

Hakea fraseri

Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

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President:

John Nevin – 6775 2128 (H)

Secretary:

Kristine Gow

Treasurer:

Graeme Fairweather – 6777 1456

President's Report

What a difference a month makes! At the beginning of November I was looking for a rope and razor blades as the garden sweltered in extreme windy dry heat after missing the usual winter rains from the south. Surrounding bushland was ablaze and the air thick and acrid with smoke from bushfires.

Then came the 120 mms of rain in November with a greening of the countryside, refilling of the rainwater tanks and dams. I can face summer again after this welcome respite. Are we developing a monsoonal weather pattern?

We have a break now over Christmas until the February meeting and AGM. Please give consideration to taking a position that assists in the running of the group. The health and activity of our group is only as good as the collective input of all of us.

Have a quiet enjoyable Christmas with your families and plants.

John

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED at ANY TIME

Postal address as above or email – jrnevin@northnet.com.au

GROUP INFORMATION

We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members to enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora. Most of all we range from raw beginners to others who have been at the game for many years - All willing to share their knowledge.

General Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except December, January, June and July) at Tree Group woodland Centre where a display of flowers is presented by members.

Old and new members and visitors are very welcome to these meetings and any outings that we organise.

Committee Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm – see diary for where - members are welcome to these meetings too.

Annual General Meetings are held in February.

Solstice dinner is held in June.

Wattle Day dinner is held on the first of September.

December meeting is taken up by an end of year function, usually a BBQ or picnic.

Cover: Background is adapted from a drawing of Hakea fraseri in Forest Flora, NSW

HEARD AROUND THE TRAPS by Barbara Nevin

- 1 A Neil Marriott saying – “Don’t worry about naming it, enjoy it!”
- 2 From Tim in Halls Gap at the Grampians when handing me a very large rubber band after we had packed all the plants in the cars – “At the rate these fellows are going you will need this to attach yourself to the roof of the car for the trip home.”
- 3 From Paul Kennedy on propagation of eucalypt seeds – nearly fill a thumb tube with graded sand, sprinkle the seed on top and add 1mm sand over them. Put these tubes in a margarine container with 6mm water in the bottom. Plant out, when second set of leaves appear, in a tube of potting mixture with increased iron. Leave in darkness for a couple of days to settle down
- 4 Warren and Gloria Sheather now have access to the local ABC web site. Every Monday they have an image, description and mini-interview of a local native plant included on the site. Because of the generosity of the local ABC and particularly Peter Gunders we now have another site to access information on our local plants. (see following web site)

Another Web Site

- Local ABC – <http://www.abc.net.au/newengland/>
- *Have you any web sites that you think may be of interest to other members? Lease let me know!*

ARBORETUM WORKING BEES

There will be no more formal working bees held in the arboretum until early in 2003 but work still needs to be carried out. Pat would love to receive your offers of help with maintenance that can be carried out over the holiday season. Regular working bees start again on 8 February 2003.

There seems to be very little material on the growing of native climbing plants. I would like to say something of my experience with growing these in our climate, in the hope that others will contribute, as I believe these plants can make a very useful addition to native gardens.

Most of my climbers have been grown in basalt soil, have been mulched with sawdust and supported by built trestles, trees or shrubs that have provided considerable frost protection. Many have had the benefit of some watering in dry periods. The growing of creepers in other soils and conditions may produce very different results from mine.

If there is one general conclusion to be drawn from my experience it is that our climbers have extremely variable vigour. This makes the choice of creeper for location or location for creeper crucial to happy gardening.

