



Crowea exalata ssp *magnifolia*
image by Maria Hitchcock

Australian Plants Society Armidale & District Group

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Summer Edition 2019 - 1



Calytrix longiflora, from Yetman.

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Treasurer: Carole Fullalove

From the Editor:

What a climatic year we are having in Armidale – indeed, across Australia! This past twelve months has been one of the most challenging periods that I have

experienced in gardening over the 42 years that we have been at our current address.

The temperature extremes have been marked. In Winter, we had an icy blast delivering two days of minus 14°C on top of another five days of sub minus 10°C, all in the course of a week. This Summer, we have had a run of very hot days with prolonged periods with maximums above 30°C.

After having air conditioning installed several years ago, I used to praise the mild Summer climate of Armidale by informing visitors, that air con was used for cooling about 3-4 days each year when the temperature got above 30°C. The system was being used mainly for heating in Winter. What a change we have experienced!

On top of this is the variation in the pattern of rainfall. Our average for Armidale is about 780 mm per year. In 2018, we had 710 mm. On casual inspection, this would pass for an average year. However, over the decades we have had a fairly uniform pattern of rainfall throughout the year with rain from the monsoonal north in Summer and rains from the south during the Winter months.

In 2018, through the months of January, February, October, November and December, we had 537 mm. Throughout the remaining seven months of Autumn and Winter (March to September), we had only 173 mm.

High Summer temperatures have made Spring plantings very risky, and low rainfall in the middle of the year has meant that Autumn plantings have to have supplementary watering in order to survive. All this is not going to go away anytime soon, so we are going to have to change, like the climate, to succeed in our plant growing.

Which gets me to the topic of climate change. The existence of human induced global warming and climate change is overwhelmingly endorsed by climate scientists around the world. They do not have a conflict of interest and are reporting the findings of their scientific research.

The ignorance and incompetence of our politicians in dealing with the issue is beyond belief. The attitude of climate change deniers is reminiscent of the inquisition against Galileo for having the temerity to support Copernicus in his findings that the earth rotates around the sun, rather than the sun around the earth. It smacks of the creationists support for the Ussher chronology claiming the earth is only 10,000 years old.

In the coming months, we have two elections for our State and Federal representatives. We should seek out climate change deniers, and punish them at the ballot box. They should be exiled to the local branch of the Flat Earth Society.

John Nevin, Editor

OFFICEBEARERS FOR 2018/19

President: Barbara Nevin

Vice President: Colin Wilson

Secretary: Penelope Sinclair

Treasurer: Carole Fullalove

Membership: Phil Rose

Markets in the Mall, Outings, OHS & Environmental Officer and Arboretum Coordinator:

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Web Master: Eric Sinclair

Our website: <http://www.aps-armidale.org.au>

President's Message

Barbara Nevin

Welcome all to this New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful time with your family and friends over the Christmas Season

We had a lovely luncheon at the end of 2018 at the home of Penelope and Eric Sinclair. Our thanks to them and it was lovely to see how their garden is progressing. Oh to have water laid on, I am so jealous.

During December we had a programming meeting for 2019 and if you look at your diary in this newsletter you will see that we have a really good programme organised.

We also decided to have new name labels made that reflects where we come from. Deirdre Waters has volunteered to make these and you can pick up yours when you attend one of the forums. Thank you Deirdre.

We also decided to have a Facebook presence. Thank you Alicia for volunteering to do this to bring us into the 21st century.

Another date you must put in your diary is the ANPSA Biennial Conference being held in Western Australia from 29 September until 4 October. If possible you should also go for the week pre Conference and the week post Conference tours.

In 1991 we had 10 or 12 members attending. Let's do it again.

Our group was nominated as an environmental group for the Australia Day awards for Armidale. We can all be proud that our work has been recognised, but unfortunately we did not win. Many thanks to our members who carry out this work necessary for us to be recognised for this. Just to be nominated is fabulous.

See you all at the February Forum

Barbara

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

by Phil Rose

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is dedicated to Australian flora and is situated about an hour's drive south east of Melbourne. Established in 1970 it covers 363 ha of native low open forest with a core area of structured gardens with many walking tracks, bicycle track and waterways. The central attraction is the representation of an outback red sand plain set in front of the facilities building which also acts as the starting point for the excellent bus/train which takes visitors on a worthwhile journey through the gardens.



There are a wide range of species in cultivation from most states including a small hill dedicated to WA species including several *Darwinia*, *Pimelea physodes* and a robust *Grevillea wilsonii* in full flower. There are many sculptural and landscaped areas and the waterway was in great demand for children paddling and cooling off. Allow a full day to enjoy all the opportunities.





