

*Hakea fraseri*

# Australian Plants Society

**Armidale & District Group**

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

**Volume 23 No 1**

**April / May 2003**

**President:**

John Nevin – 6775 2128 (H)

**Secretary:**

Kristine Gow

**Treasurer:**

Phillip Rose – 6775 3767 (H)

## President's Message

This newsletter is a little late due to our printer giving up the ghost and being replaced. Hopefully we will be right for printer services for the next few years.

From the climate point of view we have been blessed with a good year to date with above average rainfall and the frosts holding off, allowing for good growth. The countryside is green, the water tanks full and some moisture back in the soil.

It is not so good elsewhere. Barbara and I drove down the Hume Highway to Melbourne for the International Flower Show with a look in at the Mt Annan Plant Sale on the way back. From Canberra south the country is dry, brown and desolate. Even usually damp Melbourne looks to be suffering from water restrictions. Hopefully they will get their winter rains with spill over to the Northern Tablelands to follow up on our good year to date.

The International Flower Show was an eye opener and certainly showed that we still have a fair way to go developing Australian Plants for horticulture. The flora of the rest of the world has had the benefit of centuries of effort with hybrid development, grafting and development of cultivars suitable for horticulture. We have an outstanding flora and should be in a position to make up ground, overtaking the rest of the world using those techniques already well established and applying them to our flora.

*John*

### **another WATTLE APPEAL from the Ed!!**

Thank you to Pat, John, Phillip, Allan, Graeme, Vinnie and Wes for your response to my appeal – we have about 120 acacias growing in our gardens that we know about. Come on all you other members, please send me a list of the acacias (wattles) growing in your garden, only five months to go until Wattle Day.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED at ANY TIME**

Postal address as above or email – [jnevin@northnet.com.au](mailto:jnevin@northnet.com.au)

## GROUP INFORMATION

(group commenced August 1977)

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 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 Meeting** is held in February.

**Solstice Dinner** is held in June.

**Wattle Day Dinner** is held on 1 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*

## ARMIDALE BI-CENTENNIAL ARBORETUM REPORT 2002

*by Pat Urbonas - Arboretum Coordinator*

During 2002, members of the Armidale group of the Australian Plants Society maintained the development and care of the Australian plant section of the arboretum.

Weather wise, 2002 was a very difficult year due to our extremely cold July (down to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) with the remaining months hot and dry.

We lost 6 plants to the extreme cold and 11 plants to the drought. Our major losses have always been due to the difficulty in organising a watering roster. However, the survivors are growing well and with the drought broken, they should make even better growth during 2003.

### Details for 2002

Expenditure on plant purchases -	551.40
Garden soil	<u>104.65</u>
	\$656.05

6 working bees for total of 99½ man hours

Work included planting, weeding, watering, spraying, pruning and rubbish removal.

Thanks to the following volunteers; W Blackert, R Boyd, R & N Brown, D Crocker, M Flint, K Gow, S Hardaker, L Morrison, J & B Nevin, S Robertson and P Urbonas.

## YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2003

<b>President -</b>	John Nevin	<b>Publicity -</b>	Graeme Fairweather
<b>Vice Presidents -</b>	Pat Urbonas	<b>Arboretum Coordinator -</b>	Pat Urbonas
	Colin Mulquinney	<b>Markets in the Mall Plant Display -</b>	Pat Urbonas
<b>Secretary -</b>	Kristine Gow	<b>Monthly Plant Display Collator -</b>	Suzanne Robertson
<b>Ass Secretary -</b>	Unfilled	<b>Catering -</b>	Ingrid Kalf & Gerda Jonkhart
<b>Treasurer -</b>	Phillip Rose	<b>Auditor -</b>	Peter Brown
<b>Membership Officer -</b>	Peter Brown	<b>Friendship -</b>	Kath Wray & Monica Flint
<b>Seed Bank Monitor -</b>	Rob Johnson	<b>Delegate to State Group Meetings -</b>	Unfilled
<b>Newsletter Editor -</b>	Barbara Nevin	<b>Newsletter Printer &amp; Collator -</b>	John Nevin

## My favourite plant in my Garden – *produced under duress by Bryce Little*

Our forever-dogmatic editor has just reminded me again and ever so eloquently, of my systemic failure to deliver this long promised article. So in order to prevent a repeat of the communal humiliation I suffered on that occasion, being our last meeting of the APS, I thought I had better whip out the old word processor to provide some semblance of reproducible material.

