



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

WE HOLD TWO MEETINGS EACH MONTH

DAY MEETING

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

Time: 10.30am

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

EVENING MEETING

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

Time: 7.45pm

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

Combined Newsletters 2019

JUNE

-

JULY

ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK PAGE

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VISITORS WELCOME!



APS Foothills Inc. A0013126K

June Newsletter 2019

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 11th June 2019

Margaret James

**History and Cultivation of
Australian Plants**

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 26th June 2019

Five Slides

Foothills' Midwinter Picture Show

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Winter. Means we're halfway through the year. Means it's cold, brrr! but hopefully rainy too! Also means spring is on its way because the shortest day is now only a few weeks away. I know it gets colder after mid-year but for some reason I always feel a whole heap better knowing that we are turning back towards the sun and that we'll soon be going to notice a lengthening in the days again.

Although we had a smaller than usual group at our evening meeting in May, it was nonetheless very pleasant, with Chris Long telling us about his experiences with *Boronia megastigma* oil. See the report on his talk in this newsletter.

Our best of bench in May featured some Banksias brought in by Nicky from the Maroondah group's meeting, including a large old flower head from a Possum Banksia. Really, what's not to like about plants, especially such touchable and cuddly-looking ones! We also had a fabulous collection of Correas exhibiting the most gorgeous range of flower colours imaginable, Betty's spectacular Qualup Bell (*Pimelea physodes*), and Bev's *Eucyrphia moorei* with its delicate leaves and sweetly scented flowers.

Our June evening meeting, is our Five Slides night. With its festive atmosphere, I can't really think of a better way I'd like to spend a cold winter's night than being in the company of all you good people, looking your slides and hearing your stories. You're all invited to participate, so rummage through your images, check out the rules and regs in this newsletter, and join us for our mid-winter picture show!

See you all next time.

Janet Hodgkiss.

June Day Meeting 11 June 2019

Margaret James – History and Cultivation of Australian Plants.

Margaret James has become a recent visitor to our day meetings, and has offered to speak about the history of the discovery and cultivation of Australian plants. Her talk covers three major overlapping phases: The first phase “Nurturing and Harvesting” describes how Aboriginal women nurtured and harvested extensive crops of murrnong (*Microseris lanceolata* or yam daisy), as a staple food, particularly in Victoria.

The second phase “Discovering and Destroying” shows how thousands of sheep introduced by white settlers in the 19th Century destroyed the murrnong plants and contributed to the decline of the Wurundjeri people in Victoria. At the same time European botanists were busy naming and classifying the huge treasure house of Australian plants.

And finally, the third phase “Cultivation of Australian plants” which became very popular in Europe. One of the earliest enthusiasts was the Empress Josephine.

You’ll hear more about this, and the development of a new school of garden design such as the bush garden, exemplified by Gordon Ford’s writing and his own garden.

We look forward to hearing about some of the history of Australian plants.

Nicky Zanen

5 Slides Night - next evening meeting on 26th June 2019

Our next evening meeting is one of our favourites... 5 Slides Night!

This is your night, so bring along your pictures to show us what has captured your interest, a garden project you’re working on, natural curiosities you’ve discovered, fascinating plants, etc. There is no general theme but if it helps, you can choose a theme for yourself and then build your mini slide collection around that.

You can bring your pictures on the night on a USB and we’ll upload them for you. Please come a bit earlier on the night if you’re bringing a USB so that we have plenty of time to upload everyone’s images.

Alternatively, you can email your images to us at foothills@apsvic.org.au by 5pm Tuesday, 25th June at the latest. This deadline is so that we have time to download your images and organise them into folders ready for presentation. If you choose to email your images to us, please put in the subject line: 5 Slides and your name. Also, when you attach your images make sure the total size of the files you are emailing is less than 6MB. From experience this works well and does not clog up the email delivery systems. If all your files are big, then send each one separately, or only attach a couple per email. Avoid reducing or compressing the files themselves because they will end up as low resolution and may not show up nicely when we project them.

Oh yes, and last but not least, you know the drill... FIVE slides only!

Looking forward to our midwinter picture show - see you there.

Janet Hodgkiss

May Day Meeting – Peter and Alison Rogers ‘A Trip to Outback Queensland’

Exactly a year since our last journey with Peter and Alison Rogers, we travelled to Queensland from Winton to the Northern Territory border. Peter not only showed us a number of interesting and plants not seen by us before, but also gave us a mine of information on the fauna.

I am guilty of leaving the talk notes to the last minute, and as a result am not able to transcribe what I wrote. But instead, I’ll refer to said notes, share some of Peter’s descriptions and other references.

Did you know that Winton was originally named Pelican Waterhole and the original settlement was situated about one and a half km from Winton. It consisted mostly of a tent city with a few buildings, but after being flooded out in 1876, the settlement was moved to its current location to avoid flooding, and renamed Winton. From a tourist website, legend has it that Winton was renamed by the postmaster (Robert Allen) who found the name Pelican Waterhole too cumbersome to write on postage stamps. So he called the settlement after the suburb in Bournemouth, England, in which he was born.

