

**NEWSLETTER No. 135: February 2018****Committee**

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Website and FaceBook

Keep up to date with news, outings and meetings by visiting our online sites:

<http://austplants.com.au/Coffs-Harbour>

<https://www.facebook.com/nativeplantsCH>

New Members

We warmly welcome new members

Jo Fenwick, Judith Halliday, Michael Reede, Brent Turner, Peter Curry, Lindy Hills, Wayne Hartridge, Dawn Thornton & John Broadbent.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to members who have sent in material for this edition. If you have something of interest to share, please contact the Editor, Jan Whittle.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 13: 7 – 10pm

Guest Speaker: **Mark Watt**, National Parks Ranger

Topic: ***Saving Our Species***

For further information:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-updates>

Meeting Tuesday March 13: 10am – 1pm

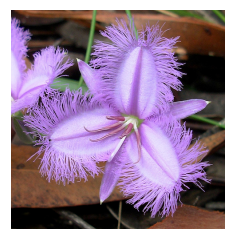
Guest Speaker: **Morrie Duggan**

Topic: **Western Australia Flora – It's not just about the southwest!**

The iconic flora of southwestern Australia is legendary. Probably less well known is the flora of the arid and semi-arid zone further north including the wheat-belt, Eastern Goldfields, and Great Victoria Desert areas, east and northeast of Perth across to the South Australia and Northern Territory borders.

Morrie will show some of the flowering plants seen on a 2012 trip from Central Australia across the Central Desert Road to Laverton and then to Kalgoorlie, Southern Cross, Dalwallinu, Yalgoo and Geraldton. Dominant genera include *Acacia*, *Eremophila*, *Dodonaea* and members of the daisy (Asteraceae) and pea (Fabaceae) plant families; with many lesser-known, but interesting species.

Native plants
flowering now
in our region



Saving Our Species Project Coffs Harbour APS, 2018

In 2018, the Committee has proposed we become more involved in conservation work by supporting the *Saving Our Species* initiative from NSW Environment – we've had a good response from members, so we've approached National Parks about helping with data monitoring in two of their regeneration projects along the headlands from Woolgoolga to Sapphire. The plan is we gain some experience in data monitoring techniques, and also establish links with National Parks who will enter any data on additional threatened or endangered species that we decide to monitor once we have the skills.

Earlier in December, Alison Moore and Janice Fitzpatrick met Mark Watt (National Parks Ranger for the 4 headlands where the NP regeneration projects are in progress) so he could show us the regeneration sites and the species they need monitored – *Sophora tomentosa* (a small tree) and *Zeiria prostrata* (groundcover). Mark showed us the data collection forms, aerial maps of the locations and told us we would need to monitor each location once a year. Each of the headland sites has up to 9 locations where the plants are to be monitored, and Mark suggested teams of 2-3 would be best.

Mark will be the speaker at our evening meeting on February 13, to explain more about the work NP are doing, and how we can assist, so if you are interested in being part of the SoS team from APS, please come along and register your interest so we can start putting together the monitoring teams to start from March 2018.

New APS Membership System

As you know, APS has moved to an online membership system:

- Concession fees are available only to Pension or Health Card holders
- Payment options
 - Online by PayPal, Credit Card, or Direct Deposit: see APS NSW website for instructions - <https://www.austplants.com.au/Join-APS>
 - Online via EFT to Treasurer by direct transfer to our bank account (BCU 533 000 Acct 43682S11, with your surname as REFERENCE)
 - Payment at bank to APS CH bank account (BCU 533 000 Acct 43682S11)
 - Cheque or cash to Treasurer (Note: this option will be phased out.)

You will receive an email alert when your membership is due. (For the 3 members who do not have email, we will continue to notify you by post or phone). We will be running a demonstration of the new membership system at the next couple of APS meetings to answer any questions you might have.

It is important your email address is current and correct so that you can receive a reminder. Please check it online through the 'Members Only' section of the APS website, or ask our Treasurer to check it on your behalf: Janice Fitzpatrick – mob: 0418 350 937; email: jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com

Report on Large Myrtles Excursion: Jan 28, 2018

A group of about 12 members and visitors assembled at the Botanic Garden carpark for a review of the larger local members of family Myrtaceae. We were met by a short, sharp shower, but this did not dampen our enthusiasm. Examples of four *Eucalyptus* species, a *Lophostemon*, a *Corymbia*, an *Angophora*, a *Syncarpia*, a *Melaleuca* and some planted *Tristaniopsis* were examined and discussed before the group drove to Brelsford Park to look at some original brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*). We then headed out along the Orara Way for about 70 km stopping at designated spots to examine species on Barry's shortlist. The star of the show was undoubtedly *Eucalyptus propinqua* (small fruited grey gum), which at this time of year was anything but grey, the outer bark having stripped to reveal a glowing orange undersurface.

A total of five *Angophora* species were seen and their difference from *Eucalyptus* demonstrated (leaves in opposite pairs, flowers with petals, and fragile fruits with ribs ending in small teeth). After lunch at the Glenreagh Riverside Park, the last three of 26 species were "ticked off" before heading home.

Many thanks to Barry Kemp for designing and leading this fascinating excursion. He provided us with descriptive lists of all species, and clear directions for our travel. He also had prepared plastic envelopes containing seeds and fruiting bodies of the target species. Wonderful! We are most fortunate to have Barry's expertise in our District Group. Some of his photographs appear below.



