

Hakea fraseri

Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

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Col Mulquiney – 6772 6012 (H)

Secretary:

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President's Message

After some good rainfall and a fairly warm winter the plants in the garden are looking good. The big worry is the possibility of a late frost – I fear for the new shoots on the callistemons and grevilleas. We even have buds on the new verticordia (*Verticordia plumosa*). This is exciting as we have never had a single flower on any previous verticordia – they have always ended up becoming very brittle.

We have recently had a (nearly) circular driveway put down. The idea is to park the caravan here when not in use. We have learnt that reversing a van is not the easiest thing to do. Hopefully we will be able to pull it into position without having to reverse. A circular driveway means that there's a bit in the middle that can be made into a new garden. While it's out the front and is very cold in winter – the cold southeasterly winds roar through most days, it will be in full sun most of the time and there probably won't be any frost pockets of cold air sitting over the garden. We are looking forward to planting out some new plants soon – when we get back from Perth provided the plants we have in pots survive our absence. We are looking for a small 'feature tree' for the garden. It should be tough, no more than 2-3 metres tall, allow for plants to grow under its foliage and it could be a 'weeping' variety. Suggestions would be very welcome – all ideas would be very much appreciated.

The plants that we already have include several grafted grevilleas and hakeas bought from the Mt Annan Plant Sale in April. They seem to have survived to date with careful watering. Some have already been planted out into large pots so that we can move them to shelter for future cold winters. We are not sure what the rootstock is for all these plants but we will hope it's compatible with Armidale conditions at least for the first year. We are hopeful as nearly all the plants under the pine trees appear to have survived the winter. Many are in bud and should provide some nice specimens for display at future meetings.

This is the exciting thing about growing plants. One does something like buy a plant or strike a cutting, this grows and then one's eagerness (I am certain) causes it to flower; then it has its photo taken.

Best wishes to everyone, we have some interesting activities planned for the next few months – it will be great to swap tales.

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.

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN OUR GROUP IS A GREAT LOVE OF OUR NATIVE PLANTS

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

Gardening Tip

White Oil Remedy

There has been a warning put out not to use white oil on your native plants, mainly because it is a by-product of petroleum. It can be used sparingly, but in order to reduce the risk, why not prepare your own...

White Oil recipe: 1 litre of clean water, ½ teaspoon vegetable oil, ½ teaspoon liquid washing up detergent. Blend all together.

This White Oil can now be sprayed on native plants. It sticks to the bugs or fungus which is suffocated by the detergent.

Reproduced from APS Mid North Coast Group Newsletter October/November 2004

Attention

It was mooted at our September Business Meeting that we have a Plant Swap Social day at the end of 2006.

Sooooo!!!! Get all your propagation gear into gear and start getting plants ready to swap. If you take 10 plants along then you will end up with 10 different plants at the end of the day

If members do not agree with this idea then please let the committee know so that we can cancel the idea early.

Sunday Markets Plea

As I am hoping to participate in the Mole Station weekend, can anyone not going to this weekend do the markets for me? We need two people and I will make all the arrangements. If you can help, please let me know at the meeting or by phone. Thanks Pat 6771 2293

VALE – Norma Glen BROWN

On 9 September 2005 we said goodbye to a really lovely lady.

Norma was the wife of our Membership Officer, Peter Brown. She accompanied him to all of our functions whenever she could and no gathering was complete without her cheerful chatter and cooking. While her family was growing up she and Peter enjoyed many camping outings with them and their friends and Norma loved to go on our bush outings with Peter.

Our heartfelt wishes go to Peter and his family – we all have such lovely memories.

When God went gathering flowers for his beautiful garden of rest, he gently closed your weary eyes and whispered "I only take the best".

Friends or Foes ?

We have always enjoyed the company of our backyard magpies. They appear to be invariably friendly. One, in particular, resolutely strides towards us, takes up a stand with a steady look and legs akimbo to give an unsolicited but very harmonious concert. The singing goes on for a long time, not even our attempts to join in the song with our cracked and discordant whistling deters the bird.

Now we are having disturbing thoughts about this friendly behaviour and happy song. Is it a diversionary ploy to hide some more sinister plot?

A few days ago our friendly neighbour from across the road came with a handful of wire and plant labels that he assumed could only come from the McCaig garden. I label each of my native plants with an aluminium tag attached to a galvanised wire stake about 15cms long and push it firmly into the ground beside each plant.

