



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**

**OCTOBER**

-

**NOVEMBER**

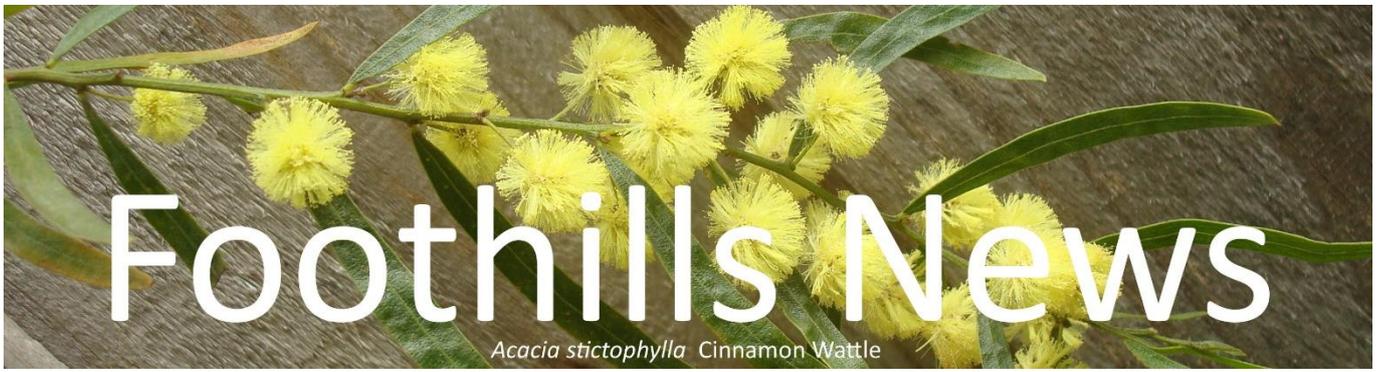
### **ENQUIRIES**

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

### **FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE**

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

**VISITORS WELCOME!**



## DAY MEETING

**John Harris – Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests – The Lesser-Known States**

**Tuesday 12th October 2021**

**Zoom Meeting 10.30 am**

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## EVENING MEETING

**Bill Aitchison - Daviesia**

**Wednesday 27th October 2021**

**Zoom Meeting 8.00pm**

## Foothills Facebook Page

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

## Hi Everyone,

I'm pleased to say we've had some really good Zoom meetings recently. Both the Day and Evening meetings in September were well-attended member's meetings, and going by the level of participation, everyone enjoyed them too.

We will continue with Zoom meetings until we can meet in person again. We have backup options should a planned speaker not be comfortable presenting via Zoom, so our meetings will continue to be as varied as we can manage. I'd like to thank Chris Larkin in particular, for her input, ideas and suggestions with meeting topics, especially when we've had to change meeting plans suddenly.

Zoom is not always an easy format to work with, and her ideas have worked well. Thanks Chris!

Many spring plant sales and events have had to be cancelled due to the lockdown restrictions but many organisers have arranged online events instead.

I've enjoyed the online Angair Nature Show where they've been adding new content, and will continue to do so until the end of October. Visit their website at <https://angairnatureshow.org.au/> if you want to do some virtual exploring, and have some fun trying their online puzzles.

The Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2021 was also interesting, and all done online too. If you missed the sessions, you can get more information and view the recordings of the presentations via their website:

[https://www.swift.net.au/cb\\_pages/wimmera\\_biodiversity\\_seminar\\_2021.php](https://www.swift.net.au/cb_pages/wimmera_biodiversity_seminar_2021.php)

We've missed being able to look through Liz Trigg's plants at our meetings, but you'll find a list of plants she has for sale, including photographs and the quantities she has available, attached to this newsletter. Her plants are \$2 each and orchids are \$5. You'll find her contact details on the plant list.

If you missed being able to go to the annual APS Yarra Yarra Plant Expo, their online plant sale runs until 10<sup>th</sup> October. Their order forms are at:

<https://apsyarrayarra.org.au/australian-plants-expo/>

I'm looking forward to our next evening meeting, when we'll have Bill Aitchison presenting a talk on the genus *Daviesia*. As we still won't be able to meet in person by then, Bill has said he is happy to give his talk Zoom, which I am sure that will not detract in any way from what promises to be a very interesting talk. It will tie in nicely with next year's FJC Rogers Seminar too, which focuses on the plant subfamily Faboideae and is entitled Fabulous Peas. For more information and to register an expression of interest for the Seminar, please visit their website:

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

Lastly, just wanted to say "Hang in there everyone, you're all doing great!" because you are!

Enjoy this newsletter and see you all next time.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Next Day Meeting - by Zoom Tuesday 12th October 2021

### John Harris on "Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests - The Lesser-Known States"

Recently I attended a Zoom meeting when John Harris transported us on a whistle stop tour of the Rainforests of Australia.

