

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2017

NEXT EHG MEETING:

From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 7 June 2017

**The Fourth Biennial
EHG AUSTRALIAN PLANTS TRIVIA NIGHT**

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.

Note: No plant table at this meeting.

WELCOME to the June 2017 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. It's a big issue! Hugh has given us a history-fest in his plant table notes. Marie has provided words and pictures about her floral arrangements for the Sydney Royal Easter Show. We have notes from Karl about our previous meeting and presentation. And we have lot of info about coming events – don't forget to register for the 2017 APS NSW Get-Together at Coffs Harbour in September (see page 12).

Enjoy your garden and see you soon!

Jan Douglas, Editor

In this newsletter:

- Coming events – dates to note
- May plant table notes and photos
- Notes & pictures from the May meeting
- EHG plants at the Easter Show
- EHG contact details.

www.easthills.austplants.com.au





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

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

For details: See 'Native Plants for NSW' or
<http://austplants.com.au/>

The Fourth Biennial

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
TRIVIA NIGHT

hosted by the East Hills Group of the Australian Plants Society

Wednesday 7th June 2017 (7pm for 7.30pm start)

at Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno

Cost \$5 per head.

RSVP: Karlo Taliana 9709 6135 or
karlo.taliana@optusnet.com.au **by 31/5/17**

EHG PLANTS AT THE SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Marie O'Connor

Marie is an enthusiastic contributor to APS NSW's entries into the Royal Easter Show. While East Hills Group did not enter the Show this year, specimens from Karlo's garden made a stunning appearance in some of Sutherland Group's entries arranged by Marie. Marie enjoys arranging flowers and often takes home specimens from the EHG plant table to include in floral arrangements or for use as cuttings. Marie and Des O'Connor are active members of both EHG and Sutherland Group.

It takes me about two hours for each arrangement. I let it develop as I create a picture. I enjoy using fruits, nuts and seed pods as well as flowers. The Oasis (floral foam) we use to hold the arrangement in position for the Show gives greater flexibility for arrangements, but at home I mainly use a selection of vases



These three stems of Banksia were from Karlo Taliana's garden. They gained three prizes: First, Third, and Highly Commended.

I was grateful to be able to enter his beautiful specimens for the public to see.



The Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea laurina*) as well as the main Banksia were from Karlo. The Hakea was such a beautiful specimen that I chose it for my starting point to show it off and let people see the beauty of our native plants. The Banksia was a lovely specimen to complement the Hakea. The other flowers completed the arrangement, which I really enjoyed doing.

These fruits were also from Karlo.



This was an exciting arrangement to do. I wanted to use Ralf Cartwright's (Sutherland Group) cycad seeds, for they were a wonderful colour, as were the tall orange Grevillea pieces from Karlo's garden. Some of Kate and Tony Porritts' paperbark at the base toned in with the available Banksias to complete the arrangement.



This photo shows an arrangement that I really enjoyed using my imagination to achieve. The paperbark at the base of the arrangement and the Kurrajong seed pods were from the Porritts' garden. The Cordyline and other fruits were from the Sutherland Group collection.



A SHORT UPDATE ON PROSTANTHERA

Trevor Wilson, presenter at our April 2017 meeting, noticed some out of date information about Prostanthera in our May newsletter. This info was drawn from Wikipedia (not from Trevor's talk) and referred to *Solenostemon*, which Trevor advises 'is one of the old generic names for *Plectranthus*. *Plectranthus scutellarioides* had a brief stint as *S. scutellarioides*,. Trevor also pointed out that *Plectranthus dumicola* is the name of one of the plants he described, and that -cola is an ending that refers to 'found in places of'.



East Hills Group May 2017 meeting
SAVING OUR SPECIES

Presentation by Liza Schaeper, Principal Project Officer, SOS, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

Thanks to Liza for supplying copies of her slides.