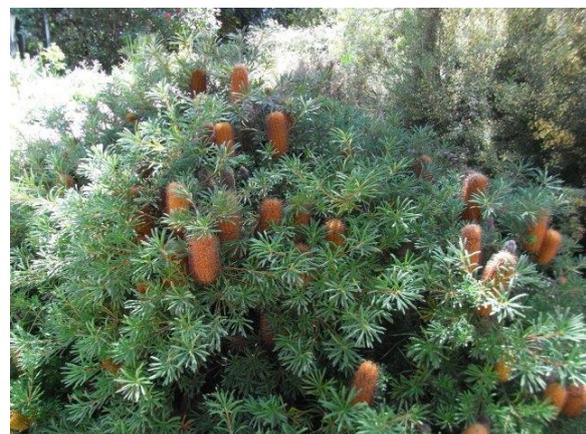
Karwarra Native Botanic Garden

by Phil Rose

A visit to the Dandenong Ranges east of Melbourne should include a visit to Karwarra Native Botanic Garden. The garden is set in 2 hectares of tall Eucalyptus forest providing wonderful habitat for a wide range of native plants and animals. Paths wind through a number of informal raised beds growing a wide range of plants (over 5,000 by 1984).



Rare and threatened plants include species of *Lasiopetalum*, *Thomasia*, *Epacris* and *Rutaceae* and houses collections of *Telopea* and *Boronia* for the Garden Plant Conservation Association.





The photos reflect the informal setting and the variety of flowers at the end of October. The suitability of the climate allows cultivation of many waratahs with *Telopea speciosissima* 'Wirrumbirra White' in full flower at the time.

Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) in Armidale by Maria Hitchcock

An Armidale gardener (Daryl Albertson) who lives at Kelly's Plains has managed to bloom a Gymea Lily in his garden. The plant is 10 years old and this is the first time it has bloomed. It is in a garden protected by other shrubs but open to the elements. Despite our very hard winter his plant shows little sign of frost damage. *Doryanthes excelsa* grows naturally in the Sydney basin usually on sandstone. It grows from an evergreen bulb which has contractile roots which pull the plant right down into the soil, where it can resist drought and bush fire - which triggers it to flower. Jeremy Smith (a Gymea Lily expert and grower) says it's possible to grow **Gymea lilies** in large pots or in any position in the garden. They're a very tough, reliable native plant.

"They are drought tolerant plants but it's important to water at an early stage of establishment. They have a great rosetting foliage. So any precipitation or moisture will land on the foliage and be channelled down to the plant's centre. They almost selfwater - so it's a tough native plant and tolerant of drought conditions," he says. Jeremy stimulates flowering in **Gymea lilies** by simulating what a bushfire does. He says that it appears that after a fire you get synchronised flowering. "But using a blow torch to simulate a bushfire is not something for the home gardener to try, however it works for us," he says.

A tip you can try at home is the stone technique. Just wedge a stone into the central part of the plant, but be careful not to damage the growing point. It actually stimulates the plant to flower by producing a naturally occurring plant hormone called ethylene, and that's been known to be responsible for flowering in bromeliads, pineapples, and it also works with **Gymea lilies**.

Jeremy says that **Gymea lilies** are pretty tough plants, so they're hardy for dry conditions. They are a gross feeder and need fertilising. Use a slow release or complete soluble fertiliser. "They're not particularly fussy, but when you do feed

them, keep them fed regularly and you'll get great results with masses of beautiful leaves and a beautiful flower."

Doryanthes grow well in coastal areas from Brisbane to Perth. They also grow in cooler climates, but be careful because the flower stems and leaves may be damaged by frost. Propagation is by seed.

Ref: <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheetsgymea-lilies/9427340>



Gymea Lily Photos by Daryl Albertson

Has anyone else tried these? I have two in the garden where they have persisted for twenty years. They get some foliage in spring and get hammered to ground level by the frost each year. I have never managed to flower them. My experience is similar with *Doryanthes palmeri*.

Editor

Native Cherries are a bit mysterious, and possibly inside out

by GREG MÜLLER – Lecturer in Natural History at La Trobe University

People don't like parasites. But there's a local Aussie tree that's only a *little bit* parasitic: the native cherry, or cherry ballart.

It's what we call *hemiparasitic*. It can photosynthesise, but gains extra nutrients by attaching its roots to host plants.

The native cherry, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, might be our most widespread root hemiparasite tree, but we're not quite sure – root-parasitic shrubs and trees are a bit of a research blank spot. We are not even really sure who all the hosts of cherry ballart are.

