



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 2021**

**APRIL**

-

**MAY**

## **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

April Newsletter 2021

## DAY MEETING

**Nicky Zanen - 'Out and About'  
Themed Gardens in Victoria**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**10.30am**

[See details Page 2](#)

## EVENING MEETING

**Janet Hodgkiss - Great Ocean Road  
and Warrnambool COMM  
Weekend Garden Visits**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**8pm**

[See details Page 2](#)

## Garden Visits

**Working Bee at KPPS**

[See details Page 2](#)

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

First up, apologies to anyone who tried to join our March evening meeting and couldn't connect or had difficulty connecting with the Zoom link. For some reason the link wouldn't work straight away as it usually does and we had to sign in to our Zoom accounts first, then type in the meeting ID and password details *before* getting to the point of actually joining the meeting.

We are looking into why this occurred, it may be a new security setting that has been set by Zoom or something in our own account, so hopefully it will not happen again. In any case, we now know to include alternative instructions for joining a Zoom meeting, so that in future you needn't get frustrated with not being able to connect, and that you don't feel left out!

We are also aware that many of our members, including myself, did not receive their March issue of Growing Australian. It was established at the APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting held in early March that there had been issues with missed recordings of membership renewals and we received an apology for this from our APS Vic membership secretary, and I pass this apology on to any affected members. Please know that they are working on getting those hard copies to you but in the meantime, if you wish to view the March issue, you will find it under the Member's Area on the Members tab on the APS Vic website.

And some GOOD NEWS for you! As Covid-19 restrictions in Victoria have eased, we will resume in-person meetings in April. These will be held in accordance with any current rules and if we have a snap lockdown, then the meetings will be held via Zoom. We also have a Covid-safe plan for group members so that we can comply with any rules and regs so please see the details in this newsletter.

You may also notice that our speaker and events calendar may look a bit sparse. This is because the ongoing uncertainty of Covid restrictions and snap lockdowns makes planning more difficult than usual and we have held off asking speakers and/or asking them to commit to particular dates.

I am also aware that many potential speakers, both within and outside of our group, will understandably wish to resume their usual travelling or holidaying as and when restrictions permit, and at short notice too, so perhaps you can understand the difficulties we face with planning speakers this year.

We were one of the few groups who managed to keep up a good momentum through all the challenges that Covid dealt to us last year, and as Covid is still lurking about, 2021 is not going to be 'normal year' in terms of what we usually expect for meetings either. For this reason, and to help spread the load, I would be *very appreciative* if any member wishes to help us with our calendar planning so that we can continue to have interesting and fun meetings and get-togethers.

You can help by volunteering to do a presentation, perhaps some slides from a trip, or pictures and a discussion on your own garden and how you've made it work, a plant group that fascinates you, etc. If you think you are shy or don't think you are good at speaking, then don't let that hold you back. Get in touch with us and we can help you put it together and even help you present it if necessary. Remember, we're in this group because we all have at least one common interest, and you can be sure that there may be other related things that interest you, that will also be of interest to other members, so how about giving it a go?

If presenting a talk is not up your alley, then perhaps you might like to help us with topics, suggestions and ideas for meetings, and also to sound out and make contact with potential speakers.

Every bit will help us plan an interesting year for you, so please don't hesitate to contact us on [foothills@apsvic.org.au](mailto:foothills@apsvic.org.au) or give Nicky a call (her contact number is in our information panel)

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all at our first face-to-face, evening meeting in over a year!

**Janet Hodgkiss.**

## **Next Day Meeting: Tuesday 13th April, 10.30am**

### **Nicky Zanen - 'Out and About' Themed Gardens in Victoria**

This will be our first meeting back at the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria hall (1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn), for this year. We will have to comply with the current Covid rules and registration procedures.

To give us a chance to catch up with each other, we won't have an external speaker. Instead, Nicky will present a talk based on 'Out and About' themed Gardens Around Victoria. Maureen Schaumann will have some plants for sale.

We won't be able to provide tea and coffee, so after the meeting we'll head off to one of the local coffee shops. The meeting begins at 10.30 am.

## **Next Evening meeting: Wednesday, 28th April, 7.45pm**

### **Janet Hodgkiss - Great Ocean Road and Warrnambool COMM Weekend Garden Visits**

This will be our first meeting back at the school in over a year. As usual, we'll meet in the BER building at Knox Park Primary School, Knoxfield, at 7.45pm, and we will have to comply with any Covid restrictions in force at the time, so we may not be able to provide tea and coffee afterwards. We'll keep you informed about what to expect nearer the time though.

At this meeting, Janet will give a presentation on various interesting things she encountered on her drive down the Great Ocean Road to attend the Warrnambool APS COMM. Over the weekend, there were four garden visits including two young gardens, an older, more established garden and a public garden that showcases Australian flora.

