

Hakea fraseri

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Volume 28 No 2

April - May 2008

President:
Barbara Nevin

6775 2128

Secretary:
John Nevin

6775 2128

jrnevin@northnet.com.au

Treasurer:
Phillip Rose

6775 3767

Hello from your President

For Easter John and I went to Canberra and it looked terrible. Everywhere that we went was very dry and dead. The only green grass that we saw was on the sporting fields and a handful of private gardens. I found out later that most of the private gardens have artificial grass now and that is very sad. Talking about sad, one of our 'must go and see' places every time that we go to Canberra is the Australian National Botanical Gardens and I must say that while they are still worth a visit they are not anywhere as good as they used to be. They need a complete makeover to rejuvenate them and to showcase our native plants. I decided then that I have no right to complain about the lack of rain that we have here. At least we have grass growing and the seed heads are still attracting the little birds.

I refer you to the notice in this newsletter about a competition that we are running to get a new floral emblem for our group (page 6). Our present one (*Hakea fraseri*) is only found in the Northern Tablelands Botanical Area but it is extremely difficult to propagate and grow on. Its image is also very difficult to reproduce for use in our publications. I would like to see our chosen plant growing in every garden in our region. Good luck and a big thank you to those who enter.

We start our local outings on 24 May with a visit to member Lynne Chapman's property so hope to see many of you there.

Otherwise I will see others of you at the Oakdale Plant Sale and catch up with you all from other groups.

Best wishes

Barbara

inside this edition;

Office Bearers 2008	2
Reports from AGM	3 - 4
Communication, Kath Wray	3
From Yallaroo	5
Plants of the Kimberly	6
Diary	8 - 9

Thank you all authors of this month's articles and reports

Many members may have photos or information you would like to share with others.

Just something simple! Perhaps something about your garden, walks you have been on, or a favourite plant. Don't be shy about sharing your love of Australian Plants.

Send hard copy to the Editor: Pam Rooney PO Box 807 Armidale 2350 or email pamrooney@bigpond.com

The deadline for next newsletter is Friday 30th May

privileged information.
If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.

Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW).
GROUP INFORMATION
History commenced 6th August 1977

We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora. 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 to our outings (page 9).

Business 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

Newsletters by email

If you received this newsletter by post and in future would like a full colour version emailed please let me know at pamrooney@bigpond.com.

Members without email addresses will continue to receive their newsletters by post.

Office Bearers for 2008

President:	Barbara Nevin	Markets in the Mall:	Pat Urbonas
Vice Presidents:	Pat Urbonas & Ray South.	Newsletter Editor:	Pam Rooney
Secretary	John Nevin	Hospitality:	Kath Wray and Maria Hitchcock.
Assistant Secretary:	Liisa Atherton	Supper Coordinator:	Maria Hitchcock.
Treasurer:	Phil Rose	Company Delegate:	Depends on availability.
Membership Officer:	Peter Brown	Monthly Plant List Collator:	Suzanne Robertson.
Auditor:	Peter Brown	Northern Coordinator:	Jean Mott.
Publicity Officer:	Ingrid Kalf	OH&S:	Peter Metcalfe
Arboretum:	Pat Urbonas	Environmental Officer:	Peter Metcalfe.

2007 Sunday Markets Report

The Society continued its presence at every Sunday Market except January. As well as providing good value plants and showcasing our lovely flora, we were also able to provide advice and free literature. The Markets are an excellent way to increase our membership base. Once again John Nevin has been the main and usually the only contributor to the plant display stand. Thanks John.

Plant Sales: 462 X 140mm pots; 11 X 200mm pots and 27 tubes; a total of 500 plants

Thanks to the following members for their help to me during the year: Kristine Gow, Richard Single, Maria Hirschcock, Pam Rooney, Col and Glenda Mulquiney and Lynne Hosking for helping to set up.

Pat Urbonas (Markets Coordinator)

Armidale Bi-centennial Arboretum Annual Report for 2007

Society members continued this commitment towards the development and maintenance of the Australian Plant Section of the Arboretum during the year. As usual, work consisted of planting out, weeding, spreading sawdust, spraying weeds, pruning, watering and collecting rubbish. Because maintenance of the gardens has been reduced through heavy mulching, we were able to concentrate on more plantings, especially on multiple plantings of smaller growing and ground covering plants.

