

Hakea fraseri

Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

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President:

Col Mulquinney – 6772 6012 (H)

Secretary:

Kristine Gow

Treasurer:

Phillip Rose – 6775 3769 (H)

President's Message

Our Solstice function on 20 June went very well despite the snow! Many thanks to Kristine and Lloyd and their band of helpers who looked after us. It was very comfortable to be able to gaze out over the property while listening to Kath Wray speak about what the Citizens Wildlife Corridors had done on this property and the project in general, and watch the snow flurries outside. This talk was rounded up with John Nevin presenting the Life Membership badge that was recently awarded to Kath – well done Kath!!!

A couple of months ago I planted over 20 plants in a new garden under some well established pine trees. None have passed on at this stage despite heavy frosts and small weeds have started to grow. Having none die within the first few weeks is a small record for me – so I'm looking forward with interest to see how they grow in Spring.

Despite my intentions I could not get to the planting session at the Arboretum in July. I developed a 'head cold' (or something) that made life miserable for a few days. Many thanks to Pat and his band of helpers who turned up on the day. At this time all I could do was look at my garden and think about all the things that should be done now in winter. Perhaps one year I will be up-to-date.

This morning I heard Warren Sheather's talk on the local ABC, just after his trip to northern Queensland – along with many other members of our Group. I was somewhat surprised to hear Warren say that he and his principal researcher Gloria did not know the names of many of the plants that they came across. This is reassuring to someone who has only recently started learning (a few) names and matching plants to the names. As Glenda and I are also off to northern parts in a couple of days, I will take a few photos and try to identify them on my return.

I wish everyone well in this new growing season and with luck we should be back for the September meeting.

cheers

Col

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

Mole Station – St Peters Open Gardens by Pat Urbonas

Our weekend campout at the Shearer's Quarters at Mole Station will take place 30/31 October. It's anticipated we will explore Torrington on Saturday, stay overnight at the Shearer's Quarters, then load 500 plus plants into cars on the Sunday morning and return home. To be able to bring back this number of plants we need as many cars as possible, so please mark this weekend on your calendar. This always is a fantastic couple of days. In the past some people have spent the Saturday on the outing and loaded their cars for the return trip and others have just turned up on the Sunday morning to load their cars.

Please let Pat know if you are able to help- Ed

The following weekend is St Peters Open Gardens and all members will be needed to assist with setting up, plant sales, plant and Society enquiries. John and Barbara Nevin's garden at Saumarez Ponds will be our venue this year and with all the new garden beds and plantings the Nevin's have been doing, it will be a wonderful weekend.

Here again please let Pat know if you can help – Ed

INVITATION

National Parks Association – Armidale Branch 30th Anniversary at Yaraandoo Eco Lodge

Sunday 15 August with guest speaker Dr Tony Fleming

Bus leaving Armidale 9.00 am and returning by 5.00 pm

Contacts: June Currey - 6772 3232, Helen Schwarz - 6772 1584, Peter Metcalfe - 6776 0024

Web page of Prostanthera & Westringia Study Group – <http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/mints/>

Another Two Nurseries

Wariapendi Nursery
Church Avenue
Colo Vale
Phone: (02) 4889 4327
Fax: (02) 4889 4092
Web: www.wariapendi.com.au
Email: enquiries@wariapendi.com.au

Indigenous Nursery (Jennifer Johnson)
Creswick Vic 3363
Phone first: 0417 594 225

We Need Help!

from Cas Liber APS NSW Ltd
Volunteers to staff our stall at
Gardening Australia Live! Homebush 2004
Sept 2 - Sep 5. Volunteers get free entry and
freedom to roam when not helping.
Reply ASAP to
PO Box 83, St Pauls NSW 2031 OR
Phone: (02) 9559 2656

Arboretum

At our July working bee we planted out 37 pots. We have 4 members on a weekly watering roster at the moment but if anyone else is available I would be most happy to include them on the roster. Thanks to Phil & Julia Rose, Joan & Robert Boyd and Suzanne Robertson. If you would like to help, please ring me on 6771 1703.

Pat Urbonas (Arboretum Coordinator)

VALE Val Williams

We received this terrible news from a message circulating through Australian Plant Society via email. Val was a past president of APS NSW and Conservation Convenor more recently. My memories of meeting Val was at the Queensland Conference and she was very concerned about how to get regional groups more involved with the running of the State body and very helpful to those smaller groups. She was a quiet unassuming lady who will be greatly missed by the society.

