

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



October 2018

NEXT EHG MEETING:

7.30 pm, Wednesday 3 October 2018

URBAN ECOLOGY: THE BRUSH TURKEY AND FRIENDS

Matt Hall

Matt Hall is a PhD student working with wildlife ecologist Dr John Martin from Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Dr Martin's team's research on urban ecology looks at how various species are adapting to the changing urban environment. Species studied include the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Australian White Ibis, Powerful Owl, Grey-headed Flying Fox and European Red Fox, but Matt will be talking mainly on the Brush Turkey.

John Martin says it is coming our way!

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

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

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

VISITORS WELCOME

WELCOME to the October 2018 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter. As usual, we have notes from our previous meeting, including a summary of Rhonda Daniels' talk on Banks, notes and photos from the plant table. We also have a few photos from the APS Quarterly Gathering. Dates for your Diary are on the last page, and there you will find information about the next major APS NSW activity on 10 and 11 November, which certainly should be noted in your diary!

Happy gardening – Spring is bringing plenty of treasures to enjoy, even in these dry conditions.

Jan Douglas
Editor

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



APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING - 22 September 2018

HOSTED BY EAST HILLS GROUP

Thanks to lots of work by everyone and a bit of luck with the weather, the beauty of Sylvan Grove Native Garden and a knowledgeable speaker, the day was a great success!

As one couple commented on their Sylvan Grove experience: 'We really enjoyed the beautiful Sylvan Native Garden, my first visit there. Also many thanks for organizing the whole event and the delicious morning and afternoon teas. So nice to meet such lovely garden lovers from the other side of town.'

Here are a few photos from the day. Unfortunately I didn't get any photos of the magnificent afternoon tea – maybe I was too busy eating!



FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING PLANT TABLE – SEPTEMBER 2018

Thanks to everyone who brought along plant specimens.

A spectacular plant table full of spring flowers – what a joy! The photos on this page are by Karlo Taliana. The plants listed in blue below are illustrated on the following page. Can you remember what they look like before you look at the photos? Graham Walters has provided notes on a few of the plants, and these are on page 5.



Banksia undata (syn. *Dryandra praemorsa*)

Bauera rubioides

Darwinia oldfieldii

Dendrobium kingianum

Dendrobium speciosum

Dendrobium tetragona

Eremophila cuneifolia x *fraseri*

Eremophila hygrophana

Eremophila mackinlayi

Eremophila microtheca

Eremophila nivea

Eremophila racemosa

Grevillea 'Blood Orange'

Grevillea 'Hills Jubilee'

Grevillea 'Knockout'

Grevillea 'Peaches & Cream'

Grevillea 'Splendour'

Grevillea 'Winpara Gem'

Grevillea bronwenae

Grevillea crithmifolia

Grevillea curviloba subsp. *incurva*

Grevillea flexuosa

Grevillea kennedyana

Grevillea preissii

Grevillea semperflorens

Grevillea sericea

Grevillea wickhamii 'Kimberly Gold'

Hakea neurophylla

Hardenbergia violacea selection 'Free & Easy' (white flowers)

Indigofera australis

Isopogon latifolius

Lechenaultia biloba

Leptospermum flavescens

Melaleuca nematophylla

Melaleuca trichophylla

Pandorea pandorana

Pultenaea daphnoides

Verticordia etheliana

Viola betonicifolia

Westringia 'West Wynyabbie Gem Nana'

Zieria 'Bomaderry'

Zieria baeuerlenii

The photos on this page are by Karlo Taliana, apart from the photo of *Dendrobium tetragona*, which is by Tony Porritt.



Banksia undata



Darwinia oldfieldii



Eremophila hygrophana



Grevillea preissii subsp. *glabrilimba*



Grevillea kennedyana



Isopogon latifolius



Melaleuca nematophylla



Melaleuca trichophylla
at Burrendong Arboretum



Dendrobium tetragona

The following plant notes were provided by Graham Walters

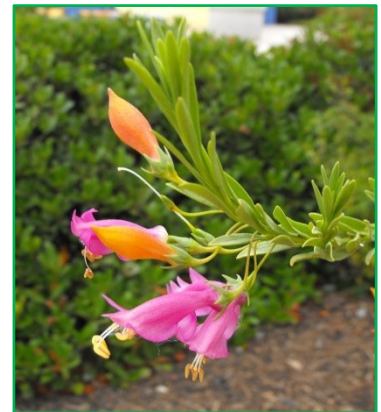
***Bauera rubioides* (Dog Rose)** is a common wiry shrub which grows in moist shady locations, particularly along creek banks, in the eastern states and South Australia. It grows to 2 metres tall with tangled interwoven branches sprawling over 3 or 4 metres. The leaves are opposite, each divided into 3 leaflets. Flowers, pink or occasionally white, occur from July to December.

***Dendrobium tetragona* (Tree Spice Orchid)** is variable in flower colour and size over its range but is easily recognised by its distinctive four-sided pseudobulbs (stems). It forms small pendulous clusters of about 3 to 8 stems on the trunks of rainforest trees (especially *Backhousia*) or occasionally on rocks. Short racemes of fragrant flowers develop from the leaves or from nodes on the bare stems. Its habitat is sub-tropical rainforest, usually on the trunks of trees adjacent to shady streams. Distribution: Northern Queensland to Nowra, NSW, chiefly coastal. (See photo by Tony Porritt on previous page.)