However in my defence, against that of the newsletter editor's inquisition, my somewhat tardy response to her request was due to the rather precocious and demanding title itself! Let me examine the source of this problem further.....

There are several assumptions in the heading, and these are as follows: a) that I have a garden. b) that there is a plant in my garden, and c) that I have a favourite.

Now it was not too long ago, when I indeed did not have a garden. This roughly coincided with the initial request for said article. Now as you could imagine, I had a problem with this. Namely, I did not have a garden. Fortunately, being a man of apparent means, I hired one ex-president of our society for some advice on how to proceed, given this somewhat tricky dilemma. He observed that my newly constructed house was built on a platform dug into the side of a hill. The resulting man-made topography included a precipitately steep embankment along two sides of the house. Fearing imminent collapse of this unstable excavation he proposed a row of prostrate *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle) because they were rapid growing and their attractively feathery glaucous leaves would compliment the greyness of the house itself. I think he actually said the greyness of my personality, but I pretended to miss-hear.

So now I had a plant in my garden. Indeed, seven of them. I could now safely say that *Acacia baileyana* was my favourite plant! But that would be just silly, because it was the only species in my garden. It was both my *most* favourite and *least* favourite plant in my garden. This would hardly satisfy the original intent of this article's heading. I suppose I could have picked out a particular *Acacia baileyana*, say the third one from the northern end, and stated that that particular *Acacia baileyana* was my favourite. This certainly would have solved my problem of satisfying the requirements of the letter of the contract, if not the spirit. But try as I might, I really was unable to form a special bond with any of the ground-hugging wattles. I must admit I still had a preference for dead plants, such as the railway sleepers that surround my garden. I had no choice but to stall for more time from the increasingly agitated editor.

Many lunar months passed before my consulting gardener and I had agreed on a garden design. . Well I knew what I wanted, but you know these horticultural creative types, it sometimes takes a little time before they realise who is really the boss. Anyway before you know it, a mere two years after the article was originally requested, I was in a position to form a more rational judgement by systematically ranking the plants in my garden from those I would have slept with to those I contemplated introducing to my friend, a Mr Round-Up.

I now thought it was time to write the article, because frankly I was having to put on a disguise in order to go shopping, just in case our editor spotted me from behind the pile of discounted bananas. I briefly dropped my guard by being present at our surprisingly well attended AGM, where the previously public flogging took place.

So now to my favourite plant. Indeed, did I have one? Indeed, should I have one? Indeed is this merely an example of a bourgeois horticultural culture that insists that one must have one? Well I for one object! Since I adhere strictly to Marxist-Leninist principles in my garden, I must declare I have no favourites and that all plants will be equal. I will be fair to them all and they shall all get their fair share of love, attention and water. Comrades, I challenge you to unite and rise against the horticultural fascists who wish to favour the privileged few over the neglected ordinary masses whether moss, lichen, grass, herb, perennial or annual. My five-year plan is not to have a favourite! (It is at this point that I get off the podium and have half a glass of water. The other half of course I share amongst all 50 of the plants.)

