

Hakea fraseri

Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Volume 24 No 1

April 2004 / May 2004

President:

Col Mulquinney – 6772 6012 (H)

Secretary:

Kristine Gow

Treasurer:

Phillip Rose – 6775 3769 (H)

President's Message

I have always admired the "President's Message" from John Nevin each one has always been informative, clearly written and appropriate for the time of year. Thanks John for the lessons! Now that I am writing my first one, I appreciate even more, the skills and inspiration behind each one.

Some time ago, I came across an article, by Ross Doig, entitled "Wildflowers from cuttings" (Australian Plants, Vol. 21, No. 168, September 2001). When I recently acquired a broken off twig from a grevillea that I liked, I chased up the article and gathered the necessary bits and pieces. I found an old tray, drank the cordial in a couple of needed plastic bottles, and set up the system according to instructions. Wonders one leaf is still green after several weeks. Never having had a great deal of success at striking cuttings, this preliminary "success" feels great. In education there's a saying that the greatest predictor of "success" is "previous success". I'll go along with that. I haven't yet experienced this in grafting plants but maybe this year is the one.

I noted on tonight's news that Armidale's minimum temperature was 5 degrees. Remembering that official temperatures are obtained from inside a Stevenson Screen, more than a metre off the ground, (i.e. inside a white box with double louvred walls), ground temperatures must be approaching zero.

I will soon have to bring in the not so frost hardy natives I have in pots, as well as my cutting. That first frost always comes unexpectedly..

Col

Invitations from National Parks

18 April - join them for a Coolatai Grass Study Tour to see clean and infested areas of this vigorous foreign grass species that threatens some of our delightful grassy woodlands – contact Kate Boyd on 6772 4026.

16 May – help celebrate their 30th anniversary, contact Peter Metcalfe on 6775 1165

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED at ANY TIME

Postal address as above or email – jrnevin @ 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 Function is held in June.

Wattle Day Function is held on a day closest to 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

ARBORETUM REPORT

by Pat Urbonas

6 March - Six members spread nearly two truck loads of sawdust on the proteacea bed on a warm Saturday afternoon. This will reduce weeding and maintain soil temperature. Thanks to the following workers: R Boyd, C Mulquinney, J Nevin, S Robertson, P & J Rose (and supervisor Pat - Ed).

3 April – Only three members turned up to further spread one truck load of sawdust and plant out mainly grevilleas on another pleasant Saturday afternoon. Thanks to C Mulquinney, P & J Rose. (and supervisor Pat – Ed)

The plantings of 2003 have continued to thrive without any attention and should put on a great display of flowers later this year!

NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2004 / 2005

President: Colin Mulquinney

Vice presidents: Pat Urbonas & John Nevin

Secretary: Kristine Gow

Ass Secretary: John Nevin

Treasurer: Phil Rose

Membership Officer: Peter Brown

Publicity Officer: Graeme Fairweather

Supper Coordinator: Ingrid Kalf

Environmental Officer: Peter Metcalfe

Occupational, Health & Safety Officer:

P Metcalfe

Seed Bank Liaison Officer

Visitor Welcomer Kath Wray & Julia Rose

Arboretum Coord.: Pat Urbonas

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Nevin

Newsletter Printer: John Nevin

Newsletter Compiler & Dispatcher

John Nevin

Markets in the Mall Coord: Pat Urbonas

Plant List Collator: Suzanne Robertson

Field Trip To Uralla Goldfields Reserve

by John Nevin

On Sunday 22 February we conducted a field trip to Patricia and Bob Rossi's new holdings at Uralla, adjacent to the Goldfields Historical Reserve and Fossicking area. Those attending were John & Barbara Nevin, Colin & Glenda Mulquinney, Kristine Gow with her grandson Angus, Pat Urbonas, Kath Wray and Natalie Hobbs. We were especially pleased to have Pat with us hobbling along on his crutches as he recovers from his horrific pre Christmas accident.

The weather was hot (for Armidale) with the late summer scorcher that hit all of NSW. We met at the arboretum and travelled down to Uralla. The house was originally designed along the lines of a mediaeval castle to be used as a tea room for tourism, and is set on several acres along the side of a creek. The soil is sandy, of granite origin, with a large hillock of granite boulders nearby.

We were fortunate to have the help of Peter Metcalfe who supplied a plant species list that been developed ten years ago for the area as well as a key to the wildflowers there.

