

*Hakea fraseri*

# Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

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**President:**

Col Mulquiney – 6772 6012 (H)

**Secretary:**

Patti Rossi – 6772 2906

**Treasurer:**

Phillip Rose – 6775 3769 (H)

## President's Message

These reports seem to be needed very regularly throughout the year. Usually I scratch my head to try to work out what to write, but on this occasion so much has been happening it was pretty easy (at least to select the topics).

Firstly, I must say how well the St Peters Open Garden Display went, despite the heavy downpour on Saturday afternoon. I would like to thank all those who helped get the display ready (especially Barbara Colledge who owns the garden and Pat Urbonas and his little band of helpers who named and labeled most of the plants), and all those who helped out on the weekend. Those helpers who assembled the tarpaulins, tables, seating, floral arrangements, setting up on Friday and packing up at the end of the Display on Sunday. Those who turned up to help run the display when it was open to the public also worked hard to cater for the nearly 600 people who visited over the two days. All in all it was a great team effort that seemed to be appreciated by all who attended.

The trip north to pick up the plants for the Plant Sale at the Open Garden also went well. Curry's Gap Nature Reserve and Mt McKenzie provided us with 'a project in action' and a well established tourist spot.

Several of our intrepid members found flowering specimens of the recently re-discovered *Prostanthera staurophylla* while others who had to return to Armidale on Saturday night went with Sarah Caldwell to pick up plants for the Open Garden. Everyone enjoyed the activities.

With all of Armidale showing a greenish hue we thought it time to complete our new garden out the front of our house and to plant out all the plants we have been collecting over the past few months. This took a little while but as Glenda had done all the heavy work it was easier than expected. We now have many grevilleas, homoranthus and a few other plants planted out in a sandy loam. Each has its own dripper system and a couple of types are scattered around. I have been trying to place plants in spots that match as far as possible the type of environment in which the plant grows naturally. Identifying these locations mainly on Google has been an interesting activity, but I'm still curious as to how to cater in one garden bed for a plant that normally grows around Cooktown and one that normally grows around Ben Lomond.

With another year nearly gone it's time to think about the activities that we could like to have in our Diary for next year. Any ideas could be passed on to any current committee member and this will be considered at the business meeting in early December, when planning for 2006 will get underway.

Some of you will also probably be interested in standing for a position on the committee next year – if the idea has not yet been considered, please give the idea some thought now.

Cheers

Col

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

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

Some time ago I had seen in a magazine that we can recycle our toilet roll cylinders by using them to plant our seeds and cuttings in and then plant them straight into the ground without disturbing the roots. Some of our members tried this but they disintegrated before they were ready. How wonderful to see on the ABC New Inventors that a gentleman had dipped his cylinders in bees wax and then used them. They do not disintegrate until some time after they are planted.

At Barbara Colledge's garden in the St Peters Open Garden Weekend we saw the way Barbara waters her new plantings. She cuts off the bottom of a soft drink bottle and then attaches the neck to an aqua filler from Kmart so that the water only goes on the new plant.

## ASGAP 2007 – Expression of Interest

In the year 2007 the ASGAP Seminar will be held in NSW. Newcastle will be hosting this Seminar during 1-5 October. Newcastle Group are asking for expression of interest so that they can have a little idea of the number of people who might be attending - it is not a definite commitment. They would like you to write to them with the following information:-

Your name:

Preferred means of contact

Address:

Email:

If you are attending the seminar:

Preferred type of accommodation: Motel, Apartment, Youth Hostel or Caravan Park

What tour you would be interested in? There is a tour before the Seminar and a tour after the Seminar.

Tour 1: Sydney by Nature & Design – Sydney and Central coast

Tour 2: Sea Change – Mid North Coast and Hinterland

Tour 3: New England with Australian Plants – Tamworth, Armidale district

Tour 4: 'Around' a World Heritage area – Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley etc

Post to APS Newcastle Group, PO Box 76, ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289

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## A Great Acknowledgement

From the November newsletter for the Armidale Branch of the NPA NSW we learn that the NPA has awarded Peter Metcalfe (our Occupational & Health Officer) the Prudence Tucker award. This award was set up by NPA to commemorate the many years of service devoted to NPA NSW by the late Prudence Tucker. These annual awards are presented to volunteers who have made a significant contribution to NPA at branch and state level.

Kate Boyd wrote on behalf of Armidale NPA for Peter's nomination for 2005.

