

President	Secretary	Treasurer
Maria Hitchcock	Liisa Atherton	Phillip Rose
6775 1139	6779 1968	6775 3767

President's Report

What a busy start to the year we are having! We started with our AGM in February which resulted in the current committee being returned for another year. Thank you to our hard-working committee members who make our group function so well.

A big change which you all voted for was to change the structure of our regular get-togethers. Instead of a meeting each 3rd Tuesday we are having a Native Plants Forum followed by a speaker. The meeting takes place a week earlier so we can do some planning and all members are encouraged to attend. Our first Forum was a great success with the focus on Banksias. This will be written up in the next newsletter. John Hunter followed with a wonderful presentation on his trip to Samoa and Mt. Sili Sili. Apparently few people have climbed this mountain because of the jungle like conditions and impenetrable vegetation. John was accompanied by two Samoan guides with machetes to hack their way through. It was an amazing journey and has whetted John's appetite to make a return visit for a flora study.

Last weekend we hosted 24 members of the Coffs Harbour Group of APS. We started with morning tea at the Arboretum and I would like to thank everyone who contributed slices or cakes. I was told that we have set the bar very high! We then walked up to the native gardens and Patrick gave a talk about our involvement over the years. The Arboretum was of special interest to John Wrigley who had designed the water gardens for the Bicentenary.

The rain held off until we settled down to lunch at the Grand Hotel. It had cleared again for a visit to the Nevin's garden and after that they all drove around the back way to my place for a garden tour and BBQ. It was a most enjoyable evening and a chance for everyone to mingle and talk about their respective gardening experiences. On Sunday morning the group were treated to a tour of the Botany department gardens and Herbarium with Jeremy Bruhl and Ian Telford. I would like to thank both Botanists for giving up their Sunday morning to talk to the group. We were to go from there to the Armidale Tree Group but it had been double booked. Phil Rose stepped in and invited the group to visit his garden as it was on the way home for the Coffs Harbour Group.

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Barbara and he set up morning tea in the garden and Phil conducted a tour. Thank you so much Phil for stepping in at the last minute and a special thanks to Barbara for all her assistance over the weekend.

The wet weather continues and I am told we can expect above average rainfall up until June. It's been quite a summer and we can be thankful that Armidale has escaped the terrible flooding, cyclones and earthquakes that have ravaged so much of the world in the past few months. We might complain about frost damage and cold winds but that's nothing compared to what some people go through. So let us count our blessings.

I will be away during April visiting my son in Perth and helping him to establish a garden at his new home. I plan to catch up with members of the local Wildflower Society and get a feel for gardening in the west. Our Vice-President Barbara Nevin will take over the chair during my absence. Hope to see you all in May.

Maria Hitchcock

Thank you to all contributors. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday **20 May**. All articles, snippets and photos are welcome. Please send to the Editor at editor@anps-armidale.org.au or (hard copy) to PO Box 735 Armidale NSW 2350.

GROUP INFORMATION

The Armidale and District Group of APS-NSW started on 6th August, 1977 as the New England Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. It has been running continuously since that time with a couple of name changes. We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly forums and meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora and our local environment. We range from raw beginners to others who have been gardening and researching for many years - all willing to share their knowledge.

Formal Meetings are held at 5.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Armidale Tree Group's 'Woodland Centre' to plan activities and deal with any business. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Native Plant and Garden Forums are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except June, July, December and January) from 7.30 – 9.30 where members discuss the genus of the month, talk about plants in flower from specimens displayed on the flower table and share information about gardening topics. The Forum is followed by a delicious supper and an interesting speaker.

Old and new members, visitors and families, are very welcome to these meetings and to our outings (see page 9 for details).

Annual General Meeting is held in February.

Solstice Function is held in June. This is usually a lunch and garden ramble at the home of one of our members.

Wattle Day Activity is held on a day closest to 1 September.

Christmas Party is held early in December at the home of one of our members.

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN OUR GROUP IS AN INTEREST IN OUR NATIVE PLANTS

Excursion to Black Gully Reserve

Text and images Liisa Atherton

On Sunday 20 February a group of Armidale APS members undertook an excursion to Black Gully Reserve. David Carr from the Woodland Centre led the group, explaining the history of the reserve and describing the recent developments of the site under the management of the Tree Group Woodland Centre. Black Gully Reserve is a six-acre area behind the Tree Group Nursery/Woodland Centre, the major part managed by the Tree Group, with two small blocks managed by the Local Lands Council. The reserve is Crown Land, initially managed by Armidale CAE as an agriculture plot and later an environmental study centre; the site was then taken over as a field study centre by UNE.

