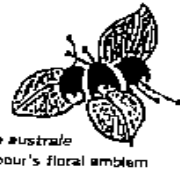


**AUSTRALIAN  
PLANTS SOCIETY**



*Syzygium australe*  
Coffs Harbour's floral emblem

# COFFS HARBOUR GROUP

**NEWSLETTER No 127 – September 2016**

**Next Daytime Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10 a.m. CHRBG**  
**Rare and Endangered Australian Plants Ian Corbett**  
**Plus Book Auction**

This meeting will be held on a Tuesday at the meeting room at the Coffs Harbour regional botanic gardens. Ian Corbett has been the director of the CHRBG for many years and is very knowledgeable on rare and endangered plants. There will also be an auction of some of the late John Wrigley's books on Australian plants. A list is at the end of this newsletter and pre-auction bidding can be arranged by contacting Gwyn or Geoff Clarke. As usual a morning tea will be served and some plants may be available for sale. Bring along any plants of interest from your garden for the display table to discuss or to be identified.

**Next Night Time Meeting Wednesday October 12 7:30 pm**  
**Coffs Harbour Regional Botanic Gardens Meeting Room**  
**Colin Broadfoot; Grafting**

Colin Broadfoot has a huge swathe of experience in the native plant nursery industry and has developed some tried and true techniques when it comes to grafting. Colin will speak about what plants are suitable for rootstock and which species are easiest for beginners. He will also discuss the different types of grafting, what materials you need and give practical demonstrations of how to do it. Bring along any interesting plants for the display table. Supper will be served.

**Next Outing Lownie Garden Moonee**  
**Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 am**

Angela and Kevin have been hard at work in their beautiful garden at Heritage Park Moonee. We haven't been there for a while and I'm sure there is a lot to see. Further details regarding meeting arrangements and times will be forwarded closer to the date.

### Future Events for Your Diary

Date/ Time	Event
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 10 am	Vegetation of Macquarie Island and Antarctica. Speaker Angus Moore. Plus AGM
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 12pm	Christmas gathering at Moore house Smiths Road Moonee

### Meeting Report “Birds in Backyards”

Attracting birds to your property is a welcome bonus of having a native garden. Many larger birds such as crows, currawongs, magpies, kookaburras and noisy miners have adapted well to suburbanisation and need no assistance or encouragement to our properties. It is the smaller honeyeaters, seed eaters, and insectivores which can benefit by careful placement and selection of plants. As the larger birds harass and prey on the smaller birds and their nests it is essential to provide viable cover. Many native plants such as grevilleas, callistemons and melaleucas can be hedged or pruned to produce denser foliage. Some plants with spiny foliage such as *G. rosmarinifolia* and *Alyxia ruscifolia* can be enhanced by pruning to provide shelter.

Things in the garden which we may see as untidy, such as undergrowth, dense vegetation, fallen branches, old flowers and piles of leaves may be exactly what the small insectivores prefer.

Grass and “weeds” if allowed to go to seed can provide food for finches.

The honeyeaters are attracted to flowering plants because pollen provides amino acids from which protein can be constructed and nectar provides carbohydrates. Plants with small flowers such as *Grevillea mollis* aren't as attractive to the larger birds such as miners and lorikeets but are ideal for eastern spinebills and scarlet honeyeaters. All honeyeaters will take insects especially during breeding season.

Placing bird baths off the ground and close to dense vegetation will make them more attractive to smaller birds. Bird baths should ideally have shallow sides and some rough surface.

Bog gardens and water features breed a variety of small insects and these can be a magnet for these smaller insectivores.

The fruit of medium sized trees such as *Melia azedarach*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Ficus spp.*, *Euroschinus falcatus* and *Homalanthus populifolius* attracts rainforest pigeons, doves and bowerbirds.

A couple of all round bird attractors which have flowers, fruit and insects include *Alphitonia spp.* and *Euodia spp.* (there are many more)

We have found that the problem of birds hitting windows can be reduced by hanging small mirrors where they can move in the breeze. All cats will try to catch birds and so will many dogs so if you want birds to survive your backyard keep your animals under control. One scratch from a cat is often enough to set off a fatal infection in a bird.

