

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2018

NEXT EHG MEETING:

A visit to Horse Island – a magnificent native garden
Jan Douglas

7.30 pm, Wednesday 6 June 2018

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 June 2018 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter.

Yes, you read it right – I will be presenting at our next meeting. Horse Island is a privately owned island near Bodalla on the NSW south coast, and it has a grand and impressive garden that features Australian native plants. I've been lucky enough to visit it twice, and I'll be sharing photos and a bit of history with you, as well as video of some startling Grevillea pruning – if the technology behaves! Anyway, I think you'll like the pictures.

This newsletter includes notes from our May meeting, including our plant table, and information about several activities that you may wish to add to your diary.

You may be interested to know that the article in our EHG May newsletter about the Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show was republished in the most recent APS Sutherland newsletter.

Jan Douglas
Editor

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



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been out in the country recently and was shocked at how bad the drought is. While the effect is obvious in the sheep and wheat belt, the effect on natural systems is less obvious. A few recent bird surveys have shown that bird numbers are much lower than normal, and in some areas trees, particularly casuarinas, are looking very poorly. In Sydney, our main rainfall comes from east coast lows but we haven't had one of those since March 2017 and it doesn't look as if we will get one this autumn, as we are coming to the end of the wet season.

What really irritates me is that in the media and in general discussion there is little concern about the drought - perhaps if we were in the country there would be more awareness about it, but not in the city. I suspect that people, particularly those living in high rise apartments, are very remote from the local environment and just don't notice or care. It shows up with Governments now doing terrible things to the environment because they can get away with it – or so they think. For example, stopping the culling of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park is deplorable, and the reduction in funding and staffing of national parks is a disgrace. I understand that with the latest funding cuts there will be more national parks than rangers! How can they possibly manage the national park estate like that?

On a happier note, we are now in the season when our flowers should be starting to appear and we can appreciate the results of our gardening efforts over summer when we were trying to keep everything alive. Happy gardening!

Graham Fry
President, APS East Hills Group

The election of officers for APS NSW has been re-scheduled to 20 June 2018.

It will take place in conjunction with the Sutherland Group monthly meeting – see page 7 for details.

Please attend if you can, or send in a proxy form (which you should have received by email from John Aitken) to help ensure a quorum.

Some photos from Ian Cox's garden

A visit in conjunction with the APS NSW AGM and Quarterly Gathering
Saturday, 26 May 2018



PLANT TABLE – MAY 2018

Notes by Graham Walters.

Thanks to everyone who brought plant specimens.

Boronia crenulata Aniseed Boronia

Brachyscome “Brasco Violet”

Brachyscome “Radiant Magenta”

Crowea saligna Willow-leaved Crowea

Ptherosphaera fitzgeraldii (syn. *Microstrobos fitzgeraldii*) Dwarf Mountain Pine or Blue Mountains Pine

Stenocarpus sinuatus Firewheel Tree

***Boronia crenulata* (Aniseed Boronia)**

A small shrub to 1 m tall and wide, with massed pink flowers in spring to summer. It likes dappled shade with moist but well drained soils. Good in flower garden and in containers. Frost tolerant, attracts bees, butterflies, other insects.

Prune lightly after flowering if needed. Propagate by seed, softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings or layering. Widespread through south-west WA. Leaves have an aniseed aroma when crushed.

(Photo: Warren and Gloria Sheather.)

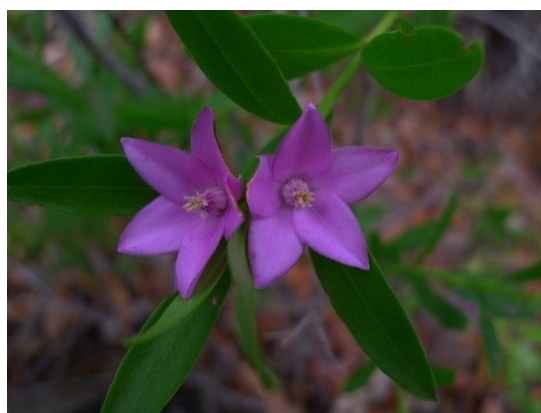


***Brachyscome* “Brasco Violet”** (Rock Daisy). There are 70 species of *Brachyscome* in Australia, most being small herbs with rosette or basal leaves. This is a semi-trailing variety with large and early flowers of vibrant purple-blue blooms with bright yellow centres set against frilly green foliage. Height 20 – 30 cm, width 20 – 25 cm. Good for borders and containers. 'Brachys comus' is Greek for short hair.

