

Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Volume 25 No 6

February / March 2006

President:

Col Mulquiney – 6772 6012 (H)

Secretary:

Patti Rossi – 6772 2906

Treasurer:

Phillip Rose – 6775 3769 (H)

President's Message

Maybe my memory is not as good as good as it once was, but I cannot recall such prolonged hot and humid weather in Armidale. Despite the dripper system in the new garden, we have lost two grevillea. – *g. involucrata* and a grafted *g. pectinata*. I had been watching these two carefully, as they have flowers that are 'simple' - and would have made some great photographs. Sigh, I'll probably have another go at growing them in different locations. I've also discovered that drippers are fine when they work. There seems to be a tendency for them to clog up, and in this state they are difficult to 'unclog'. I've resorted to snipping them off and putting in an unused one. The remaining plants in the new garden seem to be relatively happy. There are some yellowing leaves and some seem to have stopped putting out new shoots, but the majority, including the homoranthus are currently much larger than what they were when first planted out. I wonder how these 'summer toughies' will survive their first Armidale winter.

Most of the plants under the pine trees are still alive – and two specimens of *E. glabra* burgundy prostrate and one of *E. 'Summertime Blue'* – a natural hybrid between *E. polyclada* and *E. divaricata* originally found near Lake Walla Walla in Victoria. The white/pink form of *Crowea exalata* is also looking fine.

Some of the plants I have tried to grow from cuttings have surprised everyone by still being alive. A couple of correas (courtesy of Maria after her recent talk) – have buds showing. A specimen of the rare Albany Pitcher Plant in a pot is still alive and has put out a long stem on which there are (about) twenty small cup-shaped flowers. A couple of unwanted callistemons which had been growing here for years were chopped down to ground level several months ago, but being basically lazy, we did not dig out the roots. We now have two 'new' callistemons shooting profusely from the stumps. At least we should now be able to control their shape.

That covers a little bit of what is happening in my garden,. It's interesting that a few years ago I had a very tiny knowledge-base regarding the growing of native plants, and all this has emerged from my initial interest in photography. I do know that what I now know about plants has arisen largely from my contacts with everyone in our District Group. I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge base this year as well as getting some more photos.

Best wishes to all and have a great 2006 with all your Australian plants and friends.

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.

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

An Interesting Web Site

We received an email from Bill Harden (Tamworth Group) that their plant list for plants that can grow in the Tamworth District. To have a look at this go to the Tamworth Council web site at -

<http://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=29927>

The maps have been separated from the list because of their size so if you haven't got broadband or a fast service it will take a long time to download the maps.

The list itself is smaller so won't take long even with dialup.

Congratulations Bill and your helpers as this project has taken quite a lot of dedication!

Noxious Weeds

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

Category W4 – appears as a group of special conditions each with an alphabetical letter, that require specific actions for nominated weeds.

W4 a-e – This Authority currently has no noxious weeds in these categories.

W4 f – The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Any biological control or other control program directed by a local control authority must be implemented.

Harrisia cactus – Harrisia spp. Prickly Pear – Opuntia spp. Except O. ficus indica

W4g – The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

Cabomba (except pink cabomba) – Cabomba spp. (except C. furcata)

Willows – Salix spp. (except S. babylonica, S. reichardtii and S. calodendron)

So endeth the lessons so keep your eyes open to prevent weed takeover

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.

SUNDAY MARKETS REPORT 2005

We participated each month except for January and November. The Markets are an excellent way for personal contact with the public. We have our regular customers and we are able to offer advice and showcase Australian plants. Special thanks to John Nevin as he has been the main and often the only contributor to the display stand.

<u>Plant Sales:</u>	2005	2004
	558 x 140mm pots	514 x 140mm pots
	30 x 200mm pots	
	99 x tubes	88 x tubes

In August we successfully combined Markets & Wattle Day. We handed out wattle sprigs, had plant sales and an information board on the History of Wattle Day, prepared by member Maria Hitchcock.

Thanks to the following members for help during the year - P Brown, C Fairweather, K Gow, P Rossi, C & A Grigg, B & J McCaig, C & G Mulquiney, J & B Nevin, S Robertson, P Rooney, P & J Rose, K Wray, P Urbonas and non members L Hosking, B Howard, S Morrison and L Morrison.

My personal thanks to members and friends who kindly collected and returned plants and myself each Market.
Pat Urbonas (Markets Coordinator)

IS THIS YOUR GARDEN?

