

EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2016

NEXT EHG MEETING:

From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start, Wednesday 2 November 2016

Transforming conservation on the ground:

A new initiative to help save Australia's threatened wildlife and their habitats

Shauna Chadlowe from **Australian Wildlife Conservancy**

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

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

Visitors are welcome.

If you can, please bring something to share for supper, and labelled specimens for the plant table.

WELCOME to the November edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. The long list of specimens on the October Plant Table shows that Spring had truly sprung! In this issue, Hugh Stacy shares some of his researches with us, and I have included plenty of pretty flower photos! My thanks to those who provided photos for this issue.

Jan Douglas, Editor

In this newsletter:

- A note from the President
- Coming events—Reminders, dates to note
- October Plant Table – notes and photos
- Notes from our October meeting
- Notes from October Committee meeting
- EHG contact details.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was nice to see more of our members at the October meeting, some who for various reasons have been absent for a while. With two visitors, seventeen people heard quite an interesting presentation from John Martin, wildlife ecologist with The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. John has been very active in wing-tagging Sulphur-crested White Cockatoos and White Ibis, thus enabling tracking of their movements. The interesting thing is that although these two species are capable of flying quite long distances they remain very close to the Sydney metropolitan area. They know when they are on a good thing, all their needs being available right here in Sydney. There are White Ibis nesting in the palms in Beverly Hills shopping area.

Business at our October meeting was cut to a minimum, the group happy for other matters to be discussed at a committee meeting later in the month.

Just a reminder that members should try to bring to the November meeting names of those members who wish to take on one of the office bearer roles for next year. This makes the election process at our December AGM run so much more smoothly.

Hope to see more of you at the November meeting to hear Shauna Chadlowe speaking on the latest activities of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Shauna is very easy to listen to.

Graham Walters
President

The two main photos here are from Kyrill and Dorothy Taylor and show their magnificent specimen of *Dockrillia linguiformis* which they brought to our October meeting. The close-up photo is of a wild specimen in Lugarno.



THE OCTOBER 2016 PLANT TABLE

Hugh Stacy

Our plant table held a fine array at our meeting on 5 October:

Acacia binervia (Coastal Myall)
Aphanopetalum resinosum (Gum Vine)
Banksia ericifolia
Banksia speciosa
Calochlaena dubia (Common Ground Fern, also called soft bracken)
Chrysocephalum apiculatum syn. *Helichrysum apiculatum* (Yellow Buttons)
Dockrillia linguiformis syn. *Dendrobium linguiforme* (Tongue Orchid)
Dockrillia pugioniformis syn. *Dendrobium pugioniforme* (Dagger Orchid)
Dianella caerulea (Blue Flax Lily)
Diplopeltis huegelii (Pepper Flower)
Eremophila mackinlayi ssp. *mackinlayi*
Eremophila nivea
Grevillea 'Blood Orange'
Grevillea buxifolia ssp. *buxifolia*
Grevillea hookeriana
Grevillea plurijuga
Grevillea quercifolia (Oak-leaf Grevillea)
Grevillea scapigera (Corrigin Grevillea)
Grevillea wickhamii
Hakea dactyloides (Finger Hakea)
Hakea nodosa
Hibbertia vestita
Homoranthus flavescens
Isopogon formosus (Rose Cornflower)
Isopogon latifolius
Lasiopetalum behrii (Pink Velvet Bush)
Melaleuca fulgens (Scarlet Honey Myrtle)
Melaleuca nodosa (called Prickly-leaved Paperbark, but not the only one)
Melaleuca psammophila
Pimelea ferruginea
Podocarpus spinulosus
Prostanthera magnifica (Magnificent Mint Bush)
Prostanthera sp.
Prostanthera striatiflora (Streaked Mint Bush)
Sarcochilus falcatus (Orange-blossom Orchid)
Stackhousia monogyna
Thelychiton kingianus syn. *Dendrobium kingianum* (Pink Rock Orchid)
Verticordia nobilis
Verticordia ovalifolia
Viminaria juncea (Native Broom)
Xanthosia rotundifolia (Southern Cross)

Recording all these names was greatly assisted by members' notes.