One of the distinctive and common grevilleas was *G. wickhamii*, also seen in the Kimberley.



Spinifex Pigeon in front of bindii (Photo: P Rogers)

In Bladensburg National Park Peter found *Pterocaulon spacelatum*, a small plant also known as the Apple Bush which describes the smell of the plant.

A greyish green succulent bush with a milky sap is the *Sarcostemma austral*, or Caustic Vine in the Apocynaceae family. The toxin is thought to be a pregnane glycoside found in the stems of the plant which interferes with the central nervous system. It can affect adult cattle and horses, mostly when there isn't enough to eat, especially after fires before the pasture has had a chance to regrow. It can also cause blisters and blindness.

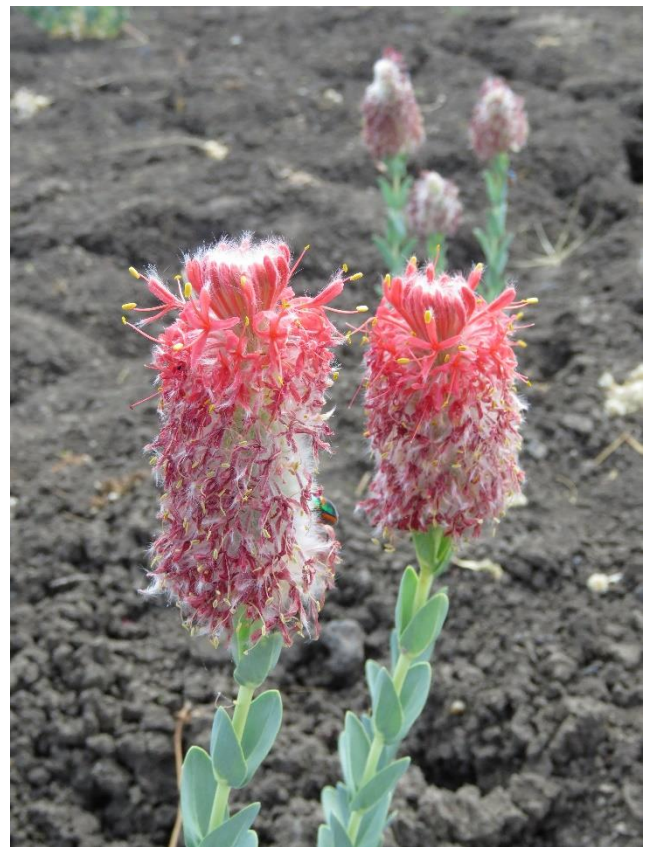
Peter showed us a flower of the *Pimelea decora*, the Flinders Poppy, which I thought looked much like a *Ptilolus*. From the Encyclopaedia of Growing Australian Plants, the leaves and stems have poisonous properties and are known to be toxic to livestock.

Amyema bifurcata is a mistletoe and described as an epiphytic flowering, hemiparasitic plant of the Loranthaceae family. It is found on eucalypts, five angophora, *Acacia acuminata* and *Nitraria billardierei*.

Other plants shown to us included *Abutilon fraseri*, the dwarf lantern flower, which can be weedy, and *Corymbia aparrerinja*, the Ghost Gum.

From Wikipedia – in 1981 in Barcaldine Queensland, a ghost gum, known as the Tree of Knowledge, was the focal point of a gathering of striking sheep shearers, a key event leading to the formation of the Australian Labor Party.

Peter also showed us a Turpentine Bush, *Acacia chisholmii*. Several other plants including *Ericameria lancifolia*, *Eremophila fraseri* and *Acacia lysiphloia* are commonly called turpentine bushes. *A chisholmii* is a resinous multi stemmed shrub that has a minni ritchi style bark.



Pimelea decora (Photo: P Rogers)

Peter took us to Mt Isa and mentioned that it is a town of two halves – mineside and townside.

Along the way we saw photos of White Necked Heron which flies great distances; massive flocks of Budgerigars; the Painted Finch; Black Winged Stilts that sound like dogs when they take off; Glossy Ibis, the smallest of the ibis; and Cockatiels.

Another interesting plant and family is the *Senna notabilis*, the Cockroach Bush. *Nindethana* also calls it Tinki Tink – the sound of its seedpods. It is found in all states except Victoria. The plant contains saponins and triterpenoids (Australian Medicinal Plants EV Lassak & T McCarthy). A decoction from leaves and twigs is applied to fungal infections such as ringworm. Also used as a wash to relieve fever associated with colds and flu.

Weeds that the Rogers came across included *Xanthium occidentale*, Asteraceae, or Noogoora burr or cockle burr.

And another one I have come across in the Kimberley, the *Caloptropis procera*, from the family Apocynaceae, native to North Africa and Asia, which has a toxic milky sap that is extremely bitter and turns into a gluey coating resistant to soap. I understood this plant was brought in by the cameleers.



Corymbia aparrerinja (ghost gum) (Photo: P Rogers)

A super talk, captured in part, and highlighting the distinctive vegetation changes as you go West from Winton to the Northern Territory. Thank you Peter.

