



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

MEETINGS

Date: Our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except December and January.

Time: 7.45pm

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

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Combined Newsletters 2022

JUNE

-

JULY

ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

VISITORS WELCOME!



DAY MEETING

Members' Meeting A Celebration of Winter and Winter Flowers

Tuesday 14th June 2022

Venue: Field Naturalists Hall, 1 Gardenia St,
Blackburn. (Melway 47K10)
Time: 10.30am

[Details Page 3](#)

EVENING MEETING

Members' Meeting Five Slides

Wednesday 22nd June 2022

Venue: Knox Park Primary School, Kathryn Rd,
Knoxfield. (Melway 73 C3)
Time: 7.45pm

[Details Page 3](#)

Foothills Facebook Page

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Hi Everyone,

I really enjoyed our last evening meeting when we celebrated Foothills' 50th Anniversary. Nicky spent hours trawling through old photos and newsletters, and gathering information and stories, so that she could put together a visual history for us. It was impossible to cover everything that has happened since Foothills started in just one evening, so she chose to just cover the highlights which included some delightful photos of members in the earlier years.

Despite a technical difficulty (my computer and the projector having a random little spat, which I discovered later must've been due to a Windows update resetting some settings, and is all sorted out now I'm pleased to say), we were still able to manually step through the slides, so all was not lost. I'd like to thank Nicky, not only for her lovely presentation and the trip down memory lane, but for being a champ and taking the technical difficulty in her stride.

We were joined by Roger Stone and Ross Shepherd, both past leaders/presidents, and we also had other past leaders, who are still Foothills members, in our midst - Ross Mc Donald, Bob O'Neill, Nicky Zanen, Chris Larkin and Paul Birch.

I was wondering if, with eight leaders of Foothills including myself in the room at the same time, we hadn't broken some sort of record!

Something that made the evening particularly special, was having Ross and Pam McDonald with us. They were both at the inaugural meeting of Foothills all those many years ago and to have a connection back in time like that, is nothing short of awesome. Thanks everyone for coming along and making our anniversary evening a joyful occasion. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

Our June day meeting will sadly be our last. Your committee has had to make the difficult decision to discontinue the day meetings, and in this newsletter,

I've provided some background and the reasoning behind our decision.

Something that influenced our decision to a certain degree, and a cause for concern, is our committee, and the lack of volunteers in recent years.

We dissolve the committee and will choose a new one at our AGM in July, and I urge you to please consider volunteering for the committee.

We've had the same members for several years now, and it would be good to have some new people join the committee to refresh things, and to possibly give some of us a break.

To help you consider volunteering, and so that you have a better idea of what the various committee roles entail, including being an ordinary member, I have outlined of the roles and how we conduct our committee meetings in this newsletter.

We have two months until we choose a new committee, so please think about it in the meantime, and please don't hesitate to have a chat with any of us if you're interested.

For those members who currently receive their email by post, we want to remind you that this is also the last one we will be posting out, and from July onwards, newsletters will only be sent via email. There are a number of attachments to this email, so please have a look out for them:

* FJC Rogers Seminar (October) on Fabulous Peas. The 'early bird' rates apply until the end of June, so if you haven't already registered, get in quick.

* ANPSA conference (September). Don't forget to register for that, if you want to attend, and tours are now open for non-attendees as well.

* Update on Trust for Nature and APS Victoria's donation for Ned's Corner.

* Plant sales coming up.

See you all next time.

Janet Hodgkiss

Day Meeting Closure

At our May evening meeting, I announced that your committee has made the decision to stop holding day meetings, and that the June day meeting will be the last one.

For those members who usually attend the day meeting, I know you will be disappointed but please know that this decision was not made lightly, nor was it an easy one for us to make.

So that all Foothills members may have a bit more understanding as to what prompted the decision, here is a brief outline.

Foothills group, unlike any other district group, has been running two meetings each month for many years now, and various issues surrounding the day meeting have come up many times while I've been leader.

What is often brushed aside as being unimportant, is the fact that running the day meeting effectively doubles the overall workload for Foothills' committee, although the responsibility of overseeing and running the day meeting has usually fallen to one person, Nicky.

The future of the day meeting was recently brought up again, with areas of particular concern being:

- 1) Poor or erratic attendance. Increasingly, day meeting attendance numbers are down, very low (only five or six members at some meetings including the speaker and Nicky) or erratic, despite Nicky taking the trouble to ring around and remind members or cajole them into coming to the meeting. Nicky says the reasons for non-attendance are varied: The pool of regular members has dwindled over the years; Members may not be interested in the topic; Health; Age; Transport and distance; Forgot; Clashes with appointments, etc.
 - 2) There is a fair bit of work involved in organising meetings, including coming up with and deciding on topics or formats, finding and inviting speakers (and following up with them), scheduling items on the calendar, arranging advance notifications and providing blurbs for the meetings in the newsletter, and preparing reminders to send out via email or contacting members via telephone. It is therefore quite discouraging when, over the course of a year, you put all this effort into organising meetings, only to have erratic or poor attendance.
 - 3) It is not encouraging for speakers, who put a lot of effort into their presentations, and take the time to travel (sometimes a fair distance) to get to the meeting, only to be faced with a handful of people in the audience. This is also not a good look for Foothills as a group.
 - 4) Sourcing speakers is becoming a concern. Foothills needs to find twice the number of speakers that other groups do, and although Nicky does a good job of finding speakers/topics by herself for the day meeting, it puts extra pressure on her and our small committee.
- So, for the overall health of our committee and Foothills as a group, we had to make the decision to stop the day meeting.
- While we would be sad to lose them, should any member choose to not renew their membership because of our decision to close the day meeting, then we quite understand.

I suspect some members who used to attend day meetings might want to occasionally get together socially, but this would be up to them to arrange. It would *not* constitute a day meeting of the Foothills group, nor will any such get-togethers be organised by us.

I accept that some members will be disappointed by our decision to stop the day meeting, but I feel we all need to accept that sometimes things have to change, especially if the whole group is to remain viable and vibrant.

I'd like to thank Nicky for her dedication to the day meeting, the immense amount of work she's put into overseeing it, and for keeping it going for so many years. Well done Nicky, a very big thank you!

Janet Hodgkiss

Next Day Meeting - A Celebration of Winter and Winter Flowers

This is our last day meeting and we will begin at 10.30 am with coffee, tea and cake, after which we will discuss our marvellous flora.

Currently there are at least correas, thryptomenes, banksias and epacris flowering, so please bring with you what you have flowering.

Chris Larkin has some beautiful hakeas flowering and has promised to bring these in too.



As a special bonus, Janet made up some party bags for our 50th birthday celebration meeting in May.

There is one for each of our members, so come in to collect your own goodie bag at our next day meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Nicky

Next evening meeting 22 June 2022 Members' meeting: Five Slides

This is a favourite meeting because this is when you get the chance to show us five of your slides and tell us a bit about them.

How it works:

- 1) Bring along FIVE slides to the meeting. They can be of anything that has taken your interest, and don't necessarily have to be plant related.
- 2) You can select your slides to fit a theme or they can be a random selection.
- 3) Tell us a bit about each slide and/or why you chose it.

Ideas for themes:

- * Your 5 favourite plants for this time of year
- * What's looking gorgeous in your garden.
- * A favourite plant group.
- * Photos from your travels.
- * Plants that have special meaning for you.
- * Nature photos.

Technical stuff:

- 1) You are limited to FIVE slides only please. This is so that everyone gets a chance to show us their slides and has time to talk about them. Please be respectful of this.
- 2) Bring your slides on a USB on the night.
- 3) Please come a bit earlier than usual so that we have plenty of time to load your images/slides onto the computer.
- 4) You can present your slides as single images, or you can put them in a PowerPoint presentation.

Looking forward to seeing your slides!

Janet Hodgkiss

Call for Committee Members

At the May evening meeting, I mentioned how the lack of members willing to volunteer to join the committee is becoming a concern.

As we only have a small committee (currently four members) you may not realise how this impacts the committee itself or the running of the group, and you may not realise how long some of us have been doing the 'job', or that we might need or want a break from time to time.