### **Working Bee at KPPS: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

We have a working bee planned at the school and will provide further details via email once it has been confirmed.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

# APS Foothills Group: COVID-SAFE PLAN for meetings or gatherings

Although we are not a 'business' as such, it is important that we, as a group, have a Covid-safe Plan so that we can comply with, and meet, all the requirements as set out by the Victorian Government.

It is important that you familiarise yourself with our plan please, so that you know what to expect and so that we can resume face-to face meetings.

Please be aware that slightly different rules may apply to our different venues. Any venue-specific rules will be included in more detail along with the relevant meeting notices.

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## APS FOOTHILLS COVID-SAFE PLAN

All Foothills members are required to familiarise themselves with, and follow, our Covid-safe plan when attending meetings or gatherings, whether they are indoors or out.

Failure to comply with our Covid-safe plan has serious consequences for everyone, should someone test positive or become infected.

Apart from a 14 day isolation period for anyone who attended a meeting or gathering, it may result in Foothills incurring significant deep-cleaning costs of the venue, and we may be barred from using the venue in future.

### **MOST IMPORTANTLY:**

- \* No person is to attend any meeting or gathering if they are unwell for any reason whatever.
- \* By attending any meeting or gathering, attendees declare that they are symptom-free and have not been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, nor have they been directed to isolate.

### **1. Record keeping**

- \* All attendees are required to sign a register and provide relevant contact details, or use a phone to log in to a QR Code at the venue, if one is provided.
- \* Our records will be provided to the venue and WorkSafe Victoria if requested, or if we identify a person with coronavirus, to facilitate contact tracing.

### **2. Venues**

- \* Attendees will comply with a temperature check if it is required by a venue.
- \* Airconditioning or heating may be switched off at venues as a prevention/control measure - attendees should be prepared for this.
- \* Windows and doors will be opened to provide ventilation.

- \* Venues may not allow the use of kitchen facilities, sharing of, or consumption of food or beverages. Attendees will be informed in advance if this is the case.

### **3. Cleaning/Decontamination**

- \* Pre- and post-meeting cleaning of surfaces, doorhandles and chairs will be carried out with an appropriate cleaning product.
- \* It would be appreciated if attendees could assist with cleaning if asked to do so.
- \* Hand sanitiser will be provided by APS Foothills for use at meetings. Attendees are to use this when entering and leaving the venue.

### **4. Face covering**

- \* Face masks must be carried at all times.
- \* Face masks are to be worn in accordance with current government regulations, unless you have a lawful reason not to.
- \* It is strongly recommended a face mask be worn if you cannot keep 1.5m distance from others.
- \* Attendees must provide their own face masks.
- \* Masks must be fit for purpose. They may be cloth, disposable or single-use.
- \* Please dispose of single-use or disposable masks appropriately and safely, and cut elastics prior to disposal to prevent injury to wildlife.

### **5. Physical distancing**

- \* Appropriate physical distancing (1.5m) is to be maintained at all times.
- \* Numbers attending meetings and gatherings are to be in accordance with current government regulations and the safe carrying capacity of the venue. If, not the number is 1 person per 4m<sup>2</sup>.
- \* Seating will be spaced accordingly.
- \* Attendees will seat themselves promptly and avoid moving around unnecessarily.

### **5. Hygiene**

- \* Wash your hands regularly or use hand sanitiser.
- \* Avoid coughing or sneezing. Go outside if possible, or cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow/upper sleeve.
- \* Wear a mask if appropriate or required.
- \* Don't share drink bottles, glasses, crockery or cutlery, other than with people you live with.

### **4 BASIC RULES**

All Foothills members are reminded to continue to follow the 4 basic rules:

- 1) Stay home and get tested you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild.

- 2) Practise good hygiene by washing your hands, and cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- 3) Maintain physical distance of 1.5m from people where you can.
- 4) Wear a face mask when required.

## Australian Plants Revealed – now online

Last year's Australian Plants Revealed exhibition, organised to coincide with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lieutenant James Cook bringing the Endeavour with Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander to explore the east coast of Australia, had to be closed early due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

As a result, the seminars that were to be presented at the end of March also had to be cancelled, so during lockdown, Chris Clarke (APS Vic President) along with Alex Smart and Michael Cook, put the presentations together in a single video that can now be viewed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_z\\_AlnLEhw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_z_AlnLEhw)

The whole video runs for about 90 mins. It is easy to jump to the various segments, and the video can obviously be paused at any time so that you can pick up where you left off, or re-watch later. The video includes:

- Introduction by Chris Clarke APS Vic President.
- Aunty Irene Norman reading "A Plant Paradox", a poem she wrote for the exhibition.
- Aunty Janet Turpie Johnstone delivering her lecture "Australian Plants Revealed: Billions of Years in Creation - 80,000+ years Known & Named by Bunjil's People".
- Prof Tim Entwisle's lecture "The Sir Joseph Banks Cabinet: Botanical Bounty of the Endeavour's Voyage to New Zealand and Australia".