Our first look was at the immediate surroundings of the house. The generalist plant lovers in our group helped with the identification of exotic plantings in the area as well as native plants.

There were some fine examples of *Euc. bridgesiana* and *Euc. viminalis* as well as *Angophora floribunda* amongst the claret ash, liquidamber and wisteria. We later branched out along the creek and to the Reserve area itself.

Many plants were seen and some identified, including Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*), *Dianella laevis*, *Ammobium alatum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Cymbonotus lawsonianus*, *Olearia elliptica*, *Wahlenbergia* (Bluebell), *Hibbertia obtusifolia* (guinea flower), *melichrus urceolatus* (urn heath), *Glycine clandestina* (twining glycine), *Hardenbergia violacea* (false sarsparilla), *Indigophera adesmiifolia* (indigo), *Geranium molle* (cranesbill geranium), *Lomandra longifolia*, several wattles including *Ac filicifolia*, *ac rubida*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium* (tea tree), *Bursaria spinosa* (in flower with good display of pollinators), *Microlaena stipoides*, *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo grass), *Rubus parvifolius* (native raspberry) and *Correa reflexa* (green form).

The large number of exotic species growing reflects the disturbance and human contact over the last 100 years or so.

Overall, there are numerous indigenous local species growing in well drained granite soils along the creek and apart from nurturing the local plants the conditions would be very favourable for the growing of many Australian species.

After afternoon tea, a storm squall came though cooling down a sweltering day and bringing welcome rain. We thank Pat and Bob for their hospitality and will watch with interest as their new garden evolves.

Things you learn

Hint from ASGAP in Tasmania for photographers – if you do not have a very small tripod to take pictures of the ground dwellers, pack a bag of rice to use to steady your camera on and if you are one of those people who likes to get very close to those ground dwellers pack a piece of plastic so that your face does not get dirty.

From a friendly passer by at the markets in the mall – to grow really good waratahs fill the bottom of your

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2003 by John Nevin

It is with much pleasure that I report on the activities of our Group for the past year. This marks the end of my three year term as President and it has been a privilege to have been your President during this time.

When taking on the position our group was in a position similar to many other voluntary groups in the community – busy people with lots of demands on their time, with limits to growth and varying attendances at functions.

My approach has been rather pragmatic. When one stands back and looks at Armidale there is a lot going on and we often don't appreciate just how much. My aim has been to provide a wide range of activities for members to participate in, while not expecting everyone to go to everything, or to be disappointed if they don't. The key to being a successful group is to above all, enjoy growing and learning more about plants together. Any other spin offs from this are a bonus.

Our group has continues to meet in the Woodland Centre which is proving a very functional focus for ecology groups of the Northern Tablelands. During the year we met eight times with talks on the following subjects:- slide show of the Mulquinney Central Australian trip, a slide show of the members trip to the Grampians in 2002, Maria Hitchcock talking on correas and demonstrating her newly developed correa key, John Hunter talking to a slide show of a plant survey he did of the new Parloo/Darling National Park, Ruth Tremont talking on the effects of disturbance on Tableland wildflowers, Dr Peter Clarke speaking on fire regimes and biodiversity, David Britton from the Australian Museum speaking on planting for insects and butterflies and our members who went to WA in September provided a slide show of their experience.

Our field trips have been varied, beginning with a visit to Yarrandoo and the New England National Park guided by Lachlan Copeland who showed us some of the dozen or so new species he has described from NENP. In April we followed up Maria's talk and visited her garden to inspect her extensive correa collection. May outing was a combined effort with Coffs Harbour Group visiting Mount Hyland. We had as guides that day, John Hunter, John Wrigley and Alec Floyd, a most distinguished and knowledgeable trio.

June was our solstice function with a familiarisation visit to the Thiele's garden followed by lunch at Alan & Anne Walsh's with a postprandial inspection of their Herbert park holdings. We were blessed with fine sunny winter weather.

For August we changed our usual format for Wattle Day by having a grand 'tour de force' of seven gardens to inspect a range of flowering wattles. Gardens visited included Hardaker's, Croft's, Mulquinney's, Maria Priscina's, the arboretum, Metcalfe's and Sheather's. We hope the experience may lay the foundation for an organised Wattle Day of gardens open to the public where people may more fully appreciate the range of wattles and be able to purchase them. It was of interest to find from our Newsletter Editor's survey that our group is growing over 130 different species of wattles.

