

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2017



NEXT EHG MEETING:

AGM
CHRISTMAS DINNER (RSVP to Liz)
HEARTS (not Crazy Whist this year!)

6.30 pm, Wednesday 6 December 2017

Helpers please arrive about 5.30 pm.

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

WELCOME to the December 2017 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter.

This issue includes some photos, notes and a plant list from the November plant table, notes and photos from Tony Porritt's talk at our November meeting, a short list of other coming events, and the notes of the business at our November meeting.



See you at the AGM, ready for a delicious dinner, and with your change for raffle tickets! If any members haven't already arranged their contribution to the dinner, please contact Marie, Liz or Karlo.

Jan Douglas

Editor

PS Hope you like the Christmas Bells!

<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>



East Hills Group November 2017 meeting

THE ALASKAN PENINSULA - FLORA AND FAUNA

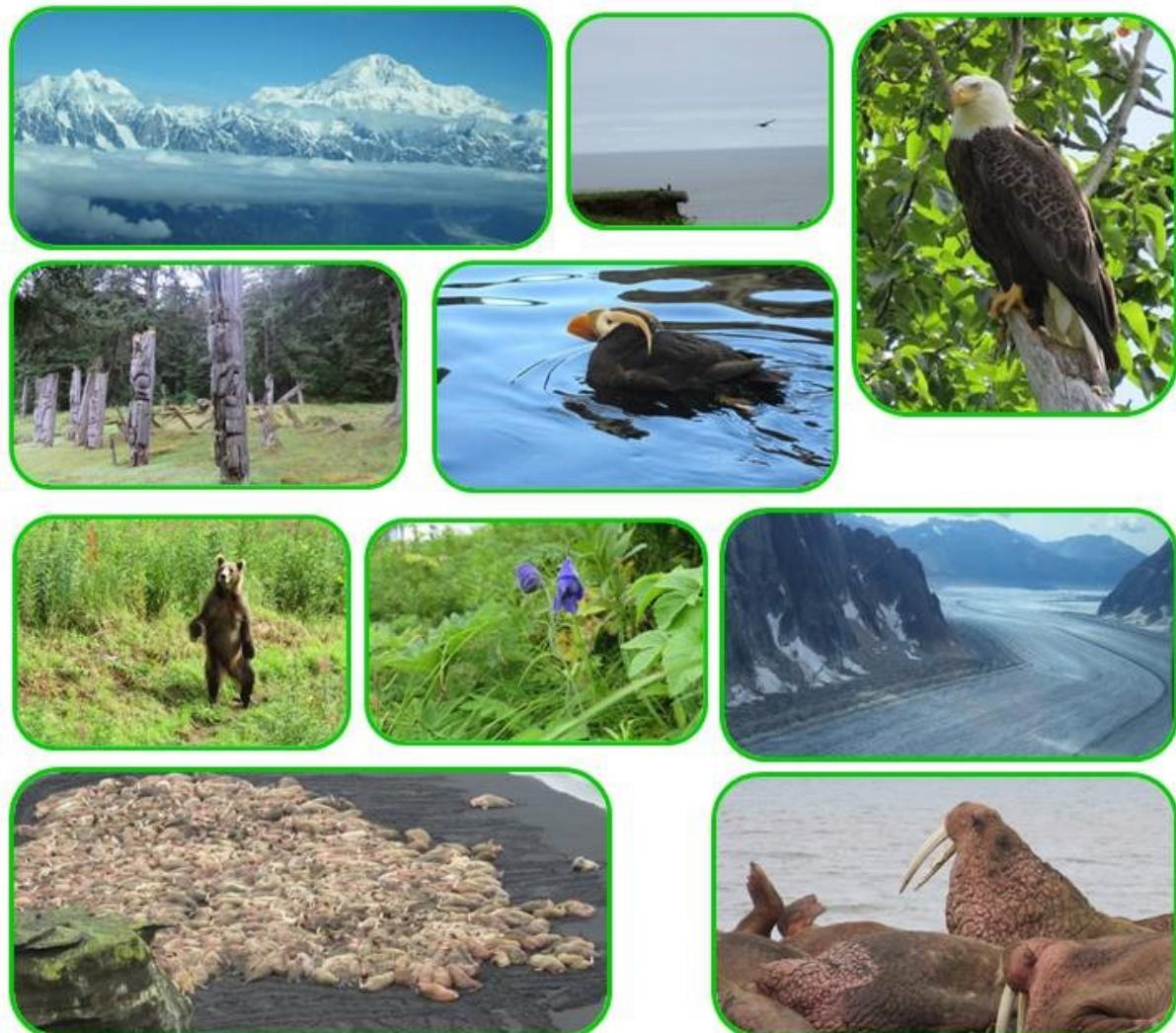
Notes and photos provided by Tony Porritt

The first part of my presentation featured photographs of the animals, plants and birds Kate and I saw during our visit to the Alaskan peninsula and Kodiak Island, as well as photos of spectacular glaciers and of snow-capped mountains from the air.