The issue of feeding birds was discussed by the group and my opinion is don't feed meat, fat, processed food (e.g. bread), honey or sugar to anything. It's also a good idea not to leave pet food outside where birds can get at it.

## **Presentation of Life Membership to Alex Floyd**

As Robbie Burns explained it: “The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley.” And so it was on the morning of 18 July. All was in readiness: the Botanic Garden's Room was decorated, the food prepared and we were organized to pick up the State President of the Australian Plant Society, John Aitkens from the Coffs Airport after his flight from Sydney. And then the Sydney fog got in the way and all flights were cancelled.

However, the decision was made that with guests on their way and the guest of honour already at the Gardens we would go ahead and celebrate the honour bestowed upon Alex by the Board of the APA earlier this year. The presentation of the medal will now take place at a regular meeting later in the year.

Indeed it was an extremely good turnout of people there to celebrate with us. After a brief welcome by the President, Alison Moore, and a short overview of Alex's achievements that gained him the honour, by the Secretary Robert Watt, many of the guests also rose to speak. They spoke of their own memories of the outstanding work that Alex has undertaken to advance the knowledge of Australian flora and his work for the community and assistance that he has given to so many throughout his life.



One of the first to speak was another Life Member – Barry Kemp - addressing Alex, his daughter Malalia, and Councillor Sally Townley, and all the other guests attending this special day for the Coffs Harbour Group of the APS.

Councillor Sally Townley then spoke eloquently to our guests of the tremendous work that Alex has done in the initial establishment of the Gardens and then the creation of the Herbarium and special garden for rare and endangered species.





Here John Ross speaks after the formal part of the gathering with Alex and his old friend Lloyd Foster.

Our current Vice-President Col Broadfoot can be seen over John's left shoulder.



Of special interest to many at the gathering were the publishers of Alex's primary work: *Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia*, Hugh and Nan Nicholson (Terania Rainforest Publishing). Here Nan speaks of the work that Alex did for the saving of Terania Creek in the 1970s.



Gwen Harding and Gwyn Clark, also a Life Member from her Canberra days, discuss the intricacies and content of the applique (created by Lesley Wickham) that hangs on the walls of the Display Room of the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, depicting the genus and species named after Alex, and placed there in his honour.

**Rob Watt**



## July Outing Report O'Shea Garden Sapphire Beach

This steep 18 acre property consists of approximately 12 acres of moist sclerophyll forest and rainforest with the rest being garden which was formerly banana farm. The bananas have long gone and much of the work in the past focused on removing the lantana and reducing soil erosion. One of the underlying aims in planning the garden has been to encourage birdlife by maintaining a wide variety of vegetation types and food resources. The property was registered as a wildlife refuge over 30 years ago. The sunnier areas have been planted to a variety of the dry tolerant natives while the shadier and moister areas have been planted to rainforest species.

The group last visited the property way back in 2009 and it was good to see 23 members and guests make the journey up to our bush block. As a change from previous visits we started with a walk in our emerging rainforest then made our way up the hill.

The creek line and the adjoining forest have been cleared of lantana and a combination of planting and natural regeneration has resulted in a small area of rainforest and understorey including *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow palm), *Dysoxylum mollissimum* (Red Bean), *Niemeyera whitei* (Rusty Plum), *Endiandra muelleri*, *E. sieberi*, *Ficus fraseri* (Sandpaper Fig), *F. watkinsiana*, *F. virens*, *F. superba*, *Dysoxylum fraserianum* (Rosewood), *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar), *Castanospermum australe* (Black Bean), *Pennantia cunninghamii*, *Synoum glandulosum* (Scentless Rosewood) with an overstorey which includes some very large *Lophostemon confertus*, *Eucalyptus pilularis*, *E. microcorys*, *E. acmenoides*, *E. saligna*, *E. resinifera* and *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine).