Now the site is managed by the Tree Group/Woodland Centre for public recreation and as an educational site for native vegetation. In recent years the number of plantings has increased considerably with assistance from Green Corps and Work-for-the Dole workers. The original vegetation on the site would have been a White Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Snow Gum (*E. pauciflora*) and Mountain Gum (*E. dalrympleana*) woodland.

Only a few remnant old trees remain but these still provide essential habitat for birds and mammals. Although the new plantings are not restricted to plants from the original woodland flora, the developing plants will augment the habitat of birds and mammals as well as provide a beautiful recreation area for visitors. Much work still needs to be done. There is the maintenance of plantings and the



grounds. Weed control, such as removing willows and the Mexican Water-lily that has swamped the pond outcompeting other aquatic plants and adversely affecting fish and other aquatic animals, is a continuing issue. David also spoke of plans to promote native grass areas and more plantings. Some parts of the site are used for trials such as direct drilling of seeds.

A new seed production bed has also been developed to allow the nursery to grow and sell native forbs and grasses. The success or otherwise of the new plantings also gives valuable feedback on the suitability and survivability of trees, shrubs and forbs.

Black Gully reserve is a wonderful resource for the community. Some members on the walk, myself included, had no idea of the reserve or the great work being done there. If you haven't taken the opportunity to take a walk around the reserve please do so; it is well worth it.

Paper Daisies

Text and images by Maria Hitchcock

Paper Daisies belong to the family Asteraceae and there are a number of forms which are growing naturally in the New England area. The most common of these is *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, the Golden Everlasting, which is widespread in the region and in all States and Territories. The local form which can be seen along roadsides and in reserves is up to 1 m tall with branched flowering stems. Each 'flower' is actually a collection of tiny flowers surrounded by yellow papery bracts. This is why each 'flower' releases a multitude of tiny seeds attached to pale yellow hairs which fly on the breeze to germinate elsewhere. You can capture these seeds by placing old flowers in a paper bag. Because the seeds are small they need to be sown on the top of a punnet of mix and very lightly covered. Water with capillary action from below as top watering will wash the seeds down to a depth where they will not germinate.

The Glencoe daisy, *Xerochrysum* 'Glencoe' differs from the common form by having unbranched flowering stems and large flower heads. There is another unnamed form recently discovered near Pt Lookout which also has unbranched stems. Members have found the Glencoe daisy to be a true garden perennial which tends to flower early in the season. Flowering can be prolonged by cutting off the mature flowers before they set seed.

There are a number of commercial forms of *Xerochrysum bracteatum*. These are:

'Diamond Head' (0.2m x 0.5m) which is a low perennial originating on the coast with green leaves. It has very large yellow flowers but may be frost tender. It needs to be propagated each season and treated as an annual in our local area.

'Hastings Gold' (0.45m x 0.7m) is a perennial originating at Hastings Point and similar to "Diamond Head".

'Dargan Hill Monarch' (0.8m x 1m) is a hardier perennial with grey leaves and large yellow flowers. It seems to have faded in popularity in recent years.

'Cockatoo' which is a perennial similar to 'Dargan Hill Monarch' with pale yellow bracts and a head of small orange flowers.

'Princess of Wales' (0.6m x 0.6m) which is another perennial similar to "Dargan Hill Monarch" with yellow flowers and a more compact habit.

'Kimberley Sunset' (0.8m x 1m) which is a perennial with grey leaves and pink to pale orange flowers.

While all of these forms are perennials they often die back in the winter in our region. They do self seed in the garden but the seed does not always come true to colour or flower size.

To maintain colour and flower size, plants need to be propagated from cuttings. The dark pink and red colour forms are the result of breeding overseas and plants which self seed do not always come back to true colour and gradually revert to white. 'Bright Bikinis' is one of these and needs to be treated as an annual.



Xerochrysum 'Glencoe'

I have found that my paper daisies do better in heavier soils, which retain moisture. They do need to be rejuvenated after the first flush of flowering by pruning back in mid summer and it is a good idea to fertilise at this time with some organic pellets.