Some of the creepers include:

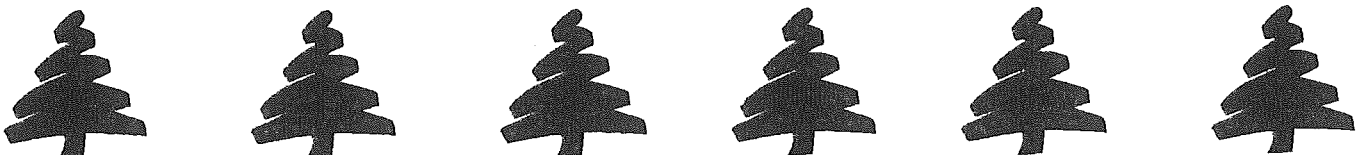
Muehlenbeckia axillaris (native ivy / matted lignum). This is extremely hardy and vigorous with thousands of long tendrils. It can be very difficult or tedious to prune, especially when growing through other plants and it can cause structural damage to old buildings and also runners can sucker. Subject to these qualifications it can be a useful plant (eg landscaping) in exposed, isolated sites where other plants may struggle to survive.

Cissus antarctica (Kangaroo vine). This is also a very vigorous plant, at least in very protected environments, such as rainforests. It is easy to prune despite its vigour as it produces only a few tendrils (Tarzan would have loved to swing in them). Its flowers are insignificant but it produces attractive berries that unfortunately are also attractive to currawongs. These berries can self-seed but in our climate it would never become a weed.

Pandoreas. There are a variety of these that will succeed in our climate. *Pandorea jasminoides* 'Bower of Beauty' has large trumpet shaped flowers and grows well while being easy to control (it is suitable for trellises). The normal form has pale mauve flowers with plum coloured centres and flowers for most of the hotter months. Another attractive form is called 'Lady Di' that is pure white with a lemon throat. *Pandorea pandorana* (Wonga Wonga Vine) is generally a vigorous grower but there is an enormous range of eco-types as it grows along (actually?) the whole of the eastern coast and mountain ranges. The common form in the wild has very pale cream flowers with brownish purple splotches on the throat. Two commonly marketed forms are 'Snow Bells' (almost pure white with a pale yellow throat) and 'Golden Showers' (shades of honey brown). All of these have proved extremely floriferous right through spring. They are also hardy except that new leaf and bud growth can be frost damaged – though none have suffered this year.

Hardenbergias. Most gardeners are familiar with these, but their selection may present a problem, as they are extremely variable as regards frost sensitivity and growth habit. They also come in a range of flower colours from white through pink to mauve, purple and blue shades. *Hardenbergia comptoniana* (the WA variety) has a very graceful growth habit and a range of flower colours. Rabbits seem to love it.

This article will be continued by Wes in our next newsletter.



An Appeal from Kath Wray!

Following the upgrading of Dangar Falls Lookout it has been suggested that a 4.06km section of Dangar Falls Road be widened and sealed from the War Memorial to Black Lane, to encourage tourists to visit the Lookout. This necessitates the removal of 45 large mature eucalypt trees, many with hollows, beside the road.

The section of road to be widened and sealed is the only section of the Dangar Falls Road with so many native trees on both sides of it. Thus the potential removal of 45 of the trees is causing some concern to many people.

It would be helpful in retaining the trees if you would write an individual letter as soon as you can to the General Manager, Shane Burns and send a copy to the Mayor, Brian Chetwynd, at Armidale Dumaresq Council, PO Box 75A, Armidale, 2350. State your objections or otherwise to the widening and sealing of the road, and the conceived removal of the trees.

Arguments for;

- 1 The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Armidale, wants the Dangar Falls Road sealed to Black Lane for a distance of 4.06km to encourage tourism to Armidale.
- 2 Most but not all, of the property owners along this section of Dangar Falls Road want the road sealed to reduce the dust caused by traffic along the road.
- 3 Armidale Dumaresq Council has offered to supply three tree seedlings for every tree removed to residents.
- 4 It has been suggested that instead of the road camber sloping to both sides of the road, necessitating a table drain on both sides of the road, that the road be sloped only to one side for one table drain. This would eliminate the need to widen the road to the extent proposed. This method has proven satisfactory in Queensland situations where there were trees close to the road that otherwise would have needed to be removed.