On a couple of the *Lophostemon confertus* are the “Brush Box” orchid, *Dendrobium aemulum*. This inconspicuous orchid only grows on the old porous bark of some Brush Box in this area, but apparently another form grows on ironbarks. It has tiny, segmented white flowers only seen for a couple of weeks in early spring.





Some other interesting plants include *Lindsaymyrtus racemoides* (Daintree Penda) which comes from the lowland rainforest of far north Queensland. Its distinctive feature is its unusual dark violet new growth which gradually lightens to green as the leaves mature.

*Macadamia tetraphylla* (pink flowering form) is one we grew from seed collected near the "Big Scrub" remnants in the Lismore area.

*Stockwellia quadrifida*, a rare Myrtaceae from the high altitude rainforests of North Queensland has an ancient lineage and is in a genus of its own, being related distantly to both *Syzygium* and *Eucalyptus*. Its nearest relatives are apparently two species of *Eucalyptopsis* in New Guinea and an *Allosyncarpia* in Northern Australia. In its natural habitat it reportedly grows into a huge tree with the trunk and buttresses measuring up to 20 metres circumference.



*Acacia chrysotricha* (Newry Wattle) is a large forest wattle which is endemic to a small area south of the Kalang River between Urunga and Bellingen. It



requires significant disturbance of the forest for natural regeneration but it grows readily from seed. Planted palms include *Archontophoenix purpurea* which has a purple mauve tinge to its crown shaft, and *Livistona nitida*, which is the very distinctive palm in Carnarvon Gorge in central Queensland.

*Grevillea heliosperma* is a grafted west Australian species which has distinctive “hakea like” disc shaped seed pods.



*Grevillea heliosperma*

*Grevillea shiressii* is a threatened species from the Gosford area which has distinctive bluish flowers.



*Grevillea shiressii*

*Grevillea mollis*, from a small area on the New England Tableland has thrived in this warm wet coastal environment and has its small red flowers all year round. Both species are very popular with honeyeaters such as the eastern spinebill and have self-seeded in the garden.



*Grevillea mollis*

Emerging from a pile of rotting wood is this tendril of *Pseudovanilla foliata*, (False Vanilla Orchid). This is a saprophytic species, feeding on rotting wood and requiring very little light. It stretches over 5 metres long and should be flowering by early summer.



*Pseudovanilla foliata*

To stabilise an old landslip on the road batter there have been a mass planting of figs (*Ficus macrophylla*, *F. obliqua*, *F. hirsuta* and others), *Syzygium floribundum* and *S. oleosum*.

*Melaleuca irbyana* and *M. tamariscina* are similar looking “weeping” species which have leaves broadly resembling those of casuarinas. They are useful stabilising wet areas.



A specimen of another North Queenslander, *Flindersia oppositifolia* (transplanted as a seedling many years ago from John Wrigley's original garden at Korora) has bright red new growth and red flowers and is exhibiting its distinctive coppery patterned bark.

My records show that about 400 different native species, cultivars and hybrids have been planted here over the past 22 years. They are not all still alive but the survival rate of what we plant now is getting better.

**Phil O'Shea**

## **A New Epoch**

The last district in which I lived in Victoria, although still in a partly natural state, was suffering from the “commuter invasion”, now seen near most of our cities, and in which I obviously took part. The density of the wildlife could be gauged by the number of “roadkill” animals to be seen on an almost nightly basis. Sad to see, but an indication that the furry critters were still around in reasonable numbers. Except for the occasional kangaroo or wallaby, dead wildlife on the road is now a rare sight anywhere near Coffs Harbour.

