

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



March 2019

NEXT EHG MEETING:

7.30 pm, Wednesday 6 March 2019

Doug Rickard on Climate Change

Please bring specimens for the plant table and something to share for supper.

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

VISITORS WELCOME

WELCOME to the March 2019 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter.

This issue has lots of information about things to do, places to go and people to see! I think the *Coming Events* section is the longest I've ever compiled – it doesn't even fit on one page! In addition, see page 2 for details of the Quarterly Gathering on 23 March. Other events include our own March and April meetings, Menai and Sutherland Groups' March meetings, an open garden, and the Royal Easter Show. (Are we entering this year? The closing date is 13 March.) There's also a reminder about the Blooming Biodiversity conference in Albany in Spring. So don't miss out - please do have a look at the list, which starts on page 9!

There's also plenty about our own EHG – there are notes and photos from our February meeting and the 2018 EHG Financial Statement.

Jan Douglas
Editor

<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>



APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

HOSTED BY NORTH SHORE GROUP

Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Rd., St Ives.

GREENWALLS

**GUEST SPEAKER: MARK PAUL, HORTICULTURIST AND FOUNDER OF THE
GREENWALL COMPANY**



Mark created what is believed to be the very first greenwall in Australia over thirty years ago. His company is involved in greenwall design and construction in a wide range of residential, commercial and public works. He will share his expertise with us on the design, construction and choice of plants suitable for greenwalls.

Program:

10.30 am Walks and talks - A **choice** of two guided walks around the gardens.

- Walk 1 will visit the rare plants in the garden and the propagation area.
- Walk 2 will look at the rainforest plants in the gardens.

12 – 1 pm Lunch. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. Plants will be on sale during lunch time.

1-3 pm: Mark Paul's presentation on greenwalls, and afternoon tea.

More information is available on the APS NSW website at

<https://austplants.com.au/resources/Documents/Events/March%202019%20APS%20NSW%20Quarterly%20Gathering.pdf>

FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING
SPRING IN TASMANIA

Graham Fry

Notes by Liz Cameron

At our February meeting, Graham Fry gave a brief presentation about the trip he and Liz Cameron made to Tasmania in November 2018.

They visited gardens and parks open to the public, including the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Inala Jurassic Gardens on Bruny Island, Inverawe Native Gardens south of Hobart, and the Tasmanian Arboretum near Devonport. Des O'Connor had visited the Arboretum with one of its founders in its early days when the trees were very small. He was interested to hear how it had developed into a beautiful shady park with areas featuring the flora of different regions of the world and full of birds; there was even a Founders Lake inhabited by platypuses.

Of course Graham had some photos of the steam train that runs on the West Coast Wilderness Railway from Queenstown to Strahan. He and Liz took a half-day Rack and Gorge trip from Queenstown to Dubbil Barrel and while the engine was being turned around, there was time to explore a nearby rainforest walk with interpretive signs. Around Queenstown and along the road to Derwent Bridge there was an abundance of white-flowering shrubs and trees including Tasmanian Laurel *Anopterus glandulosus*, Horizontal *Anodopetalum biglandulosum* and *Hakea lissosperma*.



Hakea lissosperma – shrub and flowers



Anodopetalum biglandulosum (Horizontal)



Richea pandanifolia



Nothofagus (Myrtle)



Anopterus biglandulosum (Tasmanian Laurel)



King River.

SOMETHING TO BEAR IN MIND WHEN HEADING INTO THE GARDEN OR THE BUSH?

Below is a message from the Georges Riverkeeper Tony Wales that has been circulated to Georges River Council Bushcare volunteers.

Hello

Just a heads up: The South Western Sydney Local Health District has issued advice that Ross River Virus has been detected in mosquitos collected from monitoring sites at Deepwater Park, Milperra in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. As you are neighbouring Council with foreshore bushland and significant mangrove and saltmarsh populations which include macropod populations you should be aware of the associated risks and take precautions against Ross River Virus.