Aphanopetalum resinosum

A twining climber needing support to rise, this handsome foliage plant will happily ramble at ground level in shady parts of the garden. Its dark green shiny leaves are ovate, the margins with shallow blunt teeth; the leaves are opposite, some 10 cm long and 3 cm broad, on stems with raised pores. Greenish cream flowers, though not abundant, open in late spring or early summer, featuring four delicate sepals 12 mm diameter which persist to surround the fruit that develops as a nut only 2-3 mm across.

Gum Vine will respond well in a basket, using well-composted soil and complete fertiliser in spring. If old stems become woody it will take heavy pruning before the growing season, but will require regular water in this situation. It occurs naturally in rainforest and wet forest areas through coastal NSW into Queensland.



Photo: Murray Fagg
Australian National Botanic Gardens
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/photo>

This genus was named by the Austrian botanist Endlicher in 1829, using the Greek words *aphanes* = invisible, and *petalon* = a petal, to recognise the lack thereof. It is a member of the family *Cunoniaceae*, as is *Ceratopetalum*, a relative which also has inconspicuous petals and prominent sepals.

Grevillea scapigera

This species occurs in a very localised area of WA that has been all but totally cleared for agriculture. It is now classified as Critically Endangered. A general description in the Interim Recovery Plan (IRP) of the WA Department of Environment and Conservation is:

'*Grevillea scapigera* is a prostrate, spreading shrub, 5-10 cm high by up to 2 m across with slightly hairy stems. The leaves, which are erect and on long slender stalks, are 3-9 cm long, hairy at first and become glabrous with age. Each leaf has flat, sharply pointed, deeply cut lobes that in some cases, are cut almost to the base of the midrib. Mature leaves are hairless, slightly leathery, and slightly prickly. Creamy white, sweetly-scented flowers are borne in unusual globular heads to 4 cm in diameter on scapes to 30 cm. Fruits are 1 to 1.5 cm long, sticky, slightly oblique and compressed, and contain two curved to oblique-navicular¹ seeds (McGillivray 1993). The seeds are light brown to grey and mottled. This colouring may aid in avoidance of seed predation.'



Photos: Karlo Taliana

¹ *navicular* = boat-shaped. Editor.

Grevillea scapigera was named by Alex George in 1974: the Latin word *scapus* is literally a shaft or beam (the long flowering stem), combined with the suffix *-ger* meaning bearing or carrying.

The IRP makes sobering reading, as there are many threats to the few wild plants still existing. But the best of science is being applied in order to guide conservation efforts. The report states: 'Detailed research has been carried out on different aspects of the species biology, genetics, *ex situ* conservation and reintroduction potential in joint projects between Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and the University of Western Australia.'

While our APS can be proud of its past involvements in support of conservation of the Australian flora, we should consider how we might further this cause in practical ways in the future. One project might be to foster the establishment of rare plants in the public gardens of our neighbourhood.

Melaleuca nodosa

There were three separate specimens which caused some discussion as to which, if any, were *M. nodosa*, as indeed there were obvious differences between them. Therefore let us review the salient characters of *M. nodosa*, which occurs from Campbelltown northward along the NSW coast and river systems and into Queensland.



It is a shrub usually 1-4 m (known 7-10 m high) and to 2.5 m wide, with corky to papery bark. Rounded forms may occur in full sun but taller plants often grow unevenly in coastal competition. Leaves are alternate, rigid, very variable, sometimes terete 1 mm diameter, or linear 1-3 mm wide, 1-3 (4) cm long, always tapering to a sharp tip.

The flowers may vary in colour in different places, off-white, cream or shades of yellow, borne terminally and around upper stems in spherical heads of round capsules compressed closely together. Each capsule is a complete flower, with pistil surrounded by 5 bundles each of 3-5 stamens; 5 rounded petals to 1.5 mm long form a rim around the capsule opening, to 1.5 mm diameter, each capsule 2-3 mm across. The whole fruit cluster measures 6-10 mm diameter. The inflorescence is generally about 15 mm diameter, although some selected forms may be larger.



The epithet *nodosa* comes from the Latin word *nodosus* = knotted, an impression any observer might gain while observing a bush not in flower, as the stems continue to grow through the closely packed globular fruits.