Although other parasites – like mistletoes – have a more direct Christmas association, cherry ballart does have an Australian Yuletide connection: their conifer-like appearance (the species name *cupressiformis* means “cypress-like”) was noted by homesick European settlers, who chopped them down for Christmas trees.

Cherry ballart grows from the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland to southern Tasmania, and across to the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia.

The first European to record it was Jacques-Julien Houtou de Labillardière, the botanist on [d'Entrecasteaux's](#) expedition in search of La Perouse. He formally described the species in 1800, but we have no physical type specimen – the botanical type is his [illustration and description](#). Maybe he lost his specimen, or disposed of it, or thought a picture would do; Jacques seems to have been a bit [cavalier with his record-keeping](#).

Or perhaps it was stolen or misplaced after all his specimens were seized in an overlapping series of defections, wars, defeats and revolution as the expedition tried to return to Europe. The collection was eventually returned after the intercession of English botanist Joseph Banks – but no cherry ballart.

Its distinctive shape led to native cherry being marked on early Australian orienteering maps, since they are in a cartographic Goldilocks zone: obvious, just numerous enough to make them useful, but not so many as to clutter the map.

That was until Australia held the World Orienteering Championships in the mid-1980s, when the standardisation of Australian orienteering maps for overseas competitors led to the cherry ballart becoming an early victim of internationalisation – at least cartographically speaking.

Its utility also extended to the timber. Among the uses of its “close-grained and handsome wood” are tool handles, gun stocks and map rollers (although the last is probably a niche market these days).

Indigenous Australians ate the fruit, used the wood for spear throwers and reportedly used the sap as a treatment for [snakebite](#). They [called](#) it Tchimmi-dillen (Queensland), Palatt or Ballot (Lake Condah, Victoria) and Ballee (Yarra).

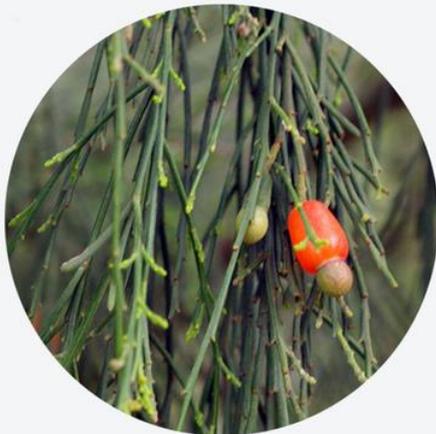
Native cherry

Botanical name: *Exocarpos cupressiformis*

Family: *Santalales*

Height: 3-8m

Native cherry is a 'hemiparasite': it can photosynthesise but also attaches its roots to other plants for extra nutrients.



The 'fruit' is actually a swollen stem. Europeans thought a cherry with the hard bit on the outside fit well into this topsy-turvy land.



Despite producing large quantities of fruit and seed, no one seems to be able to get native cherry to germinate reliably. There are anecdotal reports that feeding the seed to chooks works, but other growers dismiss this approach.

The edible fruit isn't actually a true fruit: it's a swollen stem. It's reported to have the [highest sugar level](#) of any native fruit in the forests of southern Victoria and is much tastier than you'd think a stem would be. (It's also probably an important nutrient supply for some birds, but that's yet another thing we are yet to prove.)

This odd "fruit" gives rise to the genus name (*exo* = outside, *carpos* = fruit,) and was often touted by early European writers as another example of the topsy-turvy nature of Australia – "cherries" with the pit on the outside went along with "duck-billed platypus", animals with pouches, trees that shed bark rather than leaves, and Christmas in the middle of summer.

Despite their oddness, native cherries in the bush are biodiversity hotspots. My camera trap data show they preferentially attract echidnas, possums, foxes, swamp wallabies, white-winged choughs and bronzewing pigeons.

This might be because they modify their immediate environment. My research shows they create moderate micro-climates in their foliage, reduce soil temperatures, increase soil water retention, concentrate nutrients in the soil beneath their canopies, and alter the understorey vegetation. They also kill some of their host trees, creating patches with higher concentrations of dead timber. All these probably have something to do with their animal attraction, but exactly how is a mystery yet to be solved.

In addition to their attractiveness to vertebrates, native cherries are required hosts for some striking [moths](#) and share specialist host duties with mistletoe for some of our most beautiful [butterflies](#) (although mistletoes take most of the glory in the scientific literature).

My research into our cherry ballart hopes in part to correct these historical slights. I want to set the record straight on this overlooked widespread and attractive little tree, which has a long indigenous use and was one of the first of our native flora to be described by Europeans.