Although I am slightly partial towards my new *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet blaze'. Now you must admit, a red wattle is pretty special. Not that I will abandon my other less charismatic plants, perish the thought! However the wattle is not in flower yet, and it is rather small, so I can't say it is my favourite yet. My young snow gums are doing very well, however they still have a long way to go. I have a ground-carpeting grevillea, that has burst into growth and is already flowering. But I don't want to give it accolades too long before it is due. I suppose I do have a preference that I could, if you must insist, call my current favourite. It would have to be all ten of my *Homaranthus*. It is their striking form that appeals to me. They look as if they have just sprouted out of the ground, with tentacle like fronds reaching in all horizontal directions. It is their expressively planar nature, their beautiful glaucous hues, that neatly juxtaposes the vertical nature and horizontal texture of the dwelling, their ornamental regularity of form counterbalances the pleasing fenestration of the building. Oh dear, I am getting a bit too excited. I think I'll take a cold shower.

### **A Note from Vinnie Ford in STANNIFER written 4/4/03.**

Hopefully the drought is over in your neck of the woods. We have had 366.50mm for the year with a little run off into the dams. Things were so bad for a while that some of the eucalypts started to die. Even a patch of tough ferns (*Doodia aspera*), near a small gully, became a brown mass and to all extent and purposes appeared dead.

But oh what a change! Today the ferns are back greener than ever. The sticky daisy bush (*Olearia elliptica*) is flowering like never before (and out of season to boot).

We had a visit from a bird we have never seen before. - Water Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*) which sneaks out of the water rushes at dusk and helps himself to left over chook food, and returns post haste to hide away. Currently a sea eagle is on its 4<sup>th</sup> annual visit, and dotterels are back after non appearances last season.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2002**

The past year has been a very difficult one climatically with the unusual combination of one of our coldest winters on record with a severe drought and bushfires, rivalling the worst since European settlement.

A big move for us has been to change our meeting venue to the newly opened Woodland Centre of the Armidale Tree Group. We are grateful to the Uniting Church for the use of their hall over the past fifteen years and for their willing assistance in staging our meetings there.

Throughout the year we have held eight meetings with our usual breaks in deep Winter (June /July) and Summer (December/January). We have been pleased to have a variety of presentations:- such as Weeds of Northern Tablelands (John Gordon), Healthy Gardens/Healthy Birds (Gisella Kaplan), Herbaceous Plants of Northern Tablelands (Ruth Tremont), Keying Out Wattles (John Nevin), Woodlands (John Hunter) and Callistemons and Melaleucas with Colin Cornford.

Our outings have been varied; a visit to Wes Blackert's 10 hectare block in August, a visit to the Botanical Gardens in Tamworth hosted by Tamworth Group of APS and a return visit by Tamworth to see the Armidale Arboretum and Maria Hitchcock's Correa collection.

In December we held an end of year BBQ at Vinnie Ford's granite block at Stannifer, that had fortunately been spared the bushfires in the area, of the previous month.

A major excursion was a trip by 10 of us to the Grampians between 5 and 13 October. We travelled via Dubbo and Wyalong, staying a night at Paul and Barbara Kennedy's at Strathmerton and inspected their impressive plantings. From there we pushed on to the Grampians attending the annual Pomonal Flower Show and the two local nurseries of Mt Cassell and the Williams. We checked out the Seppelts planting at Great Western Winery and the Botanic Gardens at Ararat. Steve Smart showed us over his plantings at Stawell as well as selling us some discounted grafted plants. Neil Marriott excelled himself during the day showing us over his block at Stawell and the living *Grevillea* collection. We spent another day at Boschen's looking over their huge collection of *Eremophilas*. On our way home we looked in at Marilyn Sprague's Goldfield Nursery at Bendigo and had a day of recreation before the long drive home. This trip was very full, enjoyable and informative. Our thanks to our hosts who made it the memorable experience that it was.

Pat Urbonas has continued to coordinate activity at the Armidale Arboretum. We held 6 working bees there through the year, tidying up, doing essential maintenance work and planting several hundred plants. My thanks to all those members who volunteered their time to help out on these working bees.

The group has continued to present a display stall at the monthly Markets in the Mall. This has served to help raise the profile of the group, showcase what we have in flower and to sell less readily available plants to help raise funds to purchase plants for the Arboretum.