We are possibly coming to the end of Covid restrictions, and can now dream about future explorations. To that end I've invited John to speak to us about the different rainforests which include those close by in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, the NT and Western Australia.

John is co-author of a new book "Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests – A State By State Guide". His presentation will focus on the birds and different vegetation types found in Victorian and WA rainforests, the two states with the least amount of rainforest (apart from SA that has none) across Australia, and the trials and tribulations of trying to finalise the text and photos during a global pandemic

I hope you can join us at our last Zoom day meeting for the year when John Harris, a passionate environmentalist and naturalist, past president of Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, is our guest speaker.

**Nicky Zanen** - Phone 040 1975 191

## Last Day Meeting - 14 September 2021

### Member's slides challenge: What provides me with much pleasure.

First off, Deb was torn between wanting to get her camera to capture an Eastern Rosella walking across her grass picking up little bits and pieces, or staying on our Zoom meeting.

**Carole & Meyer** Carol started off saying *Epacris* have been beautiful this year. She is working on a collection of *Tetradthea*, pink and white, as they flower all year round. They've lost a couple of trees recently and more trees are being cut next week.



**Carole with her *Tetradtheas***

**Deb** has an uncommon white form of *Indigofera australis* which was grown from seed by a friend. The white form isn't as vigorous as the pink form. She prunes them otherwise they get too leggy. Brian Freeman gave Deb a number of spent cones of *Banksia leptophylla* but she couldn't get the seeds out. The cones opened for a while in a fire, and then closed again. She carefully opened them with pliers and threw the chaff into the garden bin only to realize that she had just thrown out all the seeds. She retrieved several seeds, and with the help from Liesbeth on the other side of the world, has succeeded in growing these.

Deb also shared the story of her grafted *Grevillea tenuiloba*, from Brian Weir in Wallan, recovering after having decking paint spilt on it accidentally.



***Indigofera australis* White form**

(Photo: Deb McMillan)



***Banksia leptophylla*** (Photo: Deb McMillan)



***Grevillea tenuiloba* Grafted Standard**

(Photo: Deb McMillan)

Every year **Chris** renews parts of her garden, and has many challenges ahead with vast cleared areas that need redesigning. She shared many of these with us, especially the steep slopes she has to cope with and some of the options open to her, including trying to build a stonewall. She finds pine flakes effective as a mulch on slopes.



**Cleared and mulched area in Chris' garden**

**Richard and Robin** shared a plant affected recently by plumbers, *Leptospermum* 'Pink Cascade'. They have a Qualup Bell, *Pimelea physodes*, growing in their front garden which is well loved by passersby. Richard asked about an App to identify Australian natives. Most packages he has seen cover European plants. Deb suggested the Facebook site, Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts, where participants will identify plants. There are nearly 60,000 people members in the group. PlantSnap, iNaturalist, Google Lens are other apps.



***Leptospermum* 'Pink Cascade' and plumbing**

**Bev** showed us how to easily identify a couple of hoveas.

- Hovea longifolia* – narrow leaves and quite long.
- Hovea acutifolia* – means it is pointed at both ends.
- Hovea elliptica* – the shape of the leaves.
- Hovea lanceolata* – leaves look a little crinkled and the edges just curl up slightly.



**Hoveas** (Photo: Bev Fox)

**Monika** showed us a *Spyridium phlebophyllum* which was expected to be a ground cover but grows upright and flowers most of the year. The bracts light up the shady areas.



***Spyridium phlebophyllum***  
(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

**Nicky** shared a *Daviesia latifolia* found during one of her walks in local nature reserves.

During the meeting I also shared that my birdbaths provide me with a huge amount of pleasure. While I'm writing up this meeting, I can hear a lot of splashing going on outside, and a bit of singing. The Magpie is thoroughly enjoying his bath.



***Daviesia latifolia*** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

**Ross McDonald** has a lot of hoveas growing, and realizes he should have started making a map of where every plant is years ago. Ross has lost a lot of Hovea seedlings and Maureen suggests putting several into one pot. Bev warned to be mindful of overwatering; to shove them under a bush and forget about them, and to be wary of wet potting mixes.



***Hovea lanceolata*, with crinkled leaves**  
(Photo: Ross McDonald)



***Grevillea quercifolia*** (Photo: Ross McDonald)

Ross finished with a flower of a grafted *Grevillea quercifolia* from Richard Tonkin in Bundaberg, Queensland. It has only been in a few months, has three or four flower stalks on it and is just about to come into flower. He has lost several grafted grevilleas, but continues to persist. As he said, "Keep going, don't give up."

A lovely meeting with a lot of input from all the members present.

Thank you all.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Articles for Growing Australian required please!

Lachlan Garland, the Growing Australian newsletter editor has asked us to please forward the following to our members.

He says "For too long there has been an article 'drought'. Hopefully this call-out may inspire more members to put pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard.

It is again time to write and send in contributions for the December issue of Growing Australian.