We don't need a large committee but an extra person or two will bring fresh ideas, and people who are willing, and able, to help out or take on various roles, even if they might miss one or two actual committee meetings, would be very helpful indeed. I'm not a fan of pressuring people, nor the accompanying awkwardness that comes with trying to cajole people at our AGM to volunteer to join the committee. Some of that reluctance to volunteer may stem from not knowing, or being afraid of, what the roles entail, or to what extent you would be expected to contribute and be present at committee meetings, so, to courage you all to give serious thought to joining the committee, I have outlined below what your committee does, how often we meet and what the various roles comprise.

* Please note that these are broad outlines and may not cover absolutely everything in each role. The idea was to give you a helpful and brief insight into how it all works and what the various roles entail, so I haven't quoted our rules verbatim, included all the legalese, or each and every accountability or responsibility.

What we do

The committee essentially sees to the smooth running of Foothills Group and controls and manages its business affairs.

The committee also coordinates our regular meetings, organising speakers and topics, and committee members are often at the venue earlier than other members to help with setting up.

The committee consists of: Leader; Deputy Leader; Secretary; Treasurer; Newsletter Editor; APS Victoria Delegate; and up to four ordinary members.

Eligible members are elected to committee positions at the Annual General Meeting, and an eligible member is one who is 18 years or over, and is entitled to vote at a general meeting, i.e., you have to be a paid-up financial member.

Meetings of the committee

Setting aside, or having, time to attend committee meetings is often something cited as to why members feel they can't join the committee. Foothills committee meets just four times per year. Any minor matters that arise between meetings, are usually dealt with via email and/or phone calls, and our meetings are not lengthy affairs either. We used to meet in person but more recently, we meet via Zoom. This works very well indeed, and saves time and makes it more convenient to be able attend a committee meeting.

The agenda and relevant documents are distributed in advance of the meeting, and if members have any comments on an issue, these are also circulated so that other members can think about it prior to the meeting. So, unless something requires more serious debate, most matters are dispensed with fairly quickly. Our committee meetings, and especially since we have been using Zoom to hold them, have averaged a short 1.5hrs, which makes attending them not very onerous at all.

The Roles

Leader:

- * Has overall responsibility of the administration of the group.
- * Is responsible to the committee and Foothills Group members.
- * Has a knowledge of the society's statement of purposes, rules and by-laws.
- * In conjunction with the committee and support of the members, establishes the overall short and long term goals, objectives and priorities in meeting the needs of the group.
- * Prepares an annual report to be tabled at the annual general meeting.
- * Acts as chairperson at committee, and annual general and special general meetings of the group in accordance with meeting guidelines.
- * Works with the treasurer and other committee members to promote fiscal responsibility in all financial matters.

Deputy Leader:

Supports the leader and assumes their responsibilities in their absence.

Secretary:

- * Is the group's official contact person.
- * Maintains and monitors Foothills' physical post box as well as Foothills' email inbox, and responds to and/or forwards mail as required.
- * Liaises with new members and sends out official welcome letters.

- * Maintains the register of members in conjunction with the treasurer and ensures the newsletter editor has mailing details.
- * Keeps custody of all books, documents and securities of Foothills.
- * Prepares documents for committee and annual general meetings.
- * Takes minutes at committee and annual general meetings, cross checks with leader for accuracy, and follows up action items between meetings.
- * Follows up with, and confirms in writing, speakers we have organised for our calendar.

Treasurer:

- * Receives money paid to or received by Foothills and issues receipts (when requested) for those.
- * Makes payments as authorised by the committee or by a general meeting of the Foothills Group.
- * Pays the money into Foothills' bank account.
- * Keeps financial records of the Foothills Group and coordinates the preparation of the financial statements so they can be submitted to the annual general meeting.
- * In conjunction with the secretary, maintains the membership list.

Newsletter Editor:

- * Accepts and formats newsletter contributions.
- * Uses template and prepares the layout of articles, includes relevant images, and advertisements for plants sales, shows and other events.
- * Maintains the email address list of members.
- * Sends electronic newsletters/reminders via email.

APS Vic Delegate:

- * Represents Foothills at the quarterly APS Victoria Committee of Management Meetings.
- * Has a duty not to make improper use of the position or information gained in the course of the role, a duty to disclose a conflict of interest, and must act in good faith and loyalty to the group.

Ordinary Member:

- * No specific duty but assists and provides support for other committee members where required.

Election of Members

- * If only one member is nominated for a position, then that person is elected to the position.
- * If more than one member is nominated then a ballot is held.

Term of office and vacancies

- * A committee member holds office until the positions of the committee are declared vacant at the next annual general meeting.
- * A committee member may be re-elected.
- * The Leader should not hold that position for more than three consecutive terms.
- * A committee position becomes vacant if the person resigns from office (by written notice) or ceases to be a member of the Foothills Group.
- * The committee may appoint an eligible member of the Foothills Group to fill a vacancy on the committee.
- * The committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

The way forward

This is my sixth consecutive year as leader and while I enjoy the role, I'd be happy to step down should someone else wish to volunteer for the role. Our rules state that the leader should only hold the position for three consecutive years. This not only gives the leader a break but allows a refreshment of the leadership which in turn helps keep the group vibrant and dynamic.

If I don't volunteer as leader, and no one else does, then the responsibility of leader would have to be shared between the remaining committee members which puts extra pressure on them. As we haven't had extra members willing to volunteer on the committee, I've been unable to ensure any succession, not only for my role but for the other roles as well. This is definitely a cause for concern. If we continue to have a lack of volunteers, then to ease the pressure on the remaining committee members, we may have to consider compromises such as only meeting every alternate month, replacing some physical meetings with Zoom meetings, or having a simple informal Saturday morning walk instead of meeting at night.

This is your group, and we need your help to run it effectively, so please give serious consideration to joining the committee. If you're keen, or interested, or want further information, then please get in touch with me or Nicky at foothills@apsvic.org.au.

And last but not least, I am so grateful to all the current committee members for their ongoing support, and in some cases, very long-time roles they have held. You are absolute gems! Thank you!

Janet Hodgkiss

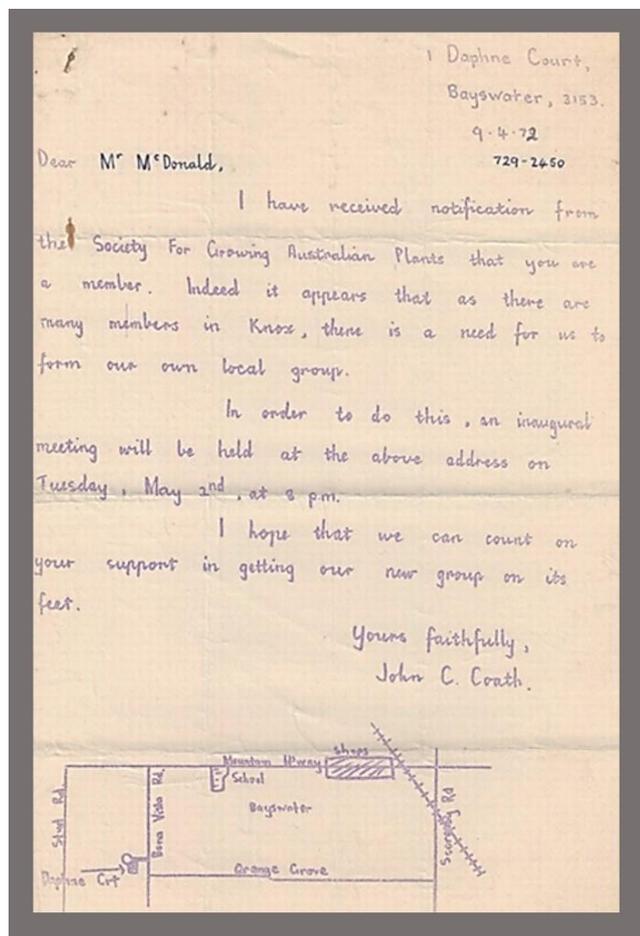
SGAP/APS Foothills - The First 50 Years

SGAP background

In the 1950's, an appreciation of Australian native plants was accelerating and AJ Swaby, writing 'Growers' articles in Your Garden, suggested a meeting of interested people in the Horticultural Hall in Victoria Street on 12 March 1957, and the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was born. This was followed by small groups forming around Melbourne including in Croydon, Templestowe, Nunawading, Monbulk and Oakleigh.