A check on the internet reveals a number of new forms being released in the trade.

Aussie Winners (www.aussiewinners.com.au) has put out a line of Sundaze varieties. There is 'Sundaze Bronze', 'Sundaze Dazette Electra', 'Sundaze Dazette Flirt', 'Sundaze Dazette Salsa', 'Sundaze Dazette Satin', 'Sundaze Everlasting Gold', 'Sundaze Flame', 'Sundaze Improved Double Red', 'Sundaze Totally Yellow' and 'Sundaze White'.

Tarrawood Native Nursery of Bega lists 'Sophie's Delight'. The Dreamtime series which may be American, lists 'Dreamtime Copper', 'Dreamtime Jumbo Yellow' and 'Dreamtime Rose Pink'.

One easy way of increasing your collection of paper daisies is to scatter the seed over the ground in late summer to early autumn. The best time is just before a shower of rain so that the seed gets washed into the topsoil. Some of them may germinate and flower the following season. With luck they will flower and seed each season.

Eucalypt Buds and Blooms

Text and images by Warren and Gloria Sheather

Eucalypts are always included in our planting programs at Yallaroo. At present we have nearly 60 species in the garden including seven Eucalypts native to the property. We have not restricted our planting to local species but are cultivating species from other NSW areas and other states. Western Australian Eucalypts are of particular interest and we have a number of species surviving and thriving. A recent walk around the garden revealed many eucalypts bearing buds, blooms and a combination of both. Many, particularly Western Australian Eucalypts, have flowered only three or four years after planting. The following are four Eucalypts in bud and/or bloom.



Eucalyptus macrandra

Eucalyptus macrandra, the Long-flowered Marlock, is a tall shrub. This is one of our Western Australian eucalypts and has reached a height of five metres in about six years. The buds are held in clusters of 15, long, narrow and sometimes horn-shaped. The spectacular blooms are four centimetres across, form large clusters and are green to yellow-green. Flowers are both conspicuous, profuse and appear from summer to autumn. Our specimen has flowered three times and we now have seed germinating from the first flowering. Marlocks or Mallets are shrubby, small eucalypts from Western Australia. They are single-stemmed and lack lignotubers.

Eucalyptus cladocalyx Nana is known as the Dwarf Sugar Gum and develops into a small, spreading tree. The cream flowers are carried in large clusters and appear in summer and autumn. The Dwarf Sugar Gum comes from the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

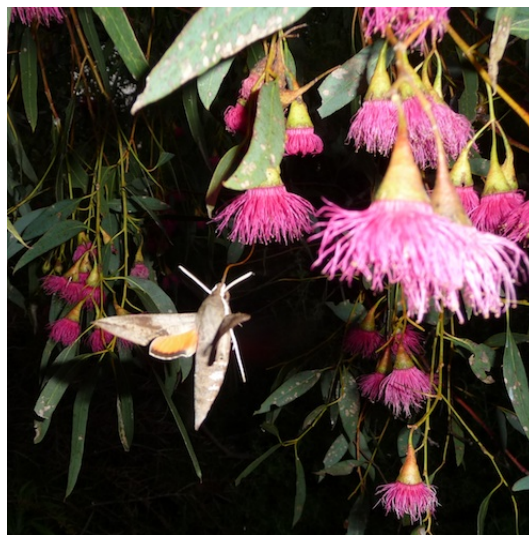
This form has proved to be hardy, fast growing and is cultivated in California and Israel.

Eucalyptus pulverulenta, the Silver-leaved Mountain Gum, is small tree known only from two, small, widely separated populations. One is south-west of the Blue Mountains near Cox's River and the other is from the Southern Highlands. *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* has juvenile leaves that are almost circular and silvery-blue. Adult leaves rarely develop. Spring flowers are carried in threes at the base of the leaves. They are white and 2.5 centimetres across.

Eucalyptus pulverulenta Baby Blue is a smaller form. Both foliage and flowers are attractive features. The species name means as if dusted or covered with powder.



Eucalyptus pulverulenta



Eucalyptus leucoxylon and Hawk Moth

Eucalyptus leucoxylon, the Yellow Gum, is one of our favourites. Flowers, of this medium tree, may be white, pink or red. We have a number of specimens and more by good luck than management all have red flowers. The photo was taken at Christmas at dusk and shows a Hawk Moth with its long proboscis unfurled sipping nectar.