This interesting article was drawn to my attention by Maria Hitchcock

Thank you Maria

Editor

Armidale Sunday Markets Annual Report

November 2017-October 2018

by Patrick Laher

Plant sales this year were down due to the continuing drought, especially during May, June and July but reflected also during the whole year. The December Market was changed to a Saturday which was a failure for us. The highlight was the improvement in St. Peter's plant sales which may have been partly due to welcome rain early in the month.

The Market organisers have tried to encourage more public attendance by having music at the event. The downside for us is that it's been very difficult to have a conversation with customers due to the volume of the music.

John Nevin's flowers on the display stand always attract attention and hopefully our plant advice is also of help to the public. We have continued to provide a good range of plants that are not usually available commercially, and at the moment, it's the *Phebalium/Leionema* group. The availability of plants in this group is due to John Nevins interest in these very hardy and lovely plant species.

My Market helpers, Colin Wilson, Penelope Sinclair, John Nevin, Phil and Julia Rose have been very good value!

Thanks also to the following for their help at our St. Peter's Armidale Gardens plant stall; Carole Fullalove, Glenda and Colin Mulquiney, Penelope and Eric Sinclair, Phil Rose, Colin Wilson, Deirdre Waters, John and Barbara Nevin, Ingrid Kalf, Suzanne Robertson, and new members Leonie Kirwan, Liz Gardiner and Ken Barnett.

Plant Sales

Comparison Table	2018	2017	2016	2015
November	36	20	24	27
December	3	16	21	29
February	28	27	38	17
March	28	21	32	28
April	39	27	30	31
May	12	20	26	0
June	15	16	24	31
July	10	24	48	15
August	28	42	45	48
September	33	30	37	39
October	<u>33</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>30</u>
Totals	265	303	375	290

St.Peters

<u>Plant Sales</u>	<u>372</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>338</u>
<u>Combined Sales</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>628</u>

Patrick Laher

Sunday Markets Co-ordinator

Australian Wildlife Conservancy at the Pilliga

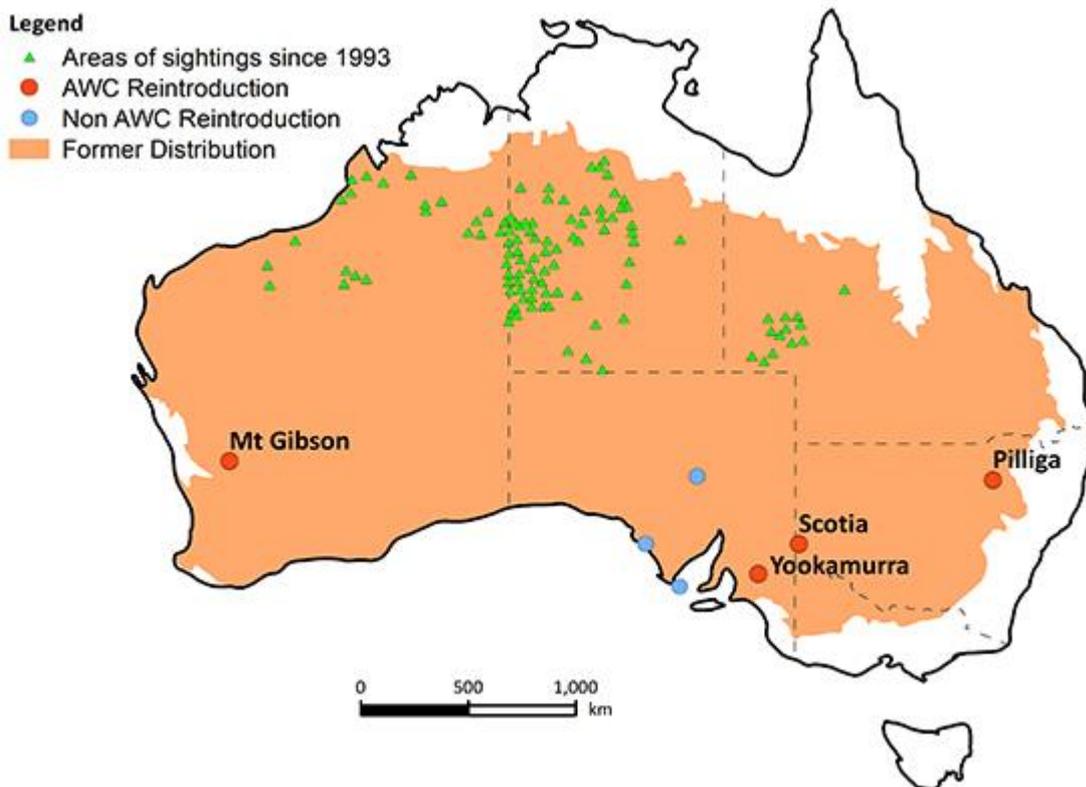
Submitted by Patrick Laher

AWC reached a historic milestone last night with the release of the first [Bilbies](#) into the [Pilliga](#), as part of our ground breaking partnership with the New South Wales Government.