<i>Details</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
Total labour hours spent	88	79.75	136.5
Number of working bees	8	8	12
Number of Volunteers	9	14	13
Number of plants planted	292	129	196
Approx. wholesale cost of plants	\$1270.00	\$580.50	\$733.50

Thanks to the following volunteers: John and Barbara Nevin, Glenda Mulquiney, Phil and Julia Rose, Colin and Andrew Grigg, Pat Urbonas and Pam Rooney.

Pat Urbonas (Arboretum Coordinator)

At the March Business meeting Kath Wray drew our attention to an interesting article, "**The Value of Visual Imagery**" written by Ross Doig and published in 'Native Plants for New South Wales' Vol 43 no.1 p26, January 2008. The following excerpt was of particular interest.

"... with the advent of the digital camera, computer, data projector and visualiser (presenter) a full range of options for presenting flora - enlargements, zooming, discs, close ups, photo enhancement, printing out images is available.

Imagine a single species presentation with images progressing from seeds, cuttings, seedlings, mature plants in bud, flowering with close up of floral features, possible subspecies and variants, after care such as pruning, fertilising, pest control or selecting suitable growing sites.

Too one might choose a single genera and walk through the different species, showing not only specific taxonomic details but habitat, community type, associated shrubs and trees, field identification features and perhaps relationship to other Family species.

One hopes that our Society, Australia wide, will become pro-active in making use of the possibilities opened up for production and distribution of plant knowledge to the public via Television, Radio, Garden magazines, Garden Societies, Educational material for Primary and Secondary schools and for TAFE horticultural departments.

After all a renaissance is upon us steadily overtaking the previous dominance of the written word."

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY ARMIDALE
Income Expenditure Twelve months ended 31st October 2007

	Nov '2006 - Oct 2007	Nov '2005 - Oct 2006
Income		
Interest	358.60	391.00
Meeting supper	61.55	0.00
Plant Sales		
Markets	4,932.00	3,978.85
Members	509.50	318.50
Open Garden	1,971.25	2,820.60
Raffles Arboretum	33.00	0.00
Total Plant Sales	7,445.75	7,117.95
Raffles	197.05	185.95
Subscriptions	1,496.00	1,956.00
Total Income	9,558.95	9,650.90
Expense		
Advertising	0.00	88.06
Arboretum	8.00	1,046.73
Bank charges	20.00	36.20
Market Expenses	220.00	165.00
Meeting room	0.00	300.00
Membership renewal	1,058.00	1,691.00
Newsletter	80.30	0.00
Open garden	1,933.76	1,879.70
Plant Purchases Glen Innes	309.60	362.10
Plants, freight	5,223.10	3,311.70
Postage	164.00	334.15
Printing Stationery	20.00	49.21
Speaker expenses	200.00	445.96
Study Groups	60.00	60.00
Sundry costs	292.90	20.00
Total Expense	9,589.66	9,789.81
Net Income	-30.71	-138.91

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY ARMIDALE
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
From 1st November 2006 to 31st October 2007

	Oct 31, 2007	Oct 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Current/Savings		
ABS Building Socy	1,740.86	1,470.29
ABS Building Socy Term Deposit	5,000.00	5,000.00
NECU Term Savings	2,466.65	2,383.29
New England Credit Union	326.95	713.59
Total Current/Savings	9,536.46	9,567.17
Total Current Assets	9,536.46	9,567.17
Fixed Assets		
Projector	1,984.00	1,984.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,984.00	1,984.00
TOTAL ASSETS	11,520.46	11,551.17
LIABILITIES		
	0.00	0.00
NET ASSETS	11,520.46	11,551.17
EQUITY		
Glen Innes Funds	2,328.72	2,328.72
Opening Bal Equity	7,287.02	7,287.02
Retained Earnings	1,935.43	2,074.34
Net Income	-30.71	-138.91
TOTAL EQUITY	11,520.46	11,551.17

From the AGM: Reports from Treasurer, Phil Rose

From 'Yallaroo'

Two *Prostantheras*

Prostanthera petraea is found growing amongst granite boulders in the Tenterfield area. Boonoo Boonoo National Park is a stronghold of this species. *Prostanthera petraea* is sometime found growing together with a white flowering form of *Prostanthera nivea*. Two Mint Bush species growing together in the wild is not a common occurrence.