Formation of Foothills Group

Twelve years later, in April 1972, Ross McDonald received a letter from John Coath, who was approaching local SGAP members with a view to forming a local group.



Ross McDonald's invitation to the inaugural meeting in 1972

Ross, his wife Pam and his little daughter in a carry basket, attended the first meeting in 1 Daphne Court, Bayswater on 2nd May 1972. It was unanimously agreed that a local SGAP group should be formed. John Coath was elected Leader, John

Reid Secretary and Committee members elected were Olga Shaw, Effie Alston and John Smyrk.

A significant point was made at that meeting, and included in the first newsletter, "...we are not experts and are all learning the joys of our native plants, and that we don't want other beginners to feel that they are not welcome - exactly the opposite, we want as many to learn about our native plants as possible." These words are as valid today as they were 50 years ago.

The tentative name was "Knox Group", however, as Pam and Ross lived in Sherbrooke (now Yarra Ranges), a geographical name rather than a political one was more appropriate. At that time, there was an SGAP local group called 'Mountain District' based in Monbulk, so any reference to the Dandenongs, or Ranges could be confusing. Ross suggested 'Foothills' which was agreed as appropriate for a majority of the members.

Monthly meetings were held in members' homes, until the membership outgrew the space and seating capacity available. The last home meeting was at the McDonald's home in February 1974 when one new member joined that night, the late David Davie. Thanks to the efforts of Olga and Effie, who were teachers at Knox Park Primary School, meeting rooms there became our home for many years.

At the June 1974 AGM, Fred Rogers made his 'annual visit' as guest speaker and spoke on 'Acacias'. After the excellent slide show, it was agreed that a most suitable emblem for Foothills would be *Acacia leprosa*, which was indigenous to the area. The July 1974 Newsletter had the *Acacia leprosa* emblem as its masthead. This has since been replaced by *Acacia stictophylla*, same plant, changed name. The masthead has undergone many changes, being a stylised drawing first, and lately being a photograph.

Since 2010 we have been emailing our newsletters, and from July this year no hard copy newsletters will be sent. Our newsletter has grown from a double page to an average of 10 to 12 pages. We are fortunate to have so many keen contributors to our newsletter, and also appreciate Kerry Davis as our editor, a role he has held for over 40 years.



The changing masthead of Foothills' newsletter

In the late 1990s there was a ground swell against the 'Society for Growing Australian Plants' name as being old fashioned and limited to 'growing', and our members voted to change the name to Australian Plants Society following the example of Victoria and New South Wales, and many local groups.

When Foothills started, a meeting typically hosted a speaker, a Flower of the Month, a Popular Vote Competition and General Exhibit, and Plant Sales. There was also a Seed Bank. In later years the group built up its Library and in the 1980s had its own mulcher which it hired out to members. The meetings have generally kept to the same format with occasional variations like the insect hotel building evening. Over time, the seed bank and the library were discontinued, and Ross Shepherd told us that the mulcher had broken down and then it was stolen - a blessing in disguise.

Our meetings were held at Knox Park Primary School from March 1974 to 1993 when we were booted out by the school council. We moved to Boronia West Primary School, and moved back to Knox Park Primary School in 2018 because of the unpredictability of how we would find the facilities. However, we are now investigating a more comfortable and suitable meeting venue for future meetings.

Kerry Davis and Shirley Smith have been volunteering with the Knox Park PS gardens for many years, following on the tradition of Olga Shaw who has a garden named after her at Knox Park. Our group holds at least two working bees there every year.

The first decades saw many young families involved. With visits to local bush areas and members' gardens, close bonds were formed. It's a timely reminder that most of our members were then in their early thirties. Weekend excursions and trips

away were varied and included visits to the Victorian Alps, Little Desert, Lake Eildon, and even a day trip to French Island.

In the 1980s, quarterly gatherings hosted by various Victorian groups began and effectively reduced our own organisation of weekends away. Our members fully embraced these get-togethers and have visited all corners of Victoria, including Horsham, Mildura, Bairnsdale, Warrnambool, Portland, Bendigo. We've hosted at least six quarterly gatherings, including one that coincided with Monika's 60th birthday when our theme was Gardens 4 Wildlife, and a couple focused on the Dandenong Ranges, the last one in 2018.

Our members are also keen participants of our Society's national conferences, the ASGAP, renamed ANPSA, and travel all over Australia to participate.

Our first garden visit was to Olga and Ken Shaw's garden in Knoxfield. Of our members' gardens, we have often visited Bev Fox, Chris Larkin, Rob and Val Henry, Bob and Dot O'Neill, Shirley Carn and many more. Propagation days have been held in our members' gardens and lately at Knox Park Primary School.



Bev Fox's garden

Flower Shows

Initially, members of Foothills group participated in shows held by SGAP Victoria at the Camberwell Civic Centre. Foothills held their flower shows from 1976 at Ferntree Gully High School.

In 1983 we moved our show to Ferntree Gully Community Centre which was coined 'Stringybark Festival,' by Merv Turner. The next year we invited other groups and market sales to our show. We had a very busy weekend but were so short staffed that

instead of having people advising on growing plants, they were directing traffic.

By 1985 we realised the enormity of the organisation of such a show and looked to having to either cut down or bow out. Dick Dare, the Knox City Council landscaper, stepped in with an offer for SGAP to hold their flower show but Council would co-ordinate the event. This worked out well for us except that we lost complete control of how things were run, and as an example, when the first Grand Opening was arranged, council officers closed off our main display to serve champagne to official guests, excluding all our members.

The Stringybark Festival was moved to Rowville Community Centre in 1990 by Knox City Council and the name changed to Stringybark Bush Festival.



The last Stringybark Festival that Foothills was involved with.

We were active there till 2012 when our committee decided the effort outweighed the benefit. Stringybark was a bonding experience for us. A guarantee was our first visitors on Saturday morning would be Judy Barker and Maureen Schaumann for plant sales, and assisting us with clear up last thing Sunday afternoon would be Paul Birch.

We had different themes, including a garden competition, flower arranging competition and miniature garden displays. We always had displays of flowers in specially prepared jars, plant sales and a miscellaneous sales table.

Our last gasp attempt of involvement with Stringybark was when Knox City Council put on a Virtual Stringybark in 2020. Monika and Rolf went to a lot of effort to put together a video of their garden in the foothills and Kerry took part in a discussion panel.



Kerry Davis on the discussion panel at the 2020 virtual version of Stringybark

External Involvement

Many of our members have taken lead roles at Victorian level, including Ross McDonald and David Davie who were presidents from 1978 to 1986, and who were President and Secretary respectively of ASGAP, the federal organization. ASGAP is the Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants. This name was changed in 1997 to the Australian Native Plants Society Australia. Bev Fox has been Treasurer for Victoria since 1987 till 2021 with a couple of short breaks, and Federal Treasurer for a term. Nicky Rose has been President and Secretary of Victoria and finished 9 years as Federal Publicity Officer in 2019. John Facey was Seed Bank Curator, Russell Johnson, Librarian and Ngaire Turner, Membership Officer.

Ross McDonald, David Davie, Bev and Nicky have all been awarded Honorary Life Memberships as well as Maureen Schaumann, Barbara Buchanan and Helen Kennedy. Members who have had Certificates of Commendation awarded include Kerry Davis, Joan Rand, Ngaire Turner, Shirley Carn, Bob and Dot O'Neill, Dallas and Bernard Boulton, John Facey, Tony and Brenda Moore, and Max Kennedy.

Some of our members have left the area and become involved with other groups. Olga Shaw and Hartley Tobin with South Gippsland; Barbara Buchanan in Wangaratta and Ross Shepherd more recently with Mornington Peninsula.

A notable past member is Prof Hans Griesser who transferred to South Australia and is leading the research of antibacterial constituents of *Eremophila alternifolia*.