Arguments against;

- 1 The removal of 45 large mature trees that have, or are developing hollows for wildlife habitat in such a treeless environment amounts to environmental vandalism.
- 2 Native birds and animals in this area are already stressed for habitat so that the removal of all these trees place even more stress on native wildlife.
- 3 The removal of 45 large trees would disturb or destroy the trees nearby, plus the soil around them, in turn inviting the introduction of more weeds into the disturbed soil.
- 4 Residents nearby have observed echidnas and possums, have heard Boobook Owls and have also recorded 70 species of birds in that area.
- 5 Landowners in the vicinity have been re-building wildlife corridors of native indigenous plants to link up with this section of mature trees in Dangar Falls Road. The removal of the 45 trees will undermine their worthwhile efforts.
- 6 Armidale Dumaresq Council had offered 3 tree seedlings for every tree removed. It will take at least 80 years or more before these trees will provide hollows needed for wildlife, even if they survive. In the meantime where will the present wildlife population live? And where, in relation to the location of the current habitat, will the offered tree seedlings be planted?
- 7 The removal of 45 large mature trees from Dangar Falls Road will not improve the beauty of the landscape for visitors or residents driving along this road.
- 8 Residents of Dangarsleigh and other concerned citizens have suggested an alternative solution: that Black Lane be sealed instead because no trees would have to be removed and this route is not much longer than Dangar Falls Road route to Dangar Falls Lookout from the War Memorial.
- 9 There is a successful one kilometre stretch of native plantings along Black Lane on 'Hazeldene', that will make Black Lane as scenically pleasing as the existing beautiful old trees in Dangar Falls Road. This planting is adding to the total wildlife habitat of the area, not lessening it.
- 10 There are no powerlines along Dangar Falls Road to create any fire hazards, hence one more reason why the old trees need not be destroyed.
- 11 The cost of maintaining a sealed road against the maintenance of the existing gravel surface should be estimated.
- 12 The three species of eucalypt trees growing in this section of Dangar Falls Road are *Eucalyptus blakelyi* 'Blakely's Red Gum', *Eucalyptus melliodora* 'Yellow Box' and *Eucalyptus viminalis* 'Manna Gum' which is declared a koala habitat species. Together they provide habitat for a suite of indigenous birds.

SOMETHING I CAME ACROSS!

Recently I came across this poem in one of the gardens in the Walcha Garden Festival weekend.

The Power of the Garden

The world is a garden, its pleasures the showers
We toil always willing, never counting the hours
Time never measures, yet year after year,
A love for its beauty that's keeping us here.
Our pleasure grows stronger, endless blooms, colours, flowers
A tonic for sickness, that's the garden's strong powers.

RGD

Written by Roy Deneza but unfortunately I cannot remember which garden it was in...Ed!

NB Please read your label so that you can keep up with when your subscriptions are due. If there is a red dot here you need to renew your membership ASAP.
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AUST. NATIVES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM from Warren and Gloria Sheather

Recently (April/May 2002) we visited our daughter and her family who are living in Birmingham. During our time touring we kept an eye open for Australian native plants.

Private gardens did not seem to be over endowed with Australian natives. *Eucalyptus gunnii*, the Cider Gum from Tasmania, was highly favoured with specimens growing in many gardens. We took some time to recognise Cider Gums, as there is an absence of foliage eating insects in Britain. Consequently every leaf on British eucalypts, are perfect with no tattered margins. Cider Gum foliage was frequently seen in cut flower arrangements.

Eucalyptus dalrympleana, *E. pauciflora*, *E. subcrenulata*, *E. vernicosa* were growing vigorously in the Birmingham Botanic Gardens.

Some Australian natives were sold in nurseries and garden centres. *Isotoma axillaris* was available in full flower in small pots. Flowering specimens of *Callistemon* 'Endeavour' were for sale in large pots. *Brachycome multifida* and *Scaevola aemula* were also displayed prominently.

Our biggest horticultural surprise came on a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew near London. Two species of *Waratahs* were in full flower in an outside, raised garden bed. *Telopea mongaensis*, the Braidwood waratah, and *T. oreades*, the Gippsland Waratah, were both one and a half metre tall with multiple stems. Each stem was crowned with typical Waratah flower heads.