Melaleuca nodosa photos: Australian National Botanic Gardens <http://www.anbg.gov.au/photo>
Top: Anon Bottom: K. Thaler

Xanthosia rotundifolia

This little shrub grows in sandy soil or rocky places in woodlands or heaths between Albany and the Stirling Range. It sprawls 50 cm across, with flower stems usually 30 cm high. Leaves are alternate, rounded and toothed. The flower heads form at the end of a vertical stem; when viewed from above each stem subtends two pairs of peduncles set at right-angles, each peduncle with flowers attached at its end on its upper surface which are revealed when 3 large white bracts unwrap. Thus anyone looking down sees the iconic Southern Cross.



Photos: Karlo Taliana



NP4NSW

The October 2016 issue of *Native Plants for NSW* is now on the website for all members to view.

Enter via the home page <http://austplants.com.au/> and log in using either your personal login, or the shared account 'member2016' password 'Corymbi4', and then select from 'Latest Updates' or from the last item on the 'Resources' tab.

THE BUSINESS

EHG October meeting: Wednesday 5 October 2016

Australian Plants Society East Hills Group – Monthly Meeting 5 October 2016

The meeting was held at Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church, 909 Forest Road Lugarno. Meeting commenced at 7.45pm and was chaired by our President, Graham Walters, with 17 other APS members in attendance. There were two apologies.

Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist, was our guest speaker for the evening speaking on the topic 'Wildlife adapting to city life'.

Correspondence:

- November 24-26th 2016, there is a three-day Seminar at Melbourne and Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens in Victoria on the *Haemodoraceae* family (members include *Anigozanthos* and *Conostylis*). Speakers include Professor Stephen Hopper, the world's botanical expert on *Haemodoraceae*, Dr Brett Summerell, Neil Marriott and Angus Stewart.
- Correspondence has been received from Angus Irwin of Neutrog Fertilisers – he has offered to speak at our March 2017 meeting.

News/Business:

- Shauna Chadlowe will speak at our November monthly meeting on the latest efforts of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

- Next month we should also discuss whether other members are willing to take up positions for 2017 – this will provide some relief to those who have held these positions for a number of years. This will be discussed further at our next committee meeting set down for Tuesday 18th October.
- Priscilla Duncan from Revesby Workers Garden Club has requested that one of our members speak on native plants at one of their meetings next year. This could be a means of promoting APS. Graham Walters is willing to speak but may need some assistance with setting up a PowerPoint presentation.
- Our recent propagation meeting saw some EHG members pot on some of the tube stock left over from our recent plant sale.
- Our upcoming committee meeting will discuss the notion of selling plants at our monthly meetings in addition to having our usual plant raffle. Other topics for discussion will include organising our December Christmas meeting and possible activities for 2017.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

EHG committee meeting: Tuesday 18 October 2016

Meeting commenced 7.40 pm **In attendance:** Graham Walters, Graham Fry, Karlo Taliana, Liz Cameron, Kyrill Taylor, Dorothy Taylor, Hugh Stacy. **Notes** by Karlo Taliana.

Topics discussed:

- Office bearers for 2017 – Graham Fry has offered to relieve Graham Walters of his role as President having held this position for the past four years. This will make vacant the Treasurer's position that Graham Fry currently holds. Karlo Taliana has offered to swap roles or remain as Secretary but this still means we require a member to step forward in taking on new roles within the committee. Jan Douglas has stated that she may continue in her role as Newsletter Editor but she won't stand in the way of anyone willing to take up this role. Hugh Stacy has agreed to take on the role of Vice-President. Plant Steward is a role also played by Hugh Stacy – he has agreed to continue in this role. Hugh mentioned that those members bringing specimens to the Plant ID table also form part of this role. Dorothy Taylor is happy to continue as our head Supper Steward – assisted admirably by Liz Cameron. With our access to the propagation area at Illawong Fire Brigade Headquarters, the role of Propagation Officer has been shared by a few East Hills members. Our surviving plants in the green shade-house at Illawong will need to be kept watered through summer and potted-on so that they are available as larger specimens for next year's plant sales. Karlo has offered to take on the role of Propagation Co-ordinator next year. When it comes to watering our propagated plants, this role may be shared with others. Arrangements should be made with Lloyd Hedges for gaining access to the propagation site. If Karlo takes on a more prominent role in co-ordinating our propagation, he has suggested that he would prefer to be relieved of his current committee position as Secretary.
- Sale of plants – Our efforts to sell plants at the East Hills Girls Technology High School (EHGTHS) this year weren't as rewarding as with previous years. After some discussion, it was decided that Karlo will trial selling some plants at our next few monthly meetings until his supply diminishes. Some of the better plants will be set aside as gifts for guest speakers. Any surplus plants can be donated to the Flora Foundation. By the middle of next year, we should be in a better position to decide whether we will hold our annual