Speakers we have hosted many times include Rodger and Gwen Elliott, Fred Rogers, Neil Marriott, Trevor Blake and Royce Raleigh. We have also had Jim Willis, Leon Costermans and Dr Beth Gott as guest speakers.

Our own members often present to our group, and contribute to the greater APS community including Hartley Tobin, Merv Turner, Phil Jackson, Roger Stone, Chris Larkin and Nicky.

As a group we have had ups and downs, with occasions when we spoke about merging with other groups. This has mostly coincided with struggles to get members on committee.

Our anchor though, has been Kerry Davis who has been newsletter editor for the past 40 years, and recently we have had a strong leader and core of four other committee members. But as we step into our next decade, we need to have more members on our committee.

After fifty years, APS Foothills is still a terrific group, we have made some solid friendships and above all, keep “sharing the joys of our Australian native plants, and continue learning about our native plants.”

I presented the above talk at our last meeting. Much to my delight, we had a couple of visitors who were involved in the group when I first joined, Roger Stone and Ross Shepherd.

There were many things that I didn't get to mention, for instance the close relationship we had with Glaxo in Boronia. We had several Christmas breakups in their garden when our members and their children could use the swimming pool there, and David Davie was responsible for getting the gardens designed by Paul Thompson. In later years Roger Stone and Monika Herrmann worked in that garden. Leigh Eley, Val Henry and Chris Long (APS Vic secretary) also all worked at Glaxo.

Nicky Zanen

50th Birthday Thanks

I think it's safe for me to say, on behalf of the group, a big thanks to Nicky for a sweeping tour of APS Foothills history in celebrating our 50th birthday. The highlights were captured: the full story way too big for an evening talk. It would be nice to think the group will continue long into the future, but membership, and membership of younger people in particular, is a real struggle we're not winning. Thank you, Janet, for making the evening so special with little gift bags, mystery raffle prizes and homemade birthday cakes. Was there anyone who didn't have a slice of sponge cake? I doubt it.

Chris Larkin

Specimen table highlights

In writing about some of the plants that have been brought into our meetings, I'm learning quite a lot.

Grevillea speciosa ssp. *dimorpha* forms

I looked up *Grevillea dimorpha* in the encyclopaedia only to find this is not the correct name!

I was directed to look under *Grevillea speciosa* ssp. *dimorpha*. I then rang Bev Fox, who has the Marriott and Olde grevillea books, written more recently than the encyclopaedia, to find that *Grevillea dimorpha* is no longer a subspecies of *G. speciosa*. As we all know, these assignments and reassignments of plant species, and even name changes, is a sign of the times, as science allows us to drill down more closely on plant morphology.

Grevillea dimorpha plants are restricted to the Grampians. Their foliage is variable with three forms apparently in cultivation - broad, medium and narrow. Two forms are pictured and unless we had a third one, it is difficult to say if the larger leafed plant is the broad or medium form.



***Grevillea speciosa* ssp. *dimorpha* fine leaf and broad leaf forms** (Photo: Chris Larkin)

The plants can grow up to 2.5m, with the smaller leafed plant the smallest. Neither plant has reached

a great height for me staying around 1 to 1.2m but this, of course, can be a result of the growing conditions. They have proved to be easy plants to grow and some of the very few grevilleas that remain small plants.

Grevillea aspera

Grevillea aspera was brought in by Kerry. He just does this to annoy someone like me, showing off this fleshy beauty every year! *Grevillea aspera* occurs in semi-arid regions of SA, from Flinders Ranges to the Eyre Peninsula. Wikipedia says there is also a variant in the Rawlinson Ranges WA that is on the endangered list.



Grevillea aspera (Photo: Kerry Davis)

The variant Kerry grows is from the Gawler Rangers. The encyclopaedia suggests it can be propagated from seed or cuttings but Marriott and Olde make it clear it is easiest to strike cuttings from suckers. To get the plant to sucker, Kerry was brave enough, many years ago now, to cut the plant he was growing off at ground level. This is the way he has propagated the plant ever since. I have suggested he investigate whether division is an option, being aware suckers do not always produce their own roots. *Grevillea aspera* is a great small plant from 1 to 2m. Its red and yellow tipped woolly flowers contrast perfectly with the pale grey leaves.

Chris Larkin

Plant Review

Correa Perfect Pollinator

Plant Growers Australia has released 2 new Correas in their Perfect Pollinator range: Pink and Dark Pink. Both grow to 60cm x 1m and flower as expected from Autumn through Winter, in sun to part shade.



Dark Pink

Correa Perfect Pollinator



Pink

60cm x 1m

The emphasis on the branding "Perfect Pollinator" reflects a new focus for this grower, responding to the increasing trend of planting "for the bees". In fact, shoppers requesting plants which attract insects shows the growing awareness in the public that everyone of us can help our broader environment from our own gardens. Planting Correas is a great way to provide insects and birds with a reliable food source through the cooler weather and, as a side benefit, give us gardeners not only a beautiful plant to enjoy, but a look at those who depend on them for food.

Liz Triggs



Last day meeting

Banksias by Trevor Blake

At very short notice in May, Trevor Blake was very kind in giving us a talk on 'Banksias'. The title didn't do justice to the number of terrifically beautiful banksias we have, and Trevor took us on a whirlwind trip of Australia showing us a large proportion of the 80 banksias to be found in different parts of the country and vegetation types.

Trevor began his talk by describing the difference between banksias and dryandras. The main distinguishing feature used to be the seed cones, but now DNA lumps them together under banksias. Banksias are mostly found within 100 miles from the coast, and not many are in cultivation.



Amongst the banksias Trevor showed us were *Banksia robur*, with its bottle green or dark flowers; *B. dentata*, only found in tropical areas in swamps and also in Papua New Guinea; *B. aemula* which has foliage similar to *B. serrata* with much larger fruits; *B. tricuspis*, found at Mt Lesueur in Western Australia and *B. condolleana* with its unique shaped seed pod.

Trevor suggested that *B. elderiana* and *B. lehmanniana* were great for growing in Melbourne although they need good drainage.

For flower arranging *B. manglesii* are favourites because of their long stems, and *B. baxteri* which florists like dyeing.

Banksia rosserae was named to honour Celia Rosser after the mammoth work she undertook to illustrate all the banksias. Plants were only discovered early 2000 when Neil Marriott and Peter Olde, chasing grevilleas, heard about it and found plants that "couldn't be banksias because they were growing too far inland". They were a banksia and have subsequently been described although there were

no flowers. These appeared after Cyclone Glenda dumped rain in the area in 2006.

I thoroughly enjoyed Trevor's talk especially as it reminded me of the wonderful range of banksias we have.



Photos taken from Trevor Blake's presentation

One of our past members, Ross Shepherd, is setting up a banksia arboretum in Seaford. He sent me the following information:

As a true Banksia Lover I approached Frankston City Council, then Vicroads with a vision to create a Banksia Arboretum Project on two un-developed roadside lots near my home here in Seaford. A year later it has come into fruition and me and a group of mixed volunteers have got about 30 plants in now with another 50 or so set to go in next Sunday at 2 PM on the cnr of Well's & Seaford Rds Seaford. We have room for around 2500 Banksias. You can track my vision on FaceBook to at Seaford Banksia Arboretum Project if you like. You'll also see me over on Banksia Lovers too regularly.

With Ross's enthusiasm this will be a terrific place to keep an eye on.

Nicky Zanen

Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2022

NB: Please check APS Victoria website for cancellations

25 & 26 June 2022 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

23 & 24 July 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. (Advised 24/3/22)

27 & 28 August 2022 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

1 September 2022 – 2022 Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, Pomonal. A one day in-person event but exploring options to make the seminar available to an online audience. Theme “Image of Biodiversity” which aims to explore how imagery is used to monitor, engage and inspire people towards greater biodiversity conservation efforts. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

3 Sept 2022 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.



11 – 16 September 2022 - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website. Registrations open now.

Change of Date, New Venue

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more. (Updated April 2022)

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Loddon Murray host COM and Quarterly Gathering in Swan Hill.

26 to 30 September 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

1 & 2 October 2022 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, 10.00 – 4.00 on Sunday.