Notes by Karl Schurr

Liza Schaeper, a Principal Project Officer from the Office of Environment and Heritage, spoke to us about the Saving our Species program (SOS). SOS is a state-wide NSW government program that attempts to address the growing number of plants and animals in NSW facing extinction. The primary aim of the program is to maximize the number of threatened species that are secure in the wild in 100 years' time.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-program>



Threatened species include plants, invertebrates and vertebrates as well as ecological communities. Currently there are more than 1,000 threatened species in NSW and the state government has allocated \$100 million over the next five years for this project. A challenging aspect of this project is how to allocate these resources in the most effective way.



Consequently there are specific criteria regarding the most cost effective way to provide the greatest benefit to the most species. Because each species has different needs, six management streams have been established.

Category	Description	Image
Site-managed	Species secured by targeted management actions at specific sites	Red wattlebird
Landscape-managed	Highly dispersed or mobile species predominantly threatened by habitat loss or degradation	Eastern whistlingbird
Iconic	Socially or culturally important species, recognised community expectation of management	Wombat
Data-deficient	Insufficient ecological information available to inform effective management	Blue orchid
Partnership	Species with <10% of distribution within NSW jurisdiction	Eastern quoll
Keep watch	Species for which targeted investment is unlikely to improve population viability	Eastern quoll

1. Site-managed species: There are approximately 450 threatened species in this stream. If these sites are managed well to minimise the threats then these species will have a chance for survival. Species in this stream include the smoky mouse, eastern bristle bird and granite rose (*Boronia repanda*, photo at right).



2. Iconic species: Six species have been identified for specific attention. This list includes the koala, brush tailed rock-wallaby, mallee fowl, plains wanderer, Wollemi pine and the southern corroboree frog. Specific programs are being implemented to target these species.



3. Landscape managed species: These are species that are distributed over a large area and are threatened by habitat loss and degradation of habitat. This list includes the pale headed snake, yellow bellied glider and giant dragonfly.

4. Data deficient species: This represents about 20% of the current known list of endangered species and unfortunately includes 72 species that are now presumed to be extinct. This stream includes further research and field surveys.

5. Partnership species: These are species that have less than 10% of their distribution in NSW and are considered to not be currently under threat at a national level.

6. Keep watch Species: These species do not require immediate investment, because they are naturally rare, have few known threats or are more common than previously thought.

Liza mentioned some current projects:

Conservation Project Example

Site name: Katoomba Falls

Area: 31.3ha
LGA: Blue Mountains
Reserve(s): Blue Mountains NP

Threat	Action
Hydrological disturbance	Land manager consultation
Mixed weeds	Site-based weed control
Risk of adverse fire / wildfire	Fire planning
Multiple	Habitat condition monitoring
n/a	Species outcome monitoring

- Site-managed species
- Drafted by expert panel
- Land manager review
- Species response and threat monitoring
- Prioritised
- Represents minimum investment required to meet objective

NSW Office of Environment & Heritage

Prostanthera densa
(Unfunded 16/17, Funded 17/18)

Overall, the program is based on current scientific knowledge about species distributions, needs, behaviours and current threats. There is a significant amount of information on the website with lists of current threatened species which can be searched using various filters – region, habitat, type of species - depending on your interests. This information includes maps of current known distributions. Community involvement is encouraged and there are suggestions on groups and ways that you can be involved in the program.

Importance of people and partnerships

The task of securing >1000 species is too big for government alone

- Align effort
- Shared responsibility
- Valuing existing partnerships and developing new ones
- Volunteering and citizen science
- Awareness raising
- Education

NSW Office of Environment & Heritage

THE EHG MAY 2017 PLANT TABLE

Thanks to everyone who brought plant specimens.