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton, who attended the release, said it was the first step towards restoring locally extinct mammals to the state.

The Bilbies are the first of 13 regionally extinct mammals that will be returned to the wild in the 10-year NSW Government Saving our Species project, Ms Upton said.

The return of the Bilby is internationally significant; this is a major victory in the campaign to save our species from extinction, she said.



The last record of a Bilby in NSW was near Wagga Wagga in 1912. Since then, AWC has re-established a wild population of Bilbies within an 8,000 hectare, feral predator-free area at [Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in far western New South Wales. Due to predation by cats and foxes, conservation fences are currently the only effective strategy for protecting Bilbies and other small to medium-sized native mammals from extinction.

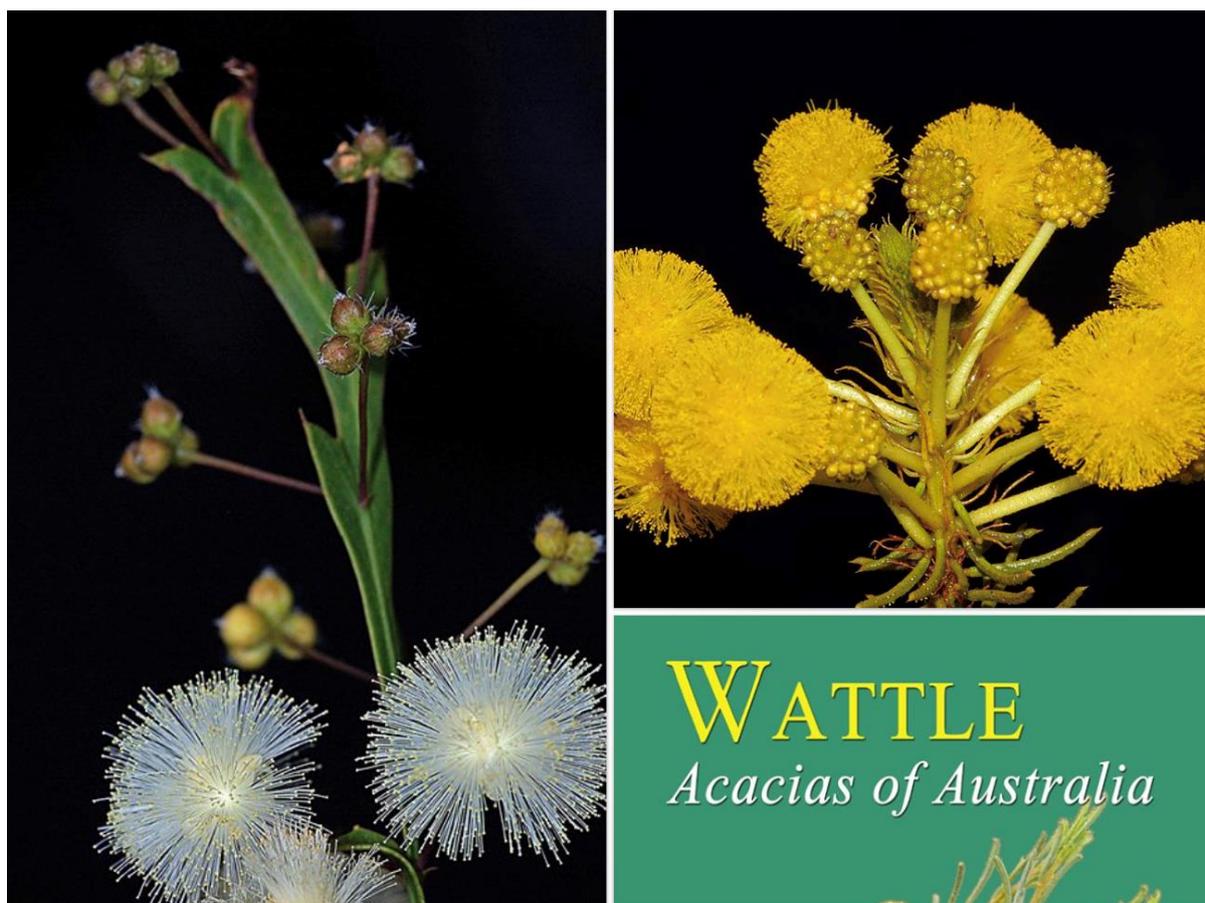
A 5,800-hectare feral predator-free fenced area, constructed over four months in early 2018, is a landmark feature of AWC's partnership with NSW National Parks in the Pilliga. The establishment of the fenced area will enable six locally extinct mammals to be reintroduced to the Pilliga: Bilby, Western Quoll, Western Barred Bandicoot, Brush-tailed Bettong, Bridled Nail-tail Wallaby and Plains Mouse.