Articles, shorter items and gardening tips about native plants are needed to ensure Growing Australian is an enjoyable and informative newsletter.

The slightly flexible **deadline is Monday 25 October** (sooner is better).

All members are encouraged to write. I assure you it is painless!

If sending photos please ensure they are high-quality JPEGs of a reasonable size (about 500kb–1MB file), and not embedded in Word documents."

**Submissions can be sent to:**  
[newsletter@apsvic.org.au](mailto:newsletter@apsvic.org.au).

## Four common Hoveas - how to tell the difference.

Here is Bev Fox's cut-out-and-keep guide on how to identify four of the most common Hoveas.



*Hovea acutifolia* - tapering points at both ends.



*Hovea lanceolata* - crinkled and have ridged edges.



*Hovea elliptica* -- elliptical and tapering at both ends



***Hovea longifolia*** - linear, both sides are parallel, rounded points.

## September evening meeting:

### Plants for Dry Shade

This was a member's meeting where Chris Larkin started us off by giving a presentation on plants for dry shade. We then had a good discussion with members showing pictures of plants, and telling us about plants they have growing in dry shade. Janet started off by providing an outline on what types of shade there are.

#### Types of Shade

Shade is based on the amount of time without sun, along with the density of the shade, and it may change with the season, time of day and canopy composition.

**Deep or dense shade:** Direct sunlight seldom, if ever, reaches the ground. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs, or manmade structures such as walls or building overhangs (eaves, covered verandas, balconies) block out the sun and create dark, solid shade.

**Full shade:** Doesn't necessarily mean no sun. Similar to deep shade but can change to light shade depending on the season or time of day. Plants may get less than an hour of direct sun, but may get filtered/dapple light during parts of the day.



***Correa reflexa* var. *nummularifolia* thriving in full shade** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

**Light shade or dappled shade:** Is the most ideal place to grow shade-loving plants and found under taller trees and open shrubs. Filtered sunlight is received throughout the day.

**Partial shade/semi-shade or partial sun:** Plants get only a few hours direct sun for only part of the day, and are shaded for at least half the day. The terms are interchangeable but there is a slight difference. Plants requiring partial shade, need relief from direct sun during the hottest part of the day. It is preferable to let these plants get the sun during the cooler hours of the day, in the morning or very late afternoon. Plants requiring partial sun need a few hours of sun exposure to set flowers and fruits. The time of day they receive sunlight can impact growth and survival, particularly with the temperature changes and differing light the time of day brings. Be careful with a 'partial sun' position that gets the afternoon sun, as the sun is stronger and it's usually hotter, so can often be equated to a full sun position.

#### Types of Dry

Shade is often associated with moisture and rain, with rainforests and ferneries springing to mind, but shade can also range from slightly dry to very dry. Dry shade generally means a garden without direct sunlight, and where the climate, source of the shade or other competing elements, limits the amount of water or rainfall available to the plants.

**Dry area shade:** Soil is often filled with roots from the established trees and they will compete for water. Creating gardening beds can be tricky, but not impossible. Install a root barrier if possible, use dripper irrigation so that water is delivered directly to young plants' roots rather than the established or plant in pots under the tree.

**Shaded areas under eaves:** Eaves, or overhanging balconies, create a rain shadow and these areas dry out quickly. They are often forgotten in winter when it's raining, so remember to check these areas and water if necessary.

**South side gardens:** Often in full shade in winter but as the sun moves with the seasons, they can be subject to the full heat and drying effects of summer.

**Shaded by a fence:** May partially or fully shade the area but there is usually sufficient light around the plants for growth even if it is dry. The first indicator the area may be too shady for the plants is when plants develop a lean towards the light source.

Think of shade as an asset in the garden, rather than a hindrance. Once the correct shade tolerant and shade-loving species have been chosen, gardening in shade can be as easy as gardening in any other part of the garden.

Chris started her talk by discussing her 'Top 5 for Dry Shade' which included an *Eriostemon*, two *Lysiosepalum*s, a *Phebalium* and a *Ziera*.



Chris' 'Top Five' (L-R) *Eriostemon australasius*; *Lysiosepalum abollatum*; *Lysiosepalum involucreatum*; *Phebalium woombye*; *Ziera* 'Pink Crystals' (Photo: Chris Larkin)



*Lysiosepalum involucreatum* (Photo: Chris Larkin)



*Phebalium woombye*  
(Photo: (L) Chris Larkin; (R) Monika Herrmann)



*Eriostemon australasius* (Photo: Chris Larkin)



*Ziera* 'Pink Crystals' (Photo: Chris Larkin)



*Lysiosepalum abollatum* (Photo: Chris Larkin)

Apart from Chris' Top 5, there were a number of other plants for dry shade that do well in her garden including *Prostanthera ovalifolia*, a variegated *Prostanthera ovalifolia*, *Tetrateca thymifolia*, and several *Thomasias* (*T. angustifolia*, *T. grandiflora*, *T. macrocarpa*, *T. purpurea*, *T. pygmaea*, *T. sarotes*, *T. solanacea*, *T. triphylla*).