Nicky Zanen

May evening Meeting – Boronia Oil with Chris Long

Chris gave us a fascinating insight into the world of *Boronia megastigma* oil, including its extraction and the commercial cultivation of plants.

Boronia oil is a volatile oil obtained from the flowers of *Boronia megastigma* and it is used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry. It can be extracted in two ways. The first is through steam distillation of flowers, leaves, stems and roots, and the second is through the use of an organic solvent. In the second method, an organic solvent such as hexane, is used to extract the volatile compounds and this is followed by evaporation of the solvent to leave a 'concrete'. The concrete contains wax that is extracted with the oil. As the wax is of no use, the concrete is dissolved in warm alcohol and then cooled. The waxes solidify and can be filtered off, and the alcohol is evaporated off leaving the essential oil or absolute.

During the war years, Glaxo was involved in the poppy industry in Victoria and Tasmania, extracting morphine and opium from poppies to produce painkillers. Over the years, as expertise in horticulture and chemical processing developed, they looked at product diversification, making use of skills learned from the poppy industry. They looked for a low volume, high value products and were looking for something not everyone could do, so decided to work on extracting Boronia oil from flowers.

Boronia megastigma is one of 70 species in the genus *Boronia*. It is a member of the family Rutaceae and is a woody shrub growing 1-2m high. It grows naturally in seasonally wet Jarrah forests in south western, Western Australia. The plants are short-lived and regenerate from stored seed. Plants in the wild are pollinated by a western Australian bee.



Boronia megastigma (Photo: M Fagg, ANBG)

Boronias have been popular in the cut flower industry since the early 1900's, with exports going mainly to Asia and Europe. Originally, flowers were cut from the wild but they became so popular that it led to the development of extensive cultivated stands. The Boronia cut flower industry peaked in the 1940's but declined due to devastating disease outbreaks, and from cut flowers simply falling out of fashion e.g. men no longer wearing a spray of flowers in their jacket buttonholes. There was a large acreage in the area now called Boronia in Melbourne, where the Chandler family grew Boronias for the cut flower industry. Selected cultivars were bred for longevity and flower size and

some popular cultivars include 'Jack Maguires' Red', 'Harlequin' and 'Doris Red'.



Boronia 'Jack Maguire's Red' (Photo: D Greig, ANBG)



Boronia 'Harlequin' (Photo: D Greig, ANBG)

The extraction history goes back a long way when in 1925, 'planter' licenses were issued to gather Boronias from the wild for the purpose of extracting oil. Reference standards were needed as there are more than 120 chemicals in Boronia oil, and Chris worked with an international fragrance house to develop this reference standard, in the process obtaining a diploma in perfumery. The reference standard for Boronia oil was set from flowers bought from Chandlers but a sample was needed from the wild to verify this, so Chris had to go to a rocky gully in south west, Western Australia to collect material. This was long before the days of GPS so Chris was pleased to get to the fairly remote site just using the written instructions he was given!

It was critical when processing the flowers to ensure the minimum time between picking and extraction. Processing involved placing flowers in jars with solvent which were sent via special transport back to Victoria. In collecting flowers for the standard, Chris was allowed to break off whole branches so that he could get them back to his car as quickly as possible, where he then had to carefully pick off each flower before placing it in the jars. Flowers for this purpose were collected in September.

Boronia absolute is used by multinational perfume houses for its fruit and flower flavours, with the main constituents being beta-ionone and heptadec-8-ene. It is produced from flowers bought in bulk from places like Chandlers and the south west of Western Australia, which is sent via refrigerated transport. In these cases, both leaves and flowers are used. An alternative solvent was sought and now liquid CO₂ is used. Under high pressure it is a liquid and pressure changes determine how strong or weak the solvent is. Using CO₂ reduces the problem of how to dispose of it, as the waste can simply be released as gas.

Trial sites, with 100 plants in each were also established in Tasmania and Victoria. Trial plots were set up to look at soil types, carry out herbicide trials, pruning/slashing trials, harvesting methods, cultivar comparison, and how operations could be scaled up. The 5ha site chosen near Warrnambool in Victoria was in an area of rich volcanic soil. Cuttings came from Tasmania and the planting was mechanised with planting at 400mm spacings. Weed control and monitoring was then carried out but almost all the plants were lost in 6 months which was a disaster. The main reason for the crop not succeeding was salt burn from the wind that came off the sea, and sand blasting from the wind.

Further progress was made, when horticultural operations were moved to Tasmania. The company that started Boronia oil extraction then changed

direction and the project was abandoned with the technology being transferred to others in Tasmania. There are currently four growers operating in Tasmania, so it is a small industry of around 30ha. With 2 tonnes of flowers per hectare having a yield of 120kg absolute, it is very much a niche business.

Chris rounded off his talk by saying that he had gained much through his experiences, including horticultural experience, project management skills and exposure to the world of perfume and flavours.

Janet Hodgkiss

APS Victoria Seed Bank Offer

Hi all,

With the assistance of Rodger Elliot I have recently cleaned up the seed bank to remove those seeds that are most likely no longer viable.

