



Foothills News

Acacia stictophylla Cinnamon Wattle

APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

WE HOLD TWO MEETINGS EACH MONTH

DAY MEETING

Date: 2nd Tuesday of the month
except November, December
and January.

Time: 10.30am

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

EVENING MEETING

Date: 4th Wednesday of the month,
except December and January.

Time: 7.45pm

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

Combined Newsletters 2021

JUNE

-

JULY

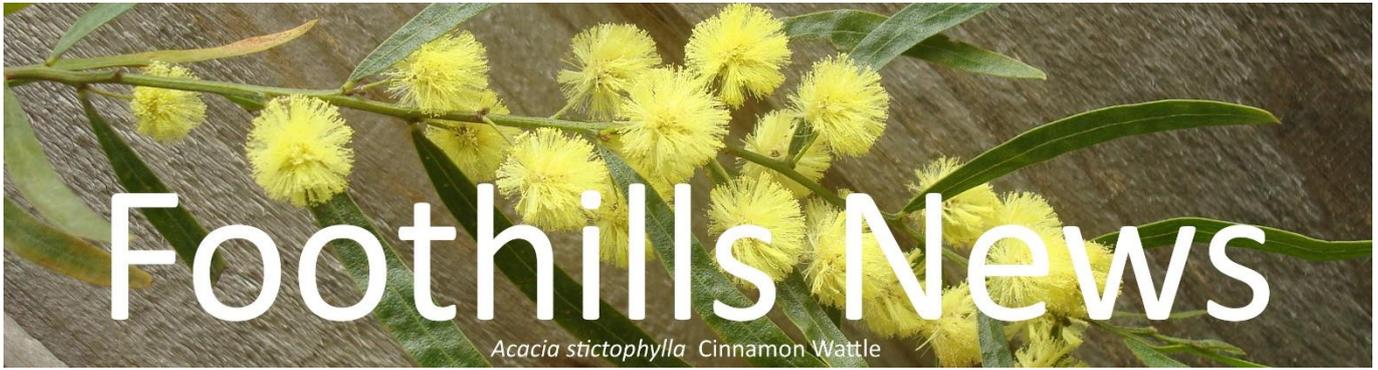
ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/apsoothills

VISITORS WELCOME!



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

June Newsletter 2021

DAY MEETING

June Meeting Cancelled

EVENING MEETING

Silo Art Trail - Jean Bellis;

Bushfire regeneration in East Gippsland - Shirley Smith

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

7.45pm



See Page 2 for details

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Another lockdown! I know it is frustrating and tedious but I also know you're a resilient and hardy group of plants (sorry, people!) so I know you'll cope with this as if it were just another small drought or cold snap, and come out the other side all enthusiastic and ready to sprout!

To thank you all for your loyalty and sticking with us through our numerous lockdowns over the past year, being so understanding with the uncertainty surrounding meetings, and embracing technology so that we could still meet via Zoom, we have arranged a little gift for you in the form of a voucher to be spent at Yarra View Nursery and Garden Centre in Mt Evelyn.

Chris has provided a more detailed explanation of how to redeem your voucher in this newsletter, and I hope that once this latest lockdown is over, you will enjoy spending your voucher and seeing what else the nursery has to offer.

We were lucky to be able to have our second in-person evening meeting for the year just the day before we went into our latest week-long lockdown. We had a lovely evening with Cathy Powers who shared her passions and enthusiasm about the Brisbane Ranges with us, and we rounded out the evening, moon-gazing to watch the lunar eclipse.

It was good to see many of you there, masked up and warmly dressed against our unheated venue as we're not using the reverse cycle heating units as they may contribute to the spread of the virus in confined spaces. Chris thought we looked like penguins, bundled up as we were in our winter woollies with our 'beaks' on, and Cathy commented that not so long ago, if we'd entered a bank masked up like this, we would have been refused entry by a burly security guard! I agreed with Paul too, that the masks had a definite side-benefit in that they certainly helped to

keep our faces warm while we watched the eclipse, as we had a crystal clear but good and chilly night for our viewing!

So, until we meet again, in person or via Zoom, keep warm, keep your chins up, and take care.

Janet Hodgkiss

Next Evening Meeting:

Silo Art Trail - Jean Bellis; Bushfire regeneration in East Gippsland - Shirley Smith

Janet Hodgkiss

A Thank You Gift for our 2020-2021 Members

Your Foothills Committee has decided to repay your loyal membership with a gift, and we are offering you a \$10 Gift Voucher to be spent at the Yarra View Nursery on York Road, Mount Evelyn.

This is partly in light of the fact that we did not have face-to-face meetings over the last Financial Year, which means the group did not pay for rent, although there were costs associated with running zoom meetings.

How to redeem your voucher:

* The voucher can be found at the end of the newsletter. It includes the address and opening times.

* Just print and cut it out, write your name on the top line, pop it in your wallet and hand it over when purchasing plants at the nursery.

* If you are not able to print the voucher, then discuss this with the person serving at the till because they do have a member list that should be ticked off as members take advantage of the offer.

* Please note there is **only one voucher per family** because whether you come to meetings on your own or with your partner, your membership for Foothills is the same, only varying according to whether you get the newsletter online or by post.

* The \$10 Gift Voucher offer is valid from the time you get your newsletter until the 30th September 2021.

About Yarra View Nursery and Garden Centre:

Some members may have made use of the opportunity in previous years to purchase plants at Bushland Nursery which was sold to Yarra View Nursery. The change of ownership goes back over a

year now but it seems that there is currently a real momentum for the changes at Yarra View Nursery.

I have been informed they have bought into Bushland's business model which means they will no longer be buying in plants - all plants for sale will be propagated by them.

My memory of Yarra View is a nursery that predominantly sold exotic plants but now it is almost exclusively Australian native plants.

They sell a range of 3"/8cm pots for \$3, 6"/15cm pots for \$10 (the value of the voucher), and then there are larger pots too - if you are up for digging a big hole. Just like Bushland, they also have 'remaindered' plants at a cheaper price, e.g., 6"/15cm pots for \$5.