Prostanthera petraea is said to be a tall shrub. The specimens in our garden are a few years old, healthy and flower profusely but are only one metre tall. *Prostanthera petraea* has highly aromatic leaves that may be up to eight centimetres long by three centimetres wide, dull green above and paler beneath. The flowers are white, profuse and carried in terminal sprays. Flowering occurs in spring and early summer. This local Mint Bush is a handsome, hardy and free flowering plant. Its flowers are similar in size and appearance to the blooms of the better known *Prostanthera lasiantha*.

The species has two characteristics that it shares with other *Prostantheras*. Propagation is rapid and reliable from cuttings and during very dry periods plants tend to become a trifle relaxed. Watering alleviates the latter condition. Volume 3 of the Flora of NSW lists this Mint Bush as *Prostanthera* species B.

Prostanthera stenophylla is confined to the Rylstone area of the Central Tablelands. Wollemi National Park protects the majority of the population where it grows together with the rare *Grevillea evansiana*. *Prostanthera stenophylla* is a small to medium, upright shrub. Juvenile foliage may be slightly hairy. Adult leaves are highly aromatic, up to 1.5 centimetres long, mid green and hairy. Flowers may be violet, mauve, pink or sometimes white. This range of flower colours is interesting in a species with a relatively small population. We have a pink-flowered specimen that was propagated by Sarah and David Caldwell. The plant is patiently waiting for a place in our garden. We also have ten or so progeny raised, by cuttings, from this plant. The cuttings struck rapidly. This Mint Bush is sometimes sold as *Prostanthera* "Rylstonii" and is known as *Prostanthera* species A in the Flora of NSW.

Prostanthera petraea and *Prostanthera stenophylla* were named in 2006.

Two (or Perhaps Three) *Westringias*

Most members are probably familiar with the *Westringia* from the gorges, east of Armidale. The species has been called *Westringia glabra* but this name may refer to a Victorian species.

The Gorge *Westringia* is a small shrub with shiny leaves up to two centimetres long. They are carried in whorls of three around the stems. Flowers are pale purple and appear throughout the year. Both foliage and flowers are attractive features. We saw our first Gorge *Westringia* in Hans Wissmann's garden many years ago. All the specimens in our garden are progeny of this plant. This is our favourite *Westringia*

and we always have some plants in tubes waiting to find a place in the garden. The species propagates readily from cuttings.

A while ago Peter Metcalfe collected material from a *Westringia* growing in the gorges near the Guyra/Ebor Road. At the time we thought that this was another population of the Gorge *Westringia*. Cuttings struck very quickly and we now have three generations of plants. Their leaves are carried in whorls of three but they are narrower than and not as shiny as the "conventional" Gorge *Westringia*. Only one plant has flowered so far and produced two white flowers. This plant was in a tube in heavy shade so this may not be the true flower colour. Certainly the foliage is different and also the cuttings struck in about half the time taken by Gorge *Westringia* cuttings to strike. We have a theory (scientifically unproven) that perhaps the time that cuttings take to strike may indicate different species in the same genus. This may be the case with "Peters" *Westringia*.

The second or third species comes from Kings Plains and has been called *Westringia longifolia*. This is probably a new species because these plants are much shorter, with smaller leaves and flowers than the widely cultivated *Westringia longifolia*. The King Plain's *Westringia* is a small plant less than one metre tall with narrow leaves about one centimetre long. They are carried in whorls of three. The small flowers are white and appear for many months. What the blooms lack in size they make up for in quantity. The foliage is similar, in appearance, to *Westringia eremicola*. The "touch test" will separate the species. "Kings Plains" foliage is smooth to the touch whilst the leaves of *Westringia eremicola* have a sharp point. This is a hardy and free flowering small shrub that is happy to produce roots from cuttings.

photo and text by Warren & Gloria Sheather

LOGO COMPETITION

The Armidale and District Australian Plant Society is looking for a new logo.

It should be of a plant

- * that occurs in the Northern Tablelands Botanical District and preferably one that is unique to the Northern Tablelands.
- * that is readily available for cultivation.
- * that is easy to grow in our district.