Hugh Stacy

Plants brought to our meeting on 3 May included:

Austrocynoglossum latifolium (Forest Hound's Tongue)
Banksia speciosa
Banksia spinulosa subsp. *collina* 'Golden Candles'
Banksia spinulosa subsp. *spinulosa* 'Coastal Cushion'
Correa baeuerlenii (Chef's Cap Correa)
Correa glabra (Rock Correa)
Dampiera dysantha (Shrubby Dampiera)
Darwinia oldfieldii
Dianella caerulea
Eucalyptus leucoxylon ('Yellow Gum' in Victoria, 'Blue Gum' in South Australia)
Grevillea maccutcheonii
Plectranthus parviflorus
Plectranthus scutellarioides
Scaevola sp. (possibly *S. aemula*)
Xanthostemon chrysanthus (Golden Penda)



***Austrocynoglossum latifolium*:** This mouthful of a name is relatively recent. It arises from Latin *australis*, south; Greek words *kynos*, dog, and *glossa*, tongue. The original name, *Cynoglossum latifolium*, was given by the Scottish botanist Robert Brown, who placed this species in an existing genus named by Linnaeus. The likeness of the rough hairy leaf surface to the tongue of a hound is an image now represented in our flora too. In 1989 this name was changed by publication of the new name in *Notes Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh* 46: 44. The author was Dr Robert Mill of RBGE, who had carried out extensive research on this world-wide genus: his unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, submitted in 1979 to St Andrews University, Scotland, was 861 pages long, and entitled *Taxonomic studies on generic limits in the family Boraginaceae (tribe Cynoglosseae)*.



Photo: Don Wood
Atlas of Living Australia

<http://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/4f088bd7-f13d-42e7-90a2-8a1f4d9f50d8>

Austrocynoglossum latifolium (R.Br.) R. R. Mill has thus become a monotypic genus. It is a decumbent plant with soft stems up to 1 m long and covered with indumentum, of which some hairs appear to have adapted as small prickly bristles; leaves are ovate to broadly ovate, mostly 3-5 cm long, 2-5 cm wide with short petiole, the upper surface scabrous with hairs emanating from the tubercular surface, while underneath there are hairs on main veins only. Small white flowers occur singly on pedicels to 25 mm. These plants grow in moist forest and rainforest margins in scattered occurrences from coast to mountains, along

the east and south coasts of Australia from north of Brisbane through NSW and Victoria, and in several places in Tasmania. It is rare in the Sydney area.

***Correa glabra* var. *glabra*:** This species is very variable. Of three recognized varieties, *C. glabra* var. *glabra* is the one most widespread, extending from south east Queensland through NSW on the slopes west of the divide, on the plains to the south west and across central and western Victoria. No longer is it common, however, as these areas are farming heartland: grazing pressures, of farm animals and feral goats, have ravaged its habitats in rocky places, in woodlands and along streams.



Photo: Russell Best

<https://natureshare.org.au/observations?species=Correa+glabra+var.+glabra>

Although *C. glabra* var. *glabra* is itself very varied and is known in several distinct forms, all have features in common:

- Leaves are aromatic, nearly round or narrow to broadly elliptic, to 30 x 17 mm;
- Upper leaf surface is smooth with only sparse hairs, densely hairy underneath.
- Green or yellow flowers with anthers exserted, some corollas to 50 mm long, are solitary at the end of short branches, hanging down on slender stalks 4 mm long, mainly in autumn and through winter.
- The calyx is green, cup-shaped, to 10 mm long, becoming flattened and enclosing the seeds after the corolla withers and falls; fruits are 5-8 mm long.

The growth habit of these plants is generally erect. They may grow to 3 m tall in protected and favourable sites, but many are much smaller, suitable for planting in rockeries or pots. They are frost- and drought-hardy, adaptable to most soils and conditions, but do like well drained places with plenty of sun and some cover.

***Dampiera dysantha*:** This species occurs west of Melbourne, right across central and western Victoria, then northwest across South Australia to the Eyre Peninsula. It is a small shrub, only 70 cm high, usually erect, sometimes decumbent, scattered through communities of woodland and mallee, often on clayey loam soils.