Australian Plants Revealed 60,000 + years, science & more recent history

### A couple of screenshots from the video

## APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting

APS Warrnambool hosted the APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting in early March and while many agenda items were covered and discussed, the following may be of interest to you:

- \* APS Grampians celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They have planned a number of activities and will also host a quarterly COMM meeting as well as the APS Vic AGM, on the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> September this year. It was confirmed that the 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> September will be a 2 day event and there will be walks and other activities in the following week leading up to the Pomonal Flower Show on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> October. Members are encouraged to stay for the week and enjoy them.
- \* Neutrog now have a new on-line ordering system. If APS Victoria members provide their email addresses and order through their district group, they can buy at discounted prices.
- \* A refresh of the APS Vic website is planned but not before the on-line membership is in place. All changes to the website will be approved by the executive.
- \* APS Vic Membership. It was established that there were issues with missed recording of membership renewals which resulted in several members not receiving the latest issue of Growing Australian. Affected members will be sent their December and March issues of Growing Australian shortly.
- \* The Growth and Development Sub Committee have not met since the outbreak of Covid-19. They are still seeking new members to join this sub-committee, so please let them know if you are interested.
- Growing Australian newsletter editor asks again for submissions please. A varied contribution of articles,

images, snippets etc., makes the job of editor so much easier and makes for a great quarterly newsletter too, so please consider sending something in.

- Seedbank - There is a need for continual replenishment of seeds and all contributions are welcome. Please collect and send seeds to Marj Seaton. It is important to *please clean them first* and to label them before sending them to Marj. Seeds can be sent to her in the post – you'll find her address in Growing Australian. Please save your seed and send it in a paper envelope (seeds will rot if stored or posted in plastic). Marj mentioned to seal all the edges of the envelope otherwise seeds will fall out, especially fine seed. The following information is required when sending seed: Name of plant, Date of collection. Other information that is really useful that you can include is: Where the seed has been collected, if it is of bushland or garden origin etc. Please remember that a permit is required to collect seed from the wild. Marj is especially in need of Banksia and Dryandra seeds.
- The Australian Plants Award (ANPSA) is presented by ANPSA to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of Australian plants, whether members of the Society or not. Australian Plants Award (ANPSA) nominations in professional and amateur categories are due by February 2022. Please send suggested names, or better still, a draft nomination to the APS Vic Secretary, Chris Long.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

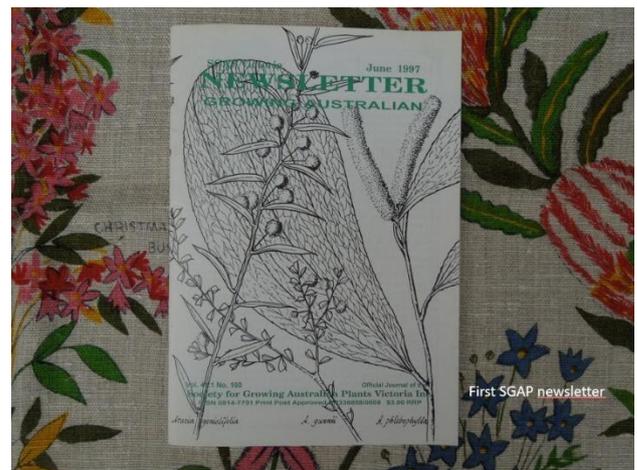
## Last Evening Meeting: Aussies in a (Dutch) Cowshed – Liesbeth Uitjewaal

Nicky Zanen presented this slideshow, which she had presented on behalf of Liesbeth Uitjewaal at the 2019 ANPSA conference in Albany, WA. It covers the development of a large garden that showcases Australian plants and the trials associated with growing them in the Northern Hemisphere, We were also lucky in that Liesbeth herself, was able to join us via Zoom from her home in the Netherlands, adding more details here and there, and being available at the end for us to ask questions.

Thanks so much for joining us Liesbeth!

Liesbeth spent a year in Australia in the 1980's and fell in love with Australian plants. She started growing Mediterranean plants in containers in the early 1990's, always keeping look out for Australian plants to grow, but they were not readily available in Europe. She has access to a wholesale nursery so occasionally does come across some, and says Flora Toscana, an Italian nursery, has the best range of Australian plants, especially Proteaceae.

In 1997, she joined SGAP Victoria, and with access to the seed list, started her collection of Australian plants. The collection soon outgrew the house they lived in, so they bought a property in Neer which included two old cowsheds and two acres of potential garden.



**First SGAP Newsletter**

They worked hard to transform the old buildings and flat paddock, and 'Merrigum', the name of the garden (Aboriginal term meaning small plain), is now a delightful garden that is opened to the public in the summer months.

The cowsheds were soon converted into glasshouses so that Liesbeth can grow and display her beloved Australian plants as the winters can be snowy and very cold.



## 'Merrigum' in 1999 and in 2016

It contains formal and informally designed areas, an impressive collection of Australian plants in pots, a substantial arboretum featuring an Australian corner with trees, shrubs and an early colonial-style slab hut, as well as the two glasshouses.