In September Peter Metcalfe led a bus tour to Western Australia as a fundraiser for the Tree Group. Many of our members went and despite an unusual seasonal rainy period, saw a fantastic range of plants from Kalgoorlie to Jurien Bay to Kings Park, Margaret River, Stirling Ranges, Fitzgerald River and culminating in Wilpenna Pound in the Flinders on the way home.

In October we had our pre open garden visit to Mole Station. Last year the surrounding area was ablaze so this year we made a belated visit to Basket Swamp. We were lucky to have Lachlan Copeland as our botanical guide to look over a fascinating area, new to most of us. On the Sunday we made a trip to the

rock of Gibraltar where Lachlan was checking out some new callistemon sightings that gave promise of being a new species. Then a tour of the ever-developing Mole Station Nursery gardens, picked up our plants and home.

For the Open Garden scheme run by St Peters, Sue Vile and Steve Thiele volunteered their garden as a native garden. We organised a plant display and sale in conjunction with this and had about 500 people visit over the weekend. We are grateful to St Peters for allowing us to participate and to the Thieles for volunteering their garden to help highlight interest in Australian plants for horticulture.

For our November function we organised a grafting workshop with the help of a audio-visual presentation from head office and the practical guidance of David Caldwell. We tried our hand at grafting Eremophilas, Grevilleas and Hakeas. Hopefully, this will lead to a greater use of this technology in plant propagation by our group.

Our final outing was a relaxed well attended Christmas function at Phil and Julia Rose's with a look through Yina Nature Reserve and a guided tour of our host's plantings.

The arboretum has had continued work done on it with monthly working bees to weed, mulch and plant. The process is slow, but a valuable community facility is taking shape. I am grateful to Pat Urbonas for coordinating activities at the Arboretum. Pat has also coordinated monthly stalls in the "Markets in the Mall" to show off Australian plants, publicise the Australian Plant Society and selling plants to raise funds for our arboretum activities. To all those members who have assisted, my grateful thanks.

I have given a few talks about the WA trip to Rotary and the Catholic Men's Dinner Club, hopefully publicising the beauty of our flora. Barbara, Maria Hitchcock and I have just returned from a Biennial meeting of ASGAP in Launceston. To those who have not been to one of these meetings and the associated field trips, I strongly recommend you do, to see the pick of the flora of a State and to network with like-minded people from around Australia.

Finally, our group functions from the combined efforts of all our members, be they committee members attending monthly planning meetings, newsletter editors, arboretum workers, markets in the mall workers, assisting at plant sales, publicising the group, organising fellowship, keeping track of finances, running Study Groups, writing for the media about plants or running radio gardening shows, having their gardens open, running a helpful nursery, or just sharing their plants with the rest of us. To all who have helped to promote the growing and appreciation of our flora through 2003, my sincere thanks for your help.

Please continue your enthusiastic support of our activities through 2004.

PCYC SUNDAY MARKETS — by Pat Urbonas — Co-ordinator

February market day was a very pleasant day with good crowds. Barbara Nevin, after topping the sales chart is considering retraining as a car sales person! Also thanks to C Mulquinney and J Nevin. 43 pots and 2 tubes were sold on the day.

March markets were also successful with lovely weather, good crowds and great sales. Thanks to B & J McCaig, G Fairweather and P Urbonas. 50 pots and 12 tubes sold.

Apart from keeping APS — Armidale Branch in the public eye all profits from these plant sales go towards buying plants for the native plant section in the Armidale Arboretum— 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.

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2003

Income and Expenditure
Twelve months ending 30 November 2003
Dec 02 – Nov 03

| <u>Income</u> | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Interest | 193.22 |
| Meeting supper | 40.00 |
| Plant Sales | |
| Markets | 2,790.05 |
| Members | 2,234.85 |
| Open Gardens | 2,958.00 |
| Raffles Arboretum | 457.40 |
| Total Plant Sales | 8,440.30 |
| Raffles | 197.00 |
| Sales Books etc | 70.00 |
| Seed Bank Sales | 27.50 |
| Subscriptions | <u>1,742.00</u> |
| Total Income | 10,710.02 |

| <u>Expenses</u> | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Advertising | 6.00 |
| Arboretum | 417.50 |
| Bank charges | 6.25 |
| Cards | 102.00 |
| Grafting Day | 188.00 |
| Market Expenses | 245.00 |
| Meeting Room | 300.00 |
| Membership Renewal | 1,446.00 |
| Newsletter | 79.65 |
| Open Garden | 2,313.46 |
| Plants, freight | 3,838.90 |
| Postage | 271.00 |
| Printing Stationery | 44.44 |
| Raffle Expenses | 13.90 |
| Speaker Expenses | 324.09 |
| Study Groups | <u>44.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | 9,641.19 |
| Net Income | 1,068.83 |