Wattle Day by Pat Urbonas

Wattle Day falls just after the August Markets (29 August) and the committee sees this as a great opportunity to combine the two events at the Sunday Markets.

I have booked extra space to include wattle displays and sales. We need as many helpers as possible to assist on this morning with stapling wattle onto cards to be handed out, wattle sales, enquiries, etc. Further details will be discussed at our August meeting.

From the Ed – What a great way to get our native flower in front of the Markets crowd. There will be a display of wattles growing in member's gardens, sale of wattle plants, handing out of wattle sprigs and then all the workers and those few members unable to be there will meet up at the arboretum for a picnic lunch. If you will not be at the meeting then ring Pat (6771 1703) or another committee member to offer your help.

Joan Boyd tells me that the Beadle Grove gardens on the corner of Markham Street and Lynches Road were ablaze with lovely wattles last year so would be worth a visit this year. SGAP members, particularly Verna Aslin, contributed many wattle plants for Beadle Grove first plantings.

Solstice Function by Col Mulquinney

About 20 members attended our Solstice Function at Kristine Gow and Lloyd Morrison's place at Rocky River Heights on the western side of Uralla to look at what had been done there by Wildlife Corridors and hear Kath Wray talk about her Citizens Wildlife Corridors project.

Kath described how the project started just on 13 years ago, and then showed us on the many maps of northern NSW where each property was that is involved with the project. Satellite images were also circulated. It was interesting to hear comments from those present about what had happened on these and adjacent properties. Besides properties involved in the project there are those where much clearing native vegetation has occurred along with attempted and actual drainage of well established sources of water.

Kath described the work done by Kristine and Lloyd, and their band of helpers, many of whom were present – again “helping”. About 7000 trees were planted in all, with the main species being *Eucalyptus acaciiformis*, *viminialis* and *pauciformis*; *Acacia rubida* and *ficifolia*; and *Leptospermum sp.*, all these plants being indigenous to the area. Despite Lloyd's disappointment in the survival rate, 90% was considered by everyone else to be very good, when one takes into account the extensive drought conditions that have prevailed since the plantings were done.

After her talk, John Nevin, who had attended the AGM of the APS in Sydney and who spoke supporting the application, presented Kath with her Life Membership badge of the APS NSW.

Several brave souls then examined the plantings close up and admired the extensive work that Kristine and Lloyd have been doing in their well established garden.

Everyone enjoyed the outing and extended their thanks to Kristine and Lloyd for their hospitality in making their home and property available. The barbeque supplied by Lloyd and the “goodies” brought by members was very much appreciated.

All those who attended now need to make their contribution to Kristine and Lloyd for the barbeque.

From Your Editor

A small indulgence from a very biased mum. Last weekend our eldest daughter was married in Canberra. She and her husband have been living overseas and wanted to decorate the venue with Australian native flowers. They did and the place looked really beautiful filled with banksias, dryandras, kangaroo paws, Geraldton Wax and other

fillers. As were the bouquets, sprays and cake flowers with gum flowers and nuts replacing the banksias. A magnificent sight.

Please note:

**You will find errors in this publication.
This is in line with trying to please everyone-
Even those who look for mistakes.**

MARKET SUNDAYS by Pat Urbonas – Coordinator

We had excellent sales in June (48 pots) but crashed in July (14 pots). I suspect it's due to the continuation of the drought. Hopefully with some rain in August and an increase in temperature, our sales will increase again.

Thanks to John & Barbara Nevin and Graham Fairweather.

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.

A LETTER FROM A PASSER BY AT THE MARKETS IN THE MALL

(unfortunately I do not have the name of this interesting man)

“Pat has shown me the vast array of natives he had grown in his garden over many years which in turn made me rethink about the locals comments some 17 years ago that you can’t grow many native plants in the New England Area.

I will share my experience in layman’s terms of how everyone in New England area can grow the Sturt Desert Pea.

Firstly I obtain fresh seeds from a reliable native seed supplier. I’m sure your society would have the best information here.

I treat the seeds by placing them into a suitable container, which can hold boiling hot water. I allow the water to cool, overnight.

Then I select the seeds, which have swollen twice their normal size. I place them into a pre hydrated jiffy peat pot, at least three seeds in each pot.

The peat pot must be kept constantly moist at all times. I have raised them in an old clear plastic Noble’s Spring Water bottles or even under a glass pane.