Photo: Kevin Sparrow

<https://natureshare.org.au/observations/54388a65e35eb15f21000105?species=Dampiera+dysantha>

The round stems of *D. dysantha* have deep grooves all along them; the ribs between are sparsely covered with white tomentum, while branched hairs in the grooves are gradually lost over time. Sessile leaves are blunt, oblong to elliptical, 5-16 mm long, 2-6 mm wide, the upper surface glabrous or nearly so, dotted with tiny lumps (papillae) and tomentose underneath; leaf margins may be entire or toothed, often turned down but not rolled under (i.e. not fully revolute). Some branches carry 5-7 flowers, of which 1-3 open together in

upper axils among grey and rusty hairs; pedicels are about 2 mm long from a peduncle up to 17 mm, either axillary or terminal, with twin bracteoles.

Although plants may be easily passed by in the off season, their flowers draw attention in winter. Colour varies in different places, from white through mid to dark blue, or from jacaranda blue to rich purple, all showing degrees of yellow centres. Plants from Victorian sources are grown readily from seed; perhaps different colours may be available using experience gained in supplying plants for goldfields revegetation projects.

The first formal description of this plant was published in 1869 by George Bentham, who named it as *Dampiera rosmarinifolia* var. *dysantha*. The genus *Dampiera* was revised by Rajput and Carolin in 1988, when the variety *dysantha* was raised to species level. The range of *D. rosmarinifolia* in Victoria and SA is similar to that of *D. dysantha*.

***Eucalyptus leucoxylon*:** A common tree in much of South Australia. The form that is dominant around Adelaide is regarded as typical of the species; this form is known as the South Australian Blue Gum and described as *E. leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon*. It is endemic to the Mt. Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, growing 15-20 m tall. Except for 1-2 m of rough bark at the base of the trunk, the rest of the trunk and branches have smooth gum bark mottled with streaks of white, yellow and blue. The name derives from Greek *leucos*, white and *xylon*, wood, referring to the timber. Flowers are normally seen in autumn, predominantly cream to yellow, which may explain the common name 'Yellow Gum' in Victoria. Buds normally form in groups of three per axillary umbel; peduncle and pedicels are terete, to 10 mm long.

Our sample sprig had deep scarlet flowers in threes, pendulous on much longer pedicels. Red-flowered cultivars have been developed selectively over many years; the original source, though not known with certainty, has come from subspecies *megalocarpa*, which occurs on the coastal fringes of SA and Victoria where trees on windy sites take on mallee form, but may reach 14 m elsewhere. It has very large buds, flowers pink or red and fruits to 13 mm diameter x 32 mm long. Cultivars have been selected from individual trees showing desirable characters; trees of predictable height are of course sought for horticulture. Suitable cuts from these trees are then grafted onto *E. leucoxylon* seedling rootstocks. Such cultivars bear the name *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* var. *megalocarpa* 'Rosea', and they may reach only 5-6 m in height.



Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'Rosea'
Photo by Brian Walters
<http://anpsa.org.au/e-leu.html>



Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. *pruinosa*
<http://saseedbank.com.au/uploads/06072016/Eucalyptus%20leucoxylon%20ssp%20pruinosa%20Eaglehawk%20Waterhole%20Flower2.jpg>

The specimen on our plant table came from a young tree about 4m high with a trunk about 12 cm diameter at the base; there was no sign of a graft. While flower colour of seedlings is not guaranteed, red flowers have been produced from seed in this instance. Many years of selective trials have seemingly improved the odds of achieving this outcome.

Flower colour is actually that of the staminal filaments of which each flower has about six whorls; each filament is attached at its base to a broad staminal ring. The length of filaments reduces from outer to inner whorls. In large flowers the outermost whorls lack anthers and are sterile. Filament length is greater in larger flowers.

Some clarification may be helpful regarding the usage of the terms 'variety' and 'subspecies'. The term 'variety' is used for horticultural purposes and carries no botanical recognition. However, the term 'subspecies' is applied to botanical descriptions of several populations which display particular morphological variations in particular geographical areas. For example, *E. leucoxydon* ssp. *pruinosa* which grows in the drier northern areas of SA and Victoria (and just crosses the Murray River into the far south west plains of NSW), features glaucous (pruinose) small buds, fruits and juvenile leaves.