Just a bit of background information on Yarra View Nursery. It is a 12 acre site providing supported employment for over 100 adults with a disability.

Plants are sold to both the wholesale trade and retailed through the nursery on York Road. The nursery produces around 1.5 million plants per year.

Yarra View Nursery is next to York on Lilydale with the entry a bit further down the road. Kuranga Nursery is not too much further along if you want to make a plant buying feast of a day, or take advantage of Kuranga's café.

The \$10 Gift Voucher offer is valid from the time you get your newsletter until the 30th September 2021, during a perfect time of year for getting plants settled in the ground before the heat of summer.

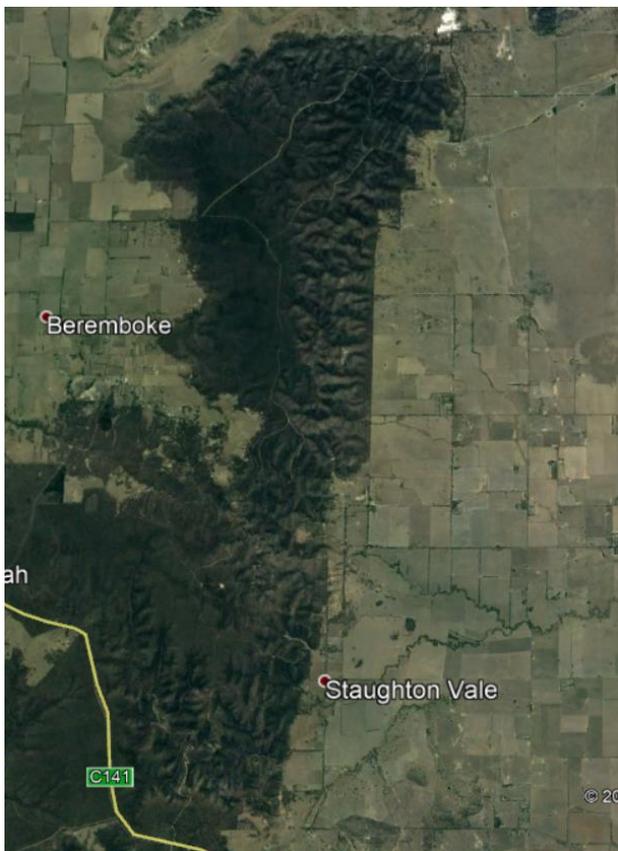
Chris Larkin (Treasurer)

Cathy Powers

Profiling the Brisbane Ranges

Cathy Powers shared her enthusiasm about the Brisbane Ranges, as well as her other passions and interests, with us at our last evening meeting. She introduced us to the Brisbane Ranges and covered its history, the diversity of the flora and fauna and the species of significance.

The Brisbane Ranges are due west of Melbourne and the dominant geological feature of the area is the Rowsley Fault. The Brisbane Ranges were formed when the land to the west of the fault was uplifted, forming the ranges and the plateau that extends to Ballarat. The land to the east of the Ranges, stretching to Melbourne, is flat volcanic plain and is clearly visible on satellite photos.



Brisbane Ranges to the west of the fault line and the flat plains to the east

(Google Earth screenshot: Janet Hodgkiss)

Cathy told us about her area and her garden which has little topsoil over deep sandstone and shale bedrock, and gardening for her is not so much digging holes in soil, as digging holes in rock! She says that fires, when they occur in this area, also burn deep and hot because of the rock.

There are seasonal changes in the vegetation, with the 'yellow' season occurring from June to August, with the yellow coming from the many Acacias that flower through winter, in particular *Acacia pycnantha*. Autumn and winter are good times to see, and look for, fungi in the Ranges and spring, as with most other places, is the best time for floral displays.

Over the past year Cathy has come to realise how important hobbies can be and says her interest in Citizen Science is well catered for by the biodiversity of the Brisbane Ranges.

She has Brushtail Phascogales on her property and is involved with the Brushtail Phascogale Project which aims to investigate the loss of suitable nesting hollows in trees and logs as a result of bushfires in the region, and to provide alternative nesting sites for these nocturnal marsupials.

The Significant Flora Project aims to gain a better understanding of species distribution in the Ranges.

This project looks at plant species that are endemic to the area such as *Grevillea steiglitziana*. Plants that are endemic but have disjunct populations, i.e., are separated by a significant distance, include *Leionema lamprophyllum* subsp. *obovatum* and *Grevillea chrysophea*. A locally rare species is *Pomaderris elliptica* var. *elliptica*, while *Prostanthera decussata* is unusual for the ranges. Other species that are endemic to the area include *Acacia aspera* subsp. *parviceps* and *Olearia minor*.



***Caleana major* Flying Duck Orchids**

(Photo supplied by Cathy Powers)

Orchids have been a passion for Cathy and she has photographed most of the more than 100 species of orchid found in the Brisbane Ranges. She has also recorded over 600 species of moths and says she has only just begun to discover the invertebrate populations. Cathy also deserves congratulations as her ongoing interest and volunteer contributions in the Entomological Department have been recognised with the title of Honorary Associate for Museums Victoria.

Cathy's interest in Citizen Science has led to her to being a serious contributor to iNaturalistAU, where she contributes not only her own observations and photographs but also offers identification of species known to her. She says these observations are ultimately migrated to the National database known as the Atlas of Living Australia, and plant images and observations can be automatically recorded to their area. She encourages people to contribute to iNaturalistAU, saying that all observations help build a picture of what we have, which in turn helps to

identify and protect vulnerable and threatened species.



Cathy Powers (Photo supplied by Cathy Powers)

Cathy touched on the things that fascinate her, such as the mimicry in moths that make them look like leaves, and the tiny Peacock Spider she spotted by chance.