plant sale at EHGTHS once again or an alternative venue. From here on, we should also consider propagating species that are different from the species we have tried in previous years ...with the aim of targeting species that flower during spring. We will continue to have some plants available for the Raffle at our meetings.

If members have native plants in pots that they can spare, they could consider donating them to the Group for sale or the Raffle – the more presentable, better quality plants will be used as sale plants to raise more funds for the Group; the remainder can be used for the Raffle.

- Annual visit to Sylvan Grove Native Gardens – will continue again next year. This activity will be promoted more widely to other groups.
- Trivia night 2017 – this will be held again next year – making it our fourth Biennial Trivia Night, probably in June.
- EHG November Meeting – Shauna Chadlowe will speak on the work of Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Rather than present her with a gift for speaking at our meeting, our committee has decided that we will present her with a donation cheque of \$30 from our Group to AWC.
- 7 December (Christmas) meeting – from 6pm with a sit-down dinner commencing at 6.30pm. This will be followed by our AGM, and then Crazy Whist. (EHG members are asked to bring any spare sets of playing cards.) There will be an entry fee of \$5 per person to cover costs of food and drinks. Invitations to be sent to other APS Groups with an RSVP date set for one week prior to the evening. Graham Walters will purchase a selection of cold meats (costs to be reimbursed) from a local deli. Graham will also bring steamed potatoes and 25-30 bread rolls. Karlo will bring orange juice to supplement the tea, coffee and water already available. **All EHG members are encouraged to bring assorted salads, platters and desserts.** We will have one or two hampers for our raffle, one nursery plant (to be donated by Karlo) for raffle as well as 3-4 other good quality plants as our final raffle prizes. There will be no lucky door prize and no plant table. We will still have some plants available for sale at this meeting.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

TWO CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

State Library of NSW – Planting Dreams

The Library is recognising the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the 50th anniversary of establishment of landscape gardening as a profession with two exhibitions under the banner Planting Dreams. These free exhibitions run until Sunday 15 January 2017. For more information, see EHG September 2016 newsletter or the websites shown below.



Planting Dreams: Shaping Australian Gardens

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/planting-dreams-shaping-australian-gardens>

Planting Dreams: Grand Garden Designs

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/planting-dreams-grand-garden-designs>

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events at <http://www.austplants-nsw.org.au/calendar6.html>

Wednesday 2 November From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start	East Hills Group meeting – Shauna Chadlowe from Australian Wildlife Conservancy on Transforming conservation on the ground: a ground-breaking new initiative to help save Australia's threatened wildlife and their habitats.
Saturday 5 November 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation meeting with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters
Wednesday 9 November 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting – Guest speaker Chad Bernek on Frogs in the Garden. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters
Wednesday 16 November From 7.45 for 8 pm start	Sutherland Group meeting – Making plants grow and thrive in your garden and AGM. Gymea Community Centre, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Saturday 19 November 12.30 pm	APS NSW Quarterly Gathering hosted by Macarthur Group at Black Stump Natives, 26 Crana Rd, Brownlow Hill, Camden. Ben Walcott , leader of the ANPSA Garden Design Group, will talk on Garden design: a personal perspective. More details are available in the October issue of <i>Native Plants for NSW.</i>
Wednesday 7 December From 7 pm for 7.30 pm start	East Hills Group meeting – Christmas celebration: Dinner and Crazy Whist.



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