In the past we have caught, red-footed, our equally friendly kookaburras belting the daylights out of the occasional label, against a fence post, but this wanton wholesale stealing of them is a new threat. Our neighbour found about a dozen of them at the foot of a gum tree at the back of his yard. They had fallen from a dead mistletoe high in the tree where the magpies were assiduously building a wire fortress of a nest. Several labels remain there while my garden is denuded of them.

So, were these friendly gestures just a front? Can we trust the thieving magpies? Should the Committee consider a 'Four and twenty black and white birds baked in a pie' as a course at next year's winter solstice function? In the meantime can anyone tell me the difference between my *Chieranthera cyanea* and my *Pycnosorus globosus*?

Bob McCaig

Co-ordinator's ARBORETUM REPORT

August and September working bees consisted of planting our a total of 60 plants, watering and spreading sawdust. We've had good rains in both months so I expect to see good growth this year. Wattles, grevilleas and eremophilas are looking great.

Thanks to the following for their wonderful support – Susanne Robertson, Phil and Julia rose, Col and Glenda Mulquiney, Col and Andrew Grigg, Robert Boyd and Thelma Dennis.

Pat Urbonas

A Naturalist's Life

Kath Wray sent in an article about Rica Erickson's book 'A Naturalist's Life' printed in a newsletter by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society (No 216, July 2005). She said that we need to have some spicy scandal involving drink and sex in our newsletter so here is a snippet from that article about the devious going's on by the Greenhood Orchid.

Rica explains: "The Greenhood Orchid, which likes August for blooming, ranks among the plant wonders of the world. From the smallest Green Devil to the tallest Jug Orchid, the Greenhood is a box trap with a spring hinged door. It is most efficient in trapping certain insects. The astonishing fact, having trapped an insect, the Greenhood offers an escape through a narrow passage to the top of the flower. Also, should the insect fail to find this way out, the trapdoor will open after 20 minutes or so and the insect may depart by the way it came. Why has the Greenhood evolved such an excellent trap if its purpose is to let the captive go?..."

What does the Greenhood do with the insects?

"First, it offers them a drink – a sublime drink that, having been tasted once, must be sought after again. This potent liquor is hidden in the base of the spring door. While a gnat is probing there for the secret store it sets off the spring and finds itself shot into the hooded flower with the door closed tightly behind it. A seasoned old toper is unconcerned. It has been initiated before and performed its duties. It may even continue to imbibe the heavenly nectar and, by the time the trapdoor reopens, may become quite drunk. Gnats can be found lying helpless inside some Greenhoods.

However, an inexperienced insect is shocked by this imprisonment and flutters desperately endeavouring to escape. The flower planned for this and offers hairy footholds to lead the insect through the exit out the top. But it offers escape at a certain price. The insect must carry a parcel to another Greenhood! As the gnat squeezes past the narrow opening, a spot of glue there fixes a packet of pollen to its back. A marvellous thirst soon impels the messenger to the right destination. It alights on another trapdoor, drinks and again is hurled to the trap. The pollen on its back is broken off onto a broad plate on the wall where the yellow grains adhere. That is the whole purpose of the Greenhood's marvellous spring trap.

Cross-pollination!"

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Here is a continuation of Action to be taken for noxious Weed Categories. W2 weeds must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

African Boxthorn – <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Pampass Grass – <i>Cortaderia</i> spp
African Love Grass – <i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Paterson's Curse, Vipers/Italian Bugloss – <i>Echium</i> spp.
Bathurst, Noogoora, Californin & Cockle Burrs – <i>Xanthium</i> spp.	
Blackberry – <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg spp.)	Rhus Tree – <i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i> .
Broom, Scotch English – <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Serrated Tussock – <i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
Columbus Grass – <i>Sorghum x alnum</i>	Spiny Burrgrass – <i>Cenchrus incertus</i>
Dodder – <i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	Spiny Burrgrass – <i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>
Giant Parramatta Grass – <i>Sporobolus indicus</i> var major	
Green Cestrum – <i>Cestrum parqui</i>	St John's Wort – <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Johnson Grass – <i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Sweet Briar – <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>
Nodding Thistle – <i>Carduus nutans</i>	

Mole Station Weekend – 29/30 October

This is our annual weekend to collect plants for sale at St Peters Open Gardens for the following weekend. It's always a great fun weekend, although the downside is that members end up buying more plants than they intended to!