Also in the same bed was a splendid specimen of *Eucalyptus gregsoniana*, the Wolgan Snow Gum. This spreading tree was three metres wide and covered in creamy-white flowers.

Other Eucalypts were represented in Kew Gardens. *E. aggregata*, *E. nitida*, *E. pauciflora* and *E. perriniana* were growing in lawns. *Acacia pravissima*, *Callistemon ptyoides*, *C. pallidus*, *Callitris oblongs* and *Hakea gibbosa* were all surviving and thriving outside Kew.

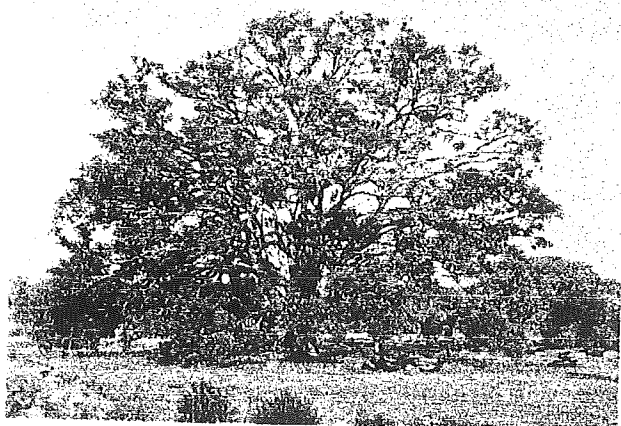
Other natives were growing in glasshouses including *Adenanthos sericea*, *Correa* 'Dusky Bells', *Hakea suaveolens*, *H. sulcata* and *Melaleuca elliptica*.

Finally we saw two mature specimens of *Acacia dealbata*. One was growing in Birmingham Botanic Gardens and the other in a garden bed beside the Thames in London.

GRAMPIANS TRIP 2002 by Graeme Fairweather

Seven intrepid native plant enthusiasts set off from Armidale on Friday 4 October bound for our Mexican cousins south of the border. While Pat Urbonas picked up Graeme and Pam Fairweather in Walcha, Bryce Little and Barbara Urbonas headed for our first stop for morning tea at Gunnedah. John and Barbara Nevin were delayed and didn't catch up till the stop for lunch at Gilgandra. Approaching Dubbo we stopped to inspect some large specimens of *Grevillea arenaria*. First night's stop was at ACE Caravan Park at West Wyalong.

Saturday morning we stopped just south of West Wyalong to look at some local variety of *Grevillea florabunda* and then travelled through some very dry country around Narrandera and crossed the border at Tocumwal arriving at Paul and Barbara Kennedy's home at Strathmerton for lunch. After a very enjoyable lunch Paul took us on a tour of his extensive garden which included almost all of the discovered varieties of *Hakea* as well as a large collection of *Grevilleas*, *Acacias*, *Eucalypts* and many other wonderful plants. If only we could grow some of the more spectacular varieties in Armidale. Paul explained that on his property he has three different soil types - sand, sandy loam and clay which allows him to grow such a wide variety of plants. He also uses old car tyres around his newer plantings as protection from rabbits and cold winter mornings. After another enjoyable meal and a few wines we were all able to find a bed for the night.



This magnificent River Red Gum greeted us as we arrived and left the Kennedy garden just as it had greeted the earlier white men

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Next morning we headed for the Grampians arriving at Pomonal in time to visit the APS flower show at the local hall. Here we met up with Bob and Jean McCaig who had just driven over from WA where they had been on their own wildflower tour. We were all impressed by the variety and quality of the plants on display. This whetted our appetite for our attack on the local nurseries with our first stop being the wildflower Nursery of Jane and Phil Williams where the first of many plants were purchased. On arrival at our booked accommodation (Tim's Place) at Halls Gap, we were greeted enthusiastically by Tim's Two cocker spaniel dogs who certainly had the run of the place.