Watching wildlife doco's on TV, it is easy to imagine that there are extensive areas of the Earth still covered in natural vegetation and populated by wild animals, but often these programs were filmed in tiny remnants, with the cameras avoiding the vast areas cleared for grazing, the illegal logging and the mobile phone towers. “Australasian Science” magazine reports that humans and their domestic animals now account for 95% of the mass of all vertebrates on land.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, after dispelling the myth of the biblical age of the Earth, and using the evidence from the many distinct layers to be seen in the Earth's crust, geologists built up a time scale of “Eras” and “Epochs”, the most recent being the **Holocene** epoch, defined as from the end of the last glacial episode, about 11,600 years ago. It is now widely accepted that we are now in a new epoch– the **Anthropocene**. It will be recognized in the rock strata by the amount of concrete, plastic, radioactive material and products of burning fossil fuels to be found. And of course by global warming, and the disappearance of much of our wildlife. Nobody can say when the Anthropocene will end, or how. Cherish our flora and fauna while we still have some of it.

**Barry Kemp**



## **Books for Silent Auction**

### **To be held at Day Meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

These books were donated to the Society by John Wrigley's family and we thank them for their generosity. They are being distributed by Silent Auction so that everyone has a chance to have a memento of John and this is the easiest way of doing it. We have quite a lot of books so there will be a few auctions. If you miss out this time there will be other opportunities.

1. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Elliot & Jones Vol 1 Introduction 1980  
This volume is an excellent introduction to the series covering the history, selection & cultivation, pests, diseases & other ailments, propagation, plant lists and supplementary information on Australian Plants.
2. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Elliot & Jones Vol 2 Plants A – Ca 1982 This volume gives full descriptions of individual plants, with information about the genus, family, habitat and growing conditions Hardback
3. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Elliot & Jones Vol 3 Plants Ce – Er 1984 This volume is set out similarly to Vol 2. Hardback
4. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Elliot & Jones Vol 4 Plants Eu – Go 1986 This volume is set out similarly to the previous volume. Hardback
5. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Elliot & Jones Vol 5 Plants Gr – J 1990 This volume is set out similarly to the previous volume. Hardback
6. Wild Flowers of Australia Thistle Y Harris 4<sup>th</sup> edition 1956 Hardback  
Originally printed in 1938, this was one of the few books available at the time the Society was founded. Coloured plates for each plant description
7. Rain Forests Reprint of Parks & Wildlife Vol 2 No1 1977 Paperback  
This book covers an Historical Perspective, The Rain Forest System, The Fauna and the Present and the Future. Coloured & black and white photos used to illustrate the book.
8. Eucalypts of the Western Australian Goldfields (and the adjacent Wheatbelt). G.M. Chippendale 1973 Hardback with Dustjacket  
This book has a general introduction and descriptions of the species with coloured and black & white illustrations.
9. Native Grasses for Australian Gardens Nola Parry & Jocelyn Jones 2007 Paperback. Not strictly speaking grasses, but describes popular strappy plants with coloured photos.
10. Native Australian Plants Their Propagation and Cultivation A.M. Blombery 1955 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Hardback Focuses on propagation with seeds and cuttings. Black and white line drawings.
11. Plant Propagation Principles & Practices 1975 Hardback 3<sup>rd</sup> edition H. T. Hartmann & D.E. Kester Detailed text on plant propagation. Black & white line drawings & photographs.
12. Pests, Diseases & Ailments of Australian Plants David Jones & Rodger Elliot. 1986 1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
Good coverage of the topic includes line drawings, coloured & black and white photos. Addresses the indiscriminate use of pesticides in the environment.
13. Carnivorous Plants Gordon Cheers 1983 Paperback Covers the worldwide distribution of these plants.
14. Growing Grevilleas in Australia and New Zealand Don Burke 1983 Paperback Covers all aspects of growing grevilleas with line drawings and coloured photos
15. Grow What Where Australian Plant Study Group 1980 Hardback A great book for finding plants for all situations and particular purposes Well illustrated with colour photos