8 October 2022 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

15 October 2022 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am - 3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.

15 & 16 October 2022 – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical ‘pea-flowered’ plants from the sub-family Faboideae). York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

22 & 23 October 2022 - APS Ballarat **Spring** Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

22 & 23 October 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Nicky Zanen



Hypocalymma angustifolium
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

Out and About

May 2022 has been a strange month for me. After setting up the day meeting twenty-two years ago, we are now calling stumps. Additionally, another group I helped set up which I have been very attached to, the Wilson Park APS, has morphed and moved on. Decisions have been made to move away from their Berwick home and meet in Pakenham. The new group is called APS Cardinia.

I have had such pleasure in preparing for the talk on the history of APS Foothills, and touching base with several of our past members.

There are several newsletters missing but ones I would particularly like to have are the June 2012 and February 2011 which were sent electronically.

Has anyone got copies of these two newsletters?

They can be emailed to me at

nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk.

There are members who were not able to attend the history of Foothills in May, and I plan to hold a Zoom

meeting to share the photographs I put together, with those interested.

This will be on Monday 13 June 2022 (Queens Birthday public holiday).

Nicky Zanen

From the Secretary

Our next Neutrog Order deadline is 8 August 2022 and delivery will be at the beginning of September. Betty Wright has kindly offered to take receipt of the order again. Details of how to place orders will be published in our July newsletter.

Nicky Zanen

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria



Growing Friends Winter Plant Sale

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



Thomasia purpurea x Solanaceae

Grasses, climbers, border-plants, ground-covers,
small & large bushes and trees, plants for wildlife

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 July 2022

10am to 4pm

Australian Garden - Cranbourne

Plant-list available 1 week before sale: w.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au
[f.rbgfriendscranbourne](https://www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscranbourne)

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APS FOOTHILLS INC.

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<https://www.facebook.com/apsfoothills>

Visit our Webpage:

<https://psvic.org.au/aps-foothills/>

MEETINGS

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

Date: 4th Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov)

Time: 7.45pm

COMMITTEE

Leader: Janet Hodgkiss

Secretary: Nicky Zanen

Treasurer: Chris Larkin

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Davis

Other Members: Betty Wright

APS Vic Delegate: Janet Hodgkiss

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the
land on which we meet. We pay our respects to
First Nations People throughout Australia, and to
Elders both past and present.*

VISITORS WELCOME!



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

July Newsletter 2022

EVENING MEETING

Annual General Meeting & Quiz

Wednesday 27th July 2022

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

Time: 7.45pm

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are now due.

Please see how to renew on the last two pages.

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills



Hi Everyone,

June was a bittersweet month as it saw us hold our last day meeting, and as I've mentioned previously, it was not a decision we took lightly but something we needed to do for the overall health of the group. I'd like to thank Nicky again for all the work she's put into coordinating the meetings and keeping it going over the years, and I'd also like to thank those members who helped Nicky run things as I know she's always been very appreciative of the assistance you gave her.

Our next meeting is our AGM and Quiz night, and you'll find the agenda, previous minutes, and annual and financial reports *attached to this email*. You need to be a paid-up financial member to vote at the AGM, and if you're keen to volunteer on the committee, so please make sure you renew your membership promptly.

We also need a quorum of ten people to hold our AGM, so please do come to the meeting so that we have enough people and don't have to postpone it. We've got our annual quiz that night too which is always great fun, and you never know, you might be the one to win the quiz!

Membership renewals are now due and to make things as easy as possible for you, we have included the membership renewal form and instructions with this newsletter. Chris will also be able to take your subs at our July meeting, so check the renewal instructions on what to do if you'd like to pay her in person on the night.

We'd like to refresh the committee at the AGM as well, so please consider joining the committee, even if you just want to be an ordinary member with no specific role. This is a good way to get to a feel of

how Foothills and the committee works, and to get to know what the various roles involve. Having new people join the committee helps keep our group vibrant and dynamic because each person brings along different ideas and ways of doing things, so why not give it a go?

We've got a great line-up of meetings for rest of the year, and our calendar also includes a couple of 'get-physical' Saturday morning options too!

These kick off with a working bee in mid-August at the school. We're hoping to be able to plant some of the plants we propagated at our propagation morning in February in the new sensory garden that has been developed, and Shirley needs some info from you regarding that, so please see her garden update in this newsletter.

APS Loddon Murray are hosting the spring Quarterly Meeting, 25-26 September, in Swan Hill which includes the APS Vic COMM and AGM. They have booked a good speaker for the Saturday night, there are garden visits and some interesting optional extras and you'll find more information on that in this newsletter. You'll need to register if you want attend, so please see the registration form attached to this newsletter email. The nomination form for positions on the APS Victoria committee was missed out by the printers and was not included with the June issue of Growing Australian, so please find the form attached to this newsletter email.

It might not feel like it, given the fact that we are in mid-winter now and having some good ol' chilly weather, but spring is on its way so keep an eye out for all the plant sales. Many of last year's sales were disrupted by lockdowns and restrictions, so I sure am looking forward to seeing what's on offer this year.

See you all next time.

Janet Hodgkiss

Last Day Meeting

Our June meeting was held in person and started with a cuppa and cakes. The display bench was covered with a vast array of flowers, and members spoke about the ones they had brought in. Ray kicked us off with a *Banksia baueri*, the possum banksia. These are flowers you just want to hug, they are so furry. He also had a *Banksia spinulosa*,

Templetonia retusa, a chorizema variant, *Grevillea* 'Spirit of Anzac' from Kings Park, *Grevillea* 'Pink Surprise', *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty', *Thryptomene amethyst* and *mingenew* and *Diplolaena grandiflora*.



Nicky addressing the last day meeting
(Photo: Richard Maddever)

Monika brought in *Acacia podalyriifolia*, Mt Morgan Wattle, *Epacris impressa* 'Bega', *Spyridium phlebophyllum* with its distinctly grey foliage, *Micromyrtus leptocalyx* and *Grevillea nodiflora* which is low growing.

Chris started with *Hakea scoparia* which is a big shrub, *Hakea bucculenta* which flowers for months but is possibly a hybrid with *francisiana*, and *orthorrhyncha* which Chris described as "Blood on the Branches". She also mentioned the *Grevillea* 'Old Gold', a tough plant which stays reasonably low.



Ray Barnes talking about his plants
(Photo: Richard Maddever)

Merele brought an *Eremophila mackinlayi*, always flowering and growing over her driveway and *Grevillea* 'Katy's sister', an upright flower pointing upwards. This was bred by Philip Vaughan and introduced into the market after he sold his rights to *Grevillea* 'Katy'. *Eucalyptus* 'Blue Lagoon'; a red *Correa impressa*, and *Persoonia pinifolia* which was still flowering even though it is June and a delightful small *Correa* with an apricot-coloured flower.



Day meeting member gather around the display bench and talk plants (Photo: Richard Maddever)

Mike and Sue Bailey brought in a couple of correas including 'Federation Bells'.

Maureen brought in *Phyllothea difformis ssp smithii*, *Acacia beckleri*, the first plant to flower in her front garden. Ross and Monika said theirs had finished flowering two months ago. Maureen's plant isn't in the sun and she finds that it grows quickly and needs to be cut back continuously. A stake won't hold it. There was also a lime Correa and *Grevillea bipinnatifida*.

These weren't the only flowers on show, but the ones I was able to note down and make sense of.

Nicky Zanen

Thank You

On behalf of all the members of the Day Group I would like to thank Nicky for her long-standing leadership of the Group over many years. Our monthly meetings were always happy and friendly. Nicky always greeted us with a warm smile, often a hug and did her best to make them informative with many varied speakers. Being a Leader is not an easy task, as I well know, it involves a lot of work behind the scenes and Nicky performed admirably to this task, so a great big thank you Nicky, you have earned a well-deserved rest.

Our sincere thanks also to Carol, our past Treasurer, who looked after our finances for many years without any fuss. Her commute from Healesville to Blackburn each month showed her dedication to the Group as well. Your efforts were much appreciated Carol. Thank you.