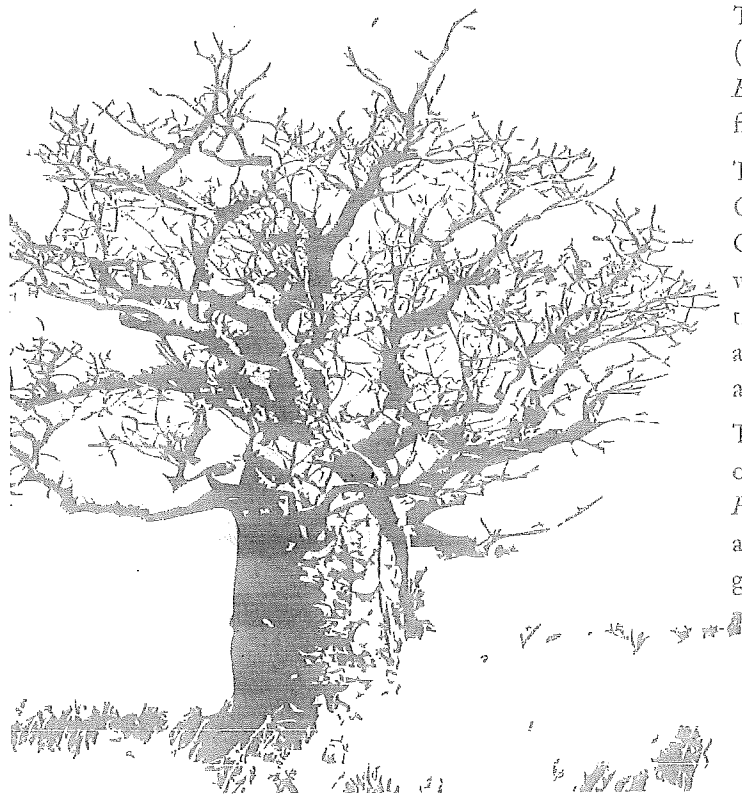
Our current *Hakea fraseri* fills only one of these criteria.

Please submit your designs to the president Barbara Nevin by June 30th. The current committee will judge the entries.

We are looking for a design that works well both in colour and in black and white and would be suitable for a letterhead and for our website (currently under construction).

Archiving

We are trying to locate Newsletters prior to April-May 2001. Copies of these will be placed in the archives. If a member has any of these newsletters would they let Barbara know or post them to our PO box 735, Armidale. They will be copied and the original returned.



Flora of the Kimberley Region.

(from a talk by John Wrigley)

John Wrigley was our guest speaker at the March, 2008 meeting of our group.

John is a legend in the Australian plant field. He started his working life as an organic chemist and moved on to become the Director of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra for sixteen years during the period of its greatest development.

Following retirement, he moved to Coffs Harbour and has had a major hand in the design of other Botanic Gardens including those at Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Tamworth and Mildura. Along the way, he has become one of Australia's most prolific authors of books relating to Australian Plants and their cultivation. His popular tome, "Australian Plants" which he wrote with Murray Fagg is now into its fifth edition and is the "bible" for the Australian plant grower.

John indicated that he has had two trips to the Kimberley, with the most recent in the past year. The Kimberley area is in the tropics in the north west of Australia and is characterised by extremes of dry and wet. The iconic Boab trees are everywhere and are unusual for Australian plants, in being deciduous in the dry as a water saving measure.

John and wife Marcia used Kununurra as a base, visiting Wyndham, the Gibb River road, the Bungle Bungles, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Broome, Derby and the Keep River National Park. Starting at King's Billabong, which is largely savannah woodland, they saw *Grevillea dimidiata*, with its large leaves and yellow flowers; the lovely Bar's Wing Coral Tree (*Erythrina vespertilio*) and a lovely, but vicious (due to its spiky fruits) groundcover, *Tribulus occidentalis* of the Zygophyllaceae.

Two prominent gums in the area are *Eucalyptus phoenicea* (scarlet or orange gum) with its lovely flaky brown bark and *Eucalyptus miniata* (the Darwin Woollybutt) in which the flaky bark cuts out halfway up the trunk.