Wattle Keys – from the Herbarium of WA

We are excited to celebrate Wattle Day with the launch of two wattle-related products. The first is WATTLE ver. 3, an interactive key to Australian species that is available on the LucidCentral website (at <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/wattle>). For those hoping to identify plants in the bush, the key is now also available as an App for smart phones and tablets, suitable for both Android and iOS platforms (see <http://identic.com.au/blog/wattle-acacias-of-australia-media-release/>).

Both versions enable users to identify Wattles that occur anywhere in Australia or elsewhere in the world where they are grown. They include 1057 formally described species of Acacia, plus several hybrids and informal taxa of this genus.

We congratulate our Research Associate Bruce Maslin, who has been a key contributor to these products, and wish all of our followers a happy Wattle Day!



There has been a wattle key available as a CD and more recently, on line as a free site to access. The disadvantage of the online version is when on field trips, internet access is not available. This App can be loaded onto your iPad and taken into the field with you and does not require internet access. The App is available from your App Store and cost about ten dollars.

herbarium collection, which now numbers over 108,000 pressed plant specimens. The idea has been to enable access to images of the plants as well as the data in the labels that the collectors have entered. This should be a great benefit for those in the community wanting to access the collection without having to go to the Herbarium during business hours. It will add to the value of the data sharing that UNE has with the Atlas of Living Australia where most of the significant herbaria of Australia are combining their data on a website that is free, open access with excellent search capabilities.

It is pleasing that the NSW Herbarium now has funding to provide digital images of some of its collection as well. We have a great resource at UNE that is contributing to Australian Botany in a significant way.

Melaleuca “Georgiana Molloy” by John Nevin

Melaleuca teretifolia is a small to medium shrub from 1 to 3 metres high, usually erect in habit. The linear leaves are rounded in cross section (terete), 40-60 mm long and tapering to a sharp point. The flowers occur in globular-shaped clusters about 20 mm in diameter. The clusters are usually borne on the older branches and resemble the flowering habit of some *Hakea* species.

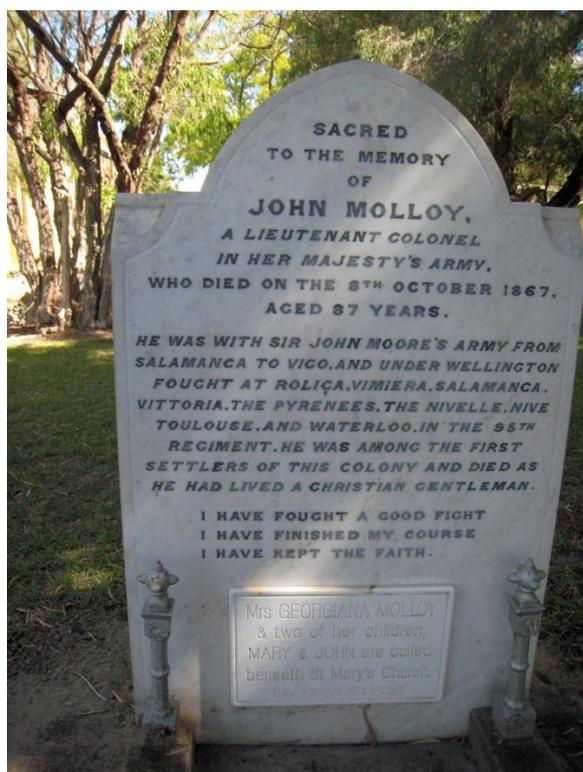


The flowers are usually white but pink and mauve forms are known. The cultivar 'Georgiana Molloy' (purple-pink flowers) is now regarded as a form of *M.teretifolia* (previously it was thought to be a hybrid with *M.teretifolia* as one parent).

M.teretifolia is not widely cultivated although it appears to be hardy in a range of climates and soils. It is one of the hardier Western Australian species in humid areas of the east coast where western species can be difficult to establish. It prefers a sunny position and plants are tolerant of at least moderate frost. The plants can be reluctant to flower under dry conditions.

Propagation is easy from both seed and cuttings. Particular forms, such as 'Georgiana Molloy', must be propagated from cuttings to ensure that plants true to the parent are obtained.