Maureen Schaumann

June Meeting - Five Slides

One of our favourite meetings where members get to show us five slides of plants and things they find interesting, and tell us a bit about them. We always get a lovely range of images and subjects, and what makes it a such an interactive meeting, is that it is very sociable and members can freely ask questions, make comments or share their own experiences with what's being shown.

Here is a selection of some of the slides that were shown on the night. These photos were also posted on our Facebook Page (with permission), and we've had plenty of likes and a few shares of our post already, which is great. There are some beautiful photos and the pictures tell a lovely story too, so if you missed the meeting - enjoy!



***Thelymitra pauciflora* (Slender Sun Orchid), in Beckett Park, Boroondara** (Photo: Paul Birch)

Paul - Beckett Park, which adjoins Maranoa Gardens, is an important revegetation site for indigenous species. Slender Sun Orchids still come up even though they are near a high traffic area, and alongside the paths are grassy meadow areas with Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia communis*) and grasses including Soft Tussock-grass (*Poa morrisii*) and Veined Spear-grass (*Austrostipa rudis*).



Grassy meadow in Beckett Park, Boroondara
(Photo: Paul Birch)

Kerry - individually, Kerry's flower pics were gorgeous, but I was enchanted at how fantastic they looked when I put three of them together in this collage.

Kunzea pulchella, grey leaf form. Stunning red flowers against silver-grey leaves. (H) 2-2.5m (W) 0.5m; Everlastings are always good for a splash of bright colour! *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower) is a velvety, sensory delight that will reseed itself. Seedlings may show a great variation in height, leaf form and flower size.



Flannel flowers, Everlastings and deep red Kunzea
(Photos: Kerry Davis)

Nicky - Although not there on the night, Nicky sent through some photos that included these of *Scaevola taccada* (Beach Naupaka/Beach Cabbage), looking lush in FNQ, and growing right on the beach in the salt spray zone.



***Scaevola taccada* (Beach Naupaka/Beach Cabbage)**
(Photo: Nicky Zanen)

Debbie - Before and after pics are always interesting. Here a grassy parking spot that was muddy and scruffy in winter, is transformed with gravel and now provides a perfect backdrop for native garden beds.



Grassy parking area is transformed with gravel
(Photo: Debbie McMillan)

The native garden bed alongside the new gravel area is already exploding with colour.



Brachyscome, Hibbertia and Lechenaultia provide bright colour (Photo: Debbie McMillan)

Jean - Botanic gardens are always well worth a visit when travelling. Pangarinda Botanic Garden in South Australia highlights species from the highly modified drier agricultural regions of southern mainland Australia and some of Australia's threatened flora.



Entrance to Pangarinda Botanic Garden (Photo: Jean Bellis)



Banksia media and Eucalyptus rhodantha (Rose Mallee) at Pangarinda Botanic Garden (Photo: Jean Bellis)

Liz - Echo Flat at Lake Mountain in January had lots in flower and signs are everywhere of recovery and regeneration after the 2009 bushfires.



On a misty summer's morning, a green valley is backed with a haze of dead snow gums (Photo: Liz Triggs)



A bold Stylidium stands out against Prostanthera and Eucalyptus at Lake Mountain (Photo: Liz Triggs)



More pretties from Lake Mountain - *Oxylobium alpestre* with its pea flowers, and *Derwentia nivea* (Syn. *Veronica nivea*) (Photo: Liz Triggs)

Chris - shared some interesting facts about fungi including that they are in a Kingdom all of their own which is closer to the Animal Kingdom; Chemicals in their cell walls are shared with crabs and lobsters; A fungus has been discovered that breaks down plastics in weeks rather than years.



Ever-fascinating fungi - tiny cute ones, agate-patterned bracket forms, and round dumpy ones (Photo: Chris Larkin)

Janet - looked at form and contrast in nature and in garden design, and shared pictures of her other passion - the marine environment.



***Acacia pendula* (Weeping Myall) and *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak) both have the same weeping form but are strikingly different in colour** (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Not plants but how's this for simply spectacular colour?! Jellyfish washed up on the beaches on the Bellarine Peninsula (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Ross - had pictures of plants from WA, and plants he is growing or has tried to grow but without long term success. *Stypandra glauca* with its blue flowers (not pictured here) is thriving and prefers to be on the dry side. He's not had much luck with growing *Verticordia grandis* in the garden though, despite trying grafted specimens which are supposed to do better in the eastern states. At \$25 for a grafted plant, it's become disheartening to have them grow for a just a short while, only to have them turn up their toes.



Grevillea wickhamii, with its distinctive holly-like leaves and dangling clusters of flowers
 (Photo: Ross McDonald)



***Verticordia grandis* (Feather flower), WA**
 (Photo: Ross McDonald)

Peter G - showed us pictures of the very impressive flower spike on his Gymea Lily. Although it looks small next to the eucalypt trunk, when you look at how high up the trunk the flower spike is reaching, it is certainly impressive!
 Peter mentioned that if you wanted to see a forest of these beauties, then you can see them at Batman Ave near the MCG.

I've seen the 'forest' that Peter mentioned, so I looked back through my photos when I got home and found these that I took way back in 2008. Without wanting to detract from Peter's impressive plants, I've included them here so that you can see what you'll see if you walk along Birrarung Marr, to where William Barak Bridge crosses Batman Ave, near the MCG.



***Doryanthes excelsa* Gymea Lily**
 (Photo: Peter Gribble)



Large planting of Gymea lilies near the MCG
 (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Forest of Gymea lilies (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Close-up of Gynea Lily flower head
(Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Kerry - mentioned how having wildlife visit your garden is an added bonus of growing a variety of native plants. Birds like this Rainbow Lorikeet make great fly-in fly-out 'pets'!



Rainbow Lorikeet enjoying Eucalypt flowers
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

Thanks everyone who brought slides to share. We had a lovely evening!

Janet Hodgkiss

Update on the Sensory Garden at Knox Park Primary School

Marilyn Gray, Kerry and Shirley did some preliminary planting in the new sensory garden at the school. Marilyn's daughter taught at the school last year but has taken promotion to a new school. The area has been well fenced off to give the plants a chance to establish properly.

When we had the Propagation Morning earlier in the year, some people prepared cuttings that might be able to be used in that sensory garden.

** Please could members update Kerry or Shirley as to what success they've had, and what might be ready for planting in the Spring.

Thanks.

Shirley Smith



Kerry and Marilyn working in the sensory garden
(Photo: Shirley Smith)

Out and About

While I was preparing the quiz questions for our next meeting I came across mention of my *Grevillea shiresii*. Over a year ago I mentioned that my plant had toppled over, and then I found a seedling snugly set between my compost bin and the fence. I gingerly replanted it, and twelve months later, regard this as a successful transplant. It hasn't grown much but it certainly looks healthy.

On my return from Queensland I am thrilled to see *Templetonia retusa*, which has been struggling to perform, has suddenly burst into flower. It looks spectacular there amongst the gum trees in its shaded position. I also noticed my new *Prostanthera aspalathoides* with its red flowers is still performing. It has had a long flowering season.

My correas are in full swing again – I hardly see them during summer but they certainly put on a superb display at this time of year.

At the end of June I joined a tour of Cairns, Cooktown and Mareeba, Far North Queensland, run by the Cranbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The vegetation in this region is starkly different to the temperate rainforests of our Dandenongs, and I am still in brain fog trying to remember what I saw and where we were. I'll have more to say about this trip in future.

Nicky Zanen

Neutrog Orders

We are planning to place orders with Neutrog for an anticipated delivery at the beginning of September. Betty has kindly offered to receive our orders on our behalf.

Orders will be accepted till 8 August 2022, and delivery beginning September 2022.

The instructions of getting access to Neutrog are shown below, but if you haven't already registered, please contact Nicky so that we can set the ball rolling. Our members' email addresses are not automatically sent to Neutrog and we'll provide your email address on your request.

Nicky Zanen Ph: 0401 975 191

Dear Member,

* The process of ordering your Neutrog products has now moved to an online platform called 'Shopify'. This is a change from the manual system that has been in place for a long time, but ensures a smoother transaction with the club and at Neutrog. It gives you more control over your order and takes away the need for order forms and money collection. The payment and collating of the orders is now done by Neutrog.