She notes that there some sinister issues in the Brisbane ranges such as *Phytophthora cinnamoni* which affects grass trees particularly badly as it affects their root systems. Feral animals are also a problem, and she showed us a picture of a herd of goats walking up her driveway. She has wildlife cameras that allow her to capture some of the fauna on film, including the phascogales, koalas and echidnas, as well as the feral animals that visit, and says using her wildlife cameras means she can contribute to the protection of the park.

Cathy showed us more of the park, it's rugged outline and escarpments, and some of the paths through the Ranges. There are tracks and trails, with some easy walks and some slopes. It looks like a great place to explore and a more detailed map can be obtained from The Friends of Brisbane Ranges.

Cathy finished off by saying it's always worth it, when looking at a plant, to also look at what they provide to other inhabitants of the area, or for what they provide in terms of pollination.

Janet Hodgkiss

Growing Eremophila – a new book coming soon

The most recent publication on growing Eremophila from 2008, is now out of print. A new reference book is soon to be published, and contains an additional 83 Eremophila (58 species/subspecies and 25 undescribed species)

The objectives of the publication are to:

- * Raise awareness of Eremophila for its versatility in a changing garden environment
- * Highlight the diversity of the genus
- * Provide updated information to, and educate gardeners regarding growing Eremophila
- * Encourage the use of Eremophila as garden plants

If you'd like more information about the book, to register your interest, or purchase a copy, please contact Russell Wait at eremophilabook@gmail.com

GROWING Eremophila

New book coming soon.
This is a reference book with all Eremophila species, subspecies, hybrids and undescribed species currently in cultivation.

Email Russell Wait at:
eremophilabook@gmail.com
for registration of interest, orders and information

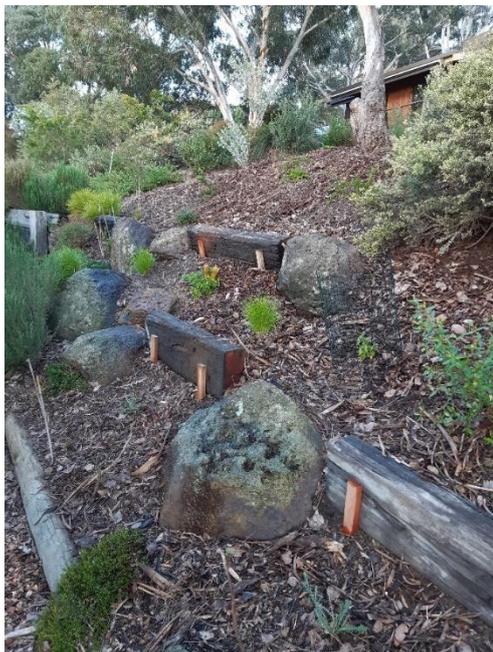
Renovating the Garden

I don't know about you but it seems to me I have to do a major revamp of a few sections of the garden each year.

Sometimes this is caused by the death of a plant but more often than not it is driven by other factors like the slow decline of a plant. There is no doubt that renewing a section of the garden is a temporary setback of sorts, as there is a return to the less appealing visual of more mulch than plant. But the rewards are generally only a couple of years away and if there is mature growth in the surrounding area, then this existing lushness will soften and distract from what is newly created.

I have several sections on the go this year. Believe it or not, the picture I have taken largely shows the space where one plant grew for probably around 24 years.

It was a very big grevillea indeed suffering some die-back. It had an arching habit with an exposed centre beloved of weeds and a tendency to continue its growth outwards and over a path. It was a beast. The other plant was a relatively small prostrate *Grevillea crithmifolia* which had died.



After removing these two plants the full extent of the size of the area could be fully appreciated. The severity of the slope could also be appreciated! In developing this garden one might say it had been under-rocked, but where to stop. There was no way I could deal with this area, getting plants to successfully grow without doing something to retain the soil and mulch. The soil was powdery dry and slippery, quite unmanageable and a wee bit dangerous to walk on, although walk on I must. Luckily, I had two largish

rocks and a few sleepers left over from replacing steps throughout the garden so I have put all of them to use. Not the prettiest solution with regards to sleepers but hopefully in time, plants will disguise and distract from what you currently see.

Replacing the two plants are fifteen young ones, many of them ground-covering to hold the slope. The plants used are: *Grevillea thelemanniana* (2), *Grevillea* 'New Blood' (2), *Grevillea juniperina* 'Gold Cluster', *Grevillea bedgoodiana*. Other plants used are *Lomandra confertifolia* 'Little Con' (2), *Astartea fascicularis*, *Leptospermum* 'Bubbles', *Banksia* 'Stumpy Gold', *Thomasia solanaceae x purpurea*, *Westringia rigida* 'Milky Way' (2), *Correa glabra* red flowering form. Oh, and I have also introduced slips of *Brachyscome angustifolia* in the most moist spots at the bottom of the slope. All I have left to do now is mulch the area after winter rains have had a chance to penetrate the soil.

In conclusion, I do think this area will provide much more interest in coming years. It is the time to warm up by getting physical - down and dirty.

Chris Larkin

Orchid Conservation Symposium

Join us for free, online talks on orchid ecology and threats by 18 speakers from Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong, UK and Germany from 12:30 to 5:15 PM EST on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

The aim of the Symposium is to increase awareness of the ecology and conservation of orchids amongst practitioners. It will also provide an opportunity to share the results of the project understanding the response of orchid populations to the 2019/20 fires, and identifying threats to orchid reproduction and survival.

Researchers, policy makers, practitioners and volunteers with an interest in orchids, conservation, ecology, threatened species, pollination, fungi, bushfires, and propagation are all encouraged to attend.

Keynote speakers:

Professor Steve Johnson, Research Chair, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Professor Rod Peakall, Professor in Evolutionary Biology, The Australian National University, ACT, Australia

To receive updates on the Orchid Conservation Symposium please [subscribe to the mailing list](#).

Registration is free but essential. Please book through trybooking, where you can also find the full program: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQUSD>

For further information, see our website: <https://www.anpc.asn.au/projects/preventing-extinction-in-bushfire-affected-orchids/>



Growing Australian report – for June 2021 COM meeting

The June 2021 issue of Growing Australian will be late getting to members due to delays in editing and layout (entirely due to the editor), and any loss of the printers' work time as a result of the late May COVID lockdown.