The larger glasshouse now houses an in-ground collection of Australian trees and shrubs that was designed to recreate a more intense Australian bush atmosphere. Plants from the east and west of Australia are quite distinct, so this distinction in the flora is also recreated in the glasshouse.



**Snow in the arboretum area**

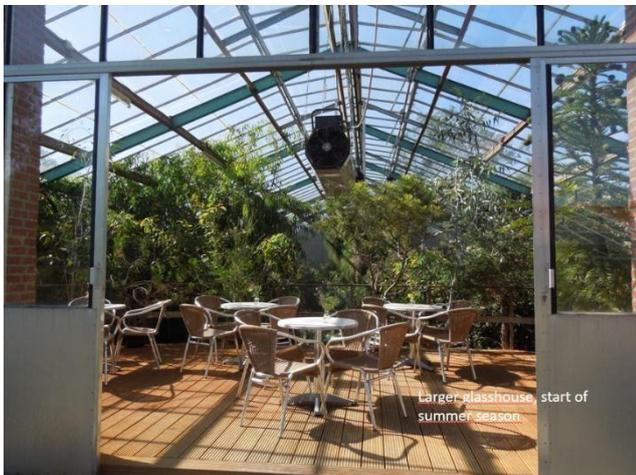


**Plants in the larger glasshouse**



**Smaller glasshouse - removing snow build-up**

In summer, the pots in the over-wintering are moved to the outdoor courtyard area.



**Larger glasshouse - start of the summer season**

The smaller glasshouse is used to overwinter the collection of Australian plants which are all grown in pots. They are loaded onto trolleys and wheeled into the glasshouse at the end of summer, where they enjoy a milder winter indoors courtesy of fan heaters. When snow builds up on the glass roof it is carefully removed so that the plants still receive enough light to keep growing.





**Courtyard garden with potted plants in full flower**

Lisbeth is unable to find many Australian plants in Europe, so she grows them herself from seed, by cuttings and by grafting.



Grafted plants also grow a lot faster than cutting grown plants and Liesbeth has had great success with a range of species.

Other slides in the presentation showed the wide range of plants that Liesbeth manages to grow under extraordinary conditions, all flowering magnificently. Most of all it was lovely to meet Liesbeth and very inspiring to see the extent to which someone has gone to accommodate their passion for Australian plants!

If you'd like to have a look at the website about the garden, then here is the link <http://www.merrigum.com/> It is in Dutch but Google will translate it for you!

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## More on *Isopogon formosus* and *dubius*

For our last evening meeting we hooked up via Zoom with Liesbeth in the Netherlands to look at her extraordinary Australian plant garden. Yes, an Australian plant garden in the Netherlands, part under cover all year and part in pots – many, many pots - that are taken outside from their hot-house conditions when the warm weather arrives.



**Isopogon (Photo: Chris Larkin)**

Liesbeth has a lot of knowledge about our Australian plants. Last year after she heard of my difficulty telling the difference between *Isopogon dubius* and *Is. formosus* Liesbeth was able to let me know via Nicky the reason I was struggling with the distinction in the leaves is because they were most likely both *Isopogon formosus* or variations on *Is. formosus*. To make this abundantly clear she sent Nicky a picture of the leaves of both plants and they are very distinctly different with the wider flatter leaf belonging to

*Is. dubius*. It is great to get the correction but I have to say I'm disappointed to have been sold the wrong plant – or a plant that at the time of purchase I thought would be a new one to try out in the garden. The only thing to soften this blow is the beauty of the plant itself. I can't be disappointed with that.

**Chris Larkin**

## Out and About

After the lockdowns of last year I have to confess to going overboard this year. Easter Saturday finds me in a cottage near Bairnsdale in the middle of sclerophyll forest. The bird calls enthrall me, so many more than we have in Boronia but in saying that, I am so grateful to be living in Boronia where there is also such a huge variety of calls.



**View from the cottage into a gorgeous gully (Photo: Nicky Zanen)**

I drove through to Lakes Entrance yesterday and passed Forestec. It is a training centre and we had an APS Victorian meeting there once. Nearby is Nyerimilang Homestead where the East Gippsland Native Plants Society maintain the native plants in the heritage gardens. There is a richness in returning to an area and remembering the places we've been able to visit through the quarterly gatherings and FJC Rogers seminars.



**Nyerimilang – a beautiful Eucalyptus bauerana, a blue box (Photo: Nicky Zanen)**

A large portion of this area was impacted by the 2019/2020 fires, and there is still some time to go before the countryside looks its lush natural self. It is heartbreaking to see how far the burnt areas extend, and the randomly untouched bits.



**Trees recovering after bush fires  
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)**

But there is a lot to see here and well worth a quick visit.