Rather than throw them out, I would like to offer them to the district groups first. There isn't a large number of seeds (only enough packets to fill a shoebox), so once split there won't be heaps, but anything is better than nothing. The seedbank budget will cover the cost of postage.

Please email me at seedbank@apsvic.org.au by **Sunday 9 June 2019** if you are interested in me sending some seed. I have listed what is available below. If there is anything you are particularly interested in, let me know, otherwise I will randomly allocate the seed. Please note that any requests for specific seed are not guaranteed depending on its popularity, as some seed is only available in limited quantities.

See below list for a list of species that are available:

Actinostrobus pyramidalis (Swamp Cypress)
Alphitonia excelsa (Red Ash)
Alyogyne huegelii prostrate form (Lilac Hibiscus)
Billardiera erubescens (syn. *Marianthus erubescens*) (Red Billardiera)
Billardiera scandens (Common Apple-berry)
Brachychiton bidwillii (Little Kurrajong)
Brachychiton discolor (Lacebark)
Brachyscome iberidifolia (Swan River Daisy)
Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)
Calytrix flavescens (Summer Starflower)

Calytrix tetragona (Common Fringe-myrtle)
Carex fascicularis (Tassel Sedge)
Carpobrotus rossii (Karkalla/Pigface)
Chamaescilla corymbosa (Blue Stars/Blue Squill)
Dryandra obtusa (syn. *Banksia obtusa*) (Shining Honey-pot)
Dryandra plumosa (syn. *Banksia plumosa*)
Geijera linearifolia (Oilbush)
Glischrocaryon aureum (Common Poflower)
Hibiscus geranoides (Dwarf Native Hibiscus)
Hymenosporum flavum (Native Frangipani)
Leptospermum continentale (Prickly Tea-tree)
Leptospermum erubescens (Roadside Tea-tree)
Leptospermum juniperinum (Prickly Tea-tree)
Leptospermum luehmannii (Bronze-barked Tea-tree)
Leptospermum obovatum (River Tea-tree)
Leptospermum petersonii (Lemon-scented Tea-tree)
Leptospermum rupestre (Alpine Tea-tree)
Leptospermum squarrosum (Peach-blossom Tea-tree)
Pandorea jasminoides 'Lady Di' (Bower Vine)
Pandorea pandorana 'Ruby Bells' (Wonga Wonga Vine)
Patersonia occidentalis (white fl.) (Long Purple-flag)
Podotheca wilsonii
Richea scoparia (Honey Richea)
Schoenia cassiniana (Schoenia)
Senecio pinnatifolius (Variable Groundsel)
Sowerbaea juncea (Rush Lily/Vanilla Lily)
Styphelia tenuiflora (Common Pinheath)
Vittadinia gracilis (Woolly New Holland Daisy)
Wahlenbergia stricta (Tall Bluebell)
Waitzia nitida
Xanthorrhoea semiplana ssp. *tateana* (Kangaroo Island Grass Tree)
Xanthosia rotundifolia (Southern Cross)
Xyris lanata

Please note I will be away from 2 June to 9 June and so will be unable to respond to any email queries during that time.

Many thanks,

Amy Akers
Seed Bank Curator
APS Victoria

Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens Friday 17 May 2019

On a perfect autumnal day three of us went to Melton where we were joined by Anne Langmaid, and two members. Anne showed us around the nursery and the office area, and guided us through a portion of the gardens.

The recent Facebook posts whetted my appetite to see how things were going, and with a planned official Foothills visit later in the year, I can reiterate how glad I was to see the progress made in the Melton Botanic Gardens.

The Friends group was set up in September 2003 and with strong resolve set about persuading the Melton Council to establish a botanical garden. There is still a lot to be done, but I am amazed at how extensive the gardens are. As a bonus it was great getting an insight from Anne of the challenges encountered and problems solved.

Several Australian Plants Society members have been involved in planting and propagating the native plants, including David and Barbara Pye and Anne Langmaid.

In 2010 a working party was formed to build a dryland eucalyptus arboretum.

This is still being developed and holds an enormous collection. Below is an example of how one of the eucalypts is described in 'Eucalypts of MGB Eucalyptus Arboretum' found on the web.

From the website, there is a

Eucalyptus socialis

Common Name: Red mallee

Location in Garden: North East Arboretum bed 8.

Brief Description: Mallee to 10m tall. Forms a lignotuber. Smooth Bark, white to light grey or pale coppery brown, occasionally rough on lower trunks. White flowers & dull green leaves.

Distribution: Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory



An example of an extract of 'Eucalypts of the MGB Arboretum' accessed through the Melton Botanic Gardens web page

Nicky Zanen



Melton Botanic Gardens (Photo: N Zanen)



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' (Photo: K Davis)

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

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ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

COMMITTEE

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

MEETING DETAILS

DAY Meeting

Venue: Field Naturalists Hall, 1 Gardenia St, Blackburn. (Melway 47K10)
Date: 2nd Tuesday of the month except Nov, Dec, Jan.
Time: 10.30am
Enquiries: Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

EVENING Meeting

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

VISITORS WELCOME!