For further information about Ross River Virus NSW Health provide a fact sheet - see link below:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/factsheets/pages/ross-river-fever.aspx>

Regards

Tony Wales



Environmental Officer / Program Coordinator

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FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING
APS East Hills Group meeting, 5 February 2018

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno
Minutes recorded by Secretary Liz Cameron

Meeting opened by President Graham Fry at 7.45 pm. Twelve members in attendance; it was nice to see Karl Schurr, and we appreciated Boyd turning up after he'd had a very long day. Apologies from Jan Douglas and Dave Crawford.

Graham announced that Graham Walters' daughter Sue had been awarded an OAM for services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, particularly through the Cochlear Implant Club and Advisory Association (CICADA). The meeting applauded this honour; Sue has participated in our meetings both as a speaker, and a guest at Karlo's Trivia nights; her daughters were in the folk ensemble that entertained our Christmas meeting last year.

Graham Fry then gave a brief slide presentation on the trip that he and Liz made to Tasmania last November. Graham then presented the East Hills Group's financial report for 2018 (included in this newsletter). The hire of Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church premises for our meetings costs about \$52 per night (\$17.50 per hour) but the sale of plants and raffle tickets helps to cover that. It was agreed the Church premises are very convenient and well-appointed for our meetings, parking is easy and the seating is a big improvement on the little chairs in the library at Peakhurst South Public School.

There followed a discussion on the challenges identified by the NSW APS Board in keeping APS alive and vigorous (see EHG February 2019 Newsletter):

- Website - assistance is needed to manage and develop the website and refresh fact sheets and plant profiles
- Communication with members – Native Plants for NSW is going digital; editor needed - Dave Crawford will edit only one more issue, after which Rhonda Daniels has agreed to edit an online version for a limited period
- Australian Plants - a new editor needed because John Aitken is standing down at the end of 2019
- Attracting new members – need to develop promotional and marketing materials, communicate with potential new members
- Engagement with other stakeholders
- ANPSA biennial conference in 2021 hosted in Sydney by APS NSW, probably at the University of Wollongong. All branches will need to help, for instance by providing tours for conference participants.

The meeting then discussed planning within our own group:

Distribution of the online version of Native Plants for NSW – we could print and post, or hand, copies to members who are not connected to the internet; Dorothy and Kyrill said they could do this for Alan Wilkinson.

Winter meetings – a switch to daytime meetings or combining meetings with other groups was discussed but members present decided it was best to stick to the regular time slot at Lugarno. However we could develop closer ties with other nearby APS groups, particularly Menai Wildflower Group and Sutherland, advertising the speakers at our meetings and outings we might plan.

Speakers for our meetings; Graham Walters already has a good line-up for 2019:

- March – Doug Rickard on climate change
- April – Karlo Taliana on flora of Kosciuszko NP (he visited the region in December 2018)
- June or July - Lyndall Thorburn, leader of Eremophila Study Group
- July or June - members' night
- September – Karlo on Georges River NP which he has been exploring from its upper reaches.

Other suggested speakers were a representative of Bush Heritage Australia, and Lachlan Prentice, the Senior Environmental Officer at Georges River Council. Karlo offered to hold another trivia night but as he will be preparing two talks for our meetings this year, it was suggested it be held over until next year.

Outings – garden visits have been popular in the past; Karlo recommended no more than two gardens on any one day, allowing time for morning tea and a chat; the Porritts and O'Connors showed interest in opening their gardens to members. Other outings suggested were to a public garden or reserve such as Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Kareela, or a spring walk in Oatley Park.

Plant propagation – Karlo has made a very valuable contribution to members' gardens and the income of East Hills Group through his propagation and sale of native plants. He said he was prepared to continue the propagation work, but would really like help in maintaining the seedlings during summer. He pointed out the pots needed to be watered daily from December through February, which meant he could not get away for a holiday at that time. Members at the meeting readily agreed to help with this chore; Karlo could drop the pots over to people's homes.

Karlo is intending to pot up another tray at Menai on Saturday 23rd February. He will notify members of the dates when he will definitely be propagating at Menai.

