the island, the sand is whiter. Sandblows on the east coast also contribute to dune-building and in turn the formation of hills. A couple of other highlights of Peter's talk were some

video clips taken from the cab of their vehicle as they negotiated a track through the bush and traversed a rocky outcrop on the beach.

Thanks again for a lovely talk and for the 'virtual' travelling we did with you!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**



**Patterns of light and shadow on the fronds of a Piccabeen Palm**

(Photo: Peter Bellis)



**Dingo and Pelican**

(Photo: Peter Bellis)

## **Australian Plants Revealed – An exhibition by Australian Plants Society Victoria**

**17th February – 17th April 2020**

### **EXHIBITIONS**

In April 2020 it will be 250 years since the east coast of Australia was first sighted from the decks of the Endeavour, when lieutenant Cook, his crew and passengers saw Point Hicks in East Gippsland.

To celebrate 65 000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science, you are invited to two fantastic botanical exhibitions.

One exhibition, at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery in Ringwood, will feature six of the actual plant specimens as well as 30 images of the specimens collected by Banks and Solander in 1770, which were then sent to London for scientific classification and study. The exhibition will also recognise the vast Indigenous uses of these plants as well as celebrate the long history of Australia's original custodians.

The other exhibition, highlighting Banksias and the unique Australian flora, is being held at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery, in Kalorama.

The December issue of Growing Australian contained inserts about these exhibitions, as well as the registration form for the lunch, lectures and dinner in March.

The programme is as follows:

#### **SUNDAY 23rd February 2:00pm**

A small opening ceremony will be held at Karwarra. This will be a fun event with a guest presenter talking on 'The Uniqueness of Australian Plants' and demonstrating how to bonsai banksias. There will also be children's activities. Afternoon tea will be provided by the Friends of Karwarra.

#### **SATURDAY 28th March 1:45 for 2:00pm start**

Two lectures, one by Bruce Pascoe and one by Prof. Tim Entwisle, will be held at Maroondah Federation Estate and will be followed by afternoon tea and a viewing of the exhibition.

## **SATURDAY 28th March 6:00pm**

Dinner at Ringwood RSL. They need to book exact numbers and diets fourteen days in advance so if you are interested in attending the dinner, please send in your registration form now, if you haven't done so already, or contact the organisers at [exhibitions@apsvic.org.au](mailto:exhibitions@apsvic.org.au) as soon as possible if you have misplaced your registration form.

All the events are free, apart from the dinner on Saturday 28th March. A lot of planning has gone into these events, so we hope to see you at some or all of the exhibitions and lectures over the eight weeks that they will be running.

## **Note of thanks from Maureen Schaumann**

Maureen was presented with her honorary Life Membership at the Foothills Day Meeting Christmas breakup and wanted to add the following:

"The best thing I did 45 years ago was to join SGAP. Not only did I meet lots of new friends I have wonderful memories too. Memories of our monthly meetings being packed with plant enthusiasts and speakers like Dr. Jim Willis, Fred Rogers and many others. Our Annual Flower Shows, Kath Deery's landscapes down the middle of the hall and her beautiful floral art displays using her home made pots. Foothills Stringybark Festival was another favourite and I will always remember Merv Turner's exquisite display of Boronias in small antique bottles, beautifully labelled and presented at one of Waverley's Flower Shows.

So, thank you APS for the 45 years of happiness and friendship I have had through this membership."

### **Maureen**

(You've brought the APS and our group happiness and friendship too, so thank you too Maureen, from all of us at Foothills!)

## **Out and About**

I am amazed at how quickly January has passed. It has been a difficult start to the year, especially with daily reminders of the havoc caused by bush fires as well as seeing how our own gardens are coping with this erratic weather.

December was wiped out for me by disappearing to Africa and I was sorry to have missed the Christmas breakup at Chris Larkin's place. It sounded a good occasion all round.

In Africa it was so hot and dry especially at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and in the Okavango Delta. The Intrepid tour I went on included two nights camping in the Okavango and my heart sank when I saw the mokora that was going to transport us to the campsite. Two people are seated in this canoe, and it gets propelled by a poler. How was I going to get in and how was I ever going to get out! This is when I get so much inspiration from my fellow members, because I knew Bev Fox had been on a similar trip and conquered all. With that knowledge there was no reason why I shouldn't also be able to do it.



### **Mokora's on the Okavango**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

We were paddled amongst reeds, papyrus and water lilies. As the sun rose they opened in pinks and blues. That journey through the waters was a highlight.



**Waterlilies in the Okavango**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Throughout my time in southern Africa, and again this January, I have seen so many red flowering gums – *Corymbia ficifolia*. They are very prominent around Melbourne and on the Mornington Peninsula too. I was surprised to see one weeping form of the tree at Coolart with its leaves sweeping the ground. I'm familiar with *Eucalyptus caesias* doing this, but hadn't seen a *C. ficifolia* doing this before.