Monday morning we visited the Seppelts Great Western winery to view the native gardens designed by Neil Marriott and Phillip Vaughan. Our first view of the gardens were some impressive plantings in the car park followed by a much more impressive laid out garden within the grounds of the winery. I was disappointed in not having time to visit the local wine shop to sample some of the many fine wines. We travelled on to Ararat to see the Botanical Gardens that contained a native plant section established and maintained by the local branch of APS. While here we were also able to see a very large glasshouse full of magnificent cymbidium orchids. After purchasing some lunch in Ararat we travelled on to eat at the Moyston oval, site of the first AFL game in Australia. The name Moyston also reminded me of the famous Moyston claret but alas not a winery or vineyard to be seen. On passing through Pomonal we couldn't resist more nursery visits including Williams again and John and Bronwen Malligan's Mt Cassell nursery which was formerly owned by Phillip Vaughan. While there we also had a walk through the planned gardens designed by Phillip and they were truly mind blowing, particularly the mass plantings of *Banksia Coccinea*.

Tuesday was cool and showery but this did not deter us from our itinerary with a visit to Steve Smart's property just before Stawell. Steve is an expert grafter of many difficult native plants but unfortunately he has had to suspend his business as his large dam is nearly empty due to the

prolonged dry spell. He took some of us on a tour of his gardens including a bare rocky clay area where surprisingly the plants were surviving fairly well. We noticed many grafted mature *grevilleas* and *eucalypts* growing very well on his property. He then invited us to visit his father's place in Stawell who was looking after his remaining grafted plants for sale. Of course Pat and John couldn't resist the plants on offer and Steve's collection of grafted plants was greatly reduced on our departure. We then travelled to Neil Marriott's place between Stawell and Ararat arriving in time for lunch. Neil's mud brick house is perched on top of a small hill with magnificent view of the distant Grampian Mountains. After lunch Neil took us on a tour of his extensive gardens commencing with the rockeries near his house followed by a long walk through approximately four to five acres of planted areas including the living *grevillea* collection. Neil is so passionate about his plants and obviously enjoys sharing his passion for plants and nature in general with people of similar interest. We marvelled at the many outstanding *grevilleas* growing in amongst the large granite boulders which occur naturally on his property,. He showed us his plantings of *Banksia coccinea* that would total nearly one hundred and invited us to help ourselves to any flower cuttings that we wanted. There was a mad scramble for secateurs with the conversation going along lines of (John can I borrow the secateurs or can you come and cut this branch for me). /the visit to Neil's garden was certainly one of the highlights of our trip.

Wednesday dawned fine and cool and after a hearty breakfast while the rest of the group travelled to Warracknabeal to visit Norma and Keith Boschen's eremophila garden I decided to explore the walking trails of the Grampians and with both video and 35mm cameras in hand had an enjoyable day walking to the Grand canyon an unusual series of rock formations and then on to the Pinnacle with breathtaking view of the valley below, returning by another track in time to greet the car trippers.

Thursday morning was time to pack and load our many native plants. After saying goodbye to Tim and his two cocker spaniels we headed for Castlemaine, arriving there for lunch. We next headed towards Bendigo in search of the Goldfields native nursery at Mandurang. After

reaching Bendigo and realising that we may have missed the turnoff Pat asked directions and we finally made it to the nursery. The nursery, managed by Marilyn Spague certainly had a large variety of interesting local and hard to obtain native plants. The cars were once again loaded up with more plants and the wallets became a little thinner. Our accommodation for the next two nights was Artsville Art a house used by aspiring and established artists at a small village called Fryertown that in its heyday was a booming gold mining area. We were joined there by John and Barbara's daughter, Lyndall, who had travelled from Ballarat.

On Friday we did the tourist bit with some of us visiting the Bendigo pottery and shopping at Castlemaine while others explored the central Deborah mine and an orchid nursery.