Membership Fees are due.

Membership form and instructions are in this newsletter.

DAY MEETING

Tuesday 9th July 2019

Nicky Zanen

Hedges

EVENING MEETING

Wednesday 24th July 2019

AGM and Quiz

Foothills Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/apsfoothills

Hi Everyone,

Haven't we had some interesting winter weather so far? There have been some gloomy days, some bright sunny but chilly days, a bit of rain, and that icy, damp, foggy solstice weekend... well although it was really cold it was rather beautiful.

Chris showed us this in her five slides at our last evening meeting, and you can read more about her artistic approach, as well as the other really lovely collections of slides we saw, later in this newsletter.

Our next evening meeting in July, is our AGM and Quiz. This is also the time when you get to choose your committee for the next year. All the committee positions are declared vacant at this meeting, so if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission) then please email me, Janet, at foothills@apsvic.org.au before the meeting, or you can bring your nomination on the night. Committee positions are Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and ordinary committee members.

Please consider joining the committee, even as an ordinary member, because your fresh new ideas will help keep our group vibrant. We meet four times a year and the meetings are kept as short as possible so they never become onerous. At the meetings we plan our calendar, discuss possible speakers and activities, talk about the group is going, and what we'd like to do as a group. We'd love to have your input, so give it a think okay?

After the business of the AGM, we'll have our Quiz which is always fun. Shirley Smith is setting the questions this year so no doubt it will be a merry affair!

We've passed the shortest day and are now turning back towards the sun. I always feel more positive at this time of the year because the days can't get any shorter and spring won't be too far off now either. I

know we're still in for a lot of cold, but having springy thoughts never hurts!

See you next time and keep warm until then.

Janet Hodgkiss.

July Day Meeting 9 July 2019

Members' Slides covering Hedges

At our next meeting on Tuesday 9th July 2019, I will be giving a short talk similar to the one Liz Triggs gave the evening meeting on 'Hedges'. At the same time members are asked to share up to 5 slides of hedging examples – good and bad. It's going to be a fun meeting. The slides can be photos or a Power Point presentation.

Nicky Zanen

APS Maroondah Group Meeting

At the APS Maroondah group meeting on Friday 16th August the guest speaker will be A.B. Bishop. She is an author and horticulturist who co-authored "The Australian Native Garden" with Angus Stewart and more recently published her book, "Habitat". A practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly Australian garden.

The meeting is held at: The Australian Unity Hall, 8 Main Street, Blackburn on Friday 16th August at 8pm.

A follow on from this meeting will be a visit to Pam Yarra's garden on Sunday 25th August and Foothills members are also most welcome to visit her habitat garden. For more details see A.B. Bishop's book Page 108-109.

Location: 65a Dickasons Road. Heathmont.
2pm Sunday 25th August

Foothills members are also welcome to attend meeting on August 16th. It will also be publicised in The Age garden section, so could be a large number attending.

Pam Yarra

Our last daytime meeting – 11 June 2019

Margaret James gave us an illustrated talk on the history of the discovery and cultivation of Australian plants. It was titled 'The Fourth Dimension' because it covered a long sweep of time from before European settlement of Australia to the present. She identified three phases in this history: harvesting and nurturing; discovering and destroying; and growing and restoring.

It is hard to imagine "*a vast extent of open downs – quite yellow with Murnong*" and "*natives spread over the field, digging for roots*" as described by Major Mitchell in 1836. Murnong is *Mircroseris lanceolata* (also known as yam daisy). I believe I am successfully growing three plants bought from the Knox Environment Society, but haven't been game to dig up the roots. So much has been lost since early settlers introduced hard hoofed who dug up the roots and so destroyed a major food source for the Indigenous people of Victoria. In his book *Dark Emu*, Bruce Pascoe describes in detail the varied and nutritious Indigenous diet before white settlement.

Margaret referred to many historically well-known figures including Baron Ferdinand von Mueller (1825 – 1896) who recruited a network of collectors including at least 225 women to help him fulfil his aim of obtaining specimens of all plants that grew in Australian.

Euphemia Henderson (1822-1907) was one collector who was also a botanical artist. (I love the name Euphemia). Mueller met and corresponded with Euphemia and at one time they were engaged. Mueller named *Nematolepis euphemiae* for her. Other botanical artists included Marianne North, Ellis Rowan and Louisa Meredith.

Margaret relayed the story of an Ellis Rowan painting found in the Powerhouse Museum, NSW. Included in the collection since 1920, it had lost its tracking number. The Museum sought the help of Mount Annan Botanic Gardens and the plant was identified as *Brunonia australis*. The *Brunonia* still exists in the wild and one of the Yarra Yarra members photographed it at Christmas Hills in 2015.

Australian plants seem to have been grown in France before they were grown in England or Australia. Josephine, the wife of Napoleon, was a keen horticulturalist and planted wattles in France from seeds gathered in Australia, 16,000 km away. She had a large hothouse 50 metres long, heated by a dozen coal-burning stoves where acacias, boronias,

casuarinas, grevilleas, eucalypts and melaleucas were grown.

