

# APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



**JULY 2018**

## **NEXT EHG MEETING:**

**7.30 pm, Wednesday 4 July 2018**

**Members' night – your turn to share your knowledge  
and experiences with the Group!**

Come prepared to talk for five minutes or so about a native plant you love, a native plant you can't seem to grow, something you've learned about native plants (names, history, cultivation secrets, edible plants). Bring a plant sample, a book or photos, if they help to tell your story!

Please bring something to share for supper.

**LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH**

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

**VISITORS WELCOME**

**WELCOME** to the July 2018 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter – a very short one this time! I hope you find something in it to interest you.

Jan Douglas  
Editor

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



## PLANT TABLE – JUNE 2018

Notes by Graham Walters.

No one brought plant specimens to the meeting, but a few members spoke about their experiences with plants in their gardens. Thanks to everyone who talked about their plants.

*Grevillea* "Kimberley Gold"

*Phaius australis*

*Correa* "Jezabell"

*Correa* "Federation Belle"



*Correa* "Jezabell" (at left) is a small rounded shrub that grows to about 1 m high. It has dark green leaves and pink-red flowers during autumn and winter. Drought and frost hardy once established. Attracts nectar feeding birds. Correas make great pot plants so can be kept in a tub, even in a small space.

(Photo: Jan Douglas.)



*Correa* "Federation Belle" (at right) is a small rounded shrub to 1.5m high and 1.5m across with excellent bright flower colour of pink and green flowers from late summer through to winter. Tough, fast growing frost and drought tolerant shrub, particularly good for coastal areas. It prefers full sun or light shade, well-drained to dry soil.

(Photo: Jan Douglas.)



*Grevillea* "Kimberley Gold" is a large plant that prefers hot overhead sun and dryish soil. There is some controversy regarding the parentage of this plant: Merve Hodge, in a recent *Grevillea* Study Group newsletter (Issue 104, June 2016), stated that *G. "Kimberley Gold"* is presumed to be a hybrid between *G. aurea* and *G. wickhamii*, while Peter Olde said that to the best of his knowledge the parentage is *G. wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* x *G. miniata*. (Photo by Bonniegirly [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kimberly\\_Gold\\_1.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kimberly_Gold_1.JPG))

There was a joint venture project between Kings Park, the *Grevillea* Study Group and RIRDC [Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, renamed in 2017 to AgriFutures Australia – *Editor*]. The aim was to

develop a protocol for tissue culture of *Grevillea*.

*Phaius australis* (Lesser Swamp Orchid) is an endangered species that occurs from near Cooktown in Queensland to Lake Cathie south of Port Macquarie in NSW in swamps, especially those dominated by broad-leaved paperbarks, also open forests and wallum, depressions in grassy areas. It also occurs in Fiji, Indonesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



It is a terrestrial orchid, forming large clumps with crowded ovoid pseudobulbs. The flowers occur in groups of 4 -16 and are resupinate\*, star-shaped, reddish-brown internally, sometimes with yellowish veins, white externally (see flower in the background of photo above). The flowering period is from September to November. (Photo: Jan Douglas.)

\* 'Resupinate' :

- 'Resupinate - with the labellum lowermost in the flower, below the column'.  
Ref: 'Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria' by Tony Bishop. UNSW Press 1996.
- 'Resupinate - (Botany - of a leaf, flower, fruiting body, etc.) upside down.'  
Ref: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/resupinate>
- 'A resupinate flower is one in which the flower stalk does a 180-degree twist while it develops, bringing what would be the bottom of the flower to the top, and vice versa.' For an interesting discussion see <http://www.burwur.net/sinns/3resupe.htm>

*Editor.*

## THE BUSINESS

### East Hills Group meeting – 6 June 2018

Minutes by Liz Cameron

The meeting opened at 7.38 pm with 12 in attendance, including two visitors, Deb and Brett Stevenson, who are moving to Moruya and were interested to learn more about Horse Island.

The President, Graham Fry, opened the meeting by commenting on the very welcome rain we have been receiving in Sydney – the heaviest in 18 months.

#### Announcements:

1. Need to hold a committee meeting to discuss plans for the APS regional meeting we are hosting in September, the invitation from Bunnings Kingsgrove to talk about growing native plants, annual donations to conservation organisations, and other matters.

2. Latest issues of Australian Plants and Native Plants for NSW have been received.
3. Membership is due 1 July. There are several options for payment – completing the form in the journal and posting it with remittance to the APS NSW Membership Secretary Merle Thompson, paying at our meeting, or making a bank transfer. Merle would prefer the last option, but members must remember to include their name in the reference box.
4. Some EHG members attended the regional meeting and AGM at Cherrybrook where Peter Olde gave a very interesting talk on Grevilleas and Hakeas. He pointed out that some early DNA analysis of these groups was carried out on a small group of genes (only about five bases) and indicated species of Grevillea and Hakea could not be separated into two discrete groups. As the name *Hakea* has precedence, all *Grevillea* species were to be dumped into the genus *Hakea*. However, subsequent research funded by the Australian Government on a larger portion of genetic material (about 400 bases) indicates there are significant differences between *Hakea* and *Grevillea* and they are no longer likely to be all amalgamated into *Hakea*. The study is still not complete, but we should look for a publication soon, perhaps as early as the end of 2018.
5. Unfortunately the elections at the AGM were aborted because the nomination forms lacked seconders; the elections were re-scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> June, to be held in conjunction with Sutherland Group's monthly meeting.
7. The speaker at the Sutherland Group meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June will be Rhonda Daniels, on Sir Joseph Banks, his legacy, and the Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve in Kareela.
8. Menai Wildflower Group's meeting is on the coming Saturday at 1 pm.
9. Reminder of the FJC Rogers seminar at Horsham in Victoria on week-end of 20 and 21 October; topic this year is Showcasing Goodeniaceae; these seminars are recommended by Graham Walters and Dave Crawford.
10. Visitor Deb Stevenson spoke briefly on a citizen science program in the Shoalhaven area – identifying fauna and flora, and uploading the species lists on Atlas of Living Australia. This is the Wild Coast Nature Map, one of three regional Nature Maps, the others being Canberra Nature Map and Budawang Nature Map. Anyone can get involved by taking photos with GPS co-ordinates or reporting sightings; identifications are checked by moderators. Dave Crawford reported the Canberra Nature Map is already being used by ACT government instrumentalities to locate and control weeds. Deb distributed brochures on the Nature Map program.