* The delivery/collection process will remain the same. Individuals will receive an invoice and you simply bring this to the collection point on the date indicated to collect your order.

* To participate, Neutrog has asked that we provide them with your email address. If you do not wish to participate, please let me know by return email and your details won't be passed on to Neutrog. Once set up in their system they will send you a unique activation code which will take you to their member section on their online store. There will be instruction provided with the email. You will then enter a password. This will be your own password which will allow you to access the store at any time. You can then scroll through all products and make your purchase. The store is always open, so you can order whenever you like. You simply select the drop off point and date and you will collect as normal. They are offering on your first order a one off \$20 discount on an order over \$40.

* If you don't have an email address, you won't be left out. We suggest you 'buddy-up' with someone who does have an email address either within the club, or a family member. Alternatively the club can have their own account and orders made on your behalf. In this instance the order and money will need to be collected and paid online by the club. You are stepped through the process online, but if you are having any difficulty there is a freecall number 1800 656 644 should you need any help or you can contact me direct, and I will pass on your concerns to Neutrog.

Kind Regards

Club Order Co-ordinator, Neutrog

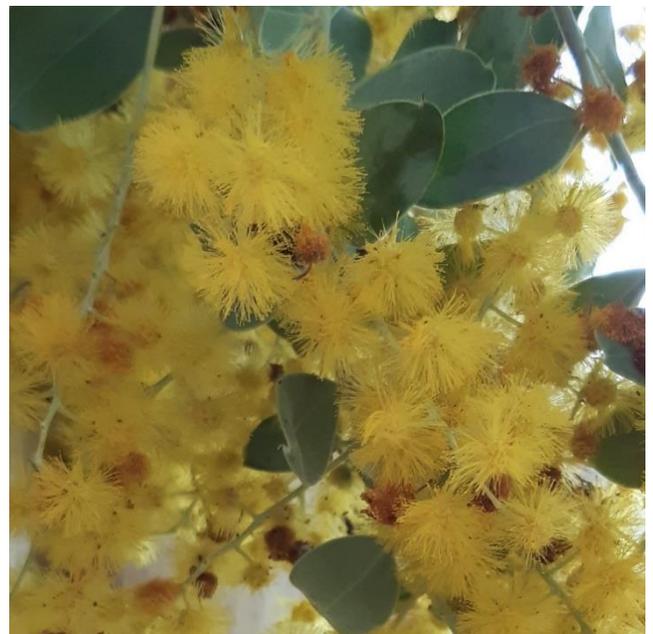
The logo for Neutrog, featuring the word "NEUTROG" in a bold, green, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol. Below the text is a stylized green swoosh that underlines the letters.

Manufacturers of biological fertilisers

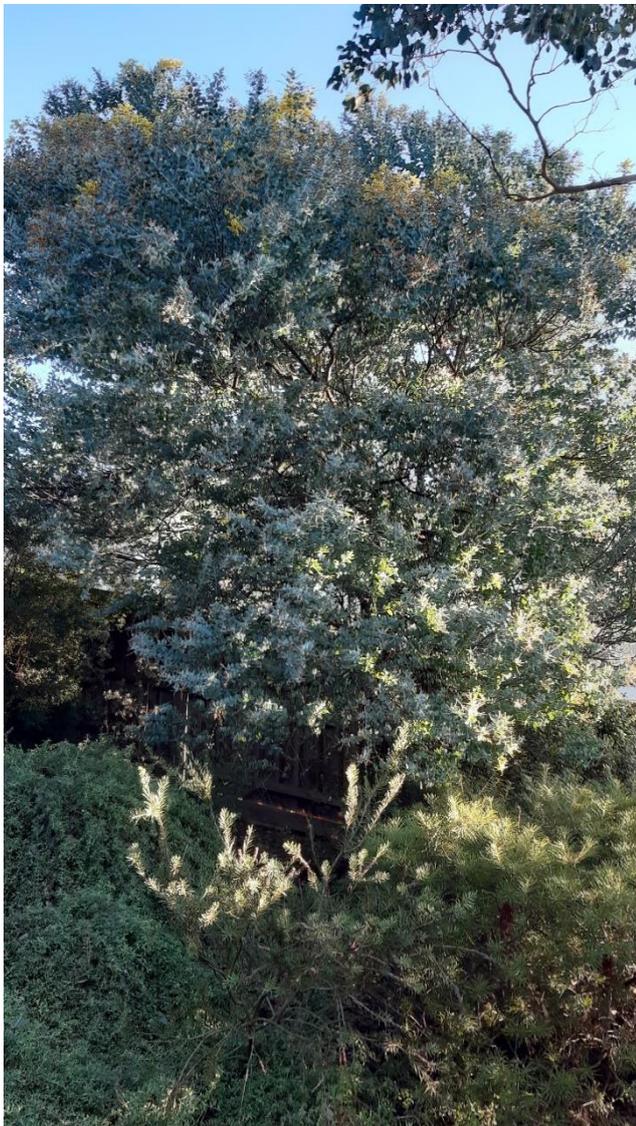
Plants from the Bench

***Acacia podalyriifolia*, Mount Morgan Wattle**

Liz brought in a specimen of this plant from the one growing at her front gate. She is starting to be concerned about whether it is showing signs of final decline. I too grow this reasonably popular wattle which I had heavily pruned last year. Its subsequent growth to double in size has been quite a surprise. I do know Liz prunes her plant regularly, so lack of pruning is unlikely to be the issue. As they say – all good things come to an end. *A. podalyriifolia* comes from QLD or NSW. It is widely grown in a variety of climatic zones and soil types with good drainage. It can be managed as a large shrub or small tree. It is showy in flower with masses of large, fluffy, fragrant bright yellows but the bonus is when not in flower the wonderful silver-grey foliage is a standout.



***Acacia podalyriifolia* Flowers** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Acacia podalyriifolia*, Mount Morgan Wattle**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

***Grevillea sericea* Collaroy Plateau selection**

I grow a few different types of *Grevillea sericea* which is apparently quite variable. I think the typical pink flowering selection available is fine-leaved and grows quite upright and large.



***Grevillea sericea* Collaroy Plateau selection**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

This Collaroy Plateau selection is my favourite. I like its broad leaf and bright pink flowers. It has remained a small shrub as you can see but this may

be due to its less than ideal placement in the garden. I'm unsure when and where I was able to get this plant but so far have not seen it for sale at Kuranga. For this reason, I am currently trying to propagate it. Wish me luck.

I am confused about the location of the Collaroy Plateau because the Elliot and Jones encyclopaedia says it is south-west of Sydney, but Google maps tells me it is an area 22km north-west of Sydney. Of course, both things could be correct but have not been able to establish this possibility.

Chris Larkin



***Grevillea sericea* Collaroy Plateau selection**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Weed Watch

***Romulea rosea*, Onion Weed**

I am currently establishing paths and new garden beds, shrinking the vegetable plots and area for fruit trees. In carrying out this work I didn't appreciate the extent to which this fine-leaved onion weed, that has a pink flower close to the base in Spring, had taken over so completely, or the number of hours involved in trying to remove it.

No matter how many I remove, more appear leading me to think when I remove the most vigorous it gives a lease of life to others that may not have had a chance to grow and prosper. One of the difficulties of removing it, is the bulb can be up to 35cm down so the soil needs to be loosened with a fork – repeatedly.



***Romulea rosea*, Onion Weed can take over quickly in the garden** (Photo: Chris Larkin)



***Romulea rosea*, Onion Weed, bulbs**
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

I remember this weed from my childhood because we used to eat its plump seed, which follows the flower, when it was fresh and juicy. We called them

plum puddings. Don't ask me how we knew it was safe to eat this seed, or more likely we were just lucky.

When a plant is so adapted for survival, which is the case with plants that store energy in a bulb, it is a fair bet they originate from a harsh climate, like a hot or freezing cold desert. This plant unsurprisingly hails from South Africa. It can replicate by bulb division or via seed after the flowering.

