

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



JULY 2017

NEXT EHG MEETING:

From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 5 July 2017

MEMBERS' NIGHT

Topics include Banksias, French botanists, Fig wasps

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

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

Visitors are welcome.

If you can, please bring something to share for supper and labelled specimens for the plant table.

WELCOME to the July 2017 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. Many of our regular items are missing this time as our entire June meeting was taken up with Trivia – no time for a plant table or any business!

However, here are two important reminders:

- Register and pay for the Coffs Harbour APS NSW 2017 Annual Get-together by 15 July for your early bird discount
- Register and pay ASAP for the Blue Mountains seminar and APS NSW quarterly gathering on Saturday 8 July.

More details are included in the newsletter.

Enjoy your garden!

Jan Douglas, Editor

In this newsletter:

- A Note from the President
- Coming events
- A few photos from our Trivia night
- EHG contact details.

www.easthills.austplants.com.au



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With winter now set in, it's a great time to get out in the garden and do those heavy jobs that are too hot to do at other times of the year. Gardens are always changing, often without us realising. I try to take photographs of my garden at least once a year and I am sometimes amazed how much it changes in a relatively short time. Some photographs show plants growing that I have no idea about - what they were or where I got them!

Liz and I recently had a short trip to the Gluepot Reserve in South Australia. This reserve is in mallee country north of Renmark and they have managed it very well, particularly for wildlife. They have closed many of the dams that the previous owners had established and now only provide water in raised containers that are not accessible by land animals. This has been done to reduce the impact of feral animals, particularly goats, foxes and cats. This has been quite successful with only minimal sightings of these pests on the reserve in recent years. There wasn't much in blossom although one of the mallees was flowering and *Eremophila scoparia* (Scotia Bush) had some sparse flowers, but the birds were stunning particularly the Major Mitchell Cockatoos and the Splendid Fairywren.

Returning to Sydney via the Riverina was interesting but disturbing with more cultivation appearing such as cotton along the Hay Plains and clearing going on. Obviously, some farmers are getting in before the regulations that accompany the new poorly-named Biodiversity legislation come into practice. We sent in submissions on these regulations but only time will tell whether they have any impact. But allowing a farmer to clear up to 625 ha of land over three years and allowing them to self-assess the importance of forested areas on their property is a joke. All of this will take place before mapping of the land is completed – not a good prospect for the relatively small amounts of woodland left in NSW.

Graham Fry, President.



**APS NSW Quarterly Gathering
and
Blue Mountains Group Annual Seminar
Sharon Burridge Hall, Blaxland
9.30 am Saturday 8 July 2017**

**You need to register and pre-pay to attend.
Lunch and morning tea are included.**

The program looks very interesting.
For details see the April issue of Native Plants for NSW or
<http://apsbluemtnsgroup.org/2017AnnualSeminarRegistrationForm.pdf>

TRIVIA NIGHT! East Hills Group meeting – 7 June 2017

Another successful EHG Trivia night, planned and executed by Karlo and Lisa Taliana!

Despite torrential rain, we managed to set up on time and enjoyed our fourth Trivia night, with members from three APS groups and assorted friends and relatives bringing us to about 30 people in all.

Karlo's questions challenged us, tricked us, puzzled us... and we were rewarded with a wide variety of prizes, a scrumptious supper and great company. There were also healthy plants for sale.

As always, thanks are due to many people, especially Karlo and Lisa, but also to everyone who brought prizes, supper, good humour, and who helped to set up, wash up and tidy up!