Closer to home, Jean Galbraith asked her readers in 1927 whether “*the glory of the garden is not alone of scent and beauty before her eye, but also of memories and associations that cannot be numbered?*” For the early colonists, the associations were linked to imported English plants, but for Jean, it was the excursions into the Gippsland bush which were remembered in the wildflower border of her garden.

In 1930 the Victorian Parliament passed the *Wildflowers and Native Plants Protection Act* in an endeavour to stop the destruction of native flora, and in 1957 the Society for Growing Australian Plants was formed.

A very informative and entertaining talk. Thank you Margaret.

Nicky Zanen

June Evening Meeting – FIVE Slides

As always, Five Slides is a favourite night and with no set theme, we got to see a delightfully diverse range of things.

Pam showed us how her garden is regenerating after the tree fell on it, along with the habitats her garden provides. Some really cute little possums are obviously very happy living at Pam’s and we hope that their toilet habits in Jim’s shed don’t spoil their cute factor!



Happy possums (Photo: Pam Yarra)



Regeneration of *Allocasuarina torulosa* 10 months after being chopped down

(Photo: Pam Yarra)

Ross entitled his selection of photographs from Kings Park in Perth, ‘Garden Envy’. The garden beds filled with the riotous colour that the flora that Western Australia is renowned for, certainly instils Garden Envy, and the yellow, blue, green and white themed garden bed, highlighted by the black stems of the black kangaroo paws, showed what a lovely effect can be created by repeating the colours from a fairly restricted colour palette.



Effortless, riotous colour = Garden Envy!

(Photo: Ross MacDonald)



A restricted colour palette of blue, yellow, green, white and black creates a lovely effect

(Photo: Ross Macdonald)

Kerry had some lovely closeup photos of plants growing in his garden. My two favourites were of the *Hibbertia stellaris* with its lovely colour and beautifully lobed petals, and the always outrageously coloured *Chorizema cordata* that looked great next to a variegated *Westringia*.



Chorizema cordata offset by a variegated *Westringia*
(Photo: Kerry Davis)



Hibbertia stellaris (Photo: Kerry Davis)

Chris' pictures of her garden through the windows, taken on a very foggy/misty day allowed us to appreciate the 'artistic' element of gardening. The mist turned a eucalypt into an ethereal beauty and in other views it had the effect of creating 'quiet' and reducing the 'background clutter', focusing your attention on the foreground and plant form.



Fog adds another dimension to the garden
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

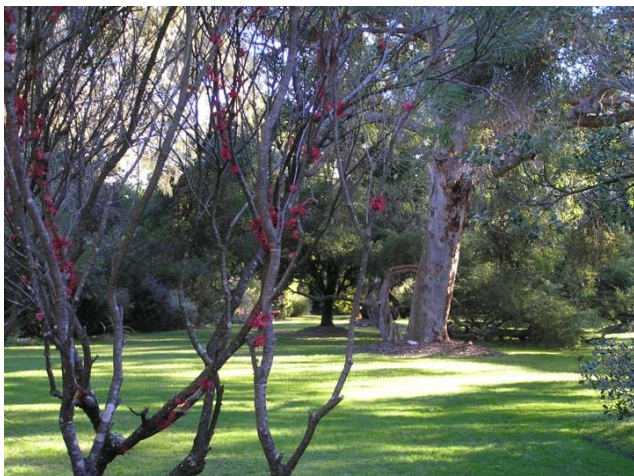


Misty eucalypt through the window
(Photo: Chris Larkin)

Paul's pictures of the afternoon sunlight in Maranoa Gardens were simply glorious. Gardens, I feel are not only about the plants or the habitats they provide. They are valuable to us for the feelings they evoke and light very often plays a dramatic role here. It was interesting to notice the contrast between Chris' 'quiet', foggy, almost monochrome pictures and the 'radiant warmth' of the golden light in Paul's pictures.



Beautiful afternoon light in Maranoa Gardens in June
(Photo: Paul Birch)



Hakea orthrorhynca in Maranoa Gardens
(Photo: Paul Birch)

Shirley has just come back from walking 300km in England, and she showed us some of the sights she came across including forests and farmland, the coast and the Eden Project, a five-star bee hotel and of course golf courses!



Shirley and her friend at the start of the Cotswolds walk
(Photo: Shirley Smith)



Shirley's walking track also passed through farmland
(Photo: Shirley Smith)

Janet found the signage at Anglesea bushland reserve during the annual Angair flower show weekend very useful and educational. The reserve is always worth a visit because although it might not look like much from the road, once you get out and start walking there is plenty to see. Anglesea also has some very interesting and intriguing rock formations for when you are 'flora-ed out'.



