

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:

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President's Report

This is one Winter I shall be glad to have behind me. July, particularly, has had some of the most sustained cold in my time in Armidale. It will be interesting as Spring arrives to see how frost damaged plants respond, either to get a recovering burst of growth or turn up their toes.

On a positive side, it has been a great pleasure to see and hear the growing plethora of small birds in the garden. For years we seemed to have only Noisy Miners, Butcherbirds, Magpies, Currawongs and the occasional Kookaburra. Now Blue Wrens, Firetail Finches, Yellow Rumped Thornbills, Double Bar Finches, Willy Wagtails, Restless Flycatchers, Silver Eyes, Eastern Spinebills, Striated Thornbills and others provide a living, moving, noisy vista that enlivens work in the yard.

With Pat Urbonas' guidance, the monthly working bees at the Arboretum have continued through Winter. Many members have given up their time one Saturday each month so we should have several hundred extra plants planted out by years end. A great asset for Armidale is slowly taking place.

We have a busy programme for the rest of the year with monthly meetings, monthly Arboretum working bees, garden visits, Open Garden Scheme weekend with plant sales and a weeklong trip to the Grampians. Lets hope we get some rain.

John

Wattle Day Dinner

Date: Sunday 1 September, 12 for 12.30

Venue: The Armidale Club –91 Beardy Street, Armidale

Guest Speaker: Doreen Goddard

Vice President of Tamworth Australian Plants Society, Chairman of Friends of Tamworth botanic gardens. Doreen has been gardening in Tamworth for 30 years and has had a gardening segment on 2TM for 20 years.

Topic: 'Gardening in the Tamworth Wheatbelt'

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Postal address as above or email – jnevin@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 the Uniting Church Youth 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 in June.

Wattle Day dinner on the first of September.

December meeting is taken up by an end of year function.

email invitation to Fred Rogers Seminar from Joanne Caldwell

Event: Boronias, Correas and Other Fragrant Friends- joint hosting by the Boronia Study Group and APS Foothills and Karawara Garden.

Dates: 2 - 4 November followed by combined Grevillea/ Boronia/ Correa Study Group's field trips until 8 November.

Intending participants please contact Max McDowall (03) 9850 3411 or email maxamed@melbpc.org.au - otherwise further information can be obtained from John Nevin.

Mole Station Weekend

Weekend - 26/27 October

- a) **Weekend staying in shearers quarters at Mole Station Tenterfield. Sleeps 8 plus 2 on sofa bed. Verandah also available plus camping in backyard. Only need to bring food & drinks. Cost depends on numbers, approx \$10.00 each per night.**
- b) **Visit to Basket Swamp on Saturday. Meet 10.30am for morning tea outside Post Office, corner of Rouse & Manners Sts, Tenterfield. Bring lunch and afternoon tea. John Hunter, our resident botanist, may be able to lead this excursion.**
- c) **Sunday: Visit mole Station Nursery and collect plants for sale at our St Peter's Open Gardens. This will save heaps of dollars on freight for the Society.**
- d) **Those interested please let John (6775 2128) or Pat (6775 2280) know.**

MY FAVOURITE GARDEN PLANT by Barbara Nevin

While looking around the garden I have been very impressed by the 'millions' of small birds that have found a haven in our garden this year. From looking at old photos of the children growing up you cannot help but be astounded by the rate of growth in those trees and shrubs over the years that form that haven.

One such plant that has survived the harsh climate that we live in is the very small shrub *Tetradlea thymifolia* 'Black Eyed Susan'.

John has grown this plant in full sun on the front edge of one of his new northern gardens with a sand mulch. It has flowered continually all summer and autumn and it was only when our vicious Winter set in that the flowers began to die. The plant remains well rounded and I look forward to seeing what Spring brings.

Apparently this plant is the hardiest of the *Tetradleas* and is easily propagated from cuttings so I will be multiplying our collection and look forward to finding the white form.

MORE MULCH MISH MASH by Wes Blackert

John Nevin in the last newsletter asked for readers to report their experiences with mulch in relation to frost damage.

My first comment would be that mulch is relatively unimportant in this respect. There are two factors of much greater importance:

- 1 Location! Location! Location! Do not plant tropical plants in frost hollows (such as Armidale)! By suitable choice of plants and of their placement in the garden many problems can be avoided.
- 2 Condition! Condition! Condition! Plants from many nurseries are extremely soft. Plants need to be hardened up if they are to survive extremes of heat and cold in their establishment period. This suggests that plants should be purchased well before planting and that less robust plants should not be planted until after the worst of winter and summer are past. It also suggests that plants that are frost sensitive when young should be grown in containers for some years before planting and given special protection in the first year after planting.