In June we held our Solstice Dinner at Kristine Gow and Lloyd Morrison's. This was a pleasant low key get together. We invited previous speakers and contributors to our group, who were not members, as guests. All enjoyed a pleasant evening. Our thanks to Kristine and Lloyd for hosting the function.

For Wattle Day, we changed the time of the function to lunchtime with Doreen Goddard from Tamworth as guest speaker on 'Gardening in the Tamworth Wheatbelt'. There was a good rollup of members with all enjoying the occasion and change of time.

Despite the drought we participated in the St Peter's Open Garden Scheme on 2/3 November. Kristine volunteered her garden that included a showpiece of Australian Plants despite the dry spell. On the previous weekend our members had picked up plants from Mole Station, to on sell. They appreciated seeing the impressive setup at the Mole Station Nursery. As Basket Swamp was ablaze that day we had a look at Donnybrook along the Qld/NSW border instead. Thanks to David and Sarah Caldwell for a great weekend. The two-day open garden was well attended and pretty well all the available plants were sold (some of those not, were sold at the Uralla Thunderbolt Festival the following weekend). The activities of the APS were highlighted to the public and funds raised for the development of the Arboretum. Our thanks to St Peters Organising Committee and Kristine and Lloyd, for letting us share the weekend. Kristine had her own sale of herbs and plants and made a most generous donation of the profits of this (over \$500) to the APS. Thank you Kristine and your helpers!

Through the year we changed our local floral emblem from *Bracteantha bracteata* to *Hakea fraseri*, a rare plant more specific to the Armidale District.

Our newsletter editor has continued to produce a high quality product every two months that is very readable, helped by the many people who have contributed articles and reports.

My thanks to the entire executive who have given their time in planning the Group's activities. Special thanks to Graeme Fairweather for his conscientious work as treasurer, Peter Brown as membership officer and auditor, Pat Urbonas as Markets in the Mall and Arboretum coordinator, Monica Flint and Kath Wray for their work in fellowship. To all the other people who in their unsung way have helped the Group to function through 2002, thank you!

**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.



## Another Couple of Web Sites

from Kath Wray - The Australian Plants Soc, Central Coast Group has just established a new web-site at [www.hotkey.net.au/~fabri/index.htm](http://www.hotkey.net.au/~fabri/index.htm).

from Inner Sydney Branch – Bush Heritage at [www.bushheritage.org](http://www.bushheritage.org) is an organisation aiming to acquire reserves to protect vital remnants of native vegetation.

### ARBORETUM WORKING BEES 2003

*by Pat Urbonas (Arboretum Coordinator)*

We started off the year with a clean up on 8 February.

Callistemons were pruned and overhanging branches were cut, John Nevin's chainsaw was a definite advantage. It surprised me how heavy were the branches of Exocarpos that we pruned. We also gave last years plantings a good soaking as well.

Our second bee on 8 March was spent totally on planting out a variety of species. With moisture in the ground from recent good rains and warm days, the plants should become established before winter. 59 plants were planted out.

We will concentrate on planting out during autumn, winter and early spring.

Thanks to the following members who helped out at the working bees:

Robert Boyd, Peter Brown, John & Barbara Nevin, Suzanne Robertson and Pat Urbonas.

**Members please note that working bees are held on the first Saturday of the month, at 1.00pm, unless advised otherwise.**

## TO A FLOWER

It grew by the side of the highway,  
A flower sweet and fair.  
As I trudged along the dusty way,  
I saw it blooming there.

I paused for a moment to pluck it,  
Then my face grew hot with shame:  
I turned away and left it there  
To cheer the next who came.

*Fern Berry*

*(reproduced from SGAP Tablelands Branch Newsletter, March 1996)*

Previously we mentioned our search for *Grevillea raybrownii* in the Box Vale Reserve near Mittagong. The Reserve was dedicated to preserve an area of Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation. Within the reserve there is the remnants of a tramway that was used to transport coal from a mine in the Nattai valley to the main Southern Railway. There is also a large dam that was used to supply water to steam locomotives.