It is unlikely that members will receive the issue in the post before mid-June.

The electronic version will be added to the Members' area of the APS Vic website (This is anticipated to be in early June.) An email will be sent to all district group secretaries so that they can inform members.

The June issue is back to the usual 56 pages. It also includes the second Children's insert and a page of stickers. There are also three other inserts: book list, AGM elected positions nomination form and a membership form.

Additional articles were received from members after the request at the last COM meeting. Thanks to all those who did write and submit articles. However, more articles are required for each issue. I ask COM delegates to raise this matter with members of their district groups.

Lachland Garland

From the Secretary

A very warm welcome to Pawel Waryszak from Boronia. Pawel and his family have recently moved here from Western Australia. We look forward to meeting all of you soon.

Special birthday greetings go to Chris Larkin and Merele Webb who both turn a Magic O in June. We hope you have lovely birthday celebrations.

Day Meeting Tuesday 11 May 2021

On a very wet morning we had a room full of people to hear Chris Clarke talk on the 'Flora of the Australian Alps'. Chris has visited the High Country over two decades with the APS Keilor Plains Group and we were transported amongst others to Mt Buller, Falls Creek, Mount Buffalo, Mt Baw Baw and Mt Hotham. Chris commented on the sad decline of flora on the ski fields.

Chris specialises in macro photography and it was superb to see how intricate the patterns are of so much of our flora.

Highlights included *Craspedia* species, billy buttons, with distinctly grey foliage; an unusual daisy *Euchiton nitidulus*; the fascinating patterns on *Gentianella muellerina*; Alpine celery, *Aciphylla glacialis*, male and female flowers on separate plants and highly favoured by cattle; *Euphrasia eichleri*, Bogong Eyebright and a trigger plant, *Stylidium armeria* with a Macleay's Swallowtail.



***Stylidium armeria* with a Macleay's Swallowtail**
(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)



***Ewartia nubigina* Falls Creek**

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)



Snow Gums on rocks Mt. St Gwinear

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)



***Ptasophyllum alpestre* Falls Creek**

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)



***Thelymitra cyanea* Veined Sun Orchid Falls Creek**

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)



Painted lady on snow daisy

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)

Also, Sky Lilies which are not a lily and flower in January after the snow melts, *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae*. It is a mat plant of low lying places, Fairy aprons *Utricularia monanthos*, a bladderwort; There are eleven species of *Utricularia* and Chris wondered if any of our members are growing these. According to the Encyclopaedia several *Utricularia* are cultivated, mostly by carnivorous plant enthusiasts.

Exocarpos nanus, Alpine ballart found at the Ruined Castle, a dwarf plant which is hemiparasitic (mostly on roots of other plants);

Chris also mentioned two species of Mountain Pepper, *Tasmannia xerophila* and *T. lanceolata*.

A favourite was of a snow gum, *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. The snow gum has oily thick leaves which stop them freezing.



Bogong Eyebright Mt. Cole

(Photo supplied by Chris Clarke)

Chris suggested people check out iNaturalist.ala.org.au – it is a wonderful citizen science network which now has over 2.2 million observations which have been made by around 35,000 people - and that's just in Australia!

It was such a pleasure to revisit this spectacular area through Chris's extensive knowledge and excellent photography. Hopefully we will be able to head up to the High Country in 2022.

Nicky Zanen

Day Meetings

Just as the first week of the June total lockdown was called we decided not to risk holding the next day meeting on the 8 June in case the lockdown is continued or other restrictions placed on us. After such a lovely meeting in May when we could all get together it was really heartbreaking to call this one off. However, with positive thoughts our July meeting should go ahead when Chris Larkin will present a talk on Hakeas.

Chris is our treasurer so in addition to giving a talk she will be able to collect subscriptions in cash or cheque if you choose to pay this way rather than by direct payment into the Foothills bank account. If you intend paying in cash then please make sure you have the correct money in a sealed envelope along with your membership form. Cheques and membership forms should likewise be in a sealed envelope. You will find the membership form for the coming financial year in the July newsletter.

We look forward to catching up with all of you then.

Out and About

Well, suddenly from left field we are in another lockdown! How did this happen I ask, but I guess it is for our own good. Hopefully it lasts the one week originally promised. The positive side is we now have to stay at home and can pay more attention to the garden once again. This has sadly been lacking while I have been going here, there and everywhere. I planted out a couple of plants of *Ammobium alatum*, a daisy bush that intrigues me. The basal leaves have a distinct shape described as petiolate, narrow-lanceolate to spatulate. 'Alatum' means winged which describes the stem. We dug out a couple from Rose's garden in March and these have grown enough to put in the ground now. *Ammobium alatum* is a

monotypic genus and is found in NSW and Queensland, and in Victoria near the Snowy River. It is fabulous to see new plantings of banksias in the median strip near Lilydale Lake by the Yarra Ranges. I thought they looked like 'Birthday Candles' which are *Banksia spinulosa* but maybe these are *Banksia ericifolia*. It will be interesting to see how these grow. I have a banksia in front of my lounge window which is continually being visited by a Noisy Miner. Sadly, neither the Red Wattle Birds nor Eastern Spinebills venture into this area, but I do see them in the back garden which has more shrubbery.

Nicky Zanen



Scleranthus biflorus (Photo supplied by Nicky Zanen)

Focus on Plants

This is the time of year when quite a range of plants are in flower – correas, hakeas, croweas – to name a few, and of course banksias. Over the years I have found that many dwarf forms of *spinulosa* do not stay that small, especially if they are planted in favourable conditions.

***Banksia spinulosa* 'Coastal Cushion'** however does. The plant in the picture would be quite a few years old now and probably around 30cm tall. It has a spreading habit rather than reaching for the sky and it has conveniently cascaded down beside the rock it is planted behind. As you can see the flower, particularly eye-catching when back-lit by the sun, is very attractive with bright red styles. Recently I decided to plant another one 12 meters or so from the one pictured and was lucky enough to pick up a really large potted plant in prime condition at Yarra View Nursery for \$12.