***Eremophila racemosa* (Showy Eremophila)** is an upright shrub to about 1 metre tall and 1 metre across. It flowers mainly in Spring, with sporadic flowering during the rest of the year. Best in drier climates: short-lived in more humid areas. It is drought- and frost-hardy and will grow in sandy, sandy loam, clay loam and poor soils, but prefers well-drained soil in full sun.

(Photo: Stickpen. This plant was growing in California.)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eremophilaracemosa.jpg>)



***Grevillea preissii* (Spider Net Grevillea)** is usually a small shrub to about 1 metre tall, although prostrate forms are also found. The bright red flowers form in pendant clusters at the ends of branches or in leaf axils in winter and spring. It occurs naturally in coastal and near-coastal areas of south-western Western Australia, but is adaptable to more humid areas of the east coast (e.g. coastal NSW and south-east Queensland). It should be grown in a warm, sunny or semi-shaded location in well-drained soil. It should be grown in a warm, sunny or semi-shaded location in well-drained soil.

***Pultenaea daphnoides* (Large-leaf Bush-pea)** is an attractive shrub up to 3 metres tall, but often stunted in exposed situations. It is easily identified by the shape of its leaves which are narrow at the base and broad (to 10 mm) and round at the apex, 12 to 30 mm long, with a short soft point. Short branchlets terminate in a dense head of yellow flowers, 2 to 3 cm across, which occur in Spring. The standard has a red centre and the keel is dark. The calyx is silky-hairy as are the ovary and lower part of the style. Its natural habitat is sheltered forests and gullies, or occasionally in shrubland and protected sites on heath. It is one of our local plants, being widespread and common from coast to mountains along the coast from Queensland to Victoria, and also occurs on the NSW tablelands, Tasmania and South Australia.



(Photo: Margaret R Donald)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:McKayPultenaeadaphnioides29197106386_85165bd3c5_o.jpg)

FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING
SIR JOSEPH BANKS: HIS LIFE AND LEGACY
Rhonda Daniels

Many thanks to Rhonda for her talk, and for kindly providing this summary and photos.

Most people know Joseph Banks collected Australian plants at Kurnell and Botany Bay with Captain Cook, but how did he come to be on the voyage, what did he do afterwards and what is his legacy?

Joseph Banks was born in 1743, the only son of a wealthy landowning family in Lincolnshire. His passion was natural history, particularly botany. When his father died young in 1761, Joseph inherited the family fortune and decided to pursue his passion to the full. On a trip to Newfoundland and Labrador to collect plants, animals and rocks in 1766, he gained valuable experience in storing specimens. In the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, which became influential in his life.

It was the Royal Society that initiated an expedition to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus. Joseph Banks obtained permission from the British Admiralty to join the venture, led by James Cook on the *Endeavour*. Banks paid for his own passage and a party of seven, plus extensive supplies, at great cost. Swedish botanist Daniel Solander was a guest. The expedition set off in August 1768. Banks made collections and observations in South America, Tahiti and New Zealand. After landing on the east coast of Australia at Botany Bay on 29 April 1770, Banks and Solander collected many botanical specimens over eight days including *Banksia serrata*, *Banksia integrifolia* and *Banksia ericifolia*, but did not name them. They also collected specimens at Endeavour River in Queensland in June to August 1770. Banks collected about 1,300 species new to Europeans in 130 genera, and made detailed observations on a range of topics in his journal.

After three years away, Banks arrived home in July 1771, aged 28 years, to great public acclaim. He travelled to Scotland, Wales, Holland and Iceland collecting more and more curiosities. This was his last sea voyage, and Banks then settled into life as a patron of the natural sciences. He became President of the Royal Society in 1778, a position he held for 41 years, and was a great networker, facilitator, benefactor and supporter of natural history and science. As well as running his own agricultural estates, he was involved in Kew Gardens, was a trustee of the British Museum, an adviser to King George III, and was involved in many learned societies including the Linnean Society and Horticultural Society. He was a prolific letter writer (up to 50 a week in his own hand) and hosted many dinners, all in the name of scientific discovery. It is hard to convey the range of his interests and his influence.

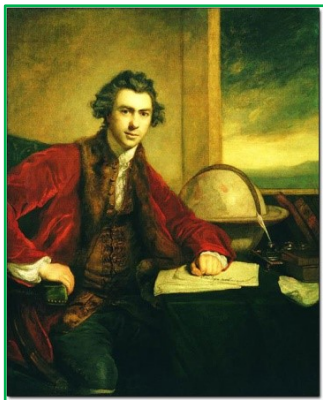
Banks advocated for Botany Bay as a colony and maintained his interest in Australia throughout his long life, including correspondence with several governors. He encouraged investigation of the colony's natural history and paid plant collectors including George Caley, Robert Brown and Allan Cunningham.

Banks married Dorothea in 1779 and had no children. When he died in 1820 aged 78 years, he left his extensive collections to the Natural History Museum, and his carefully organised correspondence was dispersed. He was considered to be unusually likeable, and