Arboretum Working Bees

Ist Tuesday of the Month at 1.00 pm

We need your help
to plant and mulch the native gardens

Contact Pat Laher (6775 1842 or mob 0427 327) 719)

All Welcome!

Fungi in the “Yangoora” gardens

Text and images by Peter Metcalfe

The September 2009 edition of Australian Plants entirely about fungi was inspirational. For years we have been enjoying the fungi as part of the biodiversity around our house.

Over the last months (November - December 2010) there has been an amazing proliferation of Stinkhorns coming up. In one square metre of mulch there have been about a dozen a day for the last week. These fungi are aptly named and you often smell them before you see them! This smell is an integral part of their biology as their spores, displayed in a brown slime, are dispersed by flies. The faecal smell they give off had attracted a swarm of blowflies so I improvised a very “organic” method of killing flies. We had some empty fly trap jars so I placed the stinkhorns in these jars and placed them where the stinkhorns had been. Sure enough the flies found their way into the jars and became trapped there. I have allowed a later crop of stinkhorns to live out their brief life so their cycle continues.



Stinkhorn with fly to disperse spores

The stinkhorns start life as a tangle of strong white threads (mycelium) in the damp mulch and eventually the fruiting bodies develop as a series of “eggs” clustered together just under the surface of the mulch. When mature, the eggs burst open during the night and the phallic fungus up to 20 cm tall emerges quite rapidly. The red supporting stem is hollow, porous and quite brittle. The cap consists of a gelatinous mass of spores that emits the smell and attracts the flies. The fruiting body starts attracting flies as the morning warms up and by noon it has dried out and collapsed. By then the flies have eaten the spores and the fungi is being dispersed. The spores are resistant to digestion and pass unharmed through the gut of the blowfly.

Another of the Gasteromyces family that comes up in our mulch is the rather elegant **Venus Basket** (Clathrus sp.) It also stinks and is dispersed by flies but it is not as obscene as the stinkhorns. Their “egg” is about as big as a lumpy golf ball. When the outer skin splits open in the night the fruiting body expands rapidly to make a hollow sphere about as big as

a grapefruit. I have cracked one open for a class of children and had the sphere inflate in just a minute while sitting on my hand. The Venus Basket does its job of spore dispersal and collapses by noon.



Aseroe rubra – Sea Anemone fungus

A third member of this fly dispersed family is handsome ***Aseroe rubra*** or “Sea Anemone fungus” which has emerged in a mulched bed. They have a stubby pink stems topped with a flat disc holding the red gelatinous spore mass in the middle. They have up to eight arms on the outer edge and each arm is split in two on the end. They also stink and attract flies. A neighbour's chicken had scratched the mulch about and I noticed a tightly clustered group of about twenty immature eggs. I buried them with a thin layer of mulch and they have now begun to appear. 18 emerged one night after a heavy fall of rain.

There are many different ordinary mushrooms/ toadstools around in the beds and in the lawns. One morning a young neighbour and I found over twenty different species of fungi around the house, most of them mushrooms. There is an interesting wood-rotter that looks like a mushroom from above but has beautiful lens-shaped pores underneath instead of the normal flat gills of a mushroom where the spores are produced.



Wood rotter

Fungi in the “Yangoora” gardens (cont.)

More interesting in their dispersal mechanisms are the puff-ball family, which includes the stinkhorns, Venus baskets and Sea Anemone fungi. Ordinary puff-balls vary from marble sized to softball sized *Calvatia*. Some have a flexible skin and an opening at the top so they act as a bellows to expel spores when hit by a raindrop. Others simply weather away and the dry spores are dispersed by the wind.

Earth Stars Earth Stars are quite sophisticated puffballs grow under trees where an ordinary puffball would be in danger of being covered by leaf litter after it emerges from the soil. With the Earth Star the outer layer of the puff ball peels back and arches down to lift the inner puff ball up above the leaf litter. This ensures the thin wall of the puff ball is exposed and can puff out clouds of spores when a big drop off a leaf hits the “bellows” wall.