"Peter Metcalfe has been an active member of Armidale Branch's Committee for most of the past 31 years, holding many positions over this period including inaugural Branch President, State Councillor and Newsletter Editor/Producer. He is currently Co-President and Newsletter Editor/Producer. Peter has organised or assisted with numerous evening meetings, displays, events and Branch projects, and has represented our Branch on many occasions (eg meetings with politicians). He frequently leads Branch outings to a wide range of locations, sharing his knowledge of the landscape, its biota, and their ecological interactions and encouraging young and old to see their delightful details. He recently organised and led an 18 day trip through Queensland to The Gulf and back as a fund-raiser for NPA. All who go into the bush with him benefit from his superb teaching skill. Peter's voluntary conservation activities have also included being a member of the New England National Park Trust and then New England National Park Advisory Committee, Dorrigo District Advisory Committee and now Northern Tablelands Regional Advisory Committee."

Lynne Hosking from NPA wrote – "Congratulations Peter and thank you from Armidale NPA"

*So say all of us too Peter! We all benefit from your great knowledge and love of the Australian bush. Ed!*

## from The Sheathers

### Horticultural memories

Some recent events have stirred memories of garden visits by our local Group that took place ¼ of the way through the last century.

The first event was the annual flowering of the many *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* 'Lutea' that are scattered throughout our garden. 'Lutea' is a medium, upright shrub with prickly foliage and eye-catching cream flowers that are carried on the end of each stem. The flowering is a reminder of the origin of our colourful plants.

Bob Hardie had a home in Donnelly Street surrounded by an interesting native garden. On the western side of the house was a solitary 'Lutea' plant. Our specimens are all progeny of this plant. To the best of our knowledge we have never seen 'Lutea' in nurseries.

The other horticultural memory was triggered by a news item on local ABC. The entrance to a subdivision, along the Blue Hole Road, is to be named May's Road after Phil May and his family who used to own the land.

Phil was one of the original members of the local Group. Phil's native garden was one of the first in the Armidale area. We remember paying a visit shortly after formation of the local APS Group.

We remember two plants from his garden. Near his front door there was a very tall *Grevillea triloba*. This Western Australian native has prickly foliage and highly scented, white flowers. The first time we encountered this plant was at Sid Cadwell's nursery near Windsor. We have a number of specimens growing but none have reached the height of Phil's plant.

The other memory-triggered plant was a large *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* growing in Phil's front garden. We remember watching a number of different honeyeaters flying in and out of this plant. Observing this avian activity was probably the first time that we realised the close relationship that exists between small native birds and Australian plants.

This is about the time that Mike Brennan and Alan Richards opened the Protea Park Native Nursery, also on the Blue Hole Road. This was probably the first local native nursery. They landscaped the nursery and at one stage they had a Waratah in flower in the garden.

### *Grevillea arenaria*

We have a couple of *Grevillea arenaria* that have the same bird-attracting ability as Phil May's Rosemary Grevillea.

*Grevillea arenaria* is a variable species. It is usually a tall shrub with soft, grey-green foliage and red-green flowers. The flowers tend to hide in the foliage.

Some time ago we collected cuttings from plants growing in bushland next to a Goulburn Caravan Park.

The progeny from these plants have developed into handsome shrubs nearly three metres tall by two metres wide. Two specimens have become magnets for honeyeaters. Although the flowers are hidden birds manage to find them. At any time there may be Wattlebirds, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Noisy Friarbirds, Eastern Spinebills and both Brown-headed and White-naped Honeyeaters, all feeding on the nectar-rich flowers.

*Grevillea arenaria* seedlings frequently appear throughout our gardens.

Gilgandra Flora Reserve is home to *Grevillea arenaria* subsp. *canescens*. This is a dwarf form of this attractive species with well-presented red flowers. Warren & Gloria

## A Nursery Trip

With the holidays coming up some people may find themselves in Melbourne and popping out to the Kuranga Native Nursery. But alas it has closed down and moved to another site. They are now at 118 York Road, MOUNT EVELYN. Apparently this is not too far from their old site, is much bigger and offers much more than before.

Now for those who are off to Sydney, we found another little Native Nursery. The great add on for this nursery is the most fabulous native garden that it is set in. This nursery is part of a private home so they would appreciate a phone call to make arrangements to view.

Westleigh Native Plants

47 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh – Ph: 94843672 or 0418115630 (owner, Brian Roach)

## A Good Read

From the jacket of the book 'Living in the Hothouse' by Professor Ian Lowe, Scribe Publications, Melbourne 2005.

### **'Living in the Hothouse, how global warming affects Australia' by Ian Lowe.**

'In Australia and around the world, the signs of global warming are dramatic and disturbing. There can no longer be any question that climate change is happening, that it can be traced to human activity, and that we need to respond urgently if we are to prevent catastrophic changes to global systems. Australia's fragile environment leaves us extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change yet we have so far refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

*'Living in the hothouse'* presents a comprehensive review of the current scientific knowledge of global warming and a balanced explanation of the effects it will have on our daily lives – on climate, on energy and water consumption, on agriculture and land use, and on industry and the economy. Amongst other changes, we need to prepare for: more severe bushfires; reduced water availability in southern Australia; more intense heat during summers; greater risk of insect-borne diseases; and greater incidence of extreme weather, including rainfalls of flood proportions, longer and more intense droughts, and more frequent, severe, and widespread tropical cyclones.