***Prostanthera ovalifolia* Variegated**

(Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Thomasia sarotes* with fine leaves**

(Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Tetratheca thymifolia*** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Thomasia solanacea* with white flowers**

(Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Thomasia macrocarpa***

(Photo: (L) Nicky Zanen: (R) Chris Larkin)

**Paul Birch** showed us plants that do well in shade at Maranoa Gardens. His experience with the cycads, mostly *Cycas media* in the photo, was that you can't simply look at a leaf and think it's hard and tough so it can go in the sun. In their natural habitat they grow in the shade which can be dry too. In the gardens they were not doing well where they were, so were moved into a shadier area, and now they're flourishing.



***Thomasia purpurea*** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Cycas media*** (Photo: Paul Birch)



***Prostanthera ovalifolia*** loaded with flowers in Maranoa Gardens  
(Photo: Paul Birch)

A *Prostanthera ovalifolia*, which is a plant that Chris also mentioned, was originally in a completely dry area and was about the only thing that grew very well.

Lomandras do well in dry shade, as well as *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, and *Epacris longiflora* is also doing well in dry shade and has been flowering for about six months!



***Epacris longiflora*** (Photo: Paul Birch)

Shade plants in **Bev Fox's** garden include *Commersonia fraseri* (Brush Kurrajong) and Chef's Cap Correa (*Correa baeuerlenii*) which is planted behind it, saying you can pretty much plant the Correa anywhere and it'll get big. *Asterolasia hexapetala* with the white flowers will take shade and a lot of dry.



***Commersonia fraseri*** (left), ***Asterolasia hexapetala*** (right) (Photo: Bev Fox)

*Howittia trilocularis* needs shade and won't do out in the sun. In Bev's garden it's dry from under the eaves and in a lot of shade from a Casuarina. The Hovea, which is proving tricky to key out, is a bit straggly as it only gets a bit of summer sun but even in the shade, it still continues to flower well.



***Howittia trilocularis*** (left), ***Hovea* sp.** (right)  
(Photo: Bev Fox)

The *Oxylobium arborescens* is too big for where it is but Bev is loathe to remove it as it is a beautiful plant. The *Acacia lasiocarpa* is a prostrate plant under a big Eucalypt where it is dry as anything. This one, unlike other's Bev has in her garden which have mounded up, has stayed nice and flat. Perhaps the growing conditions are helping it stay like that.



***Acacia lasiocarpa* (left), *Oxylobium arborescens* Tall Shaggy Pea (right)**  
(Photo: Bev Fox)



***Eutaxia microphylla*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)

**Monika Herrmann** has lots of Thomasias like Chris, and the *Thomasia brachystachys* in the photo is growing on an almost vertical rocky slope and flowers very well despite the shade.

*Eutaxia microphylla* is a dainty little plant. The flower buds are red which adds to its attractiveness. It is low-growing and easy to plant in amongst other plants. It is also in a very dry area.

*Eutaxia obovata* is very showy in quite shady spots, and here it competes with Eucalyptus roots so the soil is also very dry. *Eutaxia cuneata* is similar but has more orangey coloured flowers.

*Phebalium woombye* gets very little sun, is in a very dry spot but still is very showy.

*Dodonia sinuolata* holds its colourful winged fruit for ages and provides a good show of colour. Most of the plants Monika has in her dry shade garden are Thomasias and Eutaxias, Pomaderris and Prostanthera, Persoonia does very well and Ziera is excellent for places where little else will grow.



***Eutaxia obovata*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Dodonia sinuolata*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Thomasia brachystachys*** (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



***Goodenia amplexans*** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



***Hypocalymma angustifolium*** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)



***Poa labillardieri*** (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

**Nicky Zanen** has *Goodenia amplexans* growing in dry, light shade under some tall Eucalypts. It always looks good and gets a pruning now and then. Nicky has two plants of *Hypocalymma angustifolium*. One grows in a sunny spot and the other is in the shade but both are in very dry spots and don't get any extra water. *Poa labillardieri* thrives in the shade under the Eucalypts.

**Janet Hodgkiss**



Arrangement of flowers (Photo: Rose Carn)

**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

**Day Meeting Christmas breakup  
Maranoa Gardens**

**Tuesday 9th November 2021  
From 12.00 pm**

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## EVENING MEETING

**Topic to be confirmed**

**Wednesday 24th November 2021**

**Zoom Meeting 8.00pm**

**Saturday 4 December 2021**

**End of year breakup for Whole  
Group  
(venue to be confirmed)**

**Foothills Facebook Page**

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

**Hi Everyone,**

Well, we're getting there, people! Our lock downs are finally being lifted and we can be free again! Fair enough that we still have to adhere to some restrictions/rules to ensure our ongoing safety but I for one, am relishing being able to go for a walk in the open without a mask on. You see, a huge part of my enjoyment when I'm outdoors is catching hints of elusive scents in the air and I've really missed this. It's like being given an unexpected gift and I can't wait to get out into the bush or down to the sea and have the scents come to me, rather than having to purposely pull down my mask before I sniff the air like a truffle dog!