*Another gum that impressed us
(of course we cannot grow it here).*

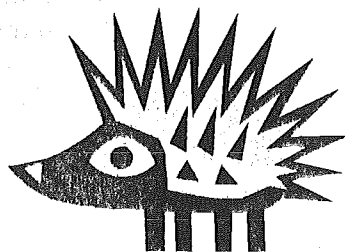
Saturday morning saw everyone packing for the trip back home north across the border. Pat is an expert at using every available space to cram everything in. With hundreds of plants to load there wasn't much room left for passengers. Finally we were packed with John and Barbara saying goodbye to Lyndall and Bryce and Barb U heading for Geelong and Melbourne to visit relatives for an extra week. Our stop on Saturday night was at a dubbo caravan Park although John and Barb N decided to press on for home as John was keen to get his numerous cuttings planted and also some of the many plants he had purchased. Pam and I arrived home at about 3pm on the Sunday and after unloading our gear pat headed for home at Invergowrie after a very enjoyable ten days of travel, gardens and meeting some wonderful people.

Whilst Graham went on his walk the rest of us drove to Warracknabeal to visit Keith and Norma Boschens's eremophila garden and were greeted with morning tea on arrival. This is a collector's garden started in 1984 and consists of 170 species of eremophilas. The soil is clay with a Ph of 8 (alkaline) and they had to have sand brought in to break up the soil before they started. They too have a problem with rabbits and frosts so their new plantings are also surrounded by old car tyres. Whilst the Boschens travel many hundreds of kilometres looking for and collecting cutting material they are kept busy with plant material sent back to them from other like minded people who are travelling around. We were reassured to learn that Norma has trouble with growing some of the

eremophilas on their own roots so she tends to grow them on their own roots and grafted onto *Myoporum* rootstock.

After walking around the garden and having lunch, we ended our visit with a grafting exhibition. Norma and Keith's son has built them a propagation box that is covered and has underheating of 22-25°C. Watering is by hand as needed because the cuttings do not like being wet.

I have always had trouble with the names of native plants as they keep changing them but in this garden were 4 plants of *Eremophila macdonnellii* – they each had different leaves and coloured flowers but apparently have the same name because the flowers were formed the same way – very confusing!!!...Ed!



NB OUR MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE TREE **GROUP WOODLAND CENTRE!!!**

This change of venue is proving to be a really good move so come and join us at the next meeting WHICH IS OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

DO THINK ABOUT DOING A JOB NEXT YEAR AND TALK TO ONE OF THE CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS. NEW COMMITTEE, NEW IDEAS.

GIVE YOUR SLUGS AND SNAILS A SHOT OF CAFFEINE

taken from the October Newsletter of the Coffs Harbour Group

Research in Hawaii has shown that caffeine will repel or kill slugs and snails when applied to plant leaves or sprayed on the soil. A solution of 1-2% caffeine will kill large snails and as little as 0.1% will repel them. A cup of instant coffee contains about 0.05% caffeine.

When soil was soaked with 2% caffeine, 92% of snails left the soil or were dead after 48 hours. This percentage did not damage orchids or palms but caused leaf yellowing in bromeliads, ferns and lettuce.

What happens to natives? Try it and see!

The results were published in Nature (2002) 417, pp915-6 or look at the website www.nature.com and search caffeine.

MOLE STATION WEEKEND by Suzanne Robertson

Members who attended all or part of this rewarding weekend adventure (26-27 October) were John and Barbara Nevin, Pat Urbonas, Julie and David Kennelly, Glenda and Colin Mulquinney, Julia and Phillip Rose, Graeme Fairweather and Suzanne Robertson.