First plant four rows of peas –

Preparedness, politeness, perseverance and prayer

Next to them plant three rows of squash –

Squash gossip, squash criticism and squash indifference

Then plant four rows of lettuce –

Let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be helpful and let us love one another

And no garden is complete with turnips –

Turn up to meetings, turn up with a smile and turn up with determination.

Author unknown

Butterfly Gardening

* Include in your garden some of the following

Host plants for eggs (and caterpillars, that are small for most Australian species) such as Paper Daisies (*Helichrysum* spp), Acacia pp, Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*), Mistletoes (*Amyena* and *Muellerina* spp), Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), Sword Grasses (*Ghania* spp), Tussock Grasses (*Poa* spp).

Flowering plants for butterflies such as Everlasting Daisy (*Bracteantha bracteata*), Cut Leaf Daisy (*Brachyscome multifida*), Sweet Bursaria (*B. spinosa*), Thryptomene (*T. saxicola*), Rice flowers (*Pimelea* spp) and Daisy Bushes (*Olearia* spp).

* Don't use pesticides (an obvious one!)

* Provide a variety of plants – ones that will flower throughout the year, produce lots of flowers, are brightly coloured, shallow-throated, open in design, are in both shaded and (less vital) unshaded areas, of different heights.

* Provide undisturbed areas sheltered from wind, flat rocks for sunning, mud puddles or water baths

Taken from Garden Design Study Group Newsletter – November 2000

from The Sheathers

Westringia cheelii

In early spring we spent nearly a week travelling west. We visited the Warrumbungle National Park, the Pilliga Scrub and the roadside vegetation around Cobar. All these areas have had reasonable rain and many plants were flowering with great enthusiasm. The Pilliga Scrub was particularly colourful and we took three hours to travel along a 30 kilometre fire trail.

Westringia cheelii was in full flower. This is a small shrub with leaves in whorls of three. The lobed flowers are white with brown or purple spots in the throats of the blooms. From late winter to spring is the main flowering period with sporadic flowering at other times. *Westringia cheelii* lit up the Pilliga bushland. The species occurs in north western New South Wales as well as Queensland.

Hopefully this *Westringia* will propagate as readily from cuttings as other members of the genus. If successful we will be adding this species to our collection of small *Westringias*. At present we have *Westringia eremicola*, two unidentified species, one from Kings Plain, the other from the eastern gorge country, as well as two cultivars 'White Rambler' and 'Zena'.

Hakea verrucosa

Hakeas are exclusively Australian with 150 species. Over 90 species are native to Western Australia. Many of these Western hakeas have great horticultural potential and a number are cultivated in local gardens.

Hakea verrucosa is one of our favourites. This rounded shrub reaches a height of at least two metres with an equal spread. The narrow leaves are extremely prickly. Clusters of winter flowers are carried on old wood. Blooms are pink to start with then age to red. Honeyeaters are attracted to the flowers. Horned woody fruits follow the flowers. People with vivid imaginations say that the rear view of the fruits resemble the rear view of a seated cat.

Hakea verrucosa is a showy species when flowering. Because of its size and prickly foliage it is probably not suitable for the smaller garden. We recently purchased a dwarf form that reaches a height of one metre. This form would probably be suitable for small gardens.

The dense prickly foliage provides safe nesting sites for small birds. We saw a large specimen in Burrendong Arboretum that had seven nests. These would span a number of years of nesting activities.

Warren & Gloria

A Big Plea !!!!!!!

We are urgently in need for a garden to be entered in the St Peter's Open Garden Weekend. Being held 4-5 November 2006.

During this weekend we have a great opportunity to help educate and advise the general public about Australian Plants and all proceeds go to buying other plants to grow in the Armidale Bicentennial Arboretum.

If you can help please let one of the committee members know – we can help with any working bees that you might need to get your garden ready (does not have to be purely native).

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Postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas

Postage paid at San Antonio, Texas

It seems that they're always there. They especially like the *Acacia longifolia* in the back yard, although they are all over the place. They are very clean as they regularly bathe in the fishpond outside the front door.

People often ask me how I got interested in native plants, and I usually don't know how to answer. It isn't the usual hobby of a thirteen-year old. My only explanation is the unit of work I did in year four at school on native plants and animals. The class grew some *Callistemon* with the school gardener, Marie Ashmore. Mine is still growing nicely in the garden near the grasses. Later I joined the school garden club where we grew plants from seed, and built a vegie garden.