Germination is slow, 3-6 weeks depending on weather conditions. After the young plants emerge, they take a further 6-8 weeks to grow before transplanting to a more permanent growing container.

I have used tall metal cans which are around 18” tall; the most suitable container is one that is deep rather than wide. I assume it is the large tap root they possess.

Soil mixture: I have used 2 parts sand (Rocky River) from Ducats and 1 part red clay soil (Armidale road cuttings). I also add 3 handfuls of Ag lime to a wheelbarrow load of mix.

Most important: Despite being desert plants, they need moisture particularly near flowering. More water more flowers.

Before flowering they like Blood ‘n’ Bone on the surface of the soil and watered in over time.

Extremely frost tender, treat as annuals.”

This fellow grows much of what he wants to on the southern side of Armidale and really loves his native plants such as banksias, gum trees, waratahs and melaleucas. He has plans to move into Armidale and hopes to continue to grow what he is already growing where he is.

With this interest I hope he joins our group one day as most of us do not know what the names of the plants are but just have a great love of our native plants.

BURRENDONG ARBORETUM

From the Newsletter of The Friends of Burrendong Arboretum – ‘BRIGGE’

Free Guided Tours depart from the Information Centre on the 3rd Sunday of each month – 11am to 3pm
Saturday 14 August – Workshop – Native Garden Design by Michael Anlezark Members \$20, others \$25

Contact Cynthia on (02) 6846 8462

Sunday 19 September – 2004 Open Day & Sculptured Garden Art Exhibition – ‘a natural encounter’

Also from that Newsletter – *Growing Eremophilas* by Pat Gilmour

206 species of *Eremophila* have been recorded and all are endemic to Australia. Eremophilas are found in all mainland states with most occurring in arid or semi arid regions – hence the name *Eremophila* which is derived from the Greek *eremos* (desert) and *phileo* (to love). Emus browse on the fruit which has led to their common name of “Emu Bush”. Passing through an emu’s digestive system softens the hard seed coat and enhances later seed germination.

Consider where eremophilas occur naturally. They are found in areas with low rainfall and low humidity. Summers are long, extending from September to March, with very high daytime temperatures and no rain. The limited rainfall usually occurs between April and August, and this is also a time of temperature extremes with frosty nights and hot days. Eremophilas thrive in these harsh climatic conditions, and some can survive for two years without rain.

For many of us living west of the dividing Range these conditions are all too familiar and eremophilas are an excellent choice as garden plants. Not only will they survive, but those most frequently cultivated bear masses of colourful flowers. The flowers are tubular, often with a spotted throat. They come in all colours – white, red, pink, orange, apricot, yellow, green and lots in blue, mauve and purple shades. Most have their main flush of flowers in spring with scattered further flowering throughout the year.

There is an amazing variety of foliage amongst eremophilas – there is no “typical” leaf shape, size or colour. Leaves are adapted to cope with harsh climatic conditions. Some, like *E. nivea* have a felty covering of silvery hairs. *E. viscosa* has leaves with a shiny, sticky coating that reduces drying by wind. As would be expected, many have leaves that are narrow and sparse to reduce water loss by evaporation. Most eremophila leaves have a distinctive, spicy fragrance.

There is also a huge variety of growth habits amongst eremophilas. Some, like *E. glabra*, are prostrate and make hardy ground covers. Many are small shrubs growing 1-2m, and include upright and spreading varieties. Some are much taller shrubs, 3-5m, and some, like *E. longifolia*, grow into small trees.

Once established, eremophilas require little water. Regular watering should be avoided, but an occasional deep soaking in periods of extreme dryness is beneficial. In Central Western NSW they require little care. Some species need cutting back to keep them bushy but all seem to be frost hardy and disease and pest free. Kangaroos, wallabies and hares prefer other plants.

Eremophila seeds are very difficult to germinate (without emus) so they are propagated from cuttings which strike readily.

To grow eremophilas successfully you need a sunny position, and the soil should be really well drained (so that it is never water logged). Clay-rich soils can be improved by adding sand and lots of organic matter. Some growers plant in raised garden beds. While some species thrive in alkaline soils, most do best in near-neutral conditions. They are not suited to highly acidic soils.