This melaleuca flowers in late December, usually on the old wood and provides colour when the garden is beginning to look drab. Our neighbour has admired Georgina Molloy, who was an early settler and plant collector for Kew Gardens. While in WA, our neighbour found the church where she and her husband are buried. Her husband was a retired military man who fought with Wellington. She died young, aged 38 in 1843 and tragically, her two children predeceased her, her daughter Mary dying as an infant, and her son drowning in 1831. I had pleasure in showing her the plant that was flowering at the time that is named after her.



Her husband is buried in the churchyard and Georgina and her two children beneath the church. There is a small plaque on her husband's grave to direct people looking for Georgiana's grave, to the church.



Armidale Show 8th & 9th March 2019

by Patrick Laher

Members are encouraged to participate in the Armidale Show by entering plants in the Native Plant Section 17, from Class Numbers 42-50 and/or the Pot Plant Class 61-67.

Information and forms can be found on the competitor's page of the Armidale Show website. Navigate to Participants/Competitors from the home page and download the Pavilion Entry Form 2019.

We have stuck with the changes we made last year and hope that they will be applicable to the plants that may be in flower at this time of year. There is a fee of \$2 per entry and it is suggested that members bring a plain clear jar for each entry and sticky tape to attach the provided label [don't use jars that are valuable to you] If entering the Posy Class, make sure that your jar is wider than its height.

Entries must be in before the judging at 9am on Thursday 7th March. Bring your specimens, jars, etc. to the Pavilion, fill out the entry form and pay your money. You can then set up your displays.

APS will fund two \$25 vouchers from the Armidale Tree Group, one for Class Numbers 42-47 and the other from 48-50. Collections of jars etc. can be made between 9am and 11am on Sunday morning the 10th March

Merle Thompson receives the OAM

We were pleased to find that Merle Thompson was a recipient of the OAM in the Australia Day Honours List. Merle has been a tireless worker for APS (amongst other organisations) for many years. Congratulations – well deserved!

For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Australian Federation of Graduate Women

- National Delegate, Educational Conferences in Istanbul, Fiji and Cape Town
- Served as Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Business Manager, Honorary Registrar
- Past Committee Member, Blue Mountains Branch.

New South Wales Branch

- Past Honorary Registrar
- Past Honorary Newsletter Editor

- Member, since the 1960s.

Polio NSW

- Member, Joint Steering Committee, current (NSW Health and Polio NSW)
- Member, Management Committee, since approximately 1995
- Secretary, 2012
- Vice President, 1997-2011
- Member, since approximately 1995
- Life Member, 2009

Australian Plants Society NSW (APS NSW)

- Board Member, current
- Membership Officer, since 2009
- Treasurer, 2007-2009
- Co-editor, 'Australian Plants Journal', since 2008
- Delegate to the Federal Council, for many years
- Secretary, 1993-1995
- Life Member, 2011
- Member, since the 1970s.

Central West Group

- Delegate to the State Council, since 2009.

Blue Mountains

- Newsletter Editor, since 2002
- Delegate to the State Council, 1987-2008
- President, 1997-1999
- Secretary, 1986-1996



Plants suitable for Armidale

Elwyn Hegarty recently suggested that the group have available some solid advice for newcomers to Armidale as to what native plants are suitable for growing in Armidale. The Committee thought this a good idea. We have a lot of experience in our group and should give others in the community the advantage of this. What we are asking is for members to put together four lists, detailed below. They should be forwarded to the Secretary for the Committee to consider for a final list.

1. 10 flowering medium sized shrubs, and when they flower.
2. 10 frost-resistant/tolerant small flowering shrubs.
3. 10 medium sized Acacias, in a range of flowering times, plus their life expectancy and special problems such as borers or suckering.
4. 10 medium sized Eucalyptus or other trees, suitable for smaller gardens.

So, put your thinking caps on – give us the benefit of your experience and forward your suggestions to the Secretary.

Facebook

By John Nevin

Those of us being dragged into the digital age can find iPhones, iPads and computers a scary and challenging technology that we can be reluctant to get into. However, it is the future, and the sooner we master it the better our lives will be. I have an incredible botanical library, but with the advent of the internet, books are occasionally referred to, but the main source of information is the internet.

There are many facebook sites that can be used for all types of interests. Two that I find useful are **Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts Forum**, which has 21,600 people following it. The other is **NSW Native Plant Identification**, which has 5,700 members. On these sites, members can share information about plant sales, good nurseries, upcoming meeting, photos of plants for interest or identification, and tips for growing native plants.

There is a Facebook site **Australian Plants Society – Armidale Group**, that is now running. At present, there is a small membership, but if all members belong to it, we will have a useful tool for communicating and sharing information. So give it a try – upload a photo of a plant that you want identified – tell us about a good nursery or national park that you visited recently.

FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Friday 1st - Committee meeting

Saturday 2nd - 9.30 am Arboretum working bee. Mainly watering recent plantings.

Saturday 16th - 2 pm ASCA House, cnr Barney and Markham Streets.

Jane Pickard **“Gardening (and growing food) in a hotter and drier climate”**

Sunday 24th - Markets in the Mall

March

Saturday 2nd - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee

Friday/Saturday 8-9th - Armidale Show (exhibits need to be delivered on Thursday 7th)

Saturday 16th - Garden visit in the morning (details to be provided later)

Sunday 31st - Markets in the Mall

April

Friday 5th - Committee Meeting

Saturday 6th - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee

Saturday 13th - Forum 2 pm ASCA House, cnr. Markham and Barney Streets.

Ian Telford, Curator of UNE Herbarium

“Botanical aspects of Oxley’s journey from the Tablelands to the Coast

200 years ago”

19/20 - Easter

Sunday 28th - Markets in the Mall

May

- Saturday 4th** - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee
- Saturday 18th** - Garden visits in the afternoon. Two new gardens of different sizes, styles and stage of development.
- Sunday 26th** - Markets in the Mall

June

- Saturday 1st** - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee
- Saturday 22nd** - 11.30 am Solstice luncheon, BBQ at Dangars Falls
- Sunday 30th** - Markets in the Mall

July

- Saturday 6th** - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee
- Weekend 20/21** - Pilliga Scrub trip. Stay at The Barracks, Binnaway, on Saturday night.
Sunday morning visit to Bilby Blooms Native Nursery
- Sunday 28th** - Markets in the Mall

August

- Friday 2nd** - Committee Meeting
- Saturday 3rd** - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee
- Saturday 17th** - Forum, 2 pm ASCA House, cnr. Markham and Barney Streets
Details to come
- Sunday 25th** - Markets in the Mall. Wattle display and sales.

September

- Sunday 1st** - Wattle Day. Lunch at the Railway Hotel 1 pm, with wattle raffle
- Saturday 7th** - 1-5 pm Arboretum working bee
- Saturday 21st** - Garden visit

Help for APS NSW

At a recent meeting of Group Presidents with the APS NSW Board, some planning priorities were discussed. Below are some of the ways members or groups could be more involved in the organisation.

1. The **ANPSA Biennial Conference** is due to be hosted by NSW in 2021
It is proposed to hold it in Wollongong from Monday to Friday 13-17/9/2021, with pre and post conference tours. If you think you could help or would like to help, make contact with the people listed below or with a committee member.
2. The journal “**Native Plants**” will be put online in electronic form as soon as possible. Hard copies will be available for those still lacking computer skills.
3. **APS NSW Quarterly “Gatherings”** are held every three months as one day events, with the May event coinciding with the AGM. The following dates are available for these, if our group would like to host one. Let your committee know what you feel about hosting one of these.

Available are November 2019
March 2020
May 2020 (with AGM)
November 2020
March 2021
May 2021 (with AGM)
March 2022
May 2022 (with AGM)
November 2022
March 2023
May 2023 (with AGM)
November 2023

I think our group is too distant from most other groups to host a one day event.

For the effort to travel here, a two day event would provide more content to attract visitors.

We did host one of these a few years ago, organised by Maria Hitchcock.

Editor.

4. **APS NSW Get Togethers (two day events)**

September 2020 November 2021 September 2022 September 2023

5. **Additional Support**

There are many other areas where help would be appreciated, and these are listed below.

- a) Website management
- b) Developing communication with members (internet contact)
- c) Program Officer to oversee the quarterly Gatherings and Get Togethers.

- d) Editing, or assisting with the editing of “Australian Plants” journal
- e) Assisting with the organisation of the biennial conference.
- f) Be part of the Board of APS NSW

If you feel you may be able to help with any of these activities then contact one or both of the following:

John Aitken johnstaceaitken@gmail.com

Heather Miles heather@heathermiles.com.au

Alternatively, you could make enquiries through one of our committee members.

Gardening Master Class

Maria Hitchcock has started monthly tutorials on native plant propagation. The first one dealing with Flannel flowers has been held, but others are to follow. Details for those interested are outlined below.

Gardening Master Class
Every 1st Sunday of the month
Tutor: Maria Hitchcock
Venue: Fangorn Private Botanic Garden
Time: 10am - 11.00am
Cost: \$15.00 incl. morning tea
Limit: 10 participants
Register: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

Sunday 3rd March
Native Australian Daisies

Sunday 7th April
Waratahs

Sunday 5th May
Correas