16. Sub-tropical Australian native gardens 1995 Paperback Compiled by members of Far North Coast Group NSW SGAP. Useful for our area
17. Useful Wild Plants in Australia A. B. Cribb & J. W. Cribb 1981 1<sup>st</sup> edition Hardback Covers a wide range of uses for Australian plants. Some coloured plates
18. Wild Medicine in Australia A. B. & J. W. Cribb 1981 Hardback Looks at medicines used in Australia in earlier days Some coloured plates
19. Wild Food in Australia A. B. & J. W. Cribb 1975 Hardback Looks at the rich diversity of wild food plants in Australia A few coloured plates.
20. Botany by Observation A text for Australian schools Gladys Carey 1943 Hardback Black and white illustrations, diagrams and photos. A detailed study of plants
21. Plant Taxonomy V. H. Heywood 1967 Paperback About the diversity of Nature and the need for classification Black and white diagrams and photos
22. Floral Emblems of Australia Anne Boden Australian National Botanic Gardens 1985 Paperback Descriptions and uses of all floral emblems Maps, diagrams and coloured photos
23. CSIRO Handbook of Australian Weeds M. Lazarides, K. Cowley & P. Hohnen 1997 Paperback Alphabetic list of weeds in Australia with maps showing distribution and country of origin
24. A Field Guide to Fungi of South-eastern Australia Ross Macdonald & John Westerman 1979 1<sup>st</sup> edition Hardback Species descriptions with coloured photos
25. Victoria's Toadstools & Mushrooms J. H. Willis 1963 Paperback A key and descriptive notes to 120 gilled fungi plus other information Lots of black and white photos and drawings and a few coloured photos
26. The Natural History of the Coffs Harbour District 1980 Paperback Lots of interesting information from Geology to plants and creatures of the shores and bush Black and white diagrams
27. How to Identify Plants Continuing Education Gwen Harden & John Williams UNE 1979 reprint 1990 Paperback Black and white diagrams 2 copies

For further information please contact **Gwyn** or **Geoff Clarke** [gcl.38500@bigpond.com](mailto:gcl.38500@bigpond.com)

### **From the Secretary Change to Meeting Days for 2017**

From February next year all day and night meetings will be scheduled for Tuesdays and mostly they will be the second Tuesday of the month. Further details to follow.

**Rob Watt**



## **For those who have purchased the Rainforest USB Key** **Possible problems due to Java Software Update**

Due to recent changes by Java, in the way it handles the Applet security certificate you may be having problems opening the key.

Lucid have updated how the key handles the JRE. This together with some updates can be downloaded from my website (should be available early August), as Version 1.3 or you can download it from the link below in Dropbox public (you do not need to have Dropbox on your machine to access it).

You click on the link then download the zip file and save the file to your computer, open the zip file and then copy all the files to the root directory of your USB, ie just drop them in. They will sort themselves out. Agree to replace any, if asked.

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/5675492/RFK/Rainforests%20Rockhampton%20to%20Victoria%201.3.28072016.zip>

Hope it works and solves any problems, if not get back to me.

**Gwen Harden**

## **From the Editor**

Thanks to Rob Watt and Alison Moore for organising the life membership presentation to Alex Floyd. It all went very well on the day. Also thanks to Rob Watt and Barry Kemp for their excellent contributions to this newsletter. As this has been a very busy month and some of us are heading off on the field trip to Merriwa the reports on banksias, the outing to Moonee Reserve and the visit from the Canberra APS will be held over until the next newsletter. The deadline for this next newsletter will be October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Phil O'Shea**

## **2106 OFFICE BEARERS**

**President:** Alison Moore E-mail: [anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au](mailto:anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au)

**Vice President:** Colin Broadfoot E-mail: [colbroad20@gmail.com](mailto:colbroad20@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Rob Watt E-mail: [rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Janice Fitzpatrick Ph. 0418350937 E-mail: [jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com](mailto:jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com)  
39-41 Gale Street Coramba 2450

**Newsletter Editor:** Phil O'Shea P.O. Box 6176, Coffs Harbour, 2450. Ph. 66537472;  
E-mail: [philip.oshea@bigpond.com](mailto:philip.oshea@bigpond.com)

**Publicity Officer** Angela Lownie E-mail [angela\\_lownie@hotmail.com](mailto:angela_lownie@hotmail.com)