Having said this, the choice of mulch becomes significant, especially if you want to grow plants that are marginal in this climate. My experience is mainly with sawdust. I have used this for 20 years with satisfactory results. While not disagreeing with John's statements, what I have found is that moist sawdust is a very good frost protector. Water is a very good absorber of heat and sawdust is a very good absorber of water. So while dry sawdust may behave in the way John has observed for organic mulch, this can be avoided, by those lucky enough to have a small garden and good enough water supply, by supplementary watering in dry frosty periods.

In exposed paddock situations I still use sawdust but I am prepared to accept frost losses in return for the other benefits of mulching. One practise that may help was suggested by Warren Sheather. This is the planting of two plants per site. The plants provide some mutual protection from wind, sun and frost, and this may be enough to make all the difference. If not at least it increases the statistical chance of at least having one plant survive per site.

PS: Does anyone know of a mulch that deters rabbits?

IN THE MAIL

Information on Grassy Box Woodlands of North West NSW and Kurrajong Regent Country retreat, set in Box Woodlands on the Baldwin Range north of Manilla.

Grassy White Box Woodlands have been listed Federally as an endangered ecological community, while White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red gum communities have been listed as endangered by the state of NSW.

If any members are interested in exploring the Grassy Box Woodlands of NW NSW and would like site plant lists or more detailed directions, contact Toni McLeish, Grassy Box Woodland Rural Liaison Officer, NW NSW. Phone/fax: 6785 6504 email: tmcleish@tpg.com.au

THREE NARROW-LEAVED HAKEAS from Warren and Gloria Sheather

Many hakeas will survive and thrive in local gardens. Three well known species are interesting because they have both broad and narrow-leaved forms. Difficult leaf shapes give these plants a completely different appearance.

Hakea salicifolia, the willow-leaved hakea, is a popular species. The broad-leaved form is used in many landscaping projects. Gibraltar Range National Park and Dorrigo National Park are two local areas where the broad-leaved form occurs. The narrow-leaved form is a tall attractive shrub with dense foliage. We don't know the origin of this form. It has been seen at the entrance to the Information Centre at Echo Point in the blue Mountains, near Tarce swimming pool and in Kel and Fay Hardingham's garden. We have several plants in our garden. One died in the recent drought whilst the others have survived and thrived.

Hakea eriantha is another local species with two leaf forms. The normal' broad-leaved form has been sighted in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park and along the Gwydir River. There is a population of the narrow-leaved form on the Grafton Road near the Dingo Fence. Both forms are usually covered in woody fruits. The narrow-leaved form is the more attractive shrub with dense foliage.

Hakea dactyloides is another local species. The broad-leaved form is widespread in Eastern Australia. There is a population of the broad-leaved form growing on the escarpment north of Point Lookout. These plants develop branches that grow from the ground up and is one of the best hakeas for screens and hedges. We have some 10 year old specimens that have reached a height of three metres. The narrow-leaved form grows near Bullock Creek on the Point Lookout Road. Their foliage is rather sparse.

All three species propagate readily and the narrow-leaved forms come true to seed.

ARBORETUM WORKING BEE by Pat Urbonas

Our July working bee saw a good turn out of helpers who planted out 45 plants. In spite of the dry, established plants seem to be coping. Thanks to Wes Blackert, Robert Boyd, John & Barbara Nevin, Suzanne Robertson, Doug Crocker and Pat Urbonas.

3 August turned out a miserable cloudy rainless day with a strong north westerly blowing. However, it didn't stop Wes Blackert, Peter & Norma Brown, Lloyd Morrison, John Nevin and Pat Urbonas from planting out a further 45 plants.

We will continue to plant out on 7 September from 1.30pm at our section of the Arboretum. We will also make application to council to plant out a small garden section above the main pond and plant specimen trees along some pathways. If coming to our working bees, please bring trowels, buckets, gloves, spade, hat and afternoon tea.