**Nicky Zanen**

## **Observations of Moths, Butterflies and Pollination - Cathy Powers**

Via Zoom, at our last meeting, Cathy Powers presented a slide show on Lepidoptera. Cathy spoke mostly on moths but also included a couple of butterflies. She opened her talk with an explanation of lepidoptera, the word divided into two – modern Latin (plural), from Greek lepis, lepid- ‘scale’ + pteron ‘wing’.

Both butterflies and moths are covered in scales. Cathy showed us a microscopic view of what the scales look like and how colourful they can be. She also showed us the magnified ‘eyespot’ of the Southern Lady Moth, illustrating how the scales are positioned to create the eye design.

There are only around 425 butterflies in Australia (almost all scientifically identified), in contrast to moths estimated to be approximately 22,000 species in Australia. Only half have been scientifically identified so there is much work that can be done by an aspiring naturalist.

There is not much difference between moths which have either a thread-like or feathery antennae and butterflies which have a swollen end on their

antenna, and can be quite globular or bulky or just swollen on the tip. The main difference is a wing coupling mechanism in most moths. Butterflies don’t have this.

Cathy’s involvement with the Melbourne Museum means that she has access to their equipment and microscopes, and she finds the magnification of tiny hairs fascinating, like those seen on the surface of eyes of moths. Shortly after her presentation, she received notification of being appointed an Honorary Research Associate at Museums Victoria.

Cathy showed us an Incredible range of camouflage and moths hiding so that you’d never see them, and some that use protective strategies like appearing to look like a wasp.

Cathy also covered setting up a light trap. Certainly not done at the time of the full moon because moths don’t readily come to the lit sheet, and moths don’t like windy conditions or intense rainfall. This is particularly relevant – some types of globes can get wet and might explode. However, moths don’t mind fog or mist, and most come to her light sheets on warmer nights.

Cathy now concentrates on micro-moths, ones that are smaller than mosquitoes and have fascinating markings. Very few of these have been formally identified.

Some moths have different ways of protecting themselves from bats by distorting the sonar, a defensive click, long tails to divert bats or closing wings and dropping away from their predator.

To identify – assess which family they belong to and access reliable resources. ‘Australian Moths on Line’ is a good website, and iNaturalist Australia is also great. Cathy was a co-author in Volume 9 of Moths of Victoria, a series of identification booklets with more information on the accompanying CDs. These are available through Bill and Sue, APS Victoria Books Sales.

In finishing, Cathy mentioned that knowledge of pollinating of flowers by moths is scant, especially what occurs at night, and there is plenty of new research that needs to be done.

And indeed, I was so inspired by Cathy’s talk that I have invested in the 9 volumes of Moths of Victoria and am starting to photograph and put pictures on iNaturalist. The best of this is that the moths get named quite readily.

**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:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Nicky Zanen  
**Treasurer:** Chris Larkin  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Davis  
**Day Meeting Liaison:** Nicky Zanen  
**APS Vic Liaison:** Janet Hodgkiss  
**Other Members:** Richard Maddever

## **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

**Chris Clarke**

### Flora of the Australian Alps

**Tuesday 11th May 2021**

**10.30am**

[See details Page 2](#)

## EVENING MEETING

**Cathy Powers**

### Profiling the Brisbane Ranges

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**7.45pm**

[See details Page 2](#)

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

It was fantastic to finally meet in person again at our April evening meeting! It's been over a year since we've been able to do this and it certainly brought a good sense of 'normality' back to the crazy world we've been living in. Zoom meetings are a good backup or alternative but the 'real thing' is definitely much nicer!

Although we didn't have a specimen table or supper (we are still feeling our way with how to accommodate covid restrictions) I was pleased to see that we had good number of people at our meeting and, as I had suggested in my reminder notice, that they came prepared for a potentially cold evening too - we used the library area so that we could maintain social distancing, and it's unfortunately not heated at night. The knee rugs and small blankets were a good idea, and it'll probably be useful to bring them along to future winter meetings too.

We had a working bee at the school on the Saturday following the evening meeting. These working bees are important in that not only do they help maintain our good relationship with the school but we are able to directly help Kerry and Shirley. They both had pivotal roles in establishing the native plant gardens at the school and they do an excellent job of looking after them on a weekly basis too. That they managed to introduce Australian native plants and promoted them in such a positive way to the children at the school, is simply ingenious. I can't help but be in awe of their foresight and dedication, so I'm always pleased to help at the working bees, not to mention that I thoroughly enjoy the exercise, the very good company and our morning tea too! I took photos of some of the plants that are flowering at the moment at the school, so keep an eye out for them in this newsletter.

Chris is growing a couple of small eucalypts in her garden which she has written about for us. They'd

be useful small trees for the smaller gardens we have nowadays.

We've got some interesting meetings and a few plant sales coming up (see details in the newsletter), and for those of you who were unable to attend our evening meeting, I've included a number of photos from my talk, so with our other contributions, I hope you enjoy this month's rather lengthy newsletter! See you all next time.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Next Evening Meeting: Cathy Powers – Profiling the Brisbane Ranges

Come and find out more about the history, geology, flora and fauna of the Brisbane Ranges with Cathy Powers.