There was a little confusion getting the group together at successive meeting spots, and a dusty and smoky arrival relating to the drought and bushfires in the area. The fires necessitated a closure of nearby National Parks, including Basket Swamp and therefore a different segment was substituted for the afternoon. After refreshing ourselves with a cuppa we set off for Donnybrook, a property adjacent to the border fence between Queensland and NSW. As the terrain became steeper and rougher we decanted into progressively tougher vehicles. Our leaders and guides, David and Sarah Caldwell, urged us onwards (if you don't come you won't see what we see). David particularly impressed the walkers by chain sawing a moderately large tree out of our path by the time we caught up with his vehicle. The dryness and surrounding fires meant that there was less bird life and fewer flowers than usual. Sandwiches and drinks at one of the gates on the track beside the fence set us on our return trip. Besides seeing a patch of beautiful grass trees, and admiring John Williams discernment in deciding a particular *eucalypt* was in fact *Eucalyptus nobilis*. Other species seen were: *Acacias fimbriata*, *irrorata*, *penninervis*; *Prostanthera nivea*; *Cassinea laevis*; *Hakea sialifolia*; *Eucalyptus malcana* and *Daviesia latifolia*.

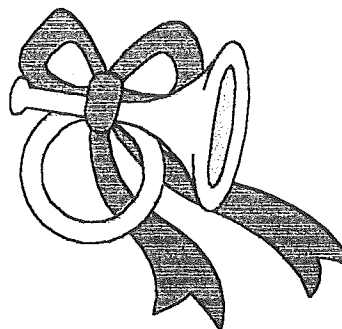
The turn off to Mole station is 31 km from Tenterfield along the Bruxner highway towards Bonshaw. The station itself is a green oasis on Mole Creek about 13km from the turn-off. The complex of buildings has evolved since David Caldwell's grandfather bought the property in the early 1920's. After most welcome showers in the comfortable shearers' quarters, we relaxed, shared our evening meal, and enjoyed an early night.

At 8.30am Mr Frank Caldwell, David's father, showed us over the nearby arsenic mine which has been leased by the mine's operators and is being rehabilitated with native plants supplied and planted by the Caldwells 12 months ago. The only preparation had been deep farrowing 12 months before that. The deteriorating buildings and equipment used in the preparation of the arsenic pentoxide powder for the destruction of the prickly pear (until the cactoblastis became effective), were a moving link with the history of the area. Over tea and scones Frank and his wife Shirley showed us photographs of the mine in operation and the people involved.

Next came the time for the completion of the loading of the plants ordered by Pat for sale at Kristine and Lloyd Morrisons during the Open Garden weekend (the Nevins and Mulquinneys had already taken a load the evening before). Members also did some individual selecting. It is very easy to imagine succumbing to even more than we did when the plants are in such beautiful condition and so attractive. Sarah's expert knowledge and readiness to advise on suitable plants for one's own soil and climate conditions were also invaluable.

Sarah and David's expertise is also appreciated by a range of visitors. During our stay we were able to talk with Heather Ambron who is establishing a National Centre for Grevilleas and related plants from Australia, South America and elsewhere, at the family's nursery, The Walled Garden, in Kent (England).

Sarah and David in turn were appreciative of the connection with Pat, John and Graeme and our group in general. All in all, a most worthwhile weekend.



END OF YEAR BBQ by Phillip Rose

On Sunday 1 December, twelve members enjoyed the delightful hospitality of Vinnie and Christine Ford at 'Rubicon', close to Stannifer. We were treated to a day of walking through an abundant variety of native plants (wrote down well over seventy varieties until ran out of puff), relaxed on a shady verandah over lunch watching birds in the many grevilleas while tasting fresh BBQ trout and simply enjoyed the great company. Vinnie went out of his way to be a perfect host and we all appreciated his efforts.

The first impression upon arrival at the house was the perfect siting for growing native plants; fine granite soil on a slope so no need for raised beds here; nestled amongst granite rocks creating a micro climate away from frosts.. Lots of grevilleas and acacia including the impressive *Acacia covenyi* and *Grevillea aspleniifolia*, *barklyana* and *alpina*.

Our morning walk was to climb a small hill at the back of the house travelling through open woodland comprising mainly Bundy Box (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*), various Stringybark, Messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) and *Angophora floribunda*. Among the ground cover was *Dipodium punctatum* and *halitonian*, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Daviesia latifolia* and *Brachycome nova anglica* and a solitary but very robust flannel flower (*Actinotus helianthi*) together with *Hibbertia*, *Patersonia* and *Lomandra*.