Birds-nest Fungi can be found in clusters on the mulch and also on cow manure. They are barrel-shaped and usually just a few millimetres across. When mature the “nest” contains tiny but complex propagules that look like eggs. These eggs are shaped to be blasted out of the nest into the air. They are discs which have underneath a folded thread tipped with a sticky blob. As the disc is blasted out the thread is pulled to its full extent of about 1 cm; perhaps to become wrapped around and stuck to a blade of grass. If eaten by a cow the propagule survives the journey through the beast and germinates in the cow pat to complete the life cycle of the birds-nest fungus.



Slime Mould

Slime Moulds are far more colourful and interesting than their name suggests. For most of their life cycle in the mulch layer they are an invisible layer of slime, digesting organic matter. In an amazing feat of communication the slime draws to a central point once there is sufficient energy within the organism to form a fruiting body. Overnight the slime congregates and begins to form a mass of spores. In the morning there is a body that looks like a serving of scrambled egg spilt on the ground.

This assembled slime quickly darkens as the spore mass dries out. Once black and dry the spores are blown away by the wind, leaving only a dark smudge where the miracle of transformation from a thin layer of slime to a heap of dry spores took place.

Preventing Frost Damage

Text by Maria Hitchcock

With winter approaching now is a good time to think about protecting young plants from frost damage. In 1978 Joan Boyd introduced our group to using **cardboard milk cartons** as frost protectors. The cartons are lined with a plastic skin which holds in moist air and sets up a humid environment inside the carton. Most young plants have very thin bark and a hard frost can easily split the bark and freeze the fluid in the tubes which take water and nutrients to the stems and leaves. Somehow the added humidity inside the carton prevents this damage. The foliage outside of the carton may be burnt but the leaves inside are often untouched. Larger cartons and green plastic tubes are fine for larger plants but they are not effective when it comes to smaller plants. I prefer to use the narrow 1L cartons as I find them the most effective even if I have to squash up the plant to fit in.

I also pile up **mulch** around the outside of the carton to give it an extra ‘blanket’ and to protect the ground from freezing. The cartons are then removed around October when the threat of frost damage is past. This allows the plants to grow freely and develop a thicker bark. I rarely protect the same plant during the second winter unless it has not grown much.

Microclimates should also be taken into account when planting sensitive plants. An upper canopy can make a huge difference. We measured ground temperatures before and after establishing tree cover and noticed a difference of 10 degrees. If your garden is young, think of erecting a **shadecloth canopy** like Phil Rose. You can get frost protective shadecloth from the Tree Group and this might save your plants in the first winter.

Remember that **early morning sunlight** can thaw leaves quickly and cause their cells to break down. Place sensitive plants on the southern or western part of a garden where their leaves can thaw out slowly in the morning. Of course in our climate we sometimes get extreme frosts which will take out mature plants and that is very hard to guard against. If you develop your garden with lots of tree cover and large shrubs you shouldn’t have too much of a problem. I tend to plant frost tender specimens **in pots** where I can keep an eye on them during the winter. It is always warmer near the house so that’s where they go.

Many coastal and rainforest species are not suited to this area so **plant selection** is vital. **Choose plants wisely** to suit the environment. Visit other members gardens and take down the names of plants which are doing well. Make these the basis of your garden design and you are sure to have success.

Your Garden by Mail

Text by Verna Aslin

Although Armidale is a good place to live in many ways, I'm sure that most residents would agree that it leaves somewhat to be desired from the point of view of the range of retail outlets available.

We have been lucky enough to have native plant sellers come to town for the monthly markets fairly regularly last year, but although it is fun to snap up plants from market stalls, you are not sure what species are going to appear, or how many will be available. This does not work in too well with garden planning.

An alternative (apart from travelling to other towns) is to order plants from elsewhere and this is where the internet comes in to its own. Buying plants of any size is going to be expensive and the use of courier services is also costly. However, there are a number of nurseries offering to send tubestock plants by Australia Post, which is a lot less expensive - leaving the question in your mind: how successful is this going to be?

I've had a few deliveries from different sources and the answer is that it seems to be basically OK. Every plant I've purchased has arrived alive although a little tumbled in one case.

Getting consignments of plants to my doorstep takes me back to my early days of native plant gardening when I ordered plants by mail from a Forestry Commission nursery (at Muswellbrook I think) and also from a nursery in Canberra. These were sent by State Rail. State Rail handling processes were pretty efficient at separating plants and soil if I recall correctly.