**Splendid solitary tree in a park near my brother's place in Somerset West**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Back at home I've had a lot of losses in my garden but the *Veronica arenaria* holds its own at this time of year. I love that the many plants I have bring in so much colour in summer. A couple of *Correas* are beginning to flower as well, and the wallaby grasses are looking magnificent. The eucalyptus are shedding so much, branch and leaf, that I am surprised they still provide any shade at all.

On that note, keep cool or warm whichever part of this crazy weather cycle you are in. Next month it is 20 years since we held our first day meeting at the Rowville Community Centre. This is a cause for a celebration which we will discuss at our February meeting.

**Nicky Zanen**



**Sweeping form of a *Corymbia* at Coolart**

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## **APS Foothills Inc.**

PO Box 65  
BORONIA 3155

### **ENQUIRIES**

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

### **COMMITTEE**

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

### **MEETING DETAILS**

#### **DAY Meeting**

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

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

**Time:** 10.30am

**Enquiries:** Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

#### **EVENING Meeting**

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

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

**Time:** 7.45pm

**VISITORS WELCOME!**



## DAY MEETING

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Bev Hanson – Landscaping and  
Renovating a Garden**

## EVENING MEETING

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Shirley Smith & Barbara Lloyd**

**The Delights of Nature on the  
South Island of New Zealand**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

**Hi Everyone,**

We had a great first evening meeting of the year with the Dr Sapphire Mc-Mullen Fisher talking to us about Fire and Fungi. I hope my report on her talk does it justice because it was a truly excellent talk given by a passionate speaker!

Our propagation morning on the leap day of this leap year was attended by only a few of us but even so, we had a lovely morning making cuttings, chatting and partaking of a delicious morning tea. We usually have a couple more people attend but some of our 'usuals' were away or busy with preparations for impending trips. My thanks go to Liz for trying to generate more interest in our propagation morning outside our group, by preparing an advert that she published on our Facebook page, and shared onto other Australian plant interest Facebook pages.

If you get a chance, you really should go and see the Australian Plants Revealed exhibitions at Maroondah Federation Estate and up at Karwarra. I've seen both and was impressed by the effort that has gone into putting together something to commemorate the first Australian plants that were collected 250 years ago, as well as the celebration of the long history of Australia's original custodians and their uses of Australian plants. I've included a few photos in this newsletter to whet your appetites.

We'll be visiting one of our nearest neighbours at our next evening meeting, when Shirley Smith and Barbara Lloyd share with us their photos and stories from a trip they did last year to South Island, New Zealand.

So, see you all next time!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## Fire and Fungi

For our first evening meeting of the year we had Dr Sapphire McMullen Fisher come to talk to us on the fascinating topic of the impacts of fire on fungi. Sapphire is very passionate about her subject and she had us completely enthralled from start to finish.

Her talk started with a picture of the desolate bush immediately after a bushfire which reminded us of the terrible summer bushfire season we've just had. While this was very sobering, her following slide was one of hope and showed an image of faint patches of orange showing through the ash which were the fruiting bodies of pyrophilous (fire-loving) fungi, which are stimulated to fruit after fire. She said that the post-fire 'fungi flush' was an important one, as the mycelium holds the soil together and helps prevent erosion. Obviously, the frequency of fires is then critical because too many fires can reduce the amount of wood that wood-dependant fungi need to survive, and hence be available to hold the soil together.

Sapphire introduced us to the 'mother tree' concept where there is a nutrient flow between plants, a "wood-wide web" as it were, where everything is connected. Mycorrhizal fungi wrap around and may even penetrate roots and help to provide water and food for trees and plants. In return the fungi get sugars that they can't make themselves, from the plants. In this way fungi also provide a communications network between plants.

In the post-fire flush, some fungi like *Laccaria* spp. fruit *en masse* and post-fire truffles also pop up. Some small marsupials like bettong, potoroos, and bandicoots eat these truffle fungi and help to spread their spores in their scat, which in turn helps increase the diversity of the fungi in the forests. Sadly, predators of these smaller ground-dwelling marsupials upset the system by removing them from the cycle which in turn impacts the diversity of fungi as well.

Sapphire went on to look at the effects of fire on fungi and it is obvious that burning off land, or accidental bushfires during a drought means that plants won't come back for a while. If habitat and substrates are lost through fires, and if the plant partners of the fungi are lost as well, then it stands to reason that this will negatively impact the fungi as well. Fire-sensitive fungi may already have restricted distributions due to the reduction in the habitats they favour, such as rainforests and riparian environments, and long unburnt woodlands.