Useful and interesting signage in Anglesea Bushland Reserve (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)



Messmate stringybarks and grass trees, pink tetrahecas and yellow guinea flowers in Anglesea Bushland Reserve (Photo: Janet Hodgkiss)

Liz has created a garden for wildlife and she gets plenty of visitors including blue banded bees that love her large-flowered Crowea. She is also lucky to have a 'borrowed landscape' eucalypt that is a favourite with a pair of tawny frogmouths, and when in flower, attracts many nectar-feeding birds including musk lorikeets.

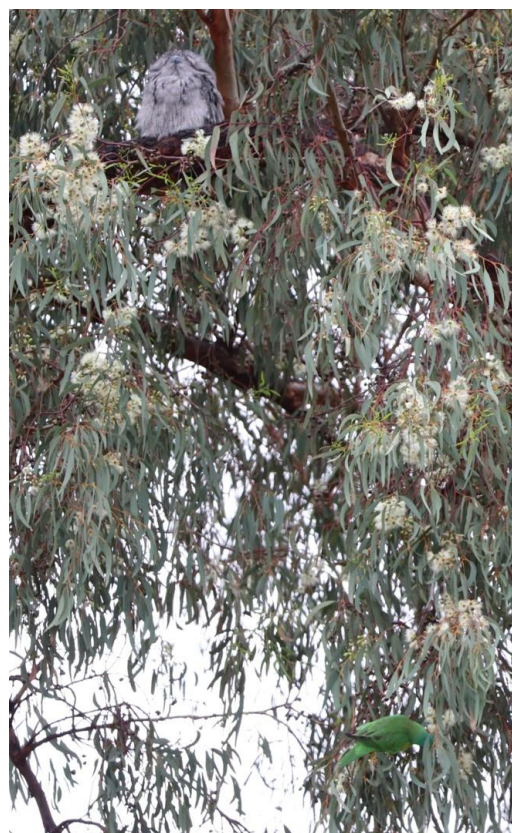


Blue banded bees love the large-flowered Crowea (Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

And last but not least, Viv showed us a picture of the Lechenaultia that is thriving in her care. She is deservedly proud of it too because she won it at one of our raffles last year, and at the time it was only a slip of thing in a tube. Well done Viv!

Thanks to everyone who brought slides and for making this such an enjoyable evening. I'm already looking forward to next year's Slide Night!

Janet Hodgkiss



A tawny frogmouth and a musk lorikeet (bottom right) in the flowering eucalypt outside Liz's house (Photo: Elizabeth Triggs)

From the Secretary

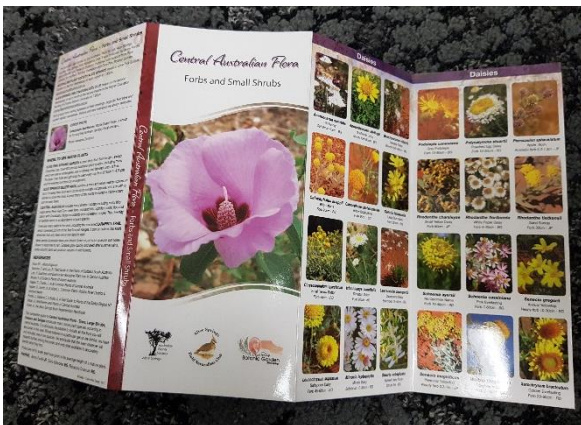
After our last newsletter went to press Peter Rogers emailed me to correct the names of plants I had incorrectly added when I covered his talk in May.

Thanks for letting me know Peter.

"You mention: Several other plants including *Ericameria lancifolia*, *Eremophila fraseri* and....."

I did not mention *Ericameria lancifolia*, or *Eremophila fraseri*. The Eremophilas I mentioned were *Larobeit ssp filiformis*, *longifolia*, *alatisepala*, *bignoniiflora*. Peter."

In the mail this week was a terrific identification brochure of Centralian Australian Flora – Forbs and Small Shrubs, sent to us by the Australian Plants Society, Alice Springs. This APS have published 3 leaflets, the second one is Trees, Large Shrubs, Grasses and Sedges and the third Flora of the Katherine Area. More details at our next meeting.



Alice Springs brochure (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

We were saddened to hear that Ray Power died on the 16 May 2019. Ray came to our day meetings for so many years, all the way from Mernda, and was such a treasure especially with setting up our room.

Another passing I'd like to mention is Philip Robinson who was the Victorian newsletter editor of Growing Australian for 7 years and finished his term with the first full colour edition of Growing Australian in 2014. Our thoughts go out to both families.