The slideshow included photos of Northern Pacific Walrus which we saw while they were 'hauled up' on one of only two mainland beaches they visit during summer. Images were shown of many grizzly and black bears, including a movie of a grizzly that came within three metres of us. Bald eagles were shown nesting on the ground in the tundra and in trees on Kodiak Island. Moose, caribou and a wolf, sea otters, humpback whales, Stellar Sea lions and a very close encounter with a pod of over 400 dolphins were other highlights.

The second part of the presentation concentrated on our visit to the uninhabited world heritage area of Haida Gwaay and SGang Gwaay, which lie off the coast of northern British Columbia. Visitor numbers here are restricted to fewer than 100 per year. A commentary on the unique history of the area was also provided.

A selection of photos is shown below.



NOVEMBER 2017 PLANT TABLE

Thanks to everyone who brought plant specimens.

List: Graham Walters

Photos: Graham Fry

Description: Liz Cameron

Specimens on the plant table at our November meeting included:

Anigozanthos – three specimens

Backhousia anisata (*Anetholea anisata*)

Banksia speciosa

Brachychiton populneus

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Eremophila calorhabdos

Eremophila glabra subsp. *tomentosa*

Eremophila mackinlayi

Graptophyllum sp.

Grevillea 'Majestic' (hybrid seedling of *Grevillea* 'Misty Pink')

Hymenosporum flavum

Lomandra longifolia

Lomandra ?*micrantha*

Melaleuca sp.

Scholtzia uberifolia

Verticordia lindleyi subsp. *lindleyi*

Verticordia monodelpha

Verticordia muelleriana



An amazing specimen! (no, not you, Kyrill!)

Kyrill Taylor, with John van Peer's assistance, displayed an enormous ball of casuarina roots that had been growing in a sunken bathtub in Kyrill's fern house, concealed by wooden battens. Frogs had bred in the bath, but Kyrill

was unaware that the casuarina had also found water there. Allan Wilkinson had helped Kyrill lift the root ball out of the bath tub initially and it had already been drying out for a fortnight when Kyrill displayed it.



THE BUSINESS

East Hills Group meeting – 1 November 2017

Meeting notes by Liz Cameron

The meeting opened at 7.50 pm with 13 in attendance. There were three apologies.

Business:

1. EHG AGM on Wednesday 6th December – Graham Fry invited members to nominate for positions on the committee.
2. Graham Walters had visited Hugh Stacy that afternoon in Nunyara Aged Care Centre, 8-12 Neilson Avenue, Peakhurst.
3. Annual donations to conservation organisations; usual amount is \$200 in total but Karlo suggested an increase because EHG income has increased, largely thanks to sale of plants (many of which Karlo propagated).

It was moved and carried that \$75 be donated to each of following organisations: EDO (Environmental Defender's Office), AWC (Australian Wildlife Conservancy), Australian Bush Heritage and TEC (Total Environment Centre). Moved: Graham Fry Seconded: Dorothy Taylor.

Marie O'Connor suggested smaller organisations might need modest donations such as this more than the larger organisations, something to consider when disbursing donations next year.

4. Christmas function 6th December:
 - Marie O'Connor in charge of planning.
 - Helpers to arrive 5.30 pm, guests invited for 6.30 pm.
 - Liz Cameron will send invitation to members of Sutherland, Macarthur and Menai Wildflower groups to attend the function.
 - Cater for 25-30 people and charge \$5 per head.
 - Raffle for two hampers.
 - Karlo will circulate list of jobs and food for members to nominate their contribution.
 - Karlo will bring plants for sale.
 - Need to ask a member from another group to run the election at the AGM

5. Plant sales on (OFF) Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society stall at Oatley Lions Village Festival in October. Plants propagated by EHG and Menai Wildflower Group sold well and proceeds were divided evenly between OFF, EHG and Menai Wildflower Group - \$154 to each group.

Tony Porritt then gave an illustrated talk on a trip that he and Kate made to Alaska and Haida Gwaay in 2015.

The plant table was well-supplied with flowers from various members. This was followed by plant sales, raffle and supper.

Income at the meeting:

Plant sales \$56

Raffle tickets \$20

Total \$76

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Saturday 9 December 1 pm DATE TO BE CONFIRMED AT EHG DECEMBER MEETING.	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. [click for map]
Wednesday 6 December 6.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Annual General Meeting and Christmas celebration.
Sunday 10 December 3 - 5 pm	Sutherland Group – Christmas afternoon tea Joseph Banks Reserve, on the new terrace.
January 2018	ANPSA Annual Conference – Hobart. See Native Plants for NSW for details. Registration closed on 15 November 2017.
Wednesday 7 February 2018 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting

East Hills Group contacts

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The photos above are of the Pollination exhibition at The Calyx, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. The exhibition is on until July 2018, it's free, and it's well worth a visit.

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/the-calyx>



<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>