ACRA REFERENCES: ACC , ACRA , CBG

Description - *Correa* sp.aff.*glabra* 'Tambar Springs'

Origin: Found growing at the base of a sandstone ridge along a dirt road west of Tambar Springs NSW (15km west bearing 285 degrees), by Anthony O'Halloran of Binnaway, NSW. It grows to about 3m in height and occurs amongst white pine and white box, and only on the lower slopes either side of a ridge to the north of Tinkrameanah State Forest - though the site

http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/geog/search/gnr_websearch.extract?id=59112

lists it as a Nature reserve - State Forests and National parks think it is still a state forest.

The eastings and northings for the 2 sites are: site 1:55 J 759288 6532541 at 608m

Site 2:55 J 755081 6531597 at 617m

The ridge in between reaches a height of 700m. *Correa glabra* forms and the green-flowered form of *Correa reflexa* grow in this area but this form does not appear to be an intergrade between these species.

Description: The mature plant grows to a height of 3m with an upright dense habit. Branchlets are densely tomentose with a fine covering of white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs becoming brown and glabrous with a sparser covering of tiny grey stellate hairs on older stems. leaf lamina narrow-elliptical, entire, up to 30 mm long by 13 mm wide and obtuse. Upper surfaces of leaves covered with a fine tomentum of white stellate hairs densely tomentose underneath with white and fawn-coloured stellate hairs, becoming darker coloured and more concentrated at the mid-vein and along petioles and around margins.

Flowers solitary on short branchlets, terminal leaves not differentiated, pedicel 2mm long, bracteoles basal, linear to oblong, up to 17 mm long, deciduous?. Calyx square-shaped, 8 mm long x 6 mm wide, pale green with a dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate hairs, becoming fawn-coloured towards pedicel. Pedicels to 2 mm. Corolla square in cross-section near calyx becoming cylindrical and up to 22 mm long from calyx to tip with slightly spreading lobes. Corolla mid-green becoming darker half-way along the floral tube to the tips. The entire corolla is covered with a fine dense tomentum of tiny white to transparent stellate hairs becoming fawn on corolla tips. Corolla points do not curve outwards. Stamens strongly exerted with oblong tan-coloured anthers with longitudinal dehiscence and pale-green filaments. Style green longer than stamens.

Flowering time: Peak flowering time is winter. (May flower earlier but not documented).

Diagnosis: This plant differs from *C. glabra* var. *glabra* due to its fine tomentum on leaves and flowers which feel velvety to touch. Calyx and floral tube are also square in cross-section. Also the plant is much larger than normal *C. glabra* forms. It does not appear to be an intergrade between *C. glabra* and *C. reflexa*. As *Correa glabra* is named for its glabrous leaves, this plant should be classified as a new species.

Cultivation: Details unknown.

RHS Colour Chart: Upper surfaces of leaves Yellow-green 146C

Lower surfaces of leaves 145A Corolla 144D-145D

Scan taken by Maria Hitchcock (11/6/02) from a potted plant specimen sent by Anthony O'Halloran.

Sorry Maria but I could not produce any of your pictures. (Ed)

Coming Diary Events

- Tuesday 20 August at 7.30pm:** **Monthly Meeting at Uniting Church Hall**
Ruth Tremont on 'Jewels amongst the Grass' Audio visual on flowering herbaceous plants of the Northern Tablelands Woodlands
- Sunday 25 August:** **Markets in the Mall Plant Display**
1.30pm **Garden Visit to Wes Blackert's Garden**
Meet at Saleyards at 1.15pm, bring afternoon tea. (see enclosed map)
- Sunday 1 September at 12.30pm:** **Wattle Day Lunch at The Armidale Club**
(See page 1 for arrangements)
- Monday 2 September at 7.30pm:** Committee Meeting at the Nevin's
- Saturday 7 September at 1.30pm** **Working Bee at the Arboretum**
- Tuesday 17 September at 7.30pm:** **Monthly Meeting at Uniting Church Hall**
Keying out local wattles by John Nevin
- Sunday 29 September:** **Markets in the Mall Plant Display**
- Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 October:** **GRAMPIANS TRIP**
- Tuesday 18 October at 7.30pm** **Monthly Meeting at Uniting Church Hall**
John Hunter, audio visual
- Weekend 26/ 27 October** **Mole Station Weekend (see page 2)**
- Weekend 2/3 November:** **St. Peter's Open Garden Scheme -**
with plant display and sale.(all hands on deck)
- Monday 4 November at 7.30pm:** Committee Meeting at the Nevins

NB *Please take notice of your label so that you can keep up with when your subscriptions are due.*
If you feel that you would like to help Pat (67752280) 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

	Annual Fee	Concession
Single:	\$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