Nicky Zanen

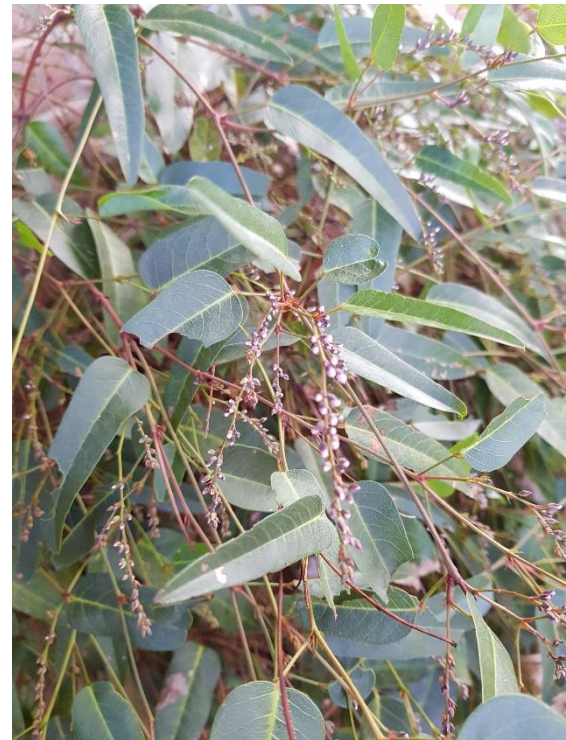
Just as I was drifting off to sleep

Last night, just as I was drifting off to sleep, I heard talk about robots being used in agriculture. Top of the list were robots replacing tractors which compact the soil so badly, and being programmed to kill weeds or work the soil. Can you see the little vacuum cleaners scurrying around your home being replaced by robots doing your weeding in the garden? Maybe we'll live to see this one day.

Nicky Zanen

Out and About

Yesterday, Sunday, a cool change came through Boronia accompanied by roaring winds. This followed a muddy and wintry Saturday with plenty of showers. But just outside my front door, the first signs of buds bursting. My *Hardenbergia violaceae* is about to make an entrance!



Hardenbergia violaceae (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

We have had a fair amount of rain so far and I thought it was time to catch up on some mulching. I've been using the old wheelbarrow left on the property, filling it to a certain height and then filling two tubs placed on top. Oops, one tub wasn't put on properly and kaboom, the whole contraption fell over, spilling out all the mulch. Unfortunately soon after the plastic supporting the wheel disintegrated. No more wheelbarrow.



Tipped over (Photo: Nicky Zanen)

When I had a discussion with a neighbour earlier this year about the eucalypts he also complained about having limited access to his back gate because of the plantings and the footpath covered in mulch. As a result I raked away the mulch, but after a couple of weeks fine tree roots were growing over the path presenting a tripping hazard. So I am now mulching the path again. Ironically, the only time he used the path was when he had some furniture delivered just after I had left a sprinkler on the area, and the path was very muddy.

Nicky Zanen



Possum Banksia (*Banksia baueri*)
(Photo: Kerry Davis)

APS FOOTHILLS INC.

PO Box 65
BORONIA 3155

ENQUIRIES

Email: foothills@apsvic.org.au

COMMITTEE

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

MEETING DETAILS

DAY Meeting

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

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

Time: 10.30am

Enquiries: Nicky Zanen 040 197 5191

EVENING Meeting

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

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

Time: 7.45pm

VISITORS WELCOME!



APS Foothills membership 2019/20

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

NEW/RENEWAL 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 join APS Victoria (for new members only)

I wish to renew my membership

Title/s _____ First name/s _____

Surname/s _____

No. and Street/Road _____

Suburb/Town _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

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

Membership of APS Victoria.

Please indicate membership type by ticking below. All membership types include one copy of the Growing Australian newsletter each quarter.

Single membership \$35

Family/Household membership \$40

Student Membership \$26

I have renewed membership directly with APS Vic/via another group/APS life member \$0

OPTIONAL – ‘Australian Plants’ publication of ANPSA delivered with ‘Growing Australian’ \$15

SUB TOTAL (APS Vic Inc.) \$

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

Single/Family/Household - electronic newsletter \$20

Single/Family/Household - posted newsletter \$30

COMBINED TOTAL \$

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 celarkin@bigpond.com
(Chris Larkin, Treasurer – 9752 7837)

Information on Membership Renewal 2019/20

- To be a member of Foothills you must be a member of the parent body – Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc (APS Vic).
- It is possible to renew your financial membership of both APS Vic and Foothills at the same time. Your APS Vic membership will be forwarded to the APS Vic Membership Officer for you.
- If you have already renewed your APS Vic membership directly or via another branch, you will only need to renew your Foothills membership.

The price of membership renewal

- APS Vic memberships has not increased this financial year
- Foothills memberships remain the same and have not increased since 2015. It is cheaper to receive your newsletter electronically and we encourage you to do so.
- It is possible to pay for the quarterly national newsletter called 'Australian Plants'. This is an optional extra.

When to pay and providing your details

- Please pay promptly and 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. Pay at the July meetings with cash or cheque. The Treasurer will attend the daytime meeting on 9th July but not at the night meeting AGM on 24th July. If you want to pay at the night meeting then please give your money and form in a sealed envelope to Nicky Zanen

2. By Electronic transfer. Please include 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

3. Make a deposit at any Bendigo Bank branch using the bank account number in Method 2. No charge will be made at a Bendigo Bank branch. Deposits can be made at other banks, but a fee may be charged.

4. Post membership form and cheque made payable to APS Foothills Inc. to PO Box 65, Boronia. 3155

Any questions. Ring your treasurer Chris Larkin on 9752 7837 or email celarkin@bigpond.com