Professor Ian Lowe, president of the Australian Conservation foundation (and the author of 'Living in the Greenhouse, 1989') has been studying climate change for many years. His book will help all Australians understand the challenges of global warming and to take responsibility for planning and creating a sustainable future.'

*This book is recommended reading for anyone who intends to live beyond a decade. It is pertinent to gardeners, graziers and governments to help prepare the future for climate change. It is a readable absorbing book.*

*Kath Wray*

## Noxious Weeds

Continuation of New England Weeds Authority - Action of Noxious Weed Categories;

Category W3 – The weed must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.

Chilean Needle Grass – *Nassella neesina*

Hemlock – *Conium maculatum*

Longstyle Feather Grass – *Pennisetum villosum*

Saffron Thistle – *Carthamus lanatus*

Star Thistle – *Centaurea calcitrapa*

St Barnaby's Thistle – *Centaurea solstitialis*

## Email from Kate Boyd

Hi,

Thought you would be interested to know that more of our bioregion's ecological communities have just been officially declared as endangered under the Threatened Species Act.

[Ribbon gum – mountain gum – snow gum grassy forest/woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion – endangered ecological community listing](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Ribbon_gum_grassy_forest_endangered) (control + click on this link to see the details OR go to [http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Ribbon\\_gum\\_grassy\\_forest\\_endangered](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Ribbon_gum_grassy_forest_endangered))

The final determination of the Scientific Committee established under the Threatened Species Act was gazetted Friday 21 October 2005.

The other New England Tablelands bioregion endangered ecological communities (EECs) that I found on the DEC website when I searched for a list of EECs are:-

- \* Ben Halls Gap Sphagnum Moss Cool Temperate Rainforest
- \* Howell Shrublands
- \* McKies Stringybark/Blackbutt open forest
- \* New England Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nova-anglica*) Woodland on Basalts and Sediments
- \* Upland Wetlands of the drainage divide
- \* Montane Peatlands and Swamps

This list is incomplete as it did not include White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum woodlands that are shown in other parts of the website. I don't know if there are any others (please tell me if you know of others).

DEC's threatened species website has recently been upgraded so that you can search by local government areas or Catchment Management Authority regions or CMA sub-regions to get a list of threatened species and communities known or predicted to occur there. Not surprisingly, the threatened species and communities declared last Friday don't come up in these searches yet!

Enjoying brainstorming the recovery of our endangered ecological communities and threatened species!

## Bushwalking

Now for a New Year Resolution for 2006

In Armidale we have two bushwalking clubs that some people might like to join.

They are at; <http://www.bushwalking.org.au/~armidale>  
[bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com](mailto:bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com)

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.

## Christmas Function

**Date:** Sunday 4 December

**Time:** 10am for morning tea at the McCaig's, 60 Lynch's Road, ARMIDALE – Ph: 6771 1367

**To Take:** A small plate of goodies to share

**At Lunch Time:** Up to the Mulquiney's, 4 Eulahbar Crescent. ARMIDALE – Ph: 6772 6012

**To Take:** Your usual picnic food and drinks and a piece of fruit from each person to add to the communal fruit salad that is our Christmas tradition.

## February AGM Meeting 2006

Once again we come across our AGM and our usual plea for help – some new blood!

All positions will be declared vacant and it is about time some other members put up their hands to help with the running of our group. It is not an onerous job as you have a great committee around you and if you have any questions about any of the positions you only have to talk to one of the current or past committee members.

*Our President Col and his committee offers you all best wishes for the festive season and for a happy, peaceful and rewarding year ahead in 2006.*

## Coming Diary Events

- Sunday 4 December :*                      *Christmas function (see page 7 for details)*
- Monday 5 December at 7.30pm:*      *Business Meeting at the Nevin's – all members welcome*
- Sunday 18 December:*                *Final Markets in the Mall Plant Display for 2005*
- Saturday 4 February at 1.00pm:*      *Working Bee at Arboretum (check with Pat)*
- Monday 6 February at 7.30pm:*      *Business Meeting at the Nevin's – all members welcome*
- Tuesday 14 February at 7.30pm:*    *AGM at Woodlands Centre (see page 7 for details)*

**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.*

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

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE:** please tick appropriate box

	Annual Fee	Concession
<b>Single:</b>	\$44	\$36
<b>Joint:</b> (2 adults at the same address)	\$52	\$44
<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: ( )..... 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