A host of native plants live in the reserve. *Allocasuarina nana* is a dwarf She Oak that reaches a height of one metre with a spread of one metre. *Allocasuarina nana* has a wide distribution. We have seen species growing in the upper Blue Mountains and near Braidwood in southern New South Wales. In this latter location, *Allocasuarina nana* clothes hillsides with a carpet of dark green foliage.

*Eucalyptus apiculata* is another inhabitant of the Reserve. Due to the influence of bushfires the species has developed mallee growth habit with multiple stems growing from a large lignotuber. Each stem is about three metres tall. *Eucalyptus apiculata* is similar in appearance to other high altitude mallees such as our local *Eucalyptus approximans* and *Eucalyptus codonocarpa*. Smooth bark, leathery leaves and cream or white flowers are characteristics of these high altitude mallees. Without the influence of fire, *Eucalyptus apiculata* will usually develop only one trunk. The mallee growth habit may be encouraged by coppicing, which is cutting off the trunk about 45 centimetres above the ground. This surgery should be undertaken when the specimen is at least two years old. We have a specimen that is less than two years old, two metres tall and flowered for the first time in 2002. *Eucalyptus apiculata* would make an ideal 'backyard eucalypt' as it is small enough to be accommodated in the average suburban garden.

*Grevillea sphacelata* is common in the Box Vale Reserve and other places around Mittagong. The species develops into a small to medium shrub with narrow-linear leaves and unusual pink-grey flower heads. Flowers are produced throughout the year but chiefly late winter and summer. *Grevillea sphacelata* used to be included in the *Grevillea buxifolia* complex but has been given species status. The species is similar to *Grevillea acerata* from Gibraltar Range National Park.

## OUTING TO MT. HYLAND

For **Sunday 18 May** an outing has been arranged with the Coffs Harbour Group to go to Mt Hyland. The outing will be led by Alex Floyd who wrote the book 'Forest Trees of Australia'. The area visited incorporates rain forest in the Guy Fawkes National Park.

**Meet at Macdonald Park and leave at 8.30am.**

Meet the Coffs Harbour Group at the Dorrigo turnoff, just beyond Ebor at 9.45am.

Bring morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, hat, walking shoes, warm clothes and rain wear (just in case).

**If a lift is required contact John Nevin on 6775 2128**

# MARKETS IN THE MALL 2002 REPORT

by Pat Urbonas, Coordinator

We continued our presence at the markets during 2002, starting in February and continuing through to December.

Our displays, pamphlets, advice, book and plant sales were well received and I'm sure has planted the seeds for the growing of Australian plants and future members. We also participated at the Thunderbolt Fair, Uralla in November.

We sold a total of 270 plants as well as several Wrigley and Fagg books.

Thanks to the following members who willingly helped throughout the year; P Brown, G Fairweather, M Flint, K Gow, B & J McCaig, J Nevin, S Robertson, P Rose, P & B Urbonas and K Wray.

## Article by Wes Blackert

### Brachychitons (Kurrajongs, Flame Trees, Bottle Trees and Lace Barks.

Very few New England gardens contain these even though they are marvellous plants with interesting foliage and trunks and sometimes spectacular floral displays.

#### Some possible reasons are:-

- 1 Too big for the average garden. This is not true, particularly in our climate. Some varieties are barely more than shrubs. The larger ones are only medium trees in our climate. They are slow growing, at least initially, and are easily pruned.
- 2 Frost tender. Some species are frost tender but the better known ones are frost hardy. None of mine have been touched by 2002's severe frosts, but some varieties may need special protection in their early years.
- 3 Lack of availability. This may be true of local nurseries but other nurseries and state forestry often have them, they also propagate fairly readily from seed.
- 4 Slow growing. This in my view is an advantage as they are much easier to manage than most faster growing species.