AGENDA:

On Saturday we'll meet at the Tenterfield Post Office at 10am (park in Manners Street, alongside the PO off the main highway). Bring lunch, morning and afternoon tea. We'll travel to Mt McKenzie and have a look at *Prostanthera staurophylla*, rediscovered by John Hunter after being lost for 100 years. Nearby is Curry's Gap which we will also visit before moving on to Mole Station.

ACCOMMODATION:

This is available at the Shearer's Quarters on Mole Station. It is self contained and sleeps eight with additional room in the lounge or BYO tent. I need to know the number of people staying overnight to make sure everyone is accommodated. Please contact me on 6771 2293.

COST:

Approx. \$20 per head, depending on numbers. You only need to bring personal items, food and drink as linen, pillows, blankets, cutlery and crockery are supplied.

SATURDAY NIGHT is usually a BYO BBQ.

SUNDAY:

After breakfast (which you supply yourself) we will perhaps explore the plantings and garden around the nursery. After morning tea we will load up approx. 500 plants to bring back to Armidale.

If anyone is unable to stay the weekend at Mole Station but can come up on the Sunday to collect plants, then that would be a big help (let me know).

Pat Urbonas

St Peters Open Gardens 5/6 November At 12 Lentara Road, Invergowrie

This is our annual fundraising event and social weekend at the home of Barbara Colledge. The garden is 16 years old and comprises raised sand beds, ponds and many native plants. If we continue to get good rains the gardens and surrounding bush should be fantastic.

We need as many hands as possible to help out. Knowledge of plants is not a requirement as we have jobs for everyone. If you are unable to come to the October meeting but would like to help, please ring me and I'll be able to make sure you're on the roster!!

AGENDA: Friday 4 November

Set up trestles, plant sales, displays and raffle from 5pm onwards. Members minding plants are asked to bring them then as they will need to be sorted and placed on the trestles. A small number of plants will be the subject of pot culture.

NB: Please water plants prior to bringing them to the venue as Barbara relies on tank water.

Sunday 6 November

The garden will close to the public at 4pm. We will then dismantle and pack away our displays, plants, etc. All helpers are invited to stay or come back for pizza and drinks.

ACTIVITIES:

There will be plant sales and a raffle. On Saturday morning at 11am Warren Sheather will speak on propagation and Peter Metcalfe on Butterflies at 2pm. Sunday morning at 11am Peter Croft will be speaking on Frogs whilst Pat Urbonas and John Nevin will discuss pot culture of native plants at 2pm.

If you are working please bring your own food. Hot water will be available for tea or coffee. This promises to be another fun weekend.

Pat Urbonas

New England Endemics

A local plant that is always great to find in the bush is the Grass Tree, *Xanthorrhoea* species. Around New England there is a good chance it will be *X. johnsonii*. It is recorded in species lists for Severn River, N E National Park, Girraween, Cathedral Rocks and Torrington and is common throughout NSW and Queensland.

X. johnsonii grows to about four metres with flower stems between 0.6 to 2 metres long and about 2-4cm in diameter. The leaves are diamond shape and plants are often found in sandy or gravel soil in sclerophyll forest. The flowers are bi-sexual but the male flower develops before the female presumably to ensure cross-pollination.

Growth is amazingly slow, with one calculation at 0.88cm per year. That means that a specimen 2.3metres high would be an incredible 266 years old.



The photo is of a plant just north of Armidale and would be well in excess of 200 years old. It has survived both fire and grazing pressure.

Light inhibits germination and is best achieved at around 25 degrees C. I have found local species easy to germinate but unfortunately will be unlikely to see them at any significant size!

The plants host a considerable variety of beetles, butterflies, ants, moths, bees, gliders, rosellas, bearded dragons, lorikeet and brush tail possums.

There is a considerable trade in mature plants, particularly those displaced by development. The general advice on transplanting is to select a sunny well drained site, planted so that the root ball is at ground level. Water in to remove all air pockets and continue to water as necessary to keep the roots thoroughly wet with as much as 50 litres a week. Remove any flowers for the first two Springs.

Even after establishment the plants can still use up to 50 litres of water per week (less in clay soils). Removal of dry leaf encourages new growth.