***Brachyscome* “Radiant Magenta”** has bright magenta coloured flowers for most of the year. Excellent for mixed containers, baskets, borders and patio pots. Prefers free draining soils and full sun.

***Crowea saligna* (Willow-leaved Crowea)**

Flowers are bright pink with five petals and ten free stamens, similar to those of *Eriostemon* except that the anthers of *Crowea* have long bearded appendages. It is a slender small shrub restricted to the Sydney area. It flowers in autumn and winter when *Boronias* and *Eriostemons* are not in flower. It is found in sheltered forests on sandy soils in the coastal zone around Sydney, including Bouddi National Park, Oatley Park and Royal National Park.



(Photo: John Tann, Wikimedia Commons)

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/19/Crowea_saligna_%285605881742%29.jpg/1024px-Crowea_saligna_%285605881742%29.jpg)

***Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* (syn. *Microstrobus fitzgeraldii*) (Dwarf Mountain Pine or Blue Mountains Pine)** Family: Podocarpaceae

This is a small conifer to 1 m high and 2 m wide with greyish-green foliage that is whitish on the upper surface. The male and female cones are found on different plants. Male cones are about 6mm long, female 3mm long. However, the plant rarely sets seed, so propagation is usually by cuttings of firm current season's growth. Cuttings are generally reliable in striking.

It makes an excellent weeping specimen for containers. It prefers moist soils and potting mixes, freely draining. It performs best in shaded or semi-shaded locations, and tolerates severe frosts.

This endangered species is found in upper Blue Mountains, restricted to sandstone cliffs in the spray zone of waterfalls. (Photos: Jan Douglas.)



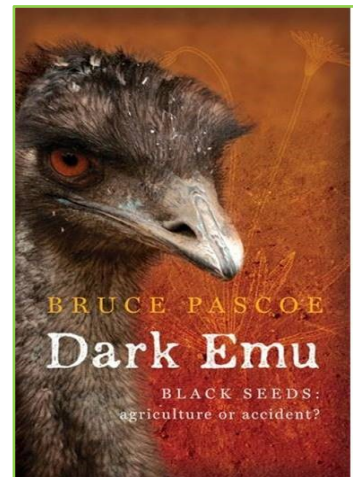
FROM OUR MAY MEETING DISCUSSION ABOUT 'DARK EMU' BY BRUCE PASCOE A talk by Karl Schurr

Karl shared his response to this book, addressing three points:

- Ideas and information from the book
- His personal reflections
- Where to next for our national conversation?

Karl explained that the book is a collection of eye witness accounts of the first explorers describing what they saw in their travels, and Bruce Pascoe's personal comments and reflection on these observations. A quote from Bruce Pascoe: 'My aim is to give rise to the possibility of an alternative view of pre-colonial Aboriginal society'.

Liz Cameron's meeting notes (below) include more details.



THE BUSINESS East Hills Group meeting – 2 May 2018 Minutes by Liz Cameron

Meeting opened at 7.33 pm with 21 in attendance, including four visitors. Graham Fry welcomed back Hugh and Beverley Stacy. He thanked Jan Douglas for producing another informative newsletter.

Announcements:

1. Reminder of the APS NSW AGM and Quarterly Gathering on Saturday 26 May, hosted by Parramatta-Hills Group at Gumnut Community Centre, Gumnut Place Cherrybrook. The guest speaker in the afternoon will be Peter Olde on the topic 'When is a Grevillea a Hakea?' Details of the day's program are on the APS NSW website and in the newsletter.
2. Procedure for membership renewals is being updated; subscriptions fall due in June. Graham will provide details at the June meeting.