Balance Sheet
As at 30 November 2003

| <u>Assets</u> | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Current Assets</u> | |
| <u>Current Savings</u> | |
| ABS Building Soc | 957.63 |
| ABS Building Soc Term Dep | 5,000.00 |
| New England Credit Union | <u>2,398.22</u> |
| Total Current Savings | 8,355.85 |
| Total Current Assets | 8,355.85 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 8,355.85 |

| <u>Liabilities</u> | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 0.00 |
| Net Assets | <u>8,355.85</u> |
| <u>Equity</u> | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 7,287.02 |
| Net Income | <u>1,068.83</u> |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 8,355.85 |

Signed by treasurer Phillip Rose and auditor Peter Brown
as correct.

Correa Study Group

2004 Correa Crawl – NSW South Coast

Date: June Long Weekend 12 – 14 June

Contact: URGENT that you reply as quickly as possible

Phone Maria (02) 6775 1139 (Leave message if necessary)

Email on dhitch@northnet.com.au

Send a letter to

Maria Hitchcock, Old Inverell Road., Armidale NSW 2350

Walking Trip in Tasmania by Don Hitchcock

In January 2004 I spent nine or ten days on the Overland Track from Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair.

It has changed out of all recognition. It is now much better than when I was last on it on a number of occasions thirty and forty years ago, for a number of reasons.

The first is that there has been a lot of track work. While board walks and ditches beside the track to dry it out are a shock when you first see them, it is *much* better on balance for the environment. They get fifty to a hundred people past any given point every day in December to February, the peak season. Since the area is one place in Oz where it does rain regularly (Cradle Mountain is visible only 32 times in a year according to one account, but I find that highly suspect, I'm sure you can see it more often), and the track traverses lots of peat, the quagmires were amazing when I went through all that time ago.

It means that the twenty metre or more wide tracks where people tried to avoid the mud have shrunk to the 75 cm width of the boardwalk, and the vegetation is invading those from each side, and growing up from beneath to be trimmed by walkers boots. Lots of the tracks will become tunnels through vegetation in time. On the moors, the heath and cushion plants are growing right up to the edge of the boardwalks. The boardwalks are raised a bit off the ground, which means they don't impede drainage. The boardwalks are not everywhere, though. They cost \$70 a metre in place. You can still get the authentic experience in places, with the inevitable mud and tree roots in the rainforest especially.

The second is that the rule is now "fuel stove only" which means that firewood is not scavenged from all over. I've seen green growing trees chopped down for fuel.

The third is that the huts are now much better, sealed from wind and possums, with heating from either gas or coke (they are gradually replacing the coke stoves) when it is below +10 C. There are rainwater tanks on each of the huts connected to the roofs, but most importantly all huts have Clivus composting toilets. This last is

the biggest single improvement apart from the track work. I don't need to tell anyone the effect of people at a hut digging ineffective holes in mud and peat and stone to "bury" toilet wastes. Not to mention the ones in winter who dig through the snow layer only.....

The fourth is that rangers now travel up and down the system, keeping an eye on stuff, fixing things and educating people. The ones I met were superb, supremely capable, and of far higher quality than anyone has a right to expect when you look at the pay and living conditions.

Tasmanian Waratahs were everywhere. They have increased in range remarkably in the last thirty years.

There was absolutely no litter, even in the tourist areas. The situation is better than it was when you could get rid of stuff in the fireplaces of the huts. I did pick up one tiny piece of candy wrapper on the track, but that was it. There is a real sense of community responsibility in the park. All non-organics such as plastics and aluminium foil must be taken out with you - there are no bins and no fires are allowed. Even cigarette butts and ash are supposed to go with you, with them providing free empty film canisters at each end to help that go ahead. One bloke a few months ago tossed his cigarette into the clivus composting toilet and it caught fire - they had the devil of a job putting it out!

The other change is that along with everywhere else, the vegetation is creeping up the mountainside, presumably because of global warming.