#### The species that I have growing successfully are:-

- 1 *acerifolius* (Flame Tree) – this has bright red flowers in late spring and early summer
- 2 *bidwillii* – my specimen is only half a metre (1½ ft.) high and has flowered for three years in a row. The flowers are large, burgundy red and occur in late spring.
- 3 *discolor* (Lace Bark) - large pink flowers occur from spring till autumn.
- 4 *populneus* (Kurrajong) - smaller, less noticeable cream flowers with blotches on the inside in late spring and early summer.
- 5 *rupestre* (Bottle Tree) - these haven't flowered yet, but they are being grown for their trunks rather than their floral display.

While the individual flowers on these trees are generally short lived they may be profuse. They are generally well displayed as the trees shed some or all of their foliage prior to flowering. The shed flowers provide a colourful carpet.

Except for one leaf eating insect on some Kurrajongs, all of these plants have been both pest and disease free. In addition most of them receive no watering and have shown no drought stress, in fact a hot dry spring promotes good flowering.

In other words *Brachychitons* are easy to grow and could make a valuable contribution to almost any garden.



## ON THE WAY TO YARAANDOO — report by Barbara Nevin

We visited Yaraandoo Eco-Lodge and Function Centre on Sunday 23 March with our vegetation expert Lachlan Copeland who, after spending two years recording the vegetation of New England National Park, including 200 days in the field, was able to answer every question and direct us to the interesting, rare and endangered plants.

Yaraandoo is 100 acres of Snow Gum woodland on granite soils with some 5 kms of graded walking tracks. One of our members, Phillip Rose, is on an advisory board there and was able to fill us in on what the aims of the Centre are – including their 20 acre area surrounded by a high mesh fence with electric fencing that houses their Rufus Bettongs for their Release Programme and another cage for injured owls so that they can also have their Owl Release Programme.

Phillip took us on a marked track down towards the Serpentine River and we passed many wonderful granite rocks with some covering of lovely lichens and mosses. Everything looked green and healthy following good rainfalls. Yaraandoo has a comprehensive list and herbarium of the plant life on the property contained in three folders labelled Trees and Shrubs; Herbs and Grasses; Ferns, Greenhoods, Mosses and Orchids. I will only mention the special plants that we were shown by Lachlan – *Leptostigma reptans* (rare but fairly common around there), *Persoonia procumbens* (a low growing rare and threatened species growing on granite), *Platysace euculah* (scarce), *Leucopogon cicatricatus* (rare), *Acacia mitchellii* (rare), *Ashenecthites mixta* (a very rare daisy). The find of this walk was a very endangered *Styphelia perileuca* as this is only the 3<sup>rd</sup> colony found and consisted of only a few plants scattered widely apart.

We reached the river fence and then somehow went wandering off the track through some granite outcrops that were great with their clusters of small plants sheltering in the damp areas where rainwater collected. Whilst wending our way upwards I was anxious to hear Phillip remark a couple of times “I think this is the way, I’ve only been here once”. You should have

heard the audible sigh of relief from him when we eventually came across some signs on the proper walking track.

After a lovely lunch from the kitchen, Lachlan took on the extra responsibility of guide and took us on to New England National Park where our next stop was Thungutti Camping Ground. Once again the special plants were *Eryngium* sp (a newly described species with white and pale blue flowers growing at high altitude on basalt soils), *Metresainea circilifolia* (very small and rare – at this stage we really were down on our knees), *Cryptocarya nova anglica* (rare and endangered with a banana like smell from crushed leaves – a photo shoot as it was in fruit and Lachlan had never seen it in flower and fruit (this goes to show that no matter how often you visit these places there is always something new). *Geranium neglectum* (not rare or endangered but the biggest flowered for native geraniums). Two plants that really impressed me were *Dianella tasmanica* (with very large purple fruits) and *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* (Blueberry Ash) which was showing dark red coloured leaves (I think this could take pride of place in any exotic garden).