Our last evening meeting was really great, with Bill Aitchison giving us the low-down on the genus *Daviesia*, and Nicky has done a write up in this newsletter about it. If you're interested in finding out more about the 'Fabulous Peas', then the FJC Rogers Seminar in October next year is where it's all at. Send them your expression of interest an email (you'll find the address in the article) so that you don't miss out on anything.

We've got a couple of 'plant profiles' in this issue, that I'm sure you'll enjoy. Maureen Shaumann says her Flannel Flower is looking gorgeous at the moment, and thought other members may like to see it too, so keep an eye out for her article. Chris Larkin has also been giving her plants the beady eye again, and this time it is a *Grevillea*'s turn.

Our last evening meeting for the year is going to be a Zoom meeting - topic or theme to be confirmed.

We were really hoping to have an in-person meeting but at the moment, the current rules do not allow indoor public gatherings. Although the rules are set to change again on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, which is coincidentally the same day as our evening meeting, it'll be cutting it too fine to leave making the call to

the last minute. So... Zoom it is, and hopefully it'll be the last Zooming we have to do for a long time!

With the easing of restrictions, it looks like we'll actually be able to *get together* for a good ol' end-of-year breakup/Christmas party before the summer holidays this year, so keep an eye out for more info about that!

Enjoy the nosebag-free warmer weather, and see you all soon.

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## Australian Plants in Pots – plan ahead and take your photos now!

We are planning on having a member's meeting next year that looks at growing Australian natives in pots. We haven't got a set date for this yet, but it's one of those meetings where you'll all be able to join in by showing us your photos.

As things are flowering now, we wanted to remind you to take photos of your Australian plants in pots now, as they may not be in flower when we have that meeting.

What to do:

- \* Take photos of the Australian native plants you are growing in pots, containers, hanging baskets, etc.
- \* Your pics can show your successes as well as your failures, because even failures provide us with good information.
- \* Label your photos so that you can find them easily later on, and hang on to them until we put out a call for them.
- \* Make a few notes about each one; its name, pot size if it's not obvious from the photo, soil mix you used, sun or shade, is it easy or tricky, etc. so you can tell us a bit about it when you show your photos.

It should be a very informative and enjoyable meeting, as we share our knowledge about growing Australian plants in pots.

Happy snapping and looking forward to seeing what you are growing in pots!

**Janet Hodgkiss**



**Potted Australian natives mingle happily with herbs in my 'kitchen garden' (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)**

## FLANNEL FLOWER - *Actinotus helianthi*



**Maureen's *Actinotus helianthi* (Photo: Bev Fox)**

Shirley and I bought this plant some years ago at Kurunga because we thought it looked different from the usual form. It appeared to be more compact in habit and the tips of the petals looked greener, which added to its attraction. When seeds appear each year, I sprinkle them around the base of the plant or in an adjacent pot and I am rewarded with several new plants, thus continuing its life cycle. Fresh seed sown in the

hotter months, i.e., January/February seems to trigger germination.

*Actinotus helianthi* is one of my favourite plants and this one especially reminds me of Shirley and the many happy hours we spent together at Kuranga.

**Maureen Schaumann**

## Grevillea olivacea

*Grevillea olivacea* comes from the south-west of WA. It gets its species name from the leaves being olive coloured. It was described as late as 1974 by the WA botanist Alex George although the type plant dates back to 1966.

*Grevillea olivacea* grows in only a small section of WA and on limestone but does well here with well drained acidic clay soil. The plant has different coloured flower forms - red, yellow or orange. What is most interesting to me is how unlike the flowers are which you can see in the picture. Furthermore, and possibly not so surprising after noting the difference in the flowers, is the difference in the growth habit of the plant according to colour.



**The different coloured flower forms of *Grevillea olivacea*** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

I grow all three. The oldest plant in my garden is the yellow form. It is a big plant of approximately 3m x 3m which I prune annually. Hard to say how big it might grow if I didn't.

It is planted up the hill getting full northern sun, while the orange flowered form, a selection of which is sold as 'Apricot Glow', is growing at the bottom of the garden on the fence-line about 1.5m in from a wooden fence. It is somewhat shaded from the

fence and a nearby eucalypt but it would get a reasonable amount of sun. It has a similar growth habit, although in a more uncontrolled way than the yellow form. It sends out many long thin branches and its growth habit is best described as a wild hair-do. I pruned it recently despite it being full of flower because I was afraid it might be affected by strong winds getting hold of its mop-top.