## Next Day Meeting: Chris Clarke – Flora of the Australian Alps

Tuesday 11 May 2021, 10.30am, Victorian Field Naturalists Club

"Our Alpine Flora is fascinating". This was a post on Facebook that prompted me to invite Chris Clarke to share his photos of the wildflowers and minibeasts he took during the Australia Day Weekend earlier this year.

*"The Bogong High Plains wildflowers were stunning this year. An Australian Plants Society Keilor Plains group stayed at Howman's Gap YMCA last week and each day we explored the high country. Highlights included the walks to Mt Cole and Wallaces Hut, Pretty Valley, the Aqueduct walk, Coles Hut and Mt McKay. December/ January is peak wildflower season in the alps."*

This will certainly bring back many memories of previous visits and inspire us to go back there next summer. We look forward to joining Chris on a tour of the Alps.

**Nicky Zanen**



Chris doing some outdoor education Descending Mt Cope

## Cranbourne Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May 10am to 4pm

Please see attached to the email, the list of plants that will be available at the sale, or visit the website and you'll find the list there:

<https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/2021/05/growing-friends-plant-sales-are-back-at-cranbourne/>

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA



*Eremophila muelleriana*  
Photo credit: Deb Abbas

In these uncertain times, please check our website before attending to ensure that the sale is going ahead.  
w [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au) f [rbgfriendscranbourne](https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**Growing Friends  
Autumn Plant Sale**  
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9  
May 2021 10am to 4pm

Australian Garden - Cranbourne - near the kiosk

Come along and select from a range of plants, many of which you will find in the Australian Garden.

Available: grasses, strap-leaved plants, climbers, groundcovers, indigenous plants, small & large bushes and trees.

EFTPOS available

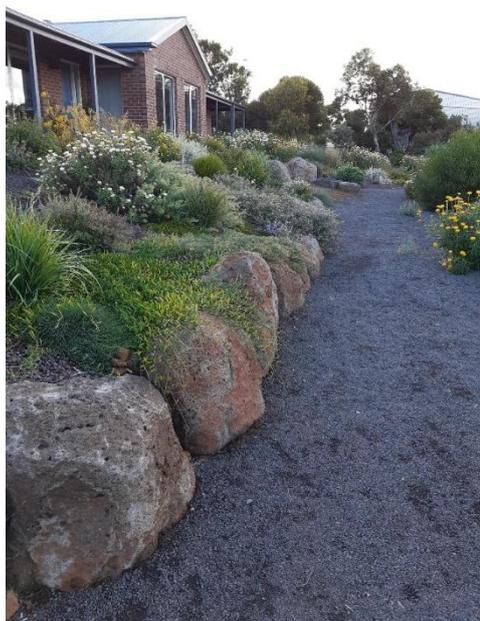
Plant-list available – see link below

## April Evening Meeting - Warrnambool Garden Visits and the Great Ocean Road

Janet showed us the various gardens that were open for the weekend of the March APS Vic COMM meeting, as well as photos from the trip down the Great Ocean Road on the way to Warrnambool.

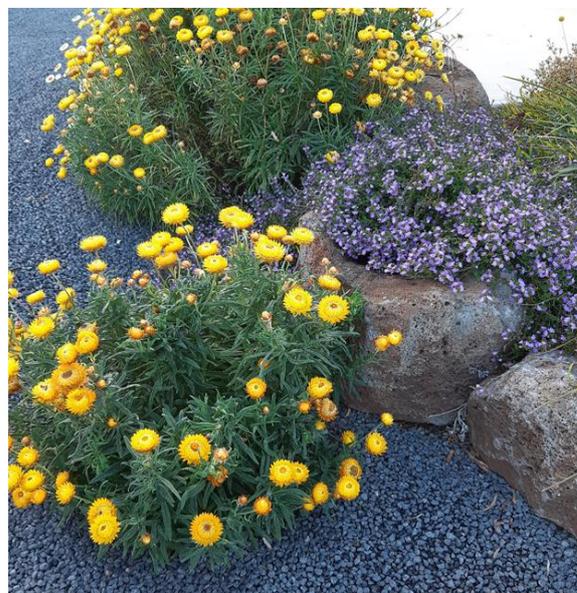
There were four gardens - two of them young, no more than a few years old, one much more established at more than ten years old, and a public garden set up by the Friends of Swan Reserve that showcases Australian plants and encourages the public to try use Australian plants in their gardens rather than introduced species.

In both of the younger gardens, local volcanic rocks and boulders had been incorporated into their designs to create retaining walls so that garden beds could be established. The rocks and boulders were also used to provide points of interest and to introduce height differences as both sites, although slightly sloping were essentially flat.



**Volcanic rocks in the Handscombe garden create retaining walls and form garden beds**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

In the Handscombe garden, daisies had been allowed to self-seed and show how useful quick-growing plants like these are when establishing a garden, as they provide not only 'instant colour' but are valuable for filling up spaces while other more long-lived plants are growing.