Photos: Karl Schurr, Jan Douglas

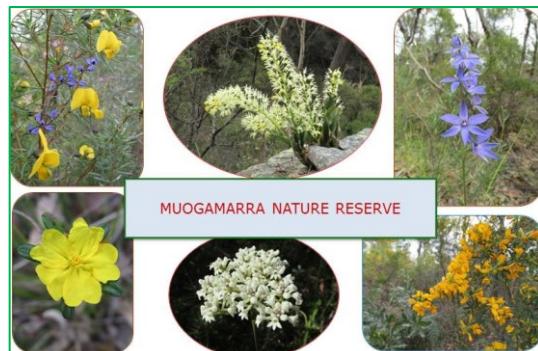
WILDFLOWERS AT MUOGAMARRA NATURE RESERVE

Muogamarra Nature Reserve is set in spectacular Sydney sandstone scenery, just north of Sydney, about 54 km from Peakhurst. It is renowned for its Spring wildflowers and lovely views of the Hawkesbury River.

The reserve is open for only six weekends a year. This year Muogamarra Nature Reserve will be open every weekend from Saturday 12 August until Sunday 17 September. There is a park entry fee: \$15 adults, \$10 children, \$40 family (2 adults, 2 children). You must pay the entry fee even if you have a National Parks annual pass.

At the Reserve, you can join a NPWS guided walk or just take yourself for a walk or a picnic. Guided walks cost \$20, \$30 or \$50 per adult, depending on which walk you choose.

NPWS advise that visitors will need to pre-book and pay for guided walks online as numbers are limited and places can fill quickly. They also recommend that if you're interested in a self-guided walk, you should contact Kalkari Discovery Centre (Phone 9472 9300 or 9472 930) for information on walking track options. For more information, see www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/muogamarra-nature-reserve



Photos above and below: Jan Douglas, August 2013



APS NSW 2017 ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

COFFS HARBOUR 2 – 3 September

Rainforest riches revealed

The program includes lectures and discussions with the following Rainforest experts: Alex Floyd, Barry Kemp, Lawrie Smith AM, Ecologists Mark Graham and Craig Stehn, Dan Clarke (APS Conservation Officer), Gwen Harden and Peter Poropat.

Other features include guided tours of Coffs Harbour Regional Botanic Garden; bird watching in the Gardens; a visit to the Coramba garden of APS members, Rowan and Lyn McCabe; a guided tour of Coramba Nature Reserve; a visit further north to the garden of APS members Gwyn and Geoff Clarke.

For more information and the registration form, see your copy of the April 2017 issue of Native Plants for NSW, or visit <http://austplants.com.au/specialevents.html> or <http://austplants.com.au/component/attachments/download/123.html>

Note that the early bird discount offer deadline has been changed to 15 July 2017.



Photos above are from around Coffs Harbour, as shown in Native Plants for NSW.

Photos below are from Mount Penang Gardens in Kariong, which David and I visited in conjunction with the APS NSW May quarterly gathering.



MORE COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events at <http://www.austplants-nsw.org.au/calendar6.html>.

Saturday 1 July 2017 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Sat 1 July, Sun 2 July	Illawarra Grevillea Park open
Wednesday 5 July From 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Members' night. Topics so far include French botanists, Banksias and Fig wasps.
Saturday 8 July 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting – Lyndal Thorburn, leader of the APS Eremophila Study Group, on Eremophila . Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Saturday 8 July Morning tea from 9.30 am	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering and Blue Mountains Group Annual Seminar. You need to register and pre-pay. Lunch and morning tea are included. Sharon Burridge Hall, Blaxland. For more details: See http://apsbluemtngroup.org/2017AnnualSeminarRegistrationForm.pdf
Sat 8 July, Sun 9 July	Illawarra Grevillea Park open
Wednesday 19 July 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting – Plants of the Kakadu. Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Wednesday 2 August	East Hills Group meeting – To be advised.
Saturday 5 August 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
2-3 September	2017 APS NSW Get-Together, Coffs Harbour – Rainforest Riches Revealed. Program includes walks, talks and garden visits. Registration form & details in 'Native Plants for NSW' and at www.austplants.com.au/specialevents.html <i>Early bird discount if paid before 15 July 2017.</i>
Saturday 2 September 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 6 September From 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Ray and Elma Kearney on The Living Art of Nature's Gallery . Expect fabulous photos!

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