Afternoon tea and then up to the foggy (note not raining) Point Lookout where Lachlan promised a couple of orchids would be in flower but alas that was not to be. We did see a couple of orchids during the day but apparently we were a couple of weeks too late. Apart from everything looking so fresh and lovely, probably the most interesting was a plant of *Gingidia montana* (from the carrot family) growing in a rock crack that is the same plant that was photographed 20 years ago for the Flora of NSW book. Apparently they are still trying to prove if this species was brought over from New Zealand over 100 years ago or a different species for here.

Whilst talking to Lachlan during the day he kept on saying that there are many new species in the Park and also that many are being renamed (no wonder I am reluctant to learn the big names of these plants because they just keep changing them on me and they are too hard to spell– too many botanists with nothing better to do).

Our thanks to Lachlan for a great informative day and I would encourage all of you to make these places a must to visit as they are magical and you never know what you will find there.

PS Lachlan has helped to write a book on The Vegetation and Plant Species of New England National Park for the Botany

Department of University of New England. This together with all the other lists around will be of great assistance to those people who insist on knowing the names of all that they survey.

*I did have two lovely photos from Phil rose and Colin Mulquinney but unfortunately I cannot get them to print from my email.....Ed!*

## Grasses, lilies and tufties

**Native grasses** help create a natural effect in a garden. They provide a soft and graceful accent amongst rocks or against more rounded shrubs. The seed heads are also very useful for attracting seed-eating birds. Here are some suggestions:

Chloric truncata  
Cymbopogon ambiguus  
Danthonia sp.  
Lomandra sp.

Microlaena sp.  
Pennisetum alopecuriodes  
Poa sp.  
Themedia triandra

**Lillies:** Anigozanthus, Conostylis, Macropidia and Xyris are also related to native lilies and can be grown for similar effort. Native lilies are not all too easy to obtain but are well worth growing. The smaller ones are lovely when mass planted.

<b>Tufties:</b>	Alocasia macrorrhiza	Blandfordia nobilis	Blandfordia grandiflora
	Calostemma purpureum	Cordyline petiolaris	Cordyline rubra
	Cordyline stricta	Dianella caerulea	Dianella intermedia
	Dianella revoluta	Dianella tasmanica	Diplarrena moraea
	Dietes robinsoniana	Helmholtzia glaberrima	Libertia paniculata
	Orthosanthus multiflorus	Patersonia occidentalis	Patersonia sericea
	Sowerbaea juncea	Stypandra glauca	Thysanotus multiflorus
	Xanthorrhoea sp.		

*This list comes from the Sydney Wildflower Nursery and was included in the Menai District Newsletter, Feb' 2003. Check that they are suitable for our area before buying or just have a go..Ed!*

### SOLSTICE DINNER – SUNDAY 22 JUNE

**This year the Solstice Dinner will be a day function.**

**10.30am**

Visit Steve Thiele's garden. Steve has volunteered his garden for the St Peter's Open Garden Scheme and Plant Sale. This will be an opportunity to preview the garden and plan sites for plant sales etc at the November Open Garden Weekend

**1pm**

Lunch at Alan and Anne Walsh's property at 240 Herbert park Road. Anne will be coordinating with attendees what dishes to bring for the meal.

After lunch a look over their property and Alan's new water feature.

Those attending please let Anne know on 6775 1759.