***Banksia spinulosa* 'Coastal Cushion'** has a low, spreading habit (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Correa reflexa* 'Jetty Red'** is one of my favourites for a couple of reasons. It is a small plant of around 80cm tall by 50 cm wide. I love the colour of the flowers which are so well displayed in this plant because it has a somewhat open habit. I would have liked to take a picture of a more mature plant in the garden because I do have around half a dozen but they are obviously loved by the birds so almost all flowers had been knocked off. The plant in the picture has just gone into the ground. I bought it a couple of weeks back, once again at Yarra View Nursery, for \$10.

Chris Larkin



***Banksia spinulosa* 'Coastal Cushion'** showing the bright red styles (Photo: Chris Larkin)

So many correas grow to be a massive size, like for instance *Correa glabra*, green or red form, *Correa 'Hairy'*, *calycina* or *Correa baeuerlenii*. Even many of the more prostrate forms grow large with dense foliage. I am trying not to use the word 'blob' for in the right spot they are useful but in the average size garden there are more spots to fit in a small plant.

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

PO Box 65
BORONIA 3155

ENQUIRIES

Email: 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: 2nd Tuesday of the month except Nov, Dec, Jan.
Time: 10.30am
Enquiries: Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

EVENING Meeting

Venue: Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Rd, Knoxfield. (Melway 73 C3)
Date: 4th Wednesday of the month, except Dec, Jan.
Time: 7.45pm

VISITORS WELCOME!



DAY MEETING

Chris Larkin – Hakeas

Tuesday 13th July 2021

Venue: Field Naturalists Hall

EVENING MEETING

AGM and Quiz

Wednesday 28th July 2021

7.45pm

Venue: Knox Park PS

**Membership Renewal Form
Attached to this Newsletter**

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Hope you're all keeping warm and safe!

Our June evening meeting couldn't be face-to-face as we hoped due to our snap lockdown but it worked out well because we are Zoom whizzes by now. We had two lovely presentations to whet our appetites for when we can roam a bit more freely again – see my report in this newsletter.

Our July evening meeting is our AGM and Quiz night. I am keeping fingers crossed that another Greek alphabet variant hasn't reared its head by then, so that we can hold this meeting in person. At this stage things are looking good, but keep an eye out for any notifications we send you. Its also a good time of year for things to start flowering, so although we may not have supper, we will aim to have a specimen table as it will be good to see what's flowering in your patch.

Our AGM is also the time of year when a new committee is chosen. Please consider volunteering for one of the roles on the committee, or even as ordinary member. It helps spread the load, and new committee members help keep our group fresh and vibrant with the new ideas they bring. We could really do with some more help on the committee please, so I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

I work fulltime, so am not readily available during the day, so if you are interested and keen to join the committee, please drop me a line along with your phone number on foothills@apsvic.org.au and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

This newsletter also comes with a reminder that your membership renewal is now due. The renewal form, and some helpful information about filling it in has been included as an email attachment to this newsletter, or will be enclosed in your envelope if you receive a print copy. Please see Chris Larkin's message in this newsletter about filling in your form and paying your membership.

If you haven't already been to Yarra View nursery, don't forget about the gift voucher for you that was in the last issue of the newsletter. Some members have already made use of it (and got tempted with other plants too!) and have been pleased with what was available. You have until the end of September to redeem your voucher.

Looking forward to seeing you at our July evening meeting.

Janet Hodgkiss

Next Day Meeting

All being well we will have our next meeting in person at the Field Naturalists Hall in Blackburn on Tuesday 13th June. I am so looking forward to Chris Larkin's talk on Hakeas. It always amazes me how diverse the flowers of Hakeas are, in all their different shapes and colours, and fascinating seed pod construction. There will be plants for sale as well.

And while Chris is attending on Tuesday, she will be able to collect our membership renewals.

While we are still in 'Covid times', the rules included in our March newsletter still apply. As a reminder, the kitchen is out of bounds so there is no welcoming cup of tea or coffee. Members can bring a thermos and their own cups with them.

The room needs to be well ventilated so the heaters are turned on while we set up, but once the meeting commences, they are turned off. Please bring warm clothing if it is a cold day, but there will be a couple of extra blankets and shawls in case people get cold.

Face masks are required indoors unless an exception applies.

Using the Covid App to log in is compulsory. If you haven't got the App on your phone, Nicky will use her phone.

To avoid being crowded in one area we are not using nametags for the time being. We look forward to seeing you all there in person!

Nicky Zanen

A Word from your Treasurer

Membership Renewal:

In this issue of the newsletter, or as an email attachment, you will find a membership renewal form for the 2021-2022 financial year, as well as some information to assist you.

It is important that members renew as soon as possible so money can be remitted to APS Vic in a timely manner, to avoid anyone missing out on the September issue of APS Vic's newsletter 'Growing Australian'.

There are a number of options for making payments, including paying me, Chris Larkin, at the next day and evening meetings in cash (exact money) or cheque, along with your membership form, in a sealed envelope.

Thankfully, we did not have any reduction in our membership numbers last year due to Covid, but in fact had a slight increase.

Gift Voucher:

I hope members have remembered to visit Yarra View nursery to take advantage of the \$10 gift voucher, which is a return-of-money goodwill gesture, due to us not being able to meet face-to-face for most of the last financial year. You still have plenty of time to redeem the voucher, with the offer expiring at the end of September 2021.

Chris Larkin

Item of Interest – From Open Gardens Victoria newsletter dated 22/6/2021

The South Melbourne BEE Gardens are Australia's first public gardens dedicated to fostering honeybee and native bee populations. OGV supported the BEE Gardens with a grant of \$9,800 through our Giving Program. The funds were used to establish additional BEE gardens in South Melbourne, Microbat Boxes, a native bee booklet and various other gardening hard costs.