The Armidale branch of the society is always very helpful and I gain knowledge and enjoyment from whatever activity I do with the group. One day I hope to host the end of year Christmas function and invite you all for afternoon tea up the back on the patio.



Thank you Andrew for this minute glimpse into your story. Just a little hint – the wheelbarrow works much better if you stand it upright!

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

Perhaps you are new and do not think you could help to run the group – so do come along to the Business Meetings that are held on the first Monday of the month starting at 7.30pm. In fact any member is welcome to attend these meetings.

Local Australian Plants

Gibraltar Range Grevilleas

Gibraltar Range National Park bulges at the seams with interesting native plants. The Proteacea family is well represented including three interesting Grevilleas.

Grevillea acerata is common in the heath country along the Gwydir Highway. The species has only been recorded from the Park and the Glen Elgin area.

Grevillea acerata is a small shrub, reaching a height of 1.5 metres. The leaves are linear to linear-lanceolate, green above, whitish below with a sharp point. Unusual flowers are carried in clusters at the ends of branches. They are hairy and grey-pink. The main flowering period extends from June to December with sporadic flowering at other times. Flower shape and colour are similar to the better known *Grevillea buxifolia* complex.

We have a specimen that was propagated by the Mole Station Nursery. This plant has been in the ground since December and has flowered continuously. We recently potted on some struck cuttings.

Grevillea mollis is even rarer than *Grevillea acerata*. There is only a single known population of 150 plants. The species was only named in 1994.

Grevillea mollis is a medium, slender shrub with slightly pendulous branches. The leaves are oblong to linear-oblong with a soft, velvety feel. Flowers are carried in clusters of from 2 to 12. They are scarlet with pinkish-yellow pollen presenters. The flowering period probably extends from winter to spring. Growth habit, foliage and flowers are all attractive features.

We purchased a specimen from Boggy Creek Nursery a few years ago. In that time our *Grevillea mollis* has survived drought and frost. So far flowers have been conspicuous by their absence.

Our attempts at propagation have been unsuccessful but we are persisting.

Grevillea rhizomatosa is another rare species from Gibraltar National Park. The species was also named in 1994.

This strange Grevillea is, as far as we know, virtually unknown in cultivation. *Grevillea rhizomatosa* is a bushy, suckering plant that reaches a height of one metre. The leaves are yellowish-green, oblong-elliptic in shape with convex upper surface. The flowers are carried in small clusters and are green and dull pink. Spring is the flowering period. Flowers are very subdued and almost invisible.

Plants may be observed around Milligan's Hut.

A Natural Resource student was researching this species a few years ago. We have not heard of any results from this research.

Propagation is said to be from cuttings or small suckers.

Warren Sheather

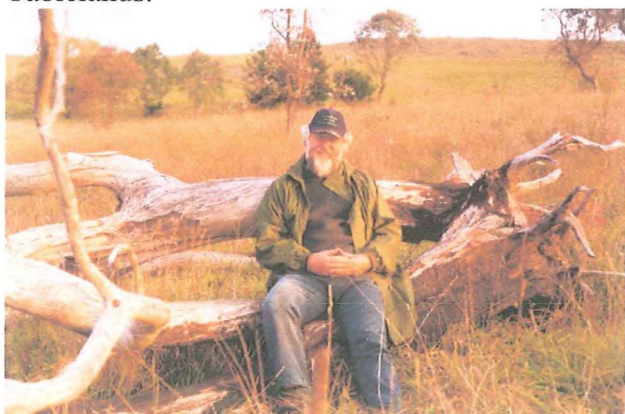
VALE - Mike O'Keefe: 11 August 1952 – 1 December 2005

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mike on 1 December 2005 of a heart attack while out walking the dog with his wife Maureen.

A memorial service was held at the Woodland Centre on the afternoon of 7 December with an overflow attendance. Kerry Stellar helped organise the occasion in conjunction with the family. Armidale & District Australian Plant Society members assisted with the flowers.

Mike was born on 11 August and was the youngest of nine children. In 1954 the family moved to Goulburn where he was educated, obtaining the leaving Certificate in 1968. He went to Uni NSW to do Engineering and then he switched to teaching.

I met Mike in the late 1970's when he was teaching at Armidale City Public School and he was President of the Armidale Group of SGAP at that time. His tenure coincided with the Eucalyptus 'die back' period on the Northern Tablelands.