***Grevillea olivacea* Yellow Form** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Grevillea olivacea* Yellow Form** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Grevillea olivacea* Orange Form** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

The red flowering form is the pick of the bunch when it comes to growth habit. So far. With the exception of one plant, they are the youngest of the species so maybe their extreme bulk is yet to be revealed. Maybe it's all a matter of position, position, position. I hope not. I have now planted several of the red form because my experience so far is a happy one with the plant growing more upright and narrow. Although I expect it will still reach 3-4m, I am optimistic it will not grow as wide as tall. Its branches are growing more vertically so if the plants do start to get too wide, I will be able to easily prune them to keep them on the straight and narrow. These are all good plants if you need a screen plant and you have the room. They are all very flowery and showy. My recommendation is currently - go red.

Finally, it is worth noting that *G. olivacea* x with *G. preissi* are the parent plants for the cultivars *Grevillea* 'Sea Spray', *Grevillea* 'Winpara Gem' and *Grevillea* 'Winpara Gold'.

The Winpara hybrids are large, vigorous, generally reliable plants for a large garden or screening. *Grevillea* 'Sea Spray' is low growing and could almost be considered a ground cover. It needs dry or very well drained conditions with a good amount of sun.

Reference: Elliot and Jones, Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation, Vol 5.

**Chris Larkin**



***Grevillea olivacea* Red Form** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Grevillea olivacea* Red Form** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

## Wind damage and a pobblebonk

I hope members didn't suffer too much damage with the recent winds. Always hard to judge which event is the worst. Let's face it they are all shades of bad. Accumulatively, this year for me the storms have caused the loss of many plants, which have either been snapped off at the base, uprooted or been so badly damaged they are not really able to be saved due to structural weakness or unsightliness. In one case with a plant that has blown over but not blown out, I have pruned it back and attempted to anchor it with a metal steak. Time will tell if this saves the plant.



***Isopogon anethifolius* – snapped off**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

We are told by the weather bureau there will be more of the same. With a wetter than normal Spring and Summer forecast it is the perfect conditions, with saturated soils, for making plants vulnerable to wind damage as they lose their grip. When I survey any devastation here, I certainly need to sometimes get a grip. Things could always be worse in the garden or for that matter, in life in general. I note the long-term predictions for Melbourne with climate change are for things to become drier and windier. Oh, dear!



***Westringia* sp.**  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

On a happier note, I uncovered this pobblebonk frog while planting out an area up the hill partly caused by a very large plant being removed because of – you guessed it – wind damage. These frogs that go 'bonk' in the night leave the frothy tadpole spawn on the water's surface, generally amongst water plants. They can bury themselves in the soil, or under mulch, quite a distance from a pond.



**Pobblebonk, *Limnodynastes dumerilii***  
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

I garden with a fork, which could be a lethal weapon for a frog, but luckily in this case I was using the fork to push the mulch away from the soil in preparation for digging the hole. Apart from shock – and I think the frogs was even greater than mine – no harm was done as I ushered it to a new spot nearby.

The picture makes the frog look handsome and silvery with a lovely blue underbelly. To the naked eye, the frog looked more brown than silver but the underbelly colour is correct.

I have always had the pobblebunks here but the next most dominant frog species I could detect by its call was the spotted marsh frog, which sounds like stones being knocked together. If you can manage a mouth click, this approximates the sound. Suddenly a few years back now they disappeared and have sadly not returned. One of life's mysteries.

**Chris Larkin**

## Bits and Pieces

It's a particularly satisfying time in the garden at the moment (mid September) as the natural world is in overdrive. I'm sure that everyone's garden will be blooming with abundance; I am certainly enjoying my walks around the various areas each day, as well as getting stuck into the pruning and weeding.

I was starting to heavily prune a large *Acacia trigonophylla* that has some dieback as well, when a Bronze Wing Pigeon flew out suddenly. I hadn't even noticed her sitting on eggs, her flimsy nest hidden on the upper layer. No more pruning! It's something to keep in mind when we become over-enthusiastic with the secateurs. I have been going around checking in bushes and trees for nests. Now, two Bronze wing fledglings have been hiding under protective bushes until they became more competent fliers. The pardalotes have been calling in the upper branches but I haven't found any tunnels nearby, which is a shame as we used to have them nesting.

It's exciting to hear the Fan-tailed cuckoo again in the bush behind the house and recently I noted a new call which I was able to identify through the Bird App – the Shining Bronze Cuckoo, although I haven't been able to sight either of them. Bird Week and the yearly 'Aussie Bird Count' in late October was fun to participate in, although the cuckoos didn't cooperate and call at the right time!



***Hakea cinerea* (Ash Hakea) in our garden.  
(Photo: Rolf Herrmann)**

Earlier in one of our sessions, there was discussion about *Hakea cinerea* (Ash Hakea), which I gather is difficult to grow well (I concur!) I had planted one in an area that has reasonable sun, although little in winter. This year, after about 3-4 years, it had a few flowers on it. It clearly needs full sun and sandy soil, even though it has good drainage where it is situated. Not a good choice for our site.