East Hills Group Newsletter – Jan Douglas will be resigning as Editor at the end of the year, so it is essential that someone steps up to work with her during the year and takes over in 2020.

Membership - in answer to a question from Tony Porritt, Graham Fry said State-wide membership of APS had been falling in recent years but appeared to have levelled out. From talking with other groups, Graham thought the age-group of 50-70 was the one to focus on for new members. Graham Walters commented on the number of young families who turned up to help with native plantings by Oatley Flora and Fauna and suggested we could promote APS on those occasions.

The meeting concluded with a small offering at the plant table, the raffle draw, and plant sales. Raffle raised \$32 and plant sales \$40.



FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING
PLANT TABLE – FEBRUARY 2019

Thanks to everyone who brought along plant specimens.

As usual, Graham Walters has provided notes on a few of the plants.

Banksia media

Buckinghamia celsissima (Ivory Curl Flower)

Dampiera stricta

Eremophila mackinlayi

Goodenia ovata

Grevillea humilis

Grevillea 'Lady O' (*G. rhyolitica* x *G. victoriae*)

Scaevola aemula

Scaevola species

Westringia fruticosa – a variegated cultivar.

Dampiera stricta is an erect perennial sub-shrub in the family Goodeniaceae. It is native to open forests and woodlands in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania where it grows to 0.2 - 0.6 m. and produces blue flowers between August and January.

There are a number of forms in cultivation with variations in flower colour. The plant is hardy in a range of climates, preferring well drained soils, full sun or partial shade. It also grows well in containers. Its suckering habit is never invasive. Propagation from seed is unreliable, but cuttings from suckering stems usually strike reliably. ([Photo – John Tann, Wikimedia Commons](#))



***Eremophila mackinlayi* (Desert pride)** This shrub is endemic to Western Australia where it occurs in coastal areas between Shark Bay, Carnarvon and Murchison in calcareous and sandy soils and often in Mulga woodlands. It may be erect or spreading, with a height from 0.2 to 1 m. The branches and egg-shaped leaves are covered with a thick layer of yellow to grey hairs. The large deep lilac to purple flowers are borne in the leaf axils from May to October. The fruits are oval bottle shaped 7.5 - 10 mm long.

It is most closely related to *E. strongylophylla* and *E. hygrophana*.

Grafting is preferred if grown in eastern Australia. When grown on its own roots it does best in well-drained soil and in full sun or partial shade with good air flow. Only occasional watering during is needed during long droughts.

Grevillea humilis is usually an erect shrub that may reach a height of just over 1 m, but prostrate form is available marketed as Coastal Gem. It is said to have a lignotuber and thus suckers. It grows naturally on the central coast and north coast of NSW and southern Queensland.

The leaves are oblong to elliptical, to 5 cm long, with turned down margins. Flowers form on the ends of branches and may be white or pink. Peak flowering is spring and summer with sporadic flowering other times. It could be grown as a foreground plant in native gardens and is also a useful addition to rockeries and cottage gardens.

In the garden a light occasional pruning is beneficial. This plant is propagated easily from cuttings.

Banksia media is usually a shrub to about 4 m or even taller, but a prostrate form from the south coast of WA retains the low habit in cultivation. It is closely related to *B. praemorsa* and *B. epica*.

Leaves are broad with toothed margins. Cylindrical flower spikes are conspicuous and light yellow, about 150 mm long by 70-90 mm diameter at flowering. They are seen in early Winter and may continue through to Spring. A particularly attractive feature of the plant is the inflorescences at the bud stage. The contrast of the dark tipped styles with the yellow flowers is very striking.

Seeds are generally retained within the cone until burnt. It is fire sensitive in that it does not have a lignotuber for regeneration and relies on seed release after fire.

B. media is probably the hardiest of the Western Australian Banksias in areas of high humidity. Plants have been grown and flowered successfully in Sydney for many years in sunny well drained positions. Propagation from seed is relatively easy. (Photo – Cas Liber, Wikimedia Commons.)