Following the business announcements, Graham introduced the speaker, Jan Douglas, on the topic of a visit to Horse Island, a magnificent garden near Bodalla. Jan's talk elicited many questions and discussion, particularly about pruning techniques and their varying success.

In the absence of plant specimens for the plant table, various members spoke about plants from their gardens. Marie O'Connor reported her success with tip-pruning a Kimberley Gold hybrid grevillea which is currently a mass of flowers, and growing a Swamp Orchid (*Phaius australis*) from a flowering stem that Kyrill Taylor had brought for the plant table at a previous EHG meeting [probably November 2016 – Editor].

Jan and David screened photos of plants currently in flower in their garden near Moruya on the South Coast; they included a pink-flowered Correa, a Brachyscome, and also an example of the Hinchinbrook Island *Banksia plagiocarpa* which was in flower in Ian Cox's garden at Cherrybrook.

Income at meeting:

Plant sales	\$23.00
Raffle tickets	\$19.80
Membership renewals	<u>\$152.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194.80</b>



FROM OUR JULY MEETING

## A VISIT TO HORSE ISLAND – A MAGNIFICENT NATIVE GARDEN

A presentation by Jan Douglas

Horse Island is a magnificent private garden featuring Australian native plants on a 200 acre island with residences as well as gardens. The island is in a fabulous natural setting in the Tuross River estuary, near Bodalla on the south coast of NSW. Horse Island was once part of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort's Bodalla estate, and now belongs to Christina and Trevor Kennedy who bought it in the late 1980s when Panfida Foods took over the Bodalla Company. Christina is a great great granddaughter of TS Mort, and the family connection is very important to her.

Christina is the moving spirit behind this garden. She is hands-on in planting and propagating as well as design and plant selection. Christina also looks after visitors to the garden. She is a member of APS South East Group, and it was as a member of this group that I was able to visit the garden in October 2016 and November 2017. The 2017 visit included a demonstration by Ray Brown (of Illawarra Grevillea Park fame) of grevillea pruning. The presentation included photos from both visits, and also photos by others, including David Crawford, who also provided a couple of pruning videos.

In the presentation I showed photos of views, plants, sculptures, buildings and flowers on Horse Island, and talked a bit about the history of the garden and the island. I also showed some photos and videos of Ray Brown pruning grevilleas.

The photos that follow are a selection from the presentation. It's worth mentioning that although Horse Island is full of beautiful plants and views, gardening there also involves many challenges, many the same as we all face. Just some examples:

- ◇ Drought.
- ◇ So much to do! It's a big area to care for. For example – pruning: many of the effects and vistas rely on pruning shrubs and trimming trees.
- ◇ Other residents: emus, wallabies and kangaroos share or knock over or lie on plants.
- ◇ Plants suddenly die for no apparent reason, or outgrow their space.

More information:

- ◇ 'Horse Island' by Christina Kennedy and Jason Busch, Zabriskie Books, 2016.
- ◇ An interesting article about Horse Island by Howard Tanner at <https://landscapeaustralia.com/articles/horse-island-a-garden-of-grandeur/>
- ◇ Brief biography of TS Mort <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mort-thomas-sutcliffe-4258>
- ◇ Article in the local paper about the visit by APS SE Group visit to Horse Island in 2017 <https://www.naroomanewsonline.com.au/story/5094585/australian-plant-society-south-east-tours-horse-island/#slide=1>











(Photos: Jan Douglas and David Crawford.)

## COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

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

Wednesday 4 July 2018 From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Members' night ( <b>see page 1 for more information</b> ). Please bring supper to share and specimens for the Plant Table.
Saturday 7 July 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. <a href="#">[click for map]</a>
Saturday 14 July 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group <b>Super</b> Meeting- Dr Mark Ooi and Dr John Porter speak on 'Season and Smoke: Key elements in dormancy and germination'. Mark and John are from the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science at UNSW where MWG are providing a scholarship for research into the germination of <i>Actinotus</i> species. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. <a href="#">[click for map]</a>
Wednesday 20 July 7.45 pm for 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting: Ralph Cartwright gives an overview of the APS 2018 Annual Conference held in Tasmania.
Wednesday 1 August From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting. Details to be advised.
Wednesday 8 August	Menai Wildflower Group – Speaker from Neutrog Fertilisers. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. <a href="#">[click for map]</a>

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