They stayed at Lily Lagoon Lake at the Kimberleyland Caravan Park. The area was formed by flooding in the Ord River scheme and has a lot of dead trees in the water which serve as roosting sites for innumerable birds. Around the water edge is the water lily *Nymphioides indica* with its associated Lotus birds. Enjoying the seeds in the grasslands are the outstanding Crimson Finches.

The Mirimar National Park featured sandstone rocks, lots of walks and great plants. These included a low growing fig, *Ficus sp aff platypoda* (? Recently named *Ficus lilliputiana* according to Ian Telford) which John felt would make a great bonsai plant. Other plants there included *Lindemia*

Cleistandra and *Dictyostemon hispidulus*. Views of the Ord River orchards from Kelly Knob, Kununurra, showed large plantations of Indian Sandalwood that has now reached maturity and is being harvested for its wood. Lake Argyll is huge (x26 Sydney Harbours) and stage three of plantation development is proceeding there.

From here they stayed at the El Questro Station, which is a working cattle station and resort, and stayed in a cabin overlooking the Pentecost River. Some plants seen included *Brachybiton fitzgeraldianus* (which is now in Malvaceae and no longer Sterculiaceae), *Livistona loriphylla* (at Zebedee Thermal Springs), *Timontius timor* (Rubiaceae) found in moist places and with exquisite perfumed flowers, *Scutellinia scutellaroides* growing to one metre, *Acacia stipuligera*, *Eucalyptus bigalerita* with their coloured trunks, and *Eucalyptus alba*. Both these Eucalypts are deciduous in dry conditions. *Grevillea pyramidalis* is very common with its terete leaves and prolific flowering. An unusual plant was *Sesbania formosa* (the White Dragon Flower) which is a tree to ten metres with large 7cm size flowers resembling a white Sturt's Desert Pea.

A visit to the Grotto on the way to Wyndham showed a large hole in the ground with many, but challenging, walks, with lots of plants. *Acacia dunnii* (Elephant ear wattle) has the largest phyllodes of any wattle, and they are up to 30cm long. This plant is cultivated in Darwin but is not known to be growing anywhere else. Another attractive wattle was *Acacia lycopodiifolia* with its phyllodes in whorls up the stems and the plant itself about 0.5 x 1.0 metres. *Grevillea velutinella* has flowers that blacken as they mature.

The next major stop was Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungles) with its characteristic "beehive" sandstone rises. The road in is challenging with unpredictable crests, narrow with many corrugations. It will probably be kept that way to restrict visitors. The sandstone is made up of alternating layers of hard grey and soft brown sandstone, the former getting its colour from cyanobacteria growing on it. Plants seen included *Grevillea wickhamii*, which is common, *Goodenia scaevolina* growing to one metre, *Hibiscus leptocladus* growing to 1.5 metres with contrasting crystalline leaves; *Scaevola revoluta* with its white hairy leaves; *Sida rohlenae* growing to 1.5 metres; *Cheilanthes brownii* with its hairy fronds. Overall, sixteen species of *Triodia* grow in the park.



Grevillea psilanthus only grows on the sandstone cliffs of the Bungle Bungles and reaches 1-2 metres. *Grevillea refracta* with its silvery foliage growing to three metres, usually has red flowers, but populations of yellow flowering forms were found.

John found Broome rather "Gold Coasty" and it had changed its character for the worse since his last visit. At Derby, the main street had a planting of Boabs (*Andersonia gregori*). These grow readily from cuttings and have 10 cm white flowers. The "prison tree" is an example of this species. The local Aborigines have made an industry of etching onto the Boab fruits. *Brachybiton diversifolius* and *viscidulus* are also seen. From here they traversed the Gibb River Road (which is in good condition) and visited Mt. Hart, which is 50 Km North of the Gibb River Road. There, there is a series of buildings with self contained accommodation with community toilets and dining room. It was a particularly lovely site.

Plants seen there included:

Eriocaulon cinereum growing at the water's edge.

Grevillea mimosoides with its caustic fruit.

Grevillea pteridifolia (vivid orange flowers).

Planchonia careya (cocky apple – with short lived flowers surviving just one day).

Ptilotus sp nova endemic to the Mt Hart property and purple in colour.