**2002 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**signed by Graeme Fairweather (Treasurer) and Peter Brown (Auditor)**

**RECEIPTS**

	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>
Balance as at 1/12/01	\$5860.76	\$4833.85
Subscriptions	\$1696.00	\$1287.10
Plant Raffles	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
Raffles	\$ 0.00	\$ 131.00
Plant Sales (St Peters Garden)	\$2749.10	\$2965.50
(Mall Markets)	\$1683.20	\$ 451.80
(Thunderbolt Fair)	\$ 164.00	\$ 360.00
(Members)	\$1724.50	\$ 0.00
Book Sales	\$ 220.00	\$ 240.00
Suppers	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.00
Sundry	\$ 2.25	\$ 61.40
Other Activities (Wattle Day dinner)	\$ 440.00	\$ 349.00
NECU Interest	\$ 2.60	\$ 0.67
ABS S1 Interest	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.67
ABS Term Investment Interest	\$ 115.54	\$ 298.15
ABS Transfer to NECU Account	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
NECU Transfer to ABS Account	\$2000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17253.65</b>	<b>\$11579.14</b>
 NECU Working Balance	 \$1519.49	 \$1709.47
ABS	\$5767.53	\$4151.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7287.02</b>	<b>\$5860.76</b>

NECU Reconciliation as at 30/11/02

Balance	\$1609.49
Less Outstanding cheques	
709678	\$ 5.00
709687	\$ 23.00
709691	\$ 25.00
813314	\$ 37.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90.00</b>

**PAYMENTS**

	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>
Subscriptions to State Branch	\$1220.00	\$ 880.00
Room Hire Meetings	\$ 138.00	\$ 152.00
Publicity	\$ 0.00	\$ 190.42
Newsletter	\$ 207.45	\$ 186.40
Postage and Stationary	\$ 206.90	\$ 104.00
Raffle Books	\$ 0.00	\$ 66.00
Books	\$ 270.50	\$ 200.50
Plants (St Peters Garden)	\$1677.90	\$2202.63
(Mall Markets)	\$1600.48	\$ 192.98
(Members)	\$ 684.00	\$ 0.00
Other Activities (Wattle Day Dinner)	\$ 437.00	\$ 280.00
(Arboretum)	\$ 656.05	\$ 400.46
Donations	\$ 90.00	\$ 40.00
Sundry	\$ 263.05	\$ 193.45
Credit Union Charges	\$ 15.30	\$ 26.28
ABS Charges	\$ 0.00	\$ 2.86
Transfer ABS to NECU	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Transfer NECU to ABS	\$2000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9966.63</b>	<b>\$5718.38</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$7287.02</b>	<b>\$5860.76</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$17253.65</b>	<b>\$11579.14</b>

# Coming Diary Events

<b>Monday 5 May at 7.30 pm:</b>	Committee Meeting at the Nevins
<b>Saturday 10 May at 1.00 pm:</b>	<b>Arboretum Working Bee</b> – bring afternoon tea, hats and gardening implements such as wheelbarrows, gloves, pruning shears and saws
<b>Tuesday 13 May at 7.30 pm:</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting at the Tree Group Woodland Centre</b> <b>'Plant Survey of the Parloo / Darling National Park'</b> – a talk with slides by John Hunter.
<b>Sunday 18 May at 8.30 am:</b>	<b>OUTING TO MT HYLAND</b> Combined outing with Coffs Harbour Group – see page 7 for details
<b>Sunday 25 May at 8.00 am:</b>	<b>Plant display at Markets in the Mall</b>
<b>Monday 2 June at 7.30 pm:</b>	Committee Meeting at the Nevins
<b>Saturday 7 June at 1.00 pm:</b>	<b>Arboretum Working Bee</b> – bring afternoon tea, hats, and usual garden implements such as wheelbarrows, gloves, pruning shears, etc
<b>Tuesday 17 June at 7.30 pm:</b>	<b>No Monthly Meeting</b> (see Solstice dinner information)
<b>Sunday 22 June at 10.30 am :</b>	<b>SOLSTICE DINNER</b> at the Thiele's and Walsh's See page 10 for details

**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.*

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE:</b> please tick appropriate box	<b>Annual Fee</b>	<b>Concession</b>
<b>Single:</b>	\$40	\$32
<b>Joint:</b> (2 adults at the same address)	\$46	\$38
<b>Concession</b> 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

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