***Buckinghamia celsissima* (Ivory Curl Flower)**. This is a stunning plant in cultivation where it grows into a spectacular flowering medium-large shrub or small tree. It flowers in Summer to Autumn, producing long creamy flower heads, often completely covering the dark green leaves. It is pollinated by insects and nectar-eating birds.

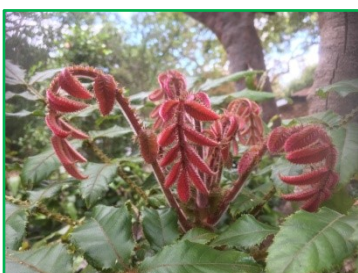


In the wild in rainforests of north Queensland it can grow into a small to medium sized tree.

This wonderful feature plant can also be used for screening and windbreak. In cultivation it grows to a height of 8-25 m in loam, sandy loam or clay loam. It prefers sunny to light shade in well-drained to moist soils with moderate drainage. It should be trimmed back behind the spent flowers. Propagation is possible from seed, softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings and layering.



(Photos - D Crawford)



FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING
APS East Hills Group 2018 Financial Statement

		2018	2017
Income			
	Membership	\$ 248.00	\$ 752.00
	Rebate from HO	\$ 200.00	\$ -
	Plant Sales	\$ 764.00	\$ 1,140.80
	Raffles	\$ 233.70	\$ 334.20
	Bank Interest	\$ -	\$ 0.04
	Donations	\$ 48.00	\$ 2.00
	Sundries	\$ 310.75	\$ 570.00
	Total	\$ 1,804.45	\$ 2,799.04
Expenditure			
	Subs to APS	\$ 208.00	\$ 525.00
	Postage	\$ -	\$ -
	Editorial Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
	Plant Purchase	\$ 108.00	\$ 234.00
	Admin	\$ -	\$ -
	Cost of Activities	\$ 164.00	\$ 74.95
	Meeting Costs	\$ 683.25	\$ 814.20
	Donations	\$ 300.00	\$ 330.00
	Sundries	\$ -	\$ 193.97
	Total	\$ 1,463.25	\$ 2,172.12
	Surplus	\$ 341.20	\$ 626.92
Account Balance at 31st December 2018			\$ 5,127.96
Account Balance at 31st December 2017			\$ 4,786.76

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Wednesday 6 March 2019 From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Doug Rickard on Climate Change Doug is a member of APS Sutherland Group and spoke to us last year about the amazing creatures living in our soil.
Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week from 1st to 31st of March 10am to 4pm	Boongala Native Garden open days 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst \$3 entry for adults. BYO picnic lunch. Large range of native plants for sale. Rainforest tours \$5 for adults. Children free.

COMING EVENTS – *continued from page 9*

Wednesday 13 March 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group – Doug Rickard on Amazing creatures of the soil. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 20 March 7.45 pm	Sutherland Group meeting – Matt Hall on Brush Turkeys in the suburbs Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Saturday 23 March From 10.30 am	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives <i>See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.</i>
Wednesday 3 April 2019 From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Members' Night. Come prepared to talk for 5- 10 minutes about a native plant you love, or one you can't seem to grow, or something you've learned about native plants (e.g. names, history, cultivation secrets, edible plants). Bring a plant sample, a book or photos if they help to tell your story!
Friday 12 April – Wednesday 17 April	APS NSW display at Sydney Royal Easter Show
Saturday 13 April 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group – Tony Wales on The Georges River Riverkeeper. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Saturday 20 April	Competition day at the Sydney Royal Easter Show (Easter Saturday)
Saturday 18 May	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering and AGM hosted by Blue Mountains Group. 'Plants with a bite' (Carnivorous plants) https://austplants.com.au/event-3221687?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5/27/2019
September – October 2019	ANPSA Biennial National Conference: Blooming Biodiversity. Early Bird rates end on 30 April 2019. See your journal 'Australian Plants' and https://meetingmasters.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/bloomingbiodiversity/eventinfo

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<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>