At the Keep River National Park there was a three Km walk from the car park that had very good plants. *Calytrix exstipulata* varies from prostrate to three metres and is grown in Darwin; *Acacia translucens* to 1.5 metres; *Bylbia liniflora* is insectivorous with sticky hairs on its stems and has flowers to 2 cms across; *Jacksonia forrestii*; *Livistonia victoriae* is a local endemic with grey foliage that contrasts with the sandstone rock; *Polycarpaea longiflora* growing to one metre.

John felt the best time to visit the area was July or August.

There are some useful guides for the plants (Flora of the Kimberleys by the Perth Herbarium, and Plants of Inland Australia). SGAP has a group in Alice Springs, but not in Darwin. There is obvious scope to get these less well known plants into cultivation. Graeme Fairweather expressed the thanks of the group to John for his presentation.

John Nevin

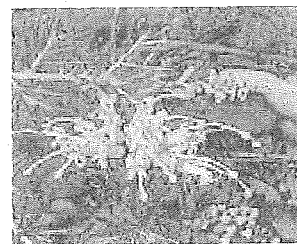
page 7

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 April, 10 am to 4 pm

Autumn on Fawn: Plant Sale and Native Gardens
Display 2008

at 'Silky Oaks', 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale

Download our catalogue and program from April 1
at <http://asgap.org.au/grevillea>



Entry fee \$5 per person - Seniors \$2.50 - Accompanied children under age 18 are free

Sponsored by: The Grevillea Study Group of the Australian Plants Society

P.O. Box 275 Penhurst NSW 2222 Contact: phone 02 4659 6598

Access M5 to Picton, turn left at Picton into Argyle St, first right into Barkers Lodge Road and Russell Lane is on the right at Oakdale.

Train to Macarthur, bus to Camden, change bus to Russell Lane, Oakdale

The largest range of native plants for sale in the one place at the one time from \$4

Saturday 24th May Outing

To Wal & Lynne Chapman's property 'Milani'. Lynne describes the property thus:

"Milani is a 3000 hectare property of which we use about 1000 for fine wool production. Much of the remaining land is fenced out for conservation. Much of this land has not been grazed for over fifty years and carries a diverse range of vegetation. The granite soils and small intrusions of basalt are dominated by stringy bark trees but there are patches of quite different vegetation types. There is a very rich shrub layer in all areas and bird and animal life are plentiful. What you will see in May depends on the season but there is sure to be something in flower."

Meet at the northern roundabout at the Angus Society Offices at 9.00 am. Bring morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Contact person is Barbara Nevin who has a map.

Solstice Function Sunday 22nd June at 12.30 pm

Lunch at the Railway Hotel, Armidale.

Guest Speaker is Julia Rose an APS member and Coordinator of Northern tablelands Wildlife Carers. Julia will speak on the topic "Why we grow a native garden".

FOR YOUR DIARY, COMING EVENTS: April to June 2008

April

Saturday 5th 1.00pm Planting at the Arboretum
 Monday 7th 7.30pm Business Meeting at Nevin's. ALL WELCOME
 Tuesday 15th General Meeting at Tree Group Woodland Centre. Speaker: Lachlan Copeland; "Rare Flora Revisited"
 Saturday/Sunday 19/20 Grevillea Study Group Plant Sale (see page 8)
 Sunday 27th Markets in the Mall

May

Saturday 3rd 1.00pm Working Bee Arboretum
 Monday May 5th Business Meeting at Nevin's. ALL WELCOME
 Tuesday 20th 7.30 General Meeting at Tree Group Woodland Centre. Speaker Peter Metcalfe: "Wildlife in the Garden"
 Saturday 24th 9.00am OUTING TO "MILANI" BALDERSLEIGH RD GUYRA. Information page 8.
 Sunday 25th Markets in the Mall

June

Monday 2nd 7.30pm Business Meeting at Nevin's. ALL WELCOME
 Saturday 7th June 1.00pm Arboretum Working Bee
 NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH
 Sunday 22nd 12.30pm Solstice function. Information page 8
 Sunday 29th June Markets in the Mall

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: please tick appropriate box	Annual Fee	Concession
Single:	\$50	\$42
Joint: (2 adults at the same address)	\$58	\$50
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		