Eremophilas do not do well in tropical, sub tropical or coastal climates where the humidity is too high. They either die or are very short lived. In recent years some species have been grafted onto *myoporum* rootstock which allows them to be grown in temperate coastal regions. Grafted plants of *E. glabra* (grey-leaved form with red flowers) and *E. nivea* are available in Sydney and elsewhere. Grafted plants seem to be less reliable in hot, dry climates and are obviously much more expensive.

A limited range of eremophilas is usually available from native plant nurseries and they can often refer you to specialist growers. To see a truly magnificent display of eremophilas visit the Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta, South Australia.

Listed below are some Eremophilas that grow well on a rocky hill in Central Western NSW where summers are hot and winter frosts occur to about -3C.

Ground Covers:

E glabra (all forms) – red orange or yellow flowers. Some have grey leaves.

E macdonnellii – very hardy, sparse growth habit, purple flowers

Small Shrubs 1-2m:

E calorhabdos – 2m with vertical growth habit, free flowering, pink

E maculata (all forms) – 1m, spreading with red orange or yellow flowers

E maculata var brevifolia – dwarf (70cm), very free flowering, red

E microtheca – 1m with narrow, greyish leaves and mauve flowers

E nivea – 1.5m, beautiful grey shrub, very free flowering, mauve

E nivea X drummondii – like *E nivea* but not quite as bushy

E polyclada X divaricata “Summertime blue” – 1m spreading, blue flowers

E racemosa – 1m with upright habit of growth, red, pink or apricot flowers

E youngii – 2m x 1m with long greyish leaves and pink flowers

Large Shrubs 3-4m:

E bignoniiflora X polyclada – 3m, white flowers, spreading windbreak. (*E polyclada* is similar to this)

E oldfieldii – 4m with bright green narrow leaves, orange flowers

Thank you to Joan Boyd who brought this newsletter to my notice – Ed.

INVITATION

Friends of the ABC dinner with Warren Sheather speaking about his experiences with native Plants, being Gardener of the Year and history of the ABC (? on the gardening side)

When: Wednesday 18 August at 6.30pm

Where: St Kilda Hotel

Cost: \$15 a carvery meal not including drinks, tea & coffee

RSVP: Pricilla Connor 6772 2217 by Friday 13 August, with money

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Presently our group subscribes to several Study Group Newsletters. At the August meeting you will be asked to indicate which ones we should subscribe to. An asterisk is next to those we already get.

Acacia

Boronia & Allied Genera

Brachychiton & Allied Genera

✓ Daisy, Australian - *

Eucalyptus

✓ Garden Design - *

Hibiscus & Related Genera

✓ Melaleuca & Allied Genera - *

Rainforest

✓ Wallum & Coastal Heathland - *

Banksia

Calytrix

Containers with APs

Epacris

Food Plants

✓ Grevillea - *

Isopogon & Petrophile

✓ Prostanthera & Westringia - *

Rhamnaceae

Wildlife & Native Plants

Bonsai with APs

✓ Correa - *

Dryandra

✓ Eremophila - *

Fern

Hakea

Orchids

Palm & Cycad

Succulents

Verticordia

Coming Diary Events

- Tuesday 17 August at 7.30pm:* General Meeting at Woodlands Centre
Mike O'Keefe will talk on the activities of the Tree Group
- Sunday 22 August:* Outing to Banalasta (Bendemeer). Information at meeting
- Sunday 29 August:* Markets in the Mall Wattle Day Display & plant sale (see page 3)
- 4 & 5 September:* Fred Rogers Seminar in Victoria – focusing on Banksias
- Sunday 4 September at 1.00pm:* Arboretum Working Bee
- Monday 13 September at 7.30pm:* Committee Meeting at the Nevins
- Tuesday 21 September at 7.30pm:* General Meeting at Woodlands Centre – this may be changed to Friday 24
To be announced at August Meeting
- ? Saturday 25 September:* Outing to NE National Park – to be advised at meeting
- Sunday 26 September:* Markets in the Mall Plant Display/Sale & information
- Saturday 2 October at 1.00pm:* Arboretum Working Bee
- Monday 4 October at 7.30pm:* Committee Meeting at the Nevins
- Tuesday 19 October at 7.30pm:* General Meeting at Woodlands Centre
Peter Metcalfe on Orchids
- 30 & 31 October:* Mole Station weekend to pick up plants (see page 2)
- 6 & 7 November:* St Peters Open Gardens - all hands on deck (see page2)

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

Single:	Annual Fee	Concession
	\$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 :

Membership Officer APS Armidale Branch PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350