Mike sitting on one of his beloved eucalypts that succumbed before he started his quest.

He resigned from a career in teaching to take on leadership of the Tree Group for the next 20 years. During that time they occupied several sites before settling at the current location in Mann street.

At that time Mike conceived the idea of the Nursery, tree planting on farms and the construction of the Woodland Centre and consolidated all of those objects securing the place in the community that the Tree Group occupies today.



The Woodland Educational Centre

Over a million trees have been propagated and Mike personally planted over 100,000 in that 20 years. His role of educator was not forsaken and the Woodland Centre serves an environmental education role for the schools and a focal meeting place for environmental groups.

He moved freely between all stratas of society from the 'convicts' sent to do their community service at the Woodland Centre to the 'squatters' and landowners whose properties Mike was helping to revegetate.

As a husband, father, planter, teacher, music lover, basketballer, environmentalist Mike had many facets to his life. His premature death, just at the time he was moving onto a new phase in his life setting up a wholesale nursery at Dorriggo, is a tragedy.

He will be much missed by us all.

John Nevin

ARMIDALE BI-CENTENIAL ARBORETUM REPORT 2005

A committed group of members continued working towards the development and maintenance of the Australian plant section of the arboretum from January to December 2005. The main emphasis of the working bees was on spreading sawdust on garden beds for weed suppression and moisture retention and the continuation of plantings.

We have discontinued the use of weed matting due to the severe cracking of soil and the apparent loss of organisms under the matting. Plants have never shown any problems relating to the use of hardwood sawdust since it was first used in the early 1980's

Thanks to the following volunteers: R Boyd, T Dennis, C & A Grigg, C & G Mulquiney, J & B Nevin, S Robertson, P & J Rose, R Single, P Urbonas.

DETAILS:

Total man hours spent	- 136.5
Number of working bees	- 12
Number of volunteers	- 13
Planted out	- 166 x 140mm pots, 4x200mm pots, 26 tubes
Wholesale cost of plants	- \$733.50

Work at the Arboretum consisted of spreading sawdust, hand weeding, spraying weeds, planting out, pruning, watering and collecting rubbish.

Thanks to Ray Dufty (Armidale/Dumaresq Council) for his cooperation and to Council for supplying sawdust.
Pat Urbonas (Arboretum Coordinator)

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

Coming Diary Events

<i>Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm:</i>	AGM at Woodlands Centre (sorry about wrong date before) <i>Col Mulquiney will give a photo talk on Qld trip</i>
<i>Saturday 25 February at 1.00pm:</i>	Visit Phil & Julia Rose's garden (take afternoon tea things)
<i>Sunday 26 February:</i>	Markets in the Mall plant sale and display
<i>Saturday 4 March at 1.00pm:</i>	Arboretum Working Bee (planting)
<i>Monday 6 March at 7.30pm:</i>	Business Meeting at the Nevin's
<i>Tuesday 21 March at 7.30pm:</i>	General Meeting at the Woodland Centre <i>Ian Telford talking about the Herbarium at UNE</i>
<i>Sunday 26 March; At 2.00pm:</i>	Markets in the Mall plant sale and display Visit the Herbarium at UNE
<i>Saturday 1 April at 1.00pm:</i>	Arboretum Working Bee (planting)
<i>Monday 3 April at 7.30pm:</i>	Business Meeting at the Nevin's
<i>Tuesday 18 April at 7.30pm:</i>	General Meeting at the Woodland Centre <i>Robert Miller will talk about Prostantheras</i>
<i>Weekend 22/23 April:</i>	Mt Annan Plant Sale (for information see John, Pat or Col)
<i>Sunday 30 April:</i>	Markets in the Mall plant sale and display
<i>Monday 1 May at 7.30pm:</i>	Business Meeting at the Nevin's
<i>Saturday 6 May at 1.00pm:</i>	Arboretum Working Bee
<i>Tuesday 16 May at 7.30pm:</i>	General Meeting at the Woodland Centre <i>Mal Chaffey will talk about using natives for Bonsai</i>
<i>Sunday 21 May:</i>	Outing to Andrew Thompson Property 'Yarraman Valley' (more information in next newsletter)
<i>Sunday 28 May:</i>	Markets in the Mall plant sale and display

For Arboretum Working Bees do bring all the relevant equipment, plenty of water, sunscreen and hat and afternoon tea things.

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.*