Fungi are important decomposers, essentially composting and recycling material and making it

available to plants but not all fungi are good as there are some 'weedy fungi', e.g. Myrtle Rust. For this reason, it is important to move clean and dry when moving in the bush to avoid spreading the weedy fungi. Cleaning equipment, footwear and clothing, including hats, before going into the bush, or when moving between sites is good idea.

Sapphire also mentioned mulch monoculture, where the machinery used to produce mulch can be a source of weedy spores and a homogenous substrate can lower the diversity of species of fungi. She posed the question "What diversity of fungi are needed for a healthy ecosystem?" and discussed how we can contribute to the collection of data needed to help answer this question. For further information see [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org) and <https://fungimap.org.au/> for Fungimap Australia. She also raised the question of seed banks and spore banks and again asked have we been collecting and banking the fungal partners of our plants to ensure their survival? Currently the only people who are conserving fungi are the orchid people because they know that the orchid seeds will not germinate without their fungal partners.

Sapphire finished by running through some conservation basics like getting to know your local fungi, and not using fungicides or mulching unnecessarily.

Sapphire and Roz Hart are producing a much-needed practical guide and handbook, Fungi4Land, about the use of fungi in conservation and revegetation in Australian landscapes. They had a successful crowdfunding campaign to write the core book but still need help to get the book designed, edited, and published. If you'd like to help getting Fungi4Land into the hands of people who need it and who can use the valuable information to conserve and protect our beautiful bushland, then Roz is taking donations for this project directly. You can contact her for the account details for direct donation to the account or use the donate button on their website: <https://funfungiecology.com/fungi-for-land/> for credit cards. If you would like to donate by cheque please make out to Roz Hart and post to Fungi4Land, PO Box 967, Merlynston VIC 3058. We will send you a receipt on request.

Sapphire left me some copies of their Fungi for Land postcard, as well as the quick guide to some of the local Port Phillip and Westernport region fungi. I will bring them to our next meeting if you didn't get a copy at the time and would still like one.

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## Australian Plants Revealed – Twin Exhibitions at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden and Nursery

For very different reasons both of these exhibitions are excellent, so don't miss the opportunity to go and see them!

The exhibition at Maroondah Federation Estate in Ringwood is a celebration of 65 000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of botanical science. In April this year it will be 250 years since the east coast of Australia was first sighted from the decks of The Endeavour. The most charming part of the exhibition are the six actual original herbarium specimens collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770 on that voyage. Yes, the plants are all flat and brown (who wouldn't be after 250 years!) but they are the actual plants that were physically collected and taken back to London to be studied and identified, and now they are back here for us to see! How can that not be exciting?



Original herbarium specimen of *Banksia serrata* collected by Banks and Solander in 1770

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The *Banksia serrata* herbarium specimen on display is the iso-lectotype of *Banksia serrata* that was collected in Botany Bay in 1770. To understand the significance of this, I'll whack in a 'Bit o' Botany' for you here. A type specimen is a specimen selected to serve as a reference point when a plant species is first named, and for this reason it is extremely important to botanists who are trying to determine the correct application of a name. It is worth noting here, that not all collectors are botanists themselves, so plants may be identified and/or named by a researcher or other expert. There are a number of categories of 'type' specimens. In this case, the specimen is an iso-lectotype. The 'iso' bit means it is a duplicate specimen and the 'lectotype' bit means it is a specimen chosen by a later researcher to serve as if it were the holotype. A lectotype is chosen from among the specimens available to the original publishing author of a scientific name, when the holotype was either lost or destroyed, or when no holotype was designated. Botanical nomenclature aside, it means that the specimen on display is a piece of plant that was actually collected by Banks and Solander themselves, 250 years ago, so all in all, it is an extremely valuable piece of squashed, dried out, old plant! The other specimens on display include *Eucalyptus platyphylla*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Pandorea pandorana* subsp. *pandorana*, *Alocasia brisbanensis* and *Lambertia formosana*.



*Platynerium bifurcatum* – another original specimen from 1770

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Along the walls of the exhibition hall are a further 31 images of herbarium specimens, again of plants collected on that voyage. While these are not the actual specimens, the magic here lies in the fact that they are 3D images of the herbarium specimens. The wonder of modern technology means that these scans of the herbarium sheets are so good, they look like the real thing. Underneath each herbarium specimen image, is a photograph of the plant along with information about the uses of each plant by First Nations people. It was pleasing to me to note that not all the plants were of medicinal/bush tucker use, or used for shelter, bedding or rope, but were (and in fact still are) simply used for decoration and the enjoyment of something beautiful.



**It's hard to believe that this is an image and not an actual specimen of *Grevillea pteridifolia*!**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Scanned image of the iso-lectotype (stripes on leaves are a reflection of my top!)**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**3D scanned image of the herbarium specimen is very lifelike.**

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The smaller gallery holds other paintings and artwork depicting native Australian plants, and dotted around the main gallery are displays of weavings and how some of the plant material was traditionally used. My only disappointment here was that some of the material used (jute and raffia) is not Australian plant material.

