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## NEWSLETTER      MAY      2016

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### MARCH PROPAGATION

This again was a well-attended session with enough people to cover all the tasks required by Jen. Potting up of several wattles took place and cuttings propagation was done for some species that are expected to be used in the Woodward's Creek project when approved. These species included a few epacrids - *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Lissanthe strigosa*. *Melichrus urceolatus* still needs to be done. Frank brought in cuttings of *Melaleuca pulchella* which he had growing in Canberra - so it will be a very worthwhile addition to our plant sale lists (pulchella = beautiful).

Jen has planned a few more propagation working days with one scheduled for May 19.

### MORTON NP WALK

The first Sunday walk for the year was well attended. Beginning on a private property off the Nerriga Road we then proceeded into Morton National Park.

Although the area at the start of the walk was a former quarry which had not had any remediation when operations ended some decades before, amazingly the surrounds echoed to a variety of birdcalls while members enjoyed morning tea prior to setting off. A number of members took advantage of a lift for the first, most rugged section of the walk, facilitating participation for a wider range of walking capabilities. Others strolled along the fire trail, meeting up with the vehicle further on.

When Tim and Bob had reconnoitred the walk earlier in the week, the variety of pea plants inspired Tim to create a table aimed to assist members in identification of major pea genera. In the few days since Tim and Bob scouted the area, a number of the peas had finished flowering, so there was great satisfaction amongst the group when working through the table led to correct identification of *Phyllota*, *Daviesia* and *Pultenaea*. There was a sense of taking one step further along the path to demystifying this large and complex group of plants. In fact, looking back through the photos of that walk, I can find only one (rather blurry picture) which actually included a pea flower, so I feel we did rather well.

Other plants of interest included a range of *Personna*, as well as *Hakeas*, *Banksias* and *Isopogon*.

A clearing well provided with logs formed a picnic area to enjoy lunch. The furthest point of the walk was a rocky outcrop which involved a degree of off-trail venturing.

Thanks to Pauline for her impressions (above) of the walk. There were not a lot of flowers to be seen and those that were noticed seemed in many instances to be sporadic or just a response to the vagaries of the season. Nonetheless, it was very enjoyable and importantly provides a springboard for further forays into that section of the national park. Easy access to that part of the Morton is just not available and we are grateful to the owners of the access property, Terry and Leonie for the privilege. Leonie accompanied us on the walk and we had another visitor as well: Xavier - who had done a lot of horticulture in Queensland and a potential APS member

A list of what we saw is given in the third page of this newsletter. In some cases, a feature of the species is listed briefly - this may help trigger the memory of what the plant looked like - if needed. The banksias - *B. spinulosa* and *B. paludosa* were in their normal flowering mode. *Isopogon anemonifolius* also seem to be in a general flowering mode as was *Bossiaea heterophylla* - the latter has mid Autumn as its normal flowering period. Bob and I did not go far enough on our 'reccy' trip to see this one - otherwise I would have used it in the identification session. With the scarcity of flowers on pea plants, members did well with the limited observations that they could make. It was good work to identify a particular *Daviesia* species from the wattle-like phyllodes and a single open cone derived from the triangular fruits. *Phyllota* was identified through its taller than wide all-yellow flowers - though not an infallible test. *Gompholobium* was seen to have narrow linear leaflets in threes. On the next walk, those who wish should be able to use the 'pea table' to identify a few more. I hope to have a few extra copies of that 'pea table' available possibly in the form of laminated leaflets for the upcoming walk. As Pauline mentioned, our walk ended as we came to a gentle ridge where a number of species not previously seen occurred. That would raise my hopes that further walks in the area will lead us to even more species diversity.

Of the specimen pieces I took home, the most challenging was a low-growing plant, plentiful on the initial stages but no flowers to be seen. Leonie had it identified some time back - may have been at the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra - but the name escaped her on the day. The initial clues for me were the parallel veins on the underleaf and the elongated sharp tips on the leaves. That placed it in the Epacridaceae. Further investigations placed it in the genus *Styphelia* - *Styphelia adscendens*. We have seen *Styphelia* before - *S. triflora* (yellow/pink flowers) in the Razorback NR and some years back the fruits of *S.*

*tubiflora* on a walk in the Mittagong area. In the process of getting the *S. adscendens* name I discovered that most of what had been in Epacridaceae are now in Ericaceae; so more things to learn.



*Isopogon anemonifolius* - photo from Pauline



*Coronidium rutidosis* - seen on the last walk but this clump is from my place - originally each flower in the clump (part only shown) had one or two moths (upper wings - iridescent blue) on each - moth on a single flower is arrowed. After I rushed in to get my phone and take a photo, most moths had taken off!

### STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

On Friday April 9, some members of the group committee met with Merle Thompson who is the membership officer for APS NSW and is a Board member. This was a preliminary meeting in preparation for the combined groups meeting set down for the last weekend this month in Sydney. Thanks to Bob's organisation, we met at a meeting room in the Workers Club and discussion went for a few hours. Merle was very happy with the conversation we had with her and went home with ample notes; I think it could be said that it was one of the best such meetings she had had. Merle has also sent some outcomes from other

growth-and-promotion meetings held a few years ago.

Further to that, I thank Bob and Brian for volunteering to attend the weekend meetings in Sydney. It will be every interesting to learn what emerges from these deliberations.