The BEE Gardens are the largest expression of The Heart Gardening Project (THGP), whose purpose is to heal humankind by creating biodiversity in our cities. THGP has so far created, or helped create, 27 street gardens and planted over 1000 plants.

As well as the exciting buzz of honeybees and three types of native bees populating The BEE Gardens, these garden beds have also attracted many species of butterflies, hover flies, beetles of all shapes and sizes, katydids, praying mantis, flies, spiders, moths, dragonflies, wasps, damselflies, leafhoppers, ants and the list goes on and on!

In addition to insects, skinks have been sighted and more and more native birds are coming to drink from the birdbaths.

Open Gardens Victoria

June Evening Meeting

For our June evening meeting we had two shorter presentations, one by Jean Bellis and the other by Shirley Smith, and both of them took us on adventuring in country Victoria.

As our lockdowns have meant that many of us are unable to travel, it was simply lovely that those who have managed to get out and do some travelling in between lockdowns, were happy to share those travels with us.



Silos at Colbinabbin (Photo: Jean Bellis)

Silo Art - Jean Bellis

Jean and Peter went exploring the Silo Art trail in Victoria and Jean's photos had us absolutely mesmerised. The pictures here are just a small taste of the many spectacular art works they saw.

Silos, as well as water tanks, depict native flora and fauna, while others showcase country life, notable people, or the history of the area.

The silos at Colbinabbin, painted by Tim Bowtell, highlight the significance of the railway in the Colbinabbin district, and at Goorambat, the silo art complex includes paintings of a Barking Owl (considered to be endangered), and a magnificent tribute to three Clydesdale horses Clem, Sam and Banjo. They were all done by Jimmy DVate.



Water tank at Venus Bay (Photo: Jean Bellis)

It is not only silos that form part of the silo art trail but water tanks and water towers too. Jean showed us pictures of water tank art at Winton and the one here at Venus Bay that depicts local flora and birdlife.



Clydesdale horses at Goorambat (Photo: Jean Bellis)

If you missed Jean's presentation, then you can find more information about the countrywide silo art trails here:

<https://www.australiansiloarttrail.com/siloart>

The creators of the website say their aim is "to help bring visitors to towns in regional Australia, to encourage people to travel to places they have never heard of before and most importantly to help support our struggling drought affected communities as well."

I've only seen the ones at Rochester, but going by the truly awe-inspiring photos that Jean showed us, I am now really very keen to do much more exploring when we are freer to travel without the constant threat of snap lockdowns... and the risk of losing money on accommodation bookings.

Bushfire regeneration in East Gippsland: A visit to Mallacoota and Orbost - Shirley Smith

Shirley has missed several of our meetings this year but that's because she's made good use of every opportunity to travel in between lockdowns. She was in East Gippsland in April visiting Mallacoota and Orbost and shared some of her photos with us. Her pictures were very interesting as they showed the regeneration of the bush after the devastating bushfires of summer 2020.



Mallacoota Inlet with burnt bush in the foreground.



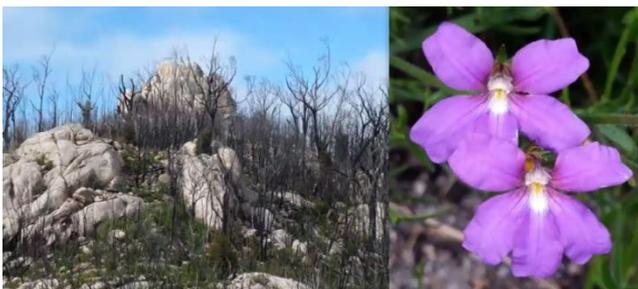
Burnt trees and bush with new growth. This was a common scene in the area.



Huge patches of *Kennedia prostrata*.



Banksia cones split open with the heat of the fire and release their seeds.



Scaevola lined both sides of the path on a walk up Genoa Peak.



Old Xanthorrhoea flower spikes at Cape Conran. This field of them must have looked spectacular when they came up after the fire.



Extensive patch of *Epacris* near Buchan.



Wattle seedlings sprout up *en masse* after a fire near Buchan. They are excellent as primary colonisers and nitrogen fixers!

(Above Photos: Shirley Smith)

Report by Janet Hodgkiss

Day Meeting, 13th July:

Chris Larkin - Hakeas

The talk I will give on the genus *Hakea* really focuses on the ones I have grown, are still growing or have attempted to grow in my garden. It is the perfect time of year to tackle this topic because so many hakeas are currently in flower. This means I will be able to bring along some specimens for people to examine up close. If you are growing any hakeas then please bring along what you have to add to the collection.

To whet your appetite, I have taken a couple of pictures of two very different hakeas currently in flower in the garden. The close-up picture is of *Hakea orthorrhyncha*, the bird-beak hakea. This amazing and showy hakea's flowers spring from the leaf nodes or old wood. Back-lit by the sun the otherwise naked branches glow fire red. You can see the slightly open bird-beak seed capsule in the picture.



Bird-beak seed capsule of *Hakea orthorrhyncha*
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

To be honest I find many of the hakeas have this same shape seed capsule so I'm not sure I could use this feature to identify the plant. *H. orthorrhyncha* is lignotuberous with broom-like foliage, and since I am growing it on a strong slope, I can only assume it takes very dry conditions.

The second landscape picture is of a grafted *Hakea bucculenta*, red pokers, or at least this is what I was told when I bought it many years ago from Phillip Vaughan. More on that later when I give the talk. This

hakea is planted down the hill from the house quite deliberately so I can enjoy its flowers which appear, mainly held aloft, at the top of the plant. Lucky for me it is extremely long flowering so the pleasure is mine over many months.



If you are looking for a book on hakeas then I can heartily recommend Ivan Holliday's 'Hakeas: a field and garden guide', although I don't know its availability, with my copy being a reprint in 2009. Look forward to seeing you in person with a bit of luck, to tuck into this topic.