Returning to present day, I wanted to let members know of one source of mailed tubestock that seems quite promising (I'm not getting any kickback I hasten to add!). They will send 15 tubes by mail for a postage cost of \$22, plus a packing charge of \$5. Given that the tubes are \$2.00 each, this is quite an economical way to obtain plants for your garden. This is Frog Hollow Nursery (<http://www.froghollownursery.com.au/>) in Tasmania. They specialize in Tasmanian natives but there is quite a reasonable range of natives overall.

I was a little worried about postal delays and indeed my consignment took a full week to reach me but the plants were OK and all were healthy and well-grown. I am not necessarily a fan of planting out tubestock - other people take a different view, I know. Overall I have found it more reliably successful to pot up to a larger pot size and wait a while before planting out. However with some of the tubes I have received, they are so obviously bursting to get going that I've been happy to plant them in my garden in the current season in hopes of good results.

Can anyone else report on sources of plants by mail? I just love browsing those catalogues!

Other sources I have used recently are:

- Wimmera Native Nursery (http://www.nativegrowth.com.au/tree_wells.html) via The Native Shop - efficient service but variable quality
- Garden Express (<http://www.gardenexpress.com.au/>) - cheap postage, however a limited range of natives
- Plants of Tasmania (<http://www.potn.com.au/>) - more expensive service, but have some interesting plants



Happenings in my Garden

Text by Barbara Colledge

A garden is a wonderful place to observe the antics of the native wildlife. So I should not have been surprised to look out my dining window early one morning to see a young swamp wallaby sitting behind a standing bird feeder helping himself to what bird seed was left. Unfortunately, as soon as I opened the curtains and he saw me, he sped off.

As is the want of young animals/birds, they play/experience/ investigate all things new and different and this was played out when I saw three kookaburras on the clothes line (two young and one adult) with one of the young just hanging by his beak whilst gripping a peg that was in a towel on the line. He then managed to flap his way up to stand on the towel (!) and give the peg "whacky do". The other kookaburras were non-plus about all this commotion and soon left.

FOR YOUR DIARY: April 2011 – June 2011

April

Tuesday 5	1.00 pm	Arboretum Working Bee
Tuesday 12	5.30 pm	Meeting – Armidale Tree Group Woodland Centre – All welcome
Sunday 17	8.00-12.30 pm	Markets in the Mall
Tuesday 19	7.30 pm	Native Plants Forum - Armidale Tree Group Woodland Centre Genus of the month: <i>Correas</i> Topic: Collecting seed Speaker: Nic Cobcroft 'Wetlands'

May

Tuesday 3	1.00 pm	Arboretum Working Bee
Tuesday 10	5.30 pm	Meeting – Armidale Tree Group Woodland Centre – All welcome
Tuesday 17	7.30 pm	Native Plants Forum - Armidale Tree Group Woodland Centre Genus of the month: <i>Lomandras/Grasses</i> Topic: Foliage plants Speaker: Peter Metcalfe 'Yellow Box Woodlands'
Sunday 22	10.00 am	Outing – to Imbota Reserve (just east of Armidale) Leader: Peter Metcalfe Meet at McDonald Park at 9.45 am. Bring your lunch, drinks, hat, camera, etc. Contact: Patrick Laher 0427 327 719
Sunday 17	8.00-12.30 pm	Markets in the Mall

June

Tuesday 7	1.00 pm	Arboretum Working Bee
Tuesday 14	5.30 pm	Meeting – Armidale Tree Group Woodland Centre – All welcome
Sunday 19	12.00 noon	Solstice Luncheon at Liisa Atherton's – Guyra (Mud map in next newsletter) Bring a meat dish or salad or dessert and own drinks. Tea/coffee provided. Contact Liisa 6779 1968
Sunday 26	8.00-12.30 pm	Markets in the Mall

Details of upcoming events

Native Plant Forums

Many of you are now aware that we have removed the formal meeting procedure from our monthly get-together. This has been renamed a Native Plants Forum. From 7.30 – 8.00 we have an informal discussion of the genus of the month, plants from the display table and a gardening topic of interest. Then we have supper and this is followed by our speaker at 8.30 pm. The change has been made to focus more on plants and hopefully keep the members interested. We will also have a sharing table where you can pick up packets of seed, bags of cuttings, gardening magazines or donated plants. Please feel free to bring something along for the sharing table.