**Yellow daisies and purple Scaevola offer bright splashes of colour** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

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**Trailing ground covers** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

All the beds were mulched with a fine grade of pebbles/scoria. The choice of this was probably due to it being readily available in the area and also less likely to be blown away like bark mulch, as the site is fairly open and gets strong sea breezes at times.



**Pebble mulch and stone path (Photo: Chris Larkin)**

The Handscombe garden also incorporated various sculptures and some whimsical features such as the 'garden bed' in the old iron bedstead.



**'Garden Bed' (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

The entrance to the drive of the Blood/Dawson garden was lined with large boulders and made for an impressive rock entrance way.



**Rock entrance to the Blood/Dawson garden**

**(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

This garden was much flatter than the Handscombe garden and the rock theme of the entrance way was carried through to the garden which comprised large areas of lawn with rocks and boulders used on their own, and in the garden beds as features.

The soils in this area are rich volcanic soils so although the plants were all still quite young, they were healthy and growing vigorously.



**Lawn area with garden beds and boulders**

**(Photo: Chris Larkin)**

The area closest to the house had been established first and an English country style garden using only Australian natives complemented the style of the house.



**English country style garden with Australian natives**

**(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

The waterwise garden at the Swan Reserve was "Established to showcase Australian native plants to the people of Warrnambool and to suggest alternative species to the introduced plants commonly sold at many nurseries". This public garden has a number of different garden beds to showcase types and uses of Australian plants. Their Banksia Bed has a most impressive collection of Banksias that would definitely appeal to any gardener and has species range from low growing right through to tall shrub and tree species.



The last garden we visited was the Mattner garden and this contrasted with the other private gardens in that it was far more established, and had a distinct woodland feel to parts of it.

Notable in this garden was the incorporation of art and sculptures.

Apart from the woodland path areas, the garden also included open lawn areas, and a children's play area where some of the play equipment had been artfully constructed from recycled fishing net floats.



Photos show just a few of the many Banksia species in the Banksia bed, Swan Reserve

(Photos: Janet Hodgkiss & Chris Larkin)

The biodiversity bed showed the vast biodiversity and cultural significance of some local plants, including those that were a significant food source for indigenous people before the arrival of Europeans. It showcased a couple of excellent ground cover species in the form of *Kunzea pomifera* (Muntries) and *Scaevola calendulacea*.



Mattner garden sculptures (Photos: Janet Hodgkiss)



Biodiversity bed with ground covers and grass trees

(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



**Woodland path and garden art (Photo: Chris Larkin)**



**Play equipment made from recycled materials (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

The trip down to Warrnambool was a rare treat because of the lack of traffic and tourists on the Great Ocean Road and surrounds. To be able to enjoy our natural wonders on an almost one-on-one basis was very special indeed.

On the way down we encountered a rather disturbing sight where they were creating strategic fuel breaks in the area around Anglesea. 40m wide strips are being cleared to reduce fuel load which should help reduce the fire risk in the event of a

bushfire. The road verges have been transformed into 'parklands' where only some trees remain, and all the rest of the vegetation has been mulched. It looked very bleak and one can only wonder at the destruction of many non-tree species.



**Creation of strategic fuel breaks around Anglesea (Photos: Nicky Zanen)**

The beautiful sights of the Great Ocean Road including the forests and waterfalls did however help get us over the shock of seeing all these plants and trees being bulldozed and mulched! The weather was perfect too, warm, sunny and calm. Absolutely idyllic in fact!



**Erskine Falls near Lorne (Photo: Chris Larkin)**



**View west and east from Twelve Apostles lookout (Photos: Janet Hodgkiss)**



**Cape Patton (Photo: Chris Larkin)**



**The Arch (Photos: Janet Hodgkiss)**



**Bay of Islands with “Mediterranean Yacht and Tawny Frogmouth” (Photos: Janet Hodgkiss)**



**Hopkins Falls near Cudgee (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

Hopkins Falls is a waterfall that flows over an ancient basalt lava flow that has cooled into vertical columns and is slowly weathering away. It is easy to see that the lava flowed down this even more ancient river valley, and that the river still flows down this valley and over the old lava that lies in the valley. It is only a few minutes’ drive from the Mattner garden that we visited, and well worth a visit if you are ever in the Warrnambool area.