Chris Larkin

Out and About

Well, this last month really threw a wobbly at Melbourne. The destruction of so many beautiful trees has been devastating. In my little patch I only lost a limb off a *Viminaria juncea*, but other members weren't let off so easily. Rose from Monbulk sent me a photo taken in her back garden, and wrote "the bushland at school (Monbulk Secondary College) was hit really hard, 30 odd big gums down, broke my heart to see it and many other trees leaning". It has been really difficult.

Karwarra Gardens too were heavily impacted. It looks as if they will be closed for some time.

I was on my way to pick up a friend in Montrose when I passed a clean-up operation. The gang were using a backhoe type machine with massive clamps with which they picked up a whole lot of branches in one go, which were then pushed into the mulcher. Not

much manpower being used, but very effective in removing a lot of greenery quickly. I hope you can see the clamps in the photograph; I'll share the video next time we have a members' night.



Clean-up operation Montrose (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Has everyone had a chance to use their \$10 voucher at Yarra View nursery? I went there on Saturday and bought a *Backhousia citriodora* for my yoga teacher. We had a small gathering at her place and I'd brought some leaves, and Alison used them to make tea for everyone. This was a real hit.

A couple of leaves in a pot of water does the trick. I also use lemon myrtle by chopping leaves very fine and sprinkling a small amount on a fruit salad, and sometimes put leaves in stews as I would bay leaves which adds a twist of lemon to the dish. At Kuranga they use lemon myrtle in their scones, also very nice. While I was at Yarra View nursery, my eye was drawn to labels that looked like South African proteas, but on closer inspection I saw these were for (*Banksia*) 'Birthday Candles'. Produced by Proteaflora, is it any wonder with this kind of marketing that Australians can't tell proteas from Australian Proteaceae? Most infuriating.

Finishing on a positive note, the Knox City Council have published a 'Nature Discovery Passport' to encourage residents to explore the top 50 reserves throughout Knox. The Knox Photographic Society took the photographs featured, and the parks are defined as good for wildlife watching, wildflower spotting, walking paths, children's playspace, toilets and bbqs etc. Several parks I haven't come across before are included so now I have a good guide for exploration. I'll bring these books to our next meeting.

Nicky Zanen



***Banksia* 'Birthday Candles'. Label, produced by Proteaflora** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



Kennedia, Gasterolobium or Templetonia?

(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

I think it is a *Templetonia retusa*, but wonder why it was in full flower in the middle of June. It's been in the ground amongst the eucalypts for 3 or 4 years and this is the first time it has flowered. Spectacular for winter colour!

Frog Pond – Free to a Good Home!

Want to attract more wildlife to your garden? Well, here's your chance!

Shirley Smith has been renovating her garden and doesn't need her pre-formed frog pond anymore.

It is free to a good home, so if you are interested, please contact Shirley.

The dimensions of the pond are:

Length: 1m

Width: approx. 70cm at widest point

Depth: approx. 40cm at deepest point, and 20cm at the shallow end.



Now that you've got your frog pond, or are planning on getting one, here are some placement and design considerations:

Site your pond where it gets some shade and some sun during the day (about 70% shade and 30% sun is what most of the literature says). Plants can be used to provide shade but the pond does need sun to allow algae to grow which provides food for the tadpoles, although too much algae can be detrimental to water quality.

Place some rocks, branches and water-plants both in and outside the pond, to provide places for frogs to hop, rest, and hide and to provide substrates for algal growth.

Create places around the pond edge where frogs can hide using leaf mulch, groundcovers and strappy leaf plants.

Let frogs arrive at your garden pond on their own. Ribbit! Ribbit!

Make your pond safe: Check your local council water safety requirements/risk management for children. Locate your frog pond where it isn't readily accessible to children, or you may like to consider fencing off the pond or covering it with sturdy wire mesh.

Plants for the intermediate and deeper water: Marsh Flower (*Villarsia exaltata*), Water Snowflake (*Nymphoides* sp.), and Water Ribbons (*Triglochin procerum*, *T. microtuberosum*, *T. striata*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*), Jointed Twig-rush (*Baumea articulata*).

Plants for shallow water or boggy areas: Tussock Sedges (*Carex* sp.), Sedges (*Cyperus* sp.), Knobbly Club Rush (*Ficinia nodosa*), Jointed and Common Rush (*Juncus* sp.) and Nardoo (*Marsilea* sp.).

Plants for the edges: Native Violet (*Viola hederacea*), Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), *Dianella* sp., Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Wallaby Grass (*Austrodanthonia* spp.), Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), and Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Dwarf Baeckea (*Baeckea* sp.) and assorted Grevilleas and Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.) to attract insects that frogs love to eat.

Janet Hodgkiss

Wind in the Wattles

Hopefully most APS friends did not receive too much damage to their properties by the recent brutal wind storms. Normally, on the western side of the hills we would receive SW winds that cause some falling trees but not this time.

Several larger shrubs had rolled out of the ground as well as a few smaller ones. A large *Thomasia solanaceae*, (resembling the genus *Solanum*) which was in need of strong pruning anyway, lay on the ground and a 4-5m *Hakea laurina*, (Pin-Cushion Hakea), fell on the power lines where Rolf was able to winch it off. (no point waiting for SP AusNet with the demands on them) Again, a tall, slim *Lambertia orbifolia* (Round-leaf Honeysuckle) due for a severe clip, landed over the road. Sadly, it was an excellent bird-attractor and is also listed as endangered in WA.

However, all in all, damage was minimal for us.

Our young ones in Kalorama were not so lucky. Their tiny house was clobbered by a tree falling up the hill (because of the SE winds) but we can be extremely grateful that it was not on the end that they were sleeping in. Needless to say, there has been a great deal of chain sawing, clipping of foliage, and enormous amount of cleaning up by a terrific group of friends, work mates and relatives who all rallied around. Our son and family are now in their emergency accommodation.

Sometimes, when you lose shrubs for whatever reason, there are always positives. Overgrown, dying, looking poorly or now too big for the spot, gives you an excuse to replant. In this case, it saved me the hesitation; the final decision was made for me. It now looks better and I've been on a shopping spree at Yarra View (with the kind voucher) and at Kuranga.