**Monika Herrmann**

## Garden Design Study Group

The November 2021 Garden Design Study Group newsletter has just been received and two of our members were featured therein.

Chris Larkin has contributed a thought provoking and interesting item under the theme of 'The Visual Attributes of a Garden' and titled it 'The Curve'. If anyone would like to see this please let Nicky know and she will forward the newsletter to you.

The newsletter also included a Garden Snapshot of Dot and Bob O'Neill's garden prepared by Diana Snape in 2015. The original snapshot can be found on the Garden Design SG website <http://anpsa.org.au/design/gardens/oneill.html>.

There is no additional charge to be a member of the Garden Design Study Group and Lawrie produces four newsletters a year full of great information. He can be contacted via email [gdsg@anpsa.org.au](mailto:gdsg@anpsa.org.au).

**Nicky Zanen**

## APS Foothills Evening Meeting

## Bill Aitchison – A look at the genus *Daviesia*

We welcomed several visitors including Liesbeth in the Netherlands, Glenda in NE Victoria, Peter, Alison and Marilyn from Maroondah APS.

Our last evening meeting was a Zoom meeting when Bill Aitchison spoke to us about “*Daviesia*.” Actually, Bill extended the title to “Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rev Hugh Davies and Danny DeVito, and a look at the genus *Daviesia*.”

In addition to his interest in acacias, Bill forayed to *daviesias* several years ago. There isn't much information available on peas in general and there was a study group several years ago. Recently Shirley McLaren restarted the ANPSA Pea Study Group. APS Maroondah chose Peas as the theme for the next FJC Rogers Seminar because they are botanically up to date following a complete review in 2018 by Prof Michael Crisp from the ANU.

Prof Crisp will be a keynote speaker at the 2022 FJC Rogers seminar.

*Daviesia* are named after Rev Hugh Davies, a Church of England clergyman from Wales who had a strong interest in bryophytes. One of the first species named, by Sir James Edward Smith, 1759 to 1828, was *Daviesia acicularis*, collected from near Port Jackson and now taken as being the type specimen.

The main characteristics of *Daviesia* are:

Seed pods – triangular shaped seed pods.

Foliage – many have prickles, thorns, spikes and spines. Foliage can be similar to acacias and also have phyllodes (modified leaf stalks).



***Daviesia euphorbioides*** (Photo: Bill Aitchison)

Some share same species name as acacia e.g., *Acacia ulicifolia* and *Daviesia ulicifolia*. When in flower one is distinctly an acacia and the other a pea flower. *Daviesias* do not generally have stipules.

*Daviesias* are commonly known as bitter peas, nicely illustrated by a photo of Sue tasting a leaf.

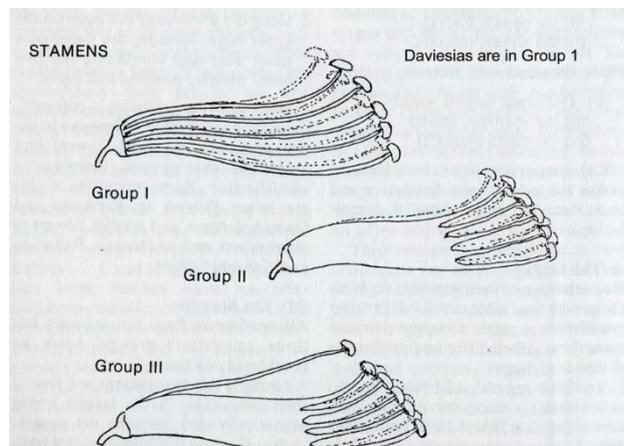


**Sue Guymer tasting a *Daviesia* leaf – yes it was bitter!** (Photo: Bill Aitchison)

Flowers – many have yellow and orange flowers with red markings; a few have large red flowers which are probably pollinated by birds rather than insects. If you find a pea plant with other coloured flowers it is probably not a *daviesia*.

Standard (top of flower) is generally round or kidney shaped. *Dillwynia* is more flat than circular.

All pea flowers have 10 stamens – *daviesias* have all free stamens.



**Scan of the page from the book *Native Peas of Victoria and South Eastern Australia*, showing the arrangement of stamens in pea plants (*Daviesias* are in Group 1).**

There was a consensus that *daviesia* plants or seeds are not so easy to grow or to source, either as plants or seeds. At the end of the talk Liesbeth mentioned that she had had success growing on seedlings in unsterilised soil.

Dr Julie Ardley from Murdoch University, a rhizobial microbiologist who specializes in Australian legumes, is trying to work out what peas need in the soil to grow. Hopefully results of her research will provide

better growth prospects in future. Dr Ardley will also be a speaker at the FJC Rogers seminar next year. There are a number of good reasons to grow daviesias. The prickly foliage is good for birds; flowers are good for bees and butterflies; peas fix nitrogen to the soil, and generally daviesias are small to medium shrubs.