There are some interesting grasses and strappy plants such as *Lomandras* now featuring in landscaping projects across Australia. These will be our genus of the month in May and we will also discuss foliage plants for the garden. Many plants have a fairly short flowering season and the rest of the year it is the foliage which gives the garden colour and texture.

Outing

Peter Metcalfe will be speaking on Yellow Box Woodlands at the May Forum and will then follow up by leading us on an easy walk through the Imbota Reserve. Try to join us on this trip as we are fortunate to have Peter's expertise on a topic that few of us are familiar with. It's also good to learn a bit more about our immediate environment

Solstice Luncheon

June is one of our coldest months so it has been a tradition in the group for several years to meet socially at the home of one of our members for a luncheon to which we all contribute. This year we will be visiting Liisa Atherton's place at Guyra. Liisa has a wonderful garden and large lounge dining area which is very cosy in the depths of a New England winter. If you've never been to one of these luncheons come along this year and enjoy some excellent company and a delicious lunch. A mud map to Liisa's place will be included in the next newsletter.

Become a member and save!

Did you know that there are a range of discounts available to members? Tell your friends and urge them to join our group.

Armida & District members only (25% discount)

All Mole Station plants at the **APS stall** at the Mall Markets and our annual plant sale. At \$2.00 per plant discount, you can easily save your annual subscription each year.

Fangorn Native Nursery, 16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale 2350 Ph. 6775 1139. Specialist in Correas, Northern Tablelands Flora Online catalogue - www.wattleday.com/nursery.htm Open by appointment. Selling at Farmers Market/Mall Market/Mail order

All members of APS-NSW

Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook 2773 Ph (02) 4739 4465. Sat, Sun, Wed. 12am-4pm.

10% discount to members Web: www.apsbluemtnsgroup.org

The Wildflower Place, 453 The Entrance Rd, Erina Heights 2260. Ph (02) 4365 5510. 5% discount - tell staff before purchase

Wombat Gully Native Nursery, 1729 Cocks Creek Rd, Rylstone 2849 Ph (02) 6379 6202. 5% discount

Mildura Native Nursery 10% discount on the purchase of any native plants or other products including the Watertube ordered online at www.nativenursery.com.au

Leeanne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery, 260 Lake Rd, Glendale 2285 Ph (02) 6379 6202. 10% discount

A.R. Native Plant Nursery, 177 Terania Ck Rd, The Channon NSW 2480 (far north coast) Ph (02) 6688 6365

10% discount Fri/Sat/Sun 9am-5pm other times by appointment

Bonney Hills Garden Centre, 1055 Ocean Drive, Bonney Hills 2445 Ph (02) 6585 5764 10% discount on all plant purchases

Earthcare Nursery, 'Timbertown', Oxley Hwy Wauchope 2446 (opp. Timbertown) Ph (02) 6585 2117 10% discount

All Greengold Nurseries (except landscape materials or discounted stock) see www.greengold.com.au for location details etc.

Annangrove Grevilleas 98 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst 2156 Ph (02) 9654 1380. 7 days 9am-5pm

Florilegium: The Garden Bookstore 65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037 PO Box 644 Rozelle 2039. Ph (02) 9555 8589.

7 days 9am-5pm. 10% discount

Forests NSW Nurseries 10% discount on all potted lines. West Pennant Hills, Musselbrook, Gunnedah, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Dubbo & Forbes For details see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/business-services/nurseries>

Sydney Wildflower Nursery, 9 Veno St Heathcote NSW 2233. Ph (02) 4739 4465. Sat, Sun, Wed. 12am-4pm. 10% discount. Web: www.sydneywildflowernursery.com.au

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: (please tick appropriate box)	Annual Fee	Concession
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$50	\$42
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint (two adults at the same address)	\$58	\$50
Concession applied for:	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Fixed Income	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

Please return form with payment to: **Membership Officer, APS Armidale Branch, PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350**

PAYMENT: \$..... is enclosed by:

- ☐ Cheque, payable to APS Armidale Branch
- ☐ Money Order, payable to APS Armidale Branch
- ☐ I do **not** wish my contact details to be made available to other members. Signature:

If not able to be delivered, please return to:
Armidale & District Group, PO Box 735, Armidale NSW