The only negative here is that an open space means the deer soon discover that it's fun to have a romp about but it's pointless worrying about minor annoyances.

Here, all the banksias are looking magnificent and the many pink, red and white epacris dotted about look bright among the green. The 5m *Acacia podalyriifolia* (Mt Morgan Wattle or Queensland Silver Wattle), is a picture with its silver-grey foliage/phyllodes and fluffy, golden-yellow racemes on the ends of branches. It has been very useful when I needed large branches to decorate a space for someone. The globular flowers do lose their freshness but look bright and cheery anyway for a long time.

Acacia covenyi, (Blue Bush, among other names such as 'Tablelands Blue') is another huge wattle from NSW, about to burst into flower here. The height

given is 2-10m x 2-6m. Ours is at least 6m x 5-6m and impressive when its globular 1cm bright yellow flowers light up the landscape.

Acacia alata (Winged Wattle) has been flowering for a long time and *A. becklerii* (Barrier Range Wattle) a favourite of mine with its huge, globular flowers, has also finished. But there are more to come.

I'm sure you agree, winter is a wonderful time in the garden!

Monika Herrmann

Information about Renewing your Membership 2021/22

We would love you to join us again this financial year, when we hope to meet more often face-to-face, although there have been some great presentations via Zoom.

Below is some information to guide you in joining, or renewing, with the Foothills group.

Some background information

- To be a member of Foothills, you must be a member of the parent body – Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc (APS Vic).
- It is possible and preferable to renew your financial membership of both APS Vic and Foothills when paying your Foothills membership. Your APS Vic membership fee will be forwarded by us to APS Vic.
- If you renewed your APS Vic membership directly with APS Vic, or via another branch, there is a box to tick on our form to show us who you renewed your APS Vic through. In this case, you will then only need to renew your Foothills membership.

The price of membership renewal

- APS Vic membership fees have not increased this financial year.
- Foothills membership fees remain the same, and have not increased since 2015. We encourage you to receive your newsletter electronically. It is cheaper, saves on the work involved in posting out and you get to see the newsletter in glorious colour.
- It is possible to pay for the quarterly national newsletter called 'Australian Plants'. This is optional.

When to pay and providing your details

- **Please pay promptly, preferably by the end of July.**
- No matter how you choose to pay your renewal, please complete **the MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM** and include it with your payment if paying directly to the treasurer or by post. If paying by electronic transfer, or directly at the bank, post or email the form to celarkin@bigpond.com.au

Ways to pay memberships

1. By Electronic Transfer. Please include your surname and initials as reference and/or membership no.

Account Name: Aust. Plants Society (Foothills) Inc BSB no. 633-000 (Bendigo Bank), Account No. 1163 99387
Then scan and email your completed membership form, and the date, amount banked and reference, to Chris Larkin at celarkin@bigpond.com, or email your confirming details (name, address, phone number, email address) and the date, amount banked and reference, to Chris Larkin at celarkin@bigpond.com

2. Make a deposit at any Bendigo Bank branch using the bank account number above. No charge will be made at a Bendigo Bank branch. Deposits can be made at other banks, but a fee may be charged. Then email Chris with your details as above.

3. Pay at the July meetings with cash or cheque. The Treasurer will attend the daytime meeting on 13th July, and the evening meeting AGM on 28th July to accept payments.
Please give your money, and completed membership form, in a sealed envelope to Chris Larkin, the treasurer.

4. By Post. Post your completed membership form and cheque (made payable to APS Foothills Inc.), to APS Foothills, PO Box 65, Boronia, 3155.

Any Questions? Call Chris Larkin on 9752 7837 or email celarkin@bigpond.com



APS Foothills Membership 2021/22

MEMBERS SHOULD COMPLETE THE RENEWAL FORM EACH YEAR,
TO HELP US KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP-TO-DATE.

RENEWAL/NEW SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Note: This is a combined membership form for both APS Victoria and the APS Foothills Group.

If you complete this form, please disregard any APS Membership Form that was sent out to you with your APS Victoria "Growing Australian" magazine in June.

Your details and the appropriate payment will be forwarded to APS Victoria by Foothills.

I wish to renew my membership or join APS Foothills for the first time.

Title/s _____ First name/s _____

Surname/s _____

No. and Street/Road _____

Suburb/Town _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email address _____

I agree to be bound by the
Rules and Bylaws of the association. Signature _____

Membership of APS Victoria

Please tick the appropriate box below. If you have renewed your APS Vic membership via another group, please write down which group in the appropriate space. Membership includes one copy of the 'Growing Australian' newsletter each quarter.

- | | |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single membership | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household membership | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership | \$26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a Life Member of APS Victoria | \$0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have renewed my APS Vic membership directly with APS Vic | \$0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have renewed my APS Vic membership via this group: _____ | \$0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OPTIONAL: 'Australian Plants' publication of ANPSA delivered with 'Growing Australian' | \$15 |

SUB TOTAL (APS Vic Inc.)

Please **ADD** membership of APS Foothills Group Inc.

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single/Family/Household - electronic newsletter | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single/Family/Household - posted newsletter | \$30 |

COMBINED TOTAL

Please make Cheque/Money Order payable to: "APS Foothills Inc." and mail it to PO Box 65, Boronia, 3155.
Or direct deposit or EFT to Australian Plants Society Foothills. BSB 633 000 (Bendigo Bank). Account 1163 99387. Use your surname as the reference. Then email this form or the date, amount banked and reference, and your confirming details (name, address, phone number, email address) to Chris Larkin at celarkin@bigpond.com

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

PO Box 65
BORONIA 3155

ENQUIRIES

Email: 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: 2nd Tuesday of the month except Nov, Dec, Jan.

Time: 10.30am

Enquiries: Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

EVENING Meeting

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

Date: 4th Wednesday of the month, except Dec, Jan.

Time: 7.45pm

VISITORS WELCOME!