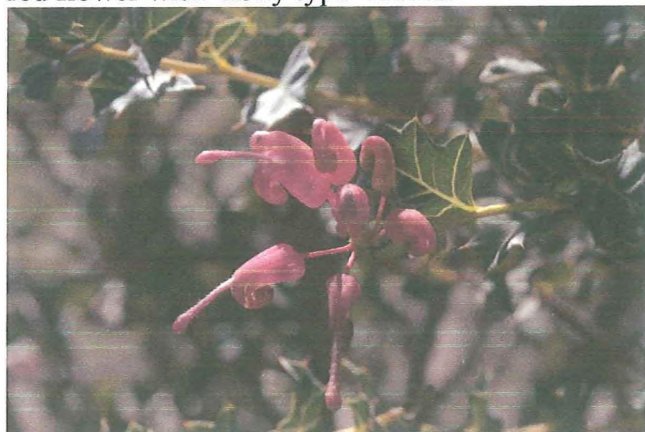
Other species in the area include *X. glauca* in Torrington and Barraba districts and *X. latifolia* in Girraween.

Phil Rose

Check your label to see if your subs are due. A red dot means that you are overdue and two red dots mean that this is your last newsletter. Please ignore this if you have already paid your subs.

Our Trip North in August 2005

Having spent more than three weeks in the warmer climate of Queensland it was a bit of a shock to return to Armidale with its minus 8 degrees temperature! However we are back after having seen many wondrous sights. As we were unable to go to the Myall Park Botanic Gardens a few weeks ago when a trip was organised by the National Parks group we decided to travel north via the Gardens. So, one day saw us travelling on a sealed road flanked by a great deal of water to Glenmorgan and thence to the Gardens where there are no sealed roads. We left the caravan near the Gallery and drove around the circuit twice, once to orientate ourselves and once to take a few photographs. We found many very photogenic flowers, *Grevilleas* 'Robyn Gordon', 'Sandra Gordon' and 'Merinda Gordon' that had been seen here for the first time. The last has a delicate, simple red flower with 'holly type' leaves.



Grev. 'Merinda Gordon'

The beautiful *Grevillea thelemanniana* was also flowering. Many eucalypts were also in flower. Round leafed Mallee had seeds only, while other mallees had cream or red flowers. Many Hakeas (including some flowering *Hakea purpurea* – a popular feeding point for numerous birds), a few eremophilas and wattles, along with an outstanding *Banksia* 'Golden Candles' were particularly noticeable. A stand of *Eucalyptus salubris* on the side of the road was very notable.

A feature of the Gardens was the labelling found near many (not all) of the plants. Considering that nearly all the work is done by volunteers from the Gold Coast SGAP, this is a great achievement.

Travelling north, then east we ended up at Yeppoon – north of Rockhampton. This of course then led us to Byfield National Park (a bit further north of Yeppoon). At Upper Stony Creek picnic area we came across some spectacular flowers - a callistemon, a pink hibiscus and an unusual looking grevillea. There is a 900m circular walk and on doing this we came across hundreds of the flowering grevillea that turned out to be *Grevillea venusta* (the so-called Byfield Grevillea). This presented me with many opportunities for the odd photograph. Some even turned out OK.



Grev venusta

We also came across a very attractive Pimelea (pale pink). These photographs did not turn out well at all. We did not come across the rare Byfield fern (which is actually a cycad) although we weren't really looking for a cycad.

The Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton, built on a former landfill site, had many examples of Australian Natives. A wonderful flowering example was *Grevillea* 'Austraflora Bon Accord'. The well established Botanic Gardens at Rockhampton contained few natives that we recognised, but we did see a cassowary and some koalas.

On the way south Bundaberg Botanic Gardens had many surprises. A great section containing many flowering grevilleas and a lake that was clearly the breeding ground for several species of birds.

We then stayed for a windy night at The Town of 1770 and visited the headland where there were many beautiful cream coloured grevilleas

growing. This particular grevillea could be seen in gardens or on the sides of roads around this area. I have now learned that this grevillea is a cream form of *Grevillea banksii*. In an article in the Grevillea Study Group newsletter (No 57 October 2000) Bryson Easton carried an extensive survey of the Banksias around this area and pointed out that this area of Queensland coast produced only the cream form of this grevillea while further north the red form was

common. The author was looking for the natural habitats of *Banksia* 'Ruby Red' and *Banksia* 'Hot Lips'. This was of interest to me as we had planted a prostrate form of *Grevillea* 'Hot Lips' some time ago. It seems to have survived our cold winters to date (it is partly under the pine trees out the front and has not yet produced flowers).