***Xanthostemon chrysanthus*:** This name is an example of botanical redundancy, if not overkill. Greek *xanthos*, yellow and *stemon*, stamen; then *chrysos*, golden and *anthos*, flower; hence the meaning is 'yellow stamens and golden flowers'. Would von Mueller have intended that when he published the name *Metrosideros chrysantha* in 1864? Probably not, unless he was already unsure enough to be considering the revision which Bentham undertook in his treatment of the *Myrtaceae* in *Flora Australiensis* Vol. III, publication date 1866. Ferdinand Mueller (sic), Government Botanist, Melbourne, Victoria, is credited as assistant to the author, George Bentham, in each of the seven volumes (except that in Vol. VI, 1873, he becomes Baron Ferdinand von Mueller). On p 268 of Vol. III the description of a new genus is headed 'XANTHOSTEMON, F. Muell.', indicating that Bentham credited Mueller with this name. But he adds a note at the end of this description which suggests that Mueller had had second thoughts after reaching a consensus with him:



Besides the two Australian species there are a considerable number in New Caledonia. The genus has since been reunited by F. Mueller with *Metrosideros*, which it closely resembles. The constantly alternate leaves, with the insertion and arrangement of the ovules, seem, however, to justify the maintaining it either as a genus or section

Two species were transferred from *Metrosideros* to *Xanthostemon*, *X. chrysanthus* and *X. paradoxus*; they remain so, vindicating Bentham's judgment.

Xanthostemon chrysanthus is a tree from coastal rainforest in north Queensland ranging from Townsville to Cape York. It grows 10-15 m high, 5-8 m wide in the wild, but is more compact in cultivation. Shiny green elliptic leaves 7-22 cm long and 2-9 cm wide are arranged in whorls along the stems, hiding rough bark under a bushy appearance. Golden flower heads occur in summer and autumn, forming as axillary or terminal racemes to 15 cm

diameter, each comprising numerous individual flowers up to 2 cm in diameter. The long stamens of each flower mass together spectacularly.

Although the Golden Penda has flowered well at the RBG Sydney, it may not be seasonally consistent. It needs a sunny aspect, ample water and reasonable drainage. Plants grown from cuttings branch lower, set foliage to the ground and flower sooner.

Prune annually. Seedlings could become large trees 15 m high. A much smaller tree (to 7 m) which also has masses of yellow fluffy flowers is *X. paradoxus* which is also from northern Australia, and was recommended by John Wrigley as an alternative.



Darwinia oldfieldii. Photos: Karlo Taliana

THE BUSINESS

East Hills Group meeting – 3 May 2017

Meeting notes by Karl Schurr

The meeting was chaired by President Graham Fry. There were fifteen attendees and one apology.

Matters arising:

- Discussion of the Trivia night preparations for our June 7th meeting. This has been a great evening in the past and this year Karlo has once again prepared an excellent evening of entertainment and challenges to our knowledge of things Australian.
- We anticipate increased numbers from other groups for this meeting so please bring a plate of food for the supper table. Don't bring plants for the plant identification table but bring plants for sale if you have suitable plants.
- Prizes have been organised but if you have something you think is suitable as a prize please contact Karlo 9709 6135.
- See you all on the 7th June for an excellent evening of entertainment.

Presenter: Liza Schaeper, a Principal Project Officer with Save Our Species in the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The presentation was followed by discussions around the plant table, the raffle and supper.

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

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

Saturday 3 June 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 7 June 2017 From 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Trivia night: \$5 per person. Details on page 2.
Saturday 10 June From 12 noon for a cuppa and garden viewing. Meeting begins at 1 pm.	Menai Wildflower Group – Guest speaker Professor David Eldridge, Senior Principal Research Scientist at OEH and UNSW on ‘Soil crust mosses, lichens and liverworts from Australia’s dryland’. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 21 June From 7.45 for 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting –Biodiversity in Urban Wetlands. Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Saturday 1 July 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
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 2017 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 Burrige Hall, Blaxland. For more details: See ‘Native Plants for NSW’ or http://austplants.com.au/
2-3 September 2017	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 1 July 2017.</i>

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