Shrub varieties included *Grevillea triternata*, *Acacia pruinosa*, *viscidula* and *ulicifolia*, *Petrophile canescens* (lots of seed was taken home from this one), *Baeckea linifolia* and appropriately we came upon the most perfect *Callitris* Christmas Tree.

We kept on finding heaps of old branches carefully placed over a solitary flower, which Vinnie quickly pointed out was his method of wallaby control.

We reached the top of the hill at 960 metres to be treated to the spectacular showing of *Cymbidium suave*, nestled in the branches of a solitary tree growing amongst an outcrop of protective granite rock.

On the way back down we walked through *Leucopogon*, *leptospermum arachnoides* and *brevipes*, *Epacris microphylla*, *Hakea microcarpa*, *Grevillea floribunda* and *Acacia fimbriata* and finally when almost back to the house a group of *Cycas macrozamia*.

That was just the morning! Some decided the spinebill near the verandah needed moral support for the rest of the day but the others headed down into the wetlands which lie between three dams, or should I say lakes, covering many acres and a small creek. One dam is for trout as Vinnie is an expert at casting and fishing and another for native fish only.

A magnificent habitat for frogs and one must add bull ants. Upon being completely engrossed in the identification of a *casuarina* the bull ants had had enough and let it be known; the *casuarina* remains to be identified.

A favourite species was the *Callistemon pungens*; the small glossy dark green leaf variation which seems to be able to grow almost anywhere. Several were in the creek in full flower but another sitting isolated on the top of the dam bank complete with active robins nest. There was also *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Kunzea parvifolia*, *leptospermum polygalifolium*. *Acacia fimbriata* and varieties of *Goodenia*, *Persoonia*, *Bittaria* and *Lomandra*.

Finally a walk back around all of the dams, where all those with frog ponds waded in eagerly with muddy hands to collect some *Philydrum lamuginosum*.

It was sobering that all of this was only a few kilometres from the fire to the west. With so much to see with only a few mms of rain since, it would be a treat to return after the drought is over.

Thank you Vinnie and Christine for an excellent day.

(both Phil and Suzanne are new members so thank you for your articles for this Newsletter....Ed)

Coming Diary Events

<i>Sunday 26 January:</i>	Plant Display at Markets in the Mall
<i>Monday 3 February at 7.30pm:</i>	Committee Meeting at the Nevins
<i>Saturday 8 February at 1.00pm:</i>	Arboretum Working Bee – bring afternoon tea and usual gardening implements such as wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, etc
<i>Tuesday 18 February at 7.30pm:</i>	Annual General Meeting at the Tree Group Woodland Centre Slide presentation of Central Australian 4WD trip by Colin Mulquinney.
<i>Sunday 23 February:</i>	Garden Visits
<i>Monday 3 March at 7.30pm:</i>	Committee Meeting
<i>Saturday 8 March at 1.00pm:</i>	Arboretum Working Bee – bring afternoon tea and usual garden implements such as wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, etc
<i>Tuesday 18 March at 7.30pm:</i>	Monthly Meeting at the Tree Group Woodland Centre Grampians Trip 2002 by some of those who went

NB: *Pat (67752280) would like some help with the Plant Display at the monthly Markets in the Mall –he would very happy to hear from you.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: please tick appropriate box

Single:	Annual Fee	Concession
	\$40	\$32
Joint: (2 adults at the same address)	\$46	\$38
Concession applied for: Limited Fixed Income	Full Time Student	

PERSONAL: Joint members please complete a) and b)

a) Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other..... b) Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other.....

Given Name (s):..... Given Name(s)

Surname:..... Surname:.....

Postal Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel: Home ()..... Work: ().....

Fax: ().....

PAYMENT: Payment of \$.....is enclosed by:

Cheque Money Order payable to APS Armidale Branch

Please return this completed form with your payment to :

Membership Officer APS Armidale Branch PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350



Bracteantha Bracteata

If undeliverable please return to:
Armidale Branch (APS)
PO Box 735
ARMIDALE NSW 2350