To expand the celebration of Australian plants and their discovery all those years ago, another, more 'organic' exhibition has been set up at Karwarra. The main reason for not having both exhibitions in the same place is because of the precious nature of the herbarium specimens that are on loan, and the need to keep the space clean and secure. While some may see having two separate exhibitions as inconvenient, this is not actually a bad thing, because Karwarra itself is looking fantastic and is the perfect setting for what they've got on display there.



**Part of Ian Wallace's Banksia cone collection**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Welcome to Karwarra!**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Cordage made from Australian plant material**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**One of Ian Wallace's Banksia paintings**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Australian plants on fabric**  
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



### Banks and Solander display at Karwarra

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

The atmosphere of the exhibition at Karwarra is relaxed, and in the main room a superb collection of detailed watercolour paintings of Banksias by Ian Wallace is complemented by his mounted and named collection of Banksia cones. Here you can also sit for a while and watch a video about Australian plants. The smaller gallery space houses beautiful paintings of other Australian plants by various artists. Australian plants are also celebrated and represented in fabric (quilted items and embroidery), as well as in photographs, and there is a wonderful and very inspiring display of woven items, bowls and sculptural pieces, done by the Cranbourne Friends Basketmakers group, and this time, entirely from Australian plant material! It's what I was hoping to see at Ringwood, so was thrilled to see it here. There is a cabinet containing artefacts found at Karwarra which provides a bit of history of the gardens, and throughout the display area there is a lovely collection of actual Banksia plants and flowers and cones. There are 'botanical' activities for children too and you can of course always wander around the gardens and buy a plant or two from the nursery.

I think the organisers have done a brilliant job with both exhibitions, and as I said at the start, both are excellent in what each is trying to achieve. All I can say is very well done to everyone involved and to urge you to go and have a look. I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as I did.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Out and About

### Next Day Meeting – Bev Hanson on Landscaping and Renovating a Garden

Bev has spoken to us before, but this time she will be giving us some great tips on how to renovate an existing garden. Bev was an apprentice to Ellis Stone, one of our pioneer landscapers who in turn worked with Edna Walling. Bev, with Tom the Bobcat Operator, has done some magnificent work in many of our members' gardens including Chris Larkin and Helen Kennedy. She will be inspiring us with her illustrated talk.

### February meeting - Adventures of Barnsey & Willy – Western Australia 2017 Part 2

After a shaky start with a projector or computer that was playing up, we continued our journey further across the Nullarbor with Mike Williams and Ray Barnes.

All told Mike and Ray visited (3) National Parks – the Nullarbor, Frank Hanna and Kalbarri; 68 reserves and one state park, and covered over 8000 km in 28 days. I don't know how they contracted this visit to a fabulous talk lasting a morning. They did so, including interesting land forms, beautiful scenery and panoramic views and of course, a wide range of colourful and interesting plants.

Several of these the people who visited Albany last year had also come across and it was good to have our memories triggered.

We saw photos of stromatolites in Lake Thetis, the weird looking *Anthocercis ilicifolia*, and some plants we don't commonly see like *Hakea costata* and *Darwinia nieliana*. Others with names that stumble over your tongue – *Gompholobium scabrum*, *Sphaerolobium macranthum*, *Calytris oldfieldii* and *Geleznovia verrucosa*.



Stromatolites



Anthocercis ilicifolia

In sharing their stories with us it is obvious to see a strong bond between Mike and Ray. One was an anecdote of Mike walking past and totally missing the Nature’s Window in Kalbarri, which Ray spotted. The photo was of Ray overlooking the Murchison River.



Having Mike and Ray sharing their Western Australian experiences was a lovely way to start this year and it was good to see so many people turning up to enjoy their yarns. I am hoping that they go on



another journey soon that we can start next year with a further talk.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that the March meeting coincides with 20 years since we held our first day meeting. I completely forgot to discuss this at our February meeting, but suggest we lunch at the café around the corner, after the meeting. Possibly ‘Nuts About Coffee’ but hard to tell the name of the place from Google Maps. We’ll confirm on Tuesday.

**Odd Spot**

When writing up these notes I had written *Darwinia neildiana*. The thought crossed my mind how strange to have a second part of this plant’s name ‘Neil’ and ‘Diana’ so I checked the Encyclopaedia for an explanation. The Darwinia was named by F Mueller, after J.E. Nield, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Victorian academic. It is actually Nield-iana, as per naming standards ‘iana’ being after a person.

**Nicky Zanen**



Propagation morning at Knox Park Primary School (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Kerry, Janet and Chris admiring the gardens at Knox Park Primary School (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

## **APS FOOTHILLS INC.**

PO Box 65  
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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!**