Col & Glenda Mulquiney

Brief Guidelines For The Translocation Of Threatened Plants In Australia

"Translocation is the deliberate transfer of plants or regenerative plant material from an *ex situ* collection or natural population to a location in the wild, including existing or new sites or those where the taxon [living thing] is now locally extinct. Translocation can be undertaken using a diverse range of methods including: seed collection and propagation; propagation via cuttings or tissue culture; direct seeding; transplantation of seedlings or mature plants; and the transfer of soil, leaf litter, or brush."

"..the objective of all translocation programs should be to directly support the conservation of the target species, and to establish or maintain one or more self-sustaining populations capable of surviving in both the short and long term."

"For a population to persist in the short term there needs to be:

- * successful establishment of the translocated individuals
- * management and control of threats
- * sufficient numbers to avoid both demographic and environmental stochasticity
- * reproduction and natural recruitment.

For a population to persist in the long term it also needs to possess sufficient genetic diversity to retain its evolutionary potential to adapt to long-term environmental change.

There are still few known documented examples of translocation programs that have created self-sustaining populations. For some translocation programs it may still be too early to determine success; or successful programs may have been implemented, but not adequately documented."

"Attention to translocate threatened plants have generally been unsuccessful for several reasons, including:

- * failure to adequately control or manage the original threats affecting the taxon or habitat
- * lack of adequate consideration of the biological and ecological requirements of the taxon.

All too often plants are treated in isolation from the complex system on which they depend, ignoring mycorrhizal fungi, pollinators, seed/fruit dispersers and associated plant and animal assemblages.

- * use of inappropriate translocation methods, for example the salvage of mature plants when the use of seeds or cutting material may have been more appropriate

* failure to use an experimental approach. There are many variables that may influence translocation success (eg propagule material, recipient site habitat, climatic conditions, level of protection, and watering regime), and suitable or ideal translocation methods cannot be determined without establishing a translocation program in an experimental way.

- * absence of ongoing committee of resources to monitoring, evaluation and follow-up maintenance

* failure to consider genetic variability, which may influence chances of translocation success in both the short and long term."

Kath Wray attended the 'Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia Workshop' at Coffs Harbour in August 2005. This is an outline of the principles that are relevant to the APS Society in Armidale of the book 'Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia' by L Vallee et al. Kath has put a copy of this book in the library at the Woodlands Centre so that people will better understand the points outlined.

Combined Sunday Market and Wattle Day

Our combined function was another fantastic effort by members and we were rewarded with sales of 90 pots and 69 tubes. We handed out wattle sprigs on cards and the information display board was well patronised. It has been suggested that we should involve school children on the actual day as well. We'll have a look at that next year.

Thanks to P Rossi, J & B Nevin, C & A Grigg, B & J McCaig, G Fairweather, J & P Rose, S Robertson, K Gow, K Wray and P Urbonas

Pat & John setting up



Jean attaching wattle to information cards



Kris watching the wattle display



Patti & Suzanne doing their bit

Coming Diary Events

- Tuesday 18 October at 7.30pm:** General Meeting at Woodlands Centre
WA presentation by John Nevin
- 29/30 October weekend:** Mole Station to pick up boxes of plants (see next Newsletter)
Includes trip to Curry's Gap and Mt McKenzie
- Sunday 30 October:** Markets in the Mall Plant Display & Sale
- 5/6 November weekend:** St Peter's Open Garden Weekend - Barbara Colledge garden
- Monday 7 November at 7.30pm:** Business Meeting at the Nevin's – all members welcome
- Tuesday 15 November at 7.30pm:** General Meeting at Woodlands Centre
- Friday 18 November:** NSW Regional APS Meeting
- Sunday 20 November:** Outing to Little Llangothlin with Dr Dorothy Bell
- Monday 5 December at 7.30pm:** Business Meeting at the Nevin's – all members welcome

NB: Pat (6771 2293 or mob 0427 327 719) would like some help with the Plant Display at the monthly Markets in the Mall –he would love to hear from you even if you cannot come to meetings.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM for Australian Plant Society (ABN 87 002 680 408)

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: ()..... email:.....

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