**The prickly foliage of *Daviesia benthamii* provides good habitat for birds** (Photo: Bill Aitchison)

The extended title at the beginning of Bill's talk was to highlight Prof Michael Crisp's discovery that the sub species 'humilis' of *Daviesia benthamii* ssp. *humilis* was not actually related to *Daviesia benthamii* but was two different species. So, the professor named one *D. schwarzenegger* and the smaller plant *D. devito*, as per the twins featured in the 1988 film 'Twins'. One twin was significantly smaller than the other.

Bill showed us an enormous variety of different daviesia flowers, rare and endangered, common and found locally, and included several anecdotes.

One was a mystery, about a thriller titled 'Death by Beauty' by Gabrielle Lord where a forensic palynologist checks pollen on a murder suspect's clothing of *D. suaveolens*. Bill asked that if anybody had read this book, they let him know how the plot played out.

There is recent research on the mimicry of daviesia and orchids. Orchids have trouble attracting pollinators and often look like a pea plant which rewards the pollinator. Examples were the donkey orchid *Diuris magnifica* and *Daviesia divaricata* and *Diuris brumalis* and *Daviesia decurrens*.

Bill said the organisers of the FJC Rogers Seminar would love to hear from people who could lend display containers with peas in them for Saturday's lecture day or garden visits on Sunday.

Additionally, if members are interested in attending the FJC Rogers Seminar. they can send expressions

of interest to [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com) - their first newsletter will be coming out shortly.

Altogether a fascinating and informative talk, and very inspirational.

Thank you, Bill and Sue.

**Nicky Zanen**

## **Last Day Meeting (12th October 2021 by Zoom)**

### **John Harris: Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests – The Lesser Known States.**

John Harris is a principal zoologist of Wildlife Experiences, a Victorian based ecological consultancy and wildlife tourism business. He worked as a teacher for nearly 20 years and branched out into a career that encompassed his lifelong passion for nature and education. John gave a talk to our evening meeting in 2019 on the Wildflowers of the WA Northern Sandplains Kwongan.

It was lovely to welcome John to our last day meeting for the year. He took us on a quick trip of the "Wildlife of the Australian Rainforest - The Lesser Known States."

There are many books already published covering Australia's natural history including reptiles, mammals, dangerous creatures and birds, but a gap in wildlife of the rainforests.

John, with two friends, Peter Rowland and Angus McNab, have put together a state by state guide covering rainforests found in all Australian states with the exception of South Australia.

John referred to the rainforests as "holding a huge cultural significance for the traditional owners, being the 'supermarkets, pharmacies and hardware stores' as well as tribal meeting places (Bunya Mountains) and sites of significance such as the Gwion (Bradshaw) rock art in the Northern Kimberley."

He identified seven types of rainforest - tropical (Daintree); subtropical (SW Qld and northern NSW); dry rainforest (further inland near Cairns); littoral/coastal vine thickets (along eastern seaboard into Victoria); Monsoon vine thickets (northern coast, into the Kimberley); warm temperate (Dorrigo, Barrington Tops through NSW into Victoria) and cool temperate (Central Highlands in Victoria, the Otways and Tasmania).



strangers on these platforms, without further verification, is not a safe option.

Note that images on the internet may not be completely clear and there are colour variations between monitors, which can affect positive identification.

Remember too, that even if the plant or fungus is edible, there is no guarantee that you are not personally allergic!

Please take care out there!

**Janet Hodgkiss**

## From the Secretary

A very warm welcomed to Rebecca from Chirnside Park who is studying horticulture at Swinburne. Our first Neutrog order arrived in October. Thanks to Betty for taking receipt of the order. Our next order will be scheduled for arrival in autumn next year. The dates will be confirmed in February. APS Victoria Committee Meeting hosted by APS Mornington 27 November 2021. Venue and details will be advised when these become available.

**Nicky Zanen**

## Day Meeting Christmas breakup Maranoa Gardens, Tuesday 9th November 2021

We plan to have our Christmas Breakup for our day meeting on Tuesday 9 November at Maranoa Gardens. Meet on the lawn area near the main gate, Parring Road, Balwyn from 12.00 pm. Please BYO picnic and chairs. And remember suntan lotion and a hat.

Please call Nicky on 0401975191 if you intend joining us.

I'm hoping as many members as possible can join us on Tuesday because we have been separated far too long.

**Nicky Zanen**



***Tetratheca ciliata* found outside Tumut State Forest (Photo: Kerry Davis)**



***Eremophila mackinlayi* (Photo: Kerry Davis)**



**At Baluk Willem Reserve, Belgrave South: A Sun-Orchid *Thelymitra ixiodes* (Photo: Rolf Herrmann)**

## **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!**