There is one place, Kitchen Hut, which was surrounded by a rocky scree of brown dolerite when I was there last, forty years ago. I thought they'd moved it, or it was a new hut - it was surrounded by low vegetation on all sides. A stony ridge nearby now has low healthy plants and even small wind pruned gum trees on it. At the start of the Frenchman's Cap walk, the open button grass covered slope leading down to the fringing rainforest beside the Franklin River, leptospermum bushes and young gum trees cover the area and the button grass is now hard to see.

Global warming is real.

BUTTERFLIES by Phillip Rose

The relief of the soft Autumn after such a hot summer seemed to draw out a burst of activity in the moth and butterfly population. Having just planted out a *Leionema lamprophyllum*, it was almost immediately covered in caterpillars. They were a mixture of green, black and white. With the excellent talk by David Britton fresh in my mind, I resisted reaching for the spray until they were identified. So I took a couple of digital photos and emailed them down to David (daveb@austmus.gov.au) who is now at the Australian Museum. Within an hour David came back to me with the following information. I was very grateful for his interest and enthusiasm.

They were larvae from the Orchard Swallowtail, *Papilio aegaeus*. They are the common black and white swallowtail which float through the local gardens. They rely on plants in the family Rutaceae including *Leionema ambiens* at Stanthorpe. David had also found larvae on *Correa reflexa* while in Armidale, but they did not survive past the second instar. They will also eat citrus leaves and Mexican Orange.

It seemed a pity to kill the larvae of such a beautiful butterfly so Barbara Nevin came to my rescue with heavy prunings from her Mexican Orange. The *Leionema* was relieved to get some leaves back and the larvae are developing at a rapid pace. Of course the next problem is what happens if they all turn into butterflies and they all lay eggs. I am sure the birds will keep the balance.

David gave me a very good resource for identification.

Its <http://www-staff.mcs.uts.edu.au/~don/larvae/larvae.html>

It is an excellent site and can thoroughly recommend it.

Council Representative

As you are aware we do not have a volunteer to take up this position but any member who finds themselves in Sydney on the date of a meeting can represent our group at any of those meetings. The venue for these meetings are at Burwood Community Welfare Services, 45 Belmore Street, BURWOOD

Monday 21 June, Monday 19 July, Monday 20 September, Monday 18 October, Monday 6 December

Please contact the Executive for more information should you wish to attend.

Books on Australian Garden Design

This list from Central West Group March Newsletter

- *Gardens by Design*, Norman Ford
- *The Australian Garden*, Diane Snape
- *Creating an Australian Garden*, John Hunt
- *Australian Gardens*, Gwen Elliot
- *Gardening on the Wild Side*, Angus Stewart
- *The Bush Garden*, Esther Wettenhall
- *The New Native Garden*, Paul Urquhart
- *Designing Bush Gardens*, Betty Maloney and Jean Walker (1966)
- *More about Bush Gardens*, Betty Maloney and Jean Walker (1966)

Coming Diary Events

- Tuesday 20 April at 7.30pm:* **Monthly Meeting at Woodlands Centre**
Bruce Cameron – “Interesting trips hunting plant around Australia”

- Sunday 25 April:* **Markets in the mall - Plant display and sale**
This is Anzac Day so check with Pat that it is on at next meeting

- Saturday 1 May at 1pm:* Working Bee in arboretum – bring the usual

- Monday 3 May at 7.30pm:* Committee meeting at the Nevin’s – all welcome

- Tuesday 18 May at 7.30pm:* **Monthly Meeting at Woodlands centre**
Sue Hudson – Indigenous Foods of New England

- Sunday 23 May at 1pm:* **Outing to Mount Yarrowyck with Sue to see Indigenous foods**
Meet at the saleyards at 1pm

- Sunday 30 May:* **Markets in the Mall – Plant display and sale**

- Monday 7 June at 7.30pm:* Committee Meeting at the Nevin’s – all welcome

- Saturday 5 June at 1pm:* **Working Bee in the arboretum – bring the usual**

- Tuesday 15 June at 7.30pm:* **Monthly Meeting at Woodlands Centre**

- Sunday 20 June:* **Solstice Luncheon at Kristine Gow’s place – inspection of wildlife corridor with Kath Wray prior to lunch (more information in next newsletter)**

NB: Pat (6778 4838) 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

| | Annual Fee | Concession |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| Single: | \$44 | \$36 |
| Joint: (2 adults at the same address) | \$52 | \$44 |
| 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 :