Eucalyptus propinqua



Corymbia henryi



Barry Kemp



Corymbia gummifera

Our emblem: *Syzygium australe*, Scrub cherry

Most members know our floral emblem is *Syzygium australe*, and it too belongs to the Myrtaceae family. *Syzygium* is a genus of about 500 species found in tropical and subtropical rainforests, with about 50 species occurring in Australia. *Syzygium australe* is confined to subtropical and warm-temperate rainforests of New South Wales and Queensland.

Derivation of name: *Syzygium* is from Greek 'syzygos' = joined (referring to paired leaves and branchlets of a Jamaican species), and '*australe*' = southern.



Syzygium australe

Photo: Eric Anderson

S. australe is a common plant of coastal and highland rainforests from southern New South Wales to central Queensland. In nature it can reach over 25 m in height but is usually smaller in cultivation. The leaves are opposite (each pair emerges from the stem at the same location but on opposing sides), rounded and bright, glossy green in colour. White flowers are followed by a profusion of large, fleshy, red fruits. These are ovoid in shape and around 20 mm long with a large seed. The fruits are edible and are often made into jams. They can also be eaten fresh and have a crisp, refreshing texture.

S. australe is a hardy tree in most temperate and subtropical climates and is cultivated in most Australian states. It prefers rich soils and assured moisture. At least two compact forms have been marketed in recent years. These probably grow to no more than 2 m and may be found under the names "Blaze" and "Tiny Trev". The compact forms should be suitable for growing in large containers.

Propagation of *S. australe* is usually carried out from fresh seed, either by sowing the fruits whole or after removing the flesh. Germination may be slow and spasmodic. The species can also be grown from cuttings of firm, current season's growth.

Ref: Australian Native Plants Society, <http://anpsa.org.au/s-aus.html>

Did You Know ...

Coffs Harbour was the first district group of the *Society for Growing Native Plants* in NSW?

coffs harbour 21 years

Coffs Harbour branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants is 21 this year.

The branch is the oldest in N.S.W. and as far as can be ascertained in Australia.

A special display will be held on September 15-16 in the Civic Centre Supper Room of native plants, paintings by local children and Parks and Wildlife features.

Flowers will be on display from all States including the A.C.T. Botanic Gardens.

The official opening will be by the Curator of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, Mr. Wrigley.

The September display of paintings and coloured drawings by various schools will be in two divisions: Primary schools up to eight years and nine years and over and high schools.

It is hoped that many of the original members of the society will attend.

There is now a tremendous interest in Australian plants and the society is growing rapidly, president Mr. Les Howarth said.

"The aim of the society is to foster the growing of Australian plants and in doing so create friends," he said.

BOTANIC GARDENS PLAN

Mr. John Wrigley, Curator of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra has been commissioned by the Coffs Harbour Shire Council to draw up plans for Coffs Harbour Botanical Gardens.

At a recent meeting of the local group of S.G.A.P. Mr. Wrigley outlined the need for a botanical garden and asked members for criticisms and suggestions, and pointed out the value of a botanic garden not only for local people but for the tourist industry.

If a barbecue area was attached to the gardens, guides and information on plants available, the gardens would be a very pleasant spot for visitors and locals, he said.

Not only did botanic gardens provide a recreational facility they also provided schoolchildren with the opportunity to study plant and animal life. Scientists too, would be able to study species, food chains and soils.

Mr. Wrigley is very keen to introduce a mangrove swamp — one of the richest resources in the plant kingdom which would encourage fish and crustaceans and create a food chain.

Already there are some mangroves on the site.

He suggested an area of melaleuca swamp, an area of native plants and an area of sub-tropical exotic plants.

Duckboard walks would cover damp areas. Some contouring was needed but the expense wasn't astronomical.

The botanic gardens will be situated in Wilson's Park at the end of Hardacre Street.

Notice of Events

APS NSW Special General Meeting and Quarterly Gathering

Saturday, 3 March 2018

Event hosted by the **Sutherland Group of APS NSW**

Loftus Community Centre Hall 119-129 Loftus Ave, Loftus NSW 2232

12thFJC Rogers Seminar on Goodeniaceae

20 – 21 October 2018

Event hosted by the **APS Grampians Inc.** and **Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc.**, for the **Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc.**

Further information:

Email: fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

Web: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar>

Tel: Royce Raleigh 03 53836200

Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project

14 May to 15 September 2018

Volunteers sought for this important project.

Participants Travel Offer 7 days from \$1099 for flights and accommodation.

If you feel you have any skills to offer in the below surveys, please get in touch for more information

info@lhiodenteradicationproject.org

- Soil and water sampling
- Maintaining biosecurity and monitoring networks
- Land bird surveys and invertebrate surveys

From the Editor

- **CH APS 2018 Program of meetings and outings**
- **APS Acacia Study Group Newsletter # 139**

If you have not already received these documents via email, please contact Jan Whittle if you wish to have a copy.

- **Saving Our Species Project Information**

One of our target plants, *Sophora tomentosa* (Yellow necklacepod) grows in the scrub between the jetty beach carpark and the beach. It is flowering at the moment and also has seed pods from the previous season. I have long admired this delightful native plant as I pass it on the track to my daily swim, but had not realised it was endangered.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/determinations/SophoraTomentosaEndSpListing.htm>

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Sophora~tomentosa>

Zieria prostrata

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/trainees-2017/zieria-prostrata.html>

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Zieria~prostrata>