3. Reminder of the FJC Rogers seminar in Victoria on week-end of 20 and 21 October; topic this year is Showcasing Goodeniaceae.
4. Jan Douglas read a letter from the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, thanking East Hills Group for supporting the native flora section of the Flower and Garden Competition. East Hills' entries had a 60% success rate and won prize money of \$18.

Following the announcements, Graham introduced the speaker, Karl Schurr, who began by acknowledging the Gweagal custodians of the land on which the meeting was being held.

Karl spoke about Bruce Pascoe's book, *Dark Emu*, which questions the concept of pre-colonial Indigenous Australians being hunter-gatherers, and provides evidence of village populations, crop harvesting, and irrigation. The book's title refers to a dark area in the Milky Way that Indigenous Australians identified as the outline of an emu; a similar outline appears as a rock engraving in Ku-ring-gai National Park.

Karl explained his talk was based on ideas in the book and his personal reflections, which led to his question "Where to next for our national conversation?" He quoted a figure of 90% of the Aboriginal population of Sydney having died within five years of the First Fleet's arrival, and questioned how our culture would survive if such a massive proportion of the population was lost.

Dating techniques applied recently to an excavation in the Madjedbebe rock shelter in Arnhem Land have placed the arrival of humans in Australia at 65,000 years ago, which means Australia was settled well before modern humans entered Europe (about 45,000 years ago).

From *Dark Emu*, Karl quoted examples of deliberate manipulation of the Australian environment by those early Aboriginal arrivals. Evidence of grains being ground at least 35,000 years ago, significant food sources such as murrnong or yam daisies (*Microseris lanceolata*) being cultivated in south-eastern Australia and warran or warrine yams (*Dioscorea hastifolia*) being cultivated in coastal Western Australia. Other examples of modification of the environment included the eel trap channels in south-west Victoria and fish traps in the Barwon River near Brewarrina.

Karl's talk was followed by a general discussion of the material he had presented, and members of the audience shared their own experiences of Indigenous land use.

Income at meeting: Plant sales: \$36, raffle tickets: \$26.60; Total: \$62.60



Some photos from Horse Island.

FJC ROGERS SEMINAR - GOODENACEAE

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 October 2018

Horsham, Victoria



Seminar registration costs:

Early Bird - received and paid by 30 June 2018. **Cost: \$95**

Standard - received and paid by 1 October 2018. **Cost: \$115**

The program:

Saturday: 8:00am to 4:00pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran College Hall, 25 Trinity Drive,
Horsham, Victoria.

The registration fee covers:

- Parking
- Lunch, morning and afternoon teas
- All day proceedings
- Digital Photo-guides.

Saturday Dinner \$42 6:00pm Holy Trinity Lutheran College Hall, 25 Trinity Drive,
Horsham

- Free parking
- Two course meal including tea/coffee. BYO Drinks.

Sunday Coach Tour - Garden Visits All registrants must travel on coach.

\$52 covers:

- Coach travel
- Entry to all gardens
- Lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

The registration form can be downloaded as a pdf or an Excel form from the from the FJC Rogers Seminar 2018 website <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/> The Excel form will calculate totals automatically, and once the fields are filled in you can email it to: fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com All instructions are on the form.

The following Visitor Information Centres can help with finding accommodation:

- Horsham, Free call 1800 633 218 <http://www.visithorsham.com.au/accommodation/>
- Stawell & Grampians, Free call 1800 330 080 <https://www.visitgrampians.com.au/where-to-stay>

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

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

Saturday 2 June 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. [click for map]
Wednesday 6 June 2018 From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Jan Douglas, APS East Hills Group: A visit to Horse Island (see page 1 for more information). Please bring supper to share and specimens for the Plant Table.
Saturday 9 June 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group – Terry Lennis on Bush Tucker. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. [click for map]
Wednesday 20 June 7.45 pm for 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting: ➤ Re-scheduled election of officers for APS NSW – see page 1. ➤ Rhonda Daniels on the life and legacy of Sir Joseph Banks Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Wednesday 4 July 2018 From 7 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting. Details to be advised.
20 and 21 October 2018	12th FJC Rogers Seminar: The Goodeniaceae family. Horsham, Victoria. Registration commences 1 April 2018, ends 1 October 2018. For more information see page 6 and https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/

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More photos from Horse Island.

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