**Janet Hodgkiss**



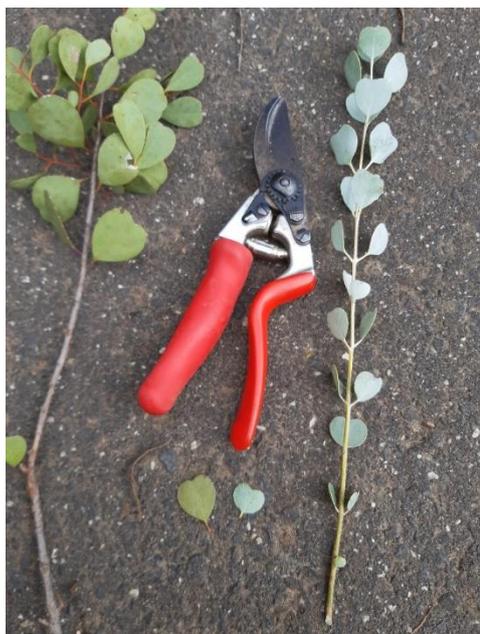
**The Grotto (Photo: Chris Larkin)**

## Two Small Eucalypts *E. orbifolia* and *E. websteriana*

A couple of years ago I planted two small eucalypts - *E. orbifolia* and *E. websteriana*. Yes, I purchased them in tubes so they were small plants at the time but what I really mean is they are not expected to grow

into very large plants. They are mallees that should grow to 5 metres but I expect less here in Victoria, perhaps three metres.

These two plants are similar in so many ways. For a start they have heart-shaped leaves although *E. orbifolia* is described as having round leaves as you would expect from its name. They also have minni ritchi bark - that lovely curling bark down the trunk and branches, which is most obvious if you look closely at the picture of *E. orbifolia*. Mallees are generally multi-trunked with a lignotuber.



Heart shaped leaves (Phot: Chris Larkin)

*E. orbifolia* started off with a single trunk but has now sprouted a lot of growth at the base. The first time I saw a good example of *E. orbifolia*, and fell in love, was up Horsham way and it was a single trunked tree. I now assume it was managed that way by pruning. From the photograph it is a little more difficult to understand what is going on with *E. websteriana* because of all the plants around it. It has started life with several branches coming from the base. I do note that this plant has flowers on it already so I'm a bit excited to see what they look like. Both trees have cream to pale yellow flowers.

In my opinion it is the leaves and dainty growth habit of these trees that is the main feature.



*Eucalyptus orbifolia* (Photo: Chris Larkin)

The clear difference between the plants at the moment is the colour of the leaves with *E. orbifolia* being quite grey while *E. websteriana* is a soft green. I wonder if that will change over time; as I wonder if the leaves of *E. orbifolia* will become rounder with age. There is always the possibility I have two versions of the same plant which has happened with *Isopogon dubius* and *I. formosus*.



*Eucalyptus websteriana* (Photo: Chris Larkin)

These eucalypts come from dry areas of southern W.A growing on slopes among granite outcrops. Approximate conditions to these exist here with

slope being no problem, and while granite isn't sitting on the surface, it is the underlying rock.

If you are looking for a small eucalypt then one of these plants might be worth trying if you can give them good drainage. I have seen mature trees in W.A. and they are really quite light and lovely and sufficiently different to catch the eye.

**Chris Larkin**

## Out and About

Today is ANZAC, a day full of memorials and memories of people past. I managed to get to the Dawn Service in Boronia and was amazed at the number of people out there. The road was blocked and the morning was dark but very still. As always I found this a very moving experience, especially in remembering my own parents and friends and extended families.



**Carn garden view south (Photo: Nicky Zanen)**

Earlier this month, coinciding with the anniversary of Shirley Carn's passing, we were invited to visit her daughter Rose's garden. Rose has certainly embraced the garden and I am so happy to report that Shirley's garden is in very good hands. There has been substantial growth, and as pointed out by Merele, this has created a number of micro climates which changes the dynamics between plants and weather exposure. It looks very lush. When I came home, my garden looked quite barren. Through this newsletter thank you so much for hosting us Rose and Roger.



**Carn Garden Eucalypts (Photo: Nicky Zanen)**

Yesterday was the Yarra Yarra APS Plant Sale at the Eltham Community Hall. It is the same venue as their annual flower show in spring, and was crammed full of so many plants on offer. I almost felt a moment of panic as I was trying to decide where to look first.

It was also so good to see many of our fellow members – a communal wave of relief that we could finally access the rich offerings once again. I was sorry not to get to the Geelong plant sale but had committed to going elsewhere.



My hakeas are playing strange at the moment. The two *Hakea laurinas* are not flowering this year by the looks of it, but nearby a *H. petiolaris* which was planted in 2019 is in full bloom. I think this is the first year of flowers. I noticed a street tree which could also be a *Hakea laurina* in full bloom this morning on my way back from the RSL and that too is looking stunning although the flowers are pretty high up.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Knox Park Primary School



**Grevillea 'Lady O'** has been very successful in the school gardens and flowers almost continuously



**Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet'**, a spreading ground cover with silvery white leaves and bright yellow flowers, is drought and frost tolerant



**Correa, Westringia and Grevillea** add more colour to the school gardens

### **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:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Nicky Zanen  
**Treasurer:** Chris Larkin  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kerry Davis  
**Day Meeting Liaison:** Nicky Zanen  
**APS Vic Liaison:** Janet Hodgkiss  
**Other Members:** Richard Maddever

### **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!**