### INSURANCE MATTERS

There has been some email exchange re insurance and public liability matters recently between district groups and APS NSW. It is now essential that each activity of ours has at least one person who is capable of administering first aid. A certificate is not required although it would be welcome. Certainly, some members have had training in that and whether extra training (for others) or a bit of a 'refresher' for the experienced might be needed will be considered if necessary. We will be looking as well at a suitable well-stocked first-aid kit to replace our existing one and accompany us on all our endeavours. We also need to ensure that all our official activities are notified to the APS office before they occur. This generally happens through the calendar; if not in the calendar, we email the APS office. I think we slipped up on this with one of the wetlands maintenance days.

### WOODWARD CREEK PROJECT

We have sent details of plant costs and other issues through Diana to the Bungonia Park Trust for their consideration. We are still waiting for a final decision.

### WETLANDS GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Thus took place as timetabled. Possibly due to the earlier work and the dry conditions, there was little weeding to be done. Plans are well advanced for the species to be used near the bird hide.

### MAY WALK

This was to be to Oakdale NR - not far from Collector. This is probably the smallest of the Gunning/Collector reserves so I thought it might be best to switch to one of the larger ones - McLeod's Creek NR until we have had an exploratory trip to Oakdale.

### CALENDAR

Sat May 7	McLeod's Creek Nature Reserve
Thu May 19	Propagation/Work at Jen's
Sat Jun 4	Sassafras banksia walk
Sat Jul 2	Workshop: Plant Frost Resistance and Ecology
Sun Aug 7	Wollondilly River walk
Sat Sep 3	Narrangill NR veg. survey with GFN group
Sat Oct 1	West Goulburn Bushland
Sat Nov 5	Windellama Field Day
Wed Nov 23	Wetlands Garden maintenance
Sat Dec 3	Christmas get-together and walk at Tony and Sandra's property at Back Arm

## SPECIES LIST

Acacia ulicifolia - Prickly Moses  
Acacia terminalis - shrub - sunshine wattle  
Acacia mearnsii - wattle tree  
Acacia obtusifolia - shrub  
Acacia obtusata - open shrub  
Allocasuarina littoralis  
Aristida ramosa - grass  
Austrostipa sp. a spear grass  
Banksia paludosa - shrub 'mousy' flowers  
Banksia spinulosa shrub  
Bossiaea heterophylla - open shrub - in flower  
Cassinia arcuata - Sifton bush - shrub  
Cassinia aculeata - shrub  
Caustis flexuosa - sedge - "curly grass"  
Chloanthes stoechadis - shrub - unusual leaf pattern  
Conospermum taxifolium - upright slender shrub  
Coronidium scorpioides - 'daisy'  
Coronidium rutidolepis - 'daisy'  
Cryptandra amara - sub-shrub  
Daviesia leptophylla - upright shrub  
Daviesia acicularis - small shrub - 'pungent'  
Dodonaea boroniifolia  
Eriochilus cucullatus (Parson's bands - orchid)  
Eucalyptus globoidea - white stringybark  
Eucalyptus sieberi - silvertop ash  
Eucalyptus mannifera - brittle gum  
Eucalyptus rossii - scribbly gum\*\*  
Eucalyptus agglomerata - blue-leaved stringybark  
Eucalyptus dives -broadleaf peppermint  
Exocarpos cupressiformis - small tree  
Exocarpos strictus - low shrub  
Gompholobium minus - prostrate pea\*\*\*  
Goodenia hederacea - prostrate trailing plant  
Hakea laevipes - multi stemmed shrub  
Hakea sericea - upright shrub - prickly  
Hibbertia pedunculata - low shrub  
Hibbertia obtusifolia - low shrub  
Isopogon anemonifolius - shrub  
Kunzea parvifolia  
Kunzea ericoides  
Lepidosperma laterale - sedge  
Lepidosperma sp.  
Leptospermum rotundifolium  
Leptospermum polygalifolium ssp. ?  
Leptospermum trinervium - tea tree dark flaky bark  
Lomandra obliqua - tiny herbaceous - twisted leaves  
Lomandra longifolia - matrush - strappy plant  
Lomatia ilicifolia -shrub  
Melaleuca parvistaminea  
Melichrus urceolatus - low shrub  
Microlaena stipoides var stipoides - grass  
Mirbelia platylobioides - another pea  
Monotoca scoparia - an epacrid  
Patersonia fragilis - lily  
Patersonia glabrata - lily  
Persoonia laurina ssp leiogyna - geebung\*

Persoonia levis - geebung - bright green  
Persoonia mollis ssp livens - shrub  
Persoonia linearis - geebung tall erect shrub  
Petrophile sessilis - upright stiff shrub  
Petrophile canescens - low shrub -foliage a bit grey  
Phyllota phyllicoides - yellow pea  
Platysace lanceolata - shrub  
Pomaderris andromedifolia- smaller leaves  
Pomaderris intermedia - shrub largish leaves  
Pomaderris lanigerum - shrub  
Pomax umbellata - herbaceous - tiny  
Stypantra glauca  
Styphelia adscendens - the 'unknown' prostrate  
Xanthorrhoea glauca - grass tree

\* only one seen - needs checking

\*\* may be E. haemastoma

\*\*\* could be G. species B