Chris Larkin

May 2021, a two-week trip through N-W Victoria, Wyperfeld NP, Rocket Lake and Hattah-Kulkyne NP

I thought that I would share some notes and photos from our two week trip through NW Victoria in mid May 2021 when there was a break in the lockdowns. It is such a beautiful part of the state and also has fewer visitors. The small town of Rainbow welcomed us in the friendliest manner; they hadn't seen travellers for some time. As it happens, the motel owner originally stemmed from Upwey! Around the town, the gorgeous, dry land Eucalypts were flowering brilliantly, notably *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* and *E. woodwardii*, both stunning.



Eucalyptus erythrocorys (Photo: Rolf Herrmann)

North of the town is the small settlement of Yaapeet on the eastern branch of Lake Albacutya, mostly dry, and one of the painted silos. The artist on the cherry-picker is putting on the last touches. One of the town's residents questioned the idea of hugging yabbies!



Painted silo at Yaapeet (Photo: Chris Larkin)

We head north to Wyperfeld NP, a park we haven't been to for nearly thirty years. It was high time. With a blackening sky, we set off on the Discovery Walk, about a 2hr plus stroll through dune country with the bright green Slender and Scrub Cypress-Pines (*Callitris gracilis* and *C. verrucosa*), Common Fringe-myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona*), various wattles, Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) and mallees, as well as a few Desert Banksias, (*B. ornata*). To me it was a pleasant, undulating and soft landscape. The walk has many information posts about the flora and fauna and most of them have a huntsman hiding in the sheltered cover! There had been no rain in the park for many years and fires burned in 2014. A major source of fuel is the Porcupine-Grass (*Triodia scariosa*), mistakenly called Spinifex that forms tall, grassy tussocks that normally provide a safe haven for small animals and shelter Cypress pine seedlings from grazers.

Tyre pressures had to come down to drive the sandy and often confusing tracks for three hours to our intended Casuarina Camp among some very old Bulokes (*Casuarina luehmannii*).



Casuarina luehmannii (Photo: Rolf Herrmann)

With no-one else around, it was so good to be in dry, semi-desert country again with the silence, 'a chandelier of stars' (John Williamson) and a warming campfire.

In the northern area of the park, we were lucky to see a Pink Cockatoo a Black Falcon, the very social birds, the well-named Babblers, a raptor nest and a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles high in the thermals. My memory of 'The Snowdrift' was of flying kites and the kids rolling/skidding down this huge dune. I was surprised at the time to see such high white dunes not that far from townships (west of the Calder Hwy near Ouyen). Another surprise was the huge, majestic River Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) along a dry, northern creek that were said to be 400-500 yrs old.

Coming out on the Mallee Hwy at Underbool, we had parked and then noticed a pair of Pink Cockatoos, (formerly Major Mitchell Cockatoo) studiously cracking the cones of the Cypress Pines quite near, working their way through the tree, oblivious to us! It's so good to watch their dexterity at close hand.

Murray-Sunset NP which now includes Pink Lakes is north of the highway, another area to explore. (to be continued)

Monika Herrmann



Eucalyptus woodwardia (Photo: Monika Herrmann)



Pink Cockatoo (Photo: Rolf Herrmann)



On the 'The Snowdrift' Wyperfeld NP

(Photo: Monika Herrmann)

Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2022

NB: Please check APS Victoria website for cancellations

23 & 24 July 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. (Advised 24/3/22)

27 & 28 August 2022 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

1 September 2022 – 2022 Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, Pomonal. A one day in-person event but exploring options to make the seminar available to an online audience. Theme “Image of Biodiversity” which aims to explore how imagery is used to monitor, engage and inspire people towards greater biodiversity conservation efforts. Follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

3 Sept 2022 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

11 – 16 September 2022 - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website. Registrations open now.

Change of Date, New Venue

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more. (Updated April 2022)

24 & 25 September 2022 – APS Loddon Murray host COM and Quarterly Gathering in Swan Hill.

26 to 30 September 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

1 & 2 October 2022 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, 10.00 – 4.00 on Sunday.

8 October 2022 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

15 October 2022 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am - 3pm. Memorial Hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2 entry.

15 & 16 October 2022 – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae). York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

22 & 23 October 2022 - APS Ballarat **Spring** Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

22 & 23 October 2022 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au



Nicky Zanen

September Quarterly Gathering

The September APS Victoria AGM and COMM will be hosted by APS Loddon Murray over the weekend of 25th and 26th September, 2022, in Swan Hill.

Registration is required.

There is a registration form in the June Growing Australian, but for your convenience, you'll also find the form attached to the email with this newsletter. You can fill it out on your computer and then email the completed form to APS Loddon Murray.

It looks to be a great weekend, with Dean Nicolle as guest speaker on the Saturday evening, garden visits on both days, and optional extras that include the Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light Spectacular show on the Friday evening, paddle steamer cruises and visits to the Pioneer Settlement, so register now and have yourself a lovely spring mini-break!

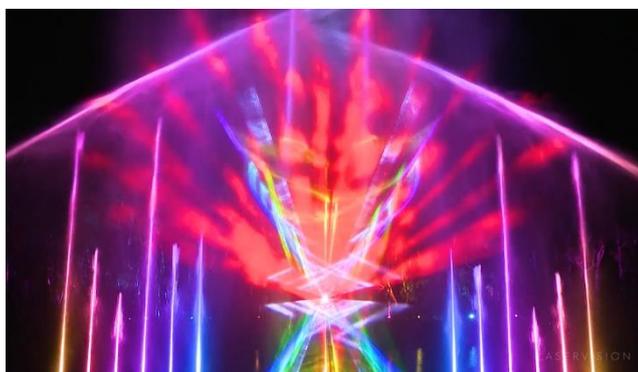
"Heartbeat of the Murray laser spectacular Set on the banks of the Little Murray River, the world-class Heartbeat of the Murray is a 360-degree multi-media spectacular unlike anything ever seen in Australia.

Using water, light, laser, sound and special effects to tell the story of the Murray, you'll be transported back 30 million years, before travelling forward through time to the Murray River as we know it today.

This state-of-the-art show is the first of its kind in the world to use a natural river environment and setting as the background.

The Heartbeat of the Murray laser light show has been made possible thanks to funding from the Federal and State governments, and Swan Hill Rural City Council.

**This show contains strobe lighting which may trigger seizures in some people with epilepsy.*"*



Screenshot from the website:

<https://www.pioneersettlement.com.au/>

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

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Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/apsoothills>

Visit our Webpage:

<https://apsvic.org.au/apsoothills/>

MEETINGS

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

Date: 4th Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov)

Time: 7.45pm

COMMITTEE

Leader: Janet Hodgkiss

Secretary: Nicky Zanen

Treasurer: Chris Larkin

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Davis

Other Members: Betty Wright

APS Vic Delegate: Janet Hodgkiss

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to First Nations People throughout Australia, and to Elders both past and present.

VISITORS WELCOME!

Information about Renewing your Membership 2022/23

We would love you to join us again this financial year, when we expect to meet face-to-face!

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

Some background information

- To be a member of Foothills, you must be a member of the parent body, the Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc (APS Vic).
- Unless renewing via another APS group, it is 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, tick the box on our form and let us know 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.
- This year for the first time Foothills membership has only one fee which includes an electronic copy of our newsletter which you'll receive in glorious colour. **There will be no post out of a printed newsletter.**
- It is possible to pay for the quarterly national newsletter published by ANPSA (Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)) 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 the Treasurer at the July meeting with cash or cheque.**
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 on 9752 7837 or email celarkin@bigpond.com



APS Foothills Membership 2022/23

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 APS Victoria newsletter 'Growing Australian' each quarter.

Single membership \$35

Family/Household membership \$40

Student Membership \$26

I am a Life Member of APS Victoria \$0

I have renewed my APS Vic membership directly with APS Vic \$0

I have renewed my APS Vic membership via this group: _____ \$0

OPTIONAL: ANPSA publication 'Australian Plants', delivered with APSV 'Growing Australian' \$15

SUB TOTAL (APS Vic Inc.) \$

Please ADD membership of APS Foothills Group Inc.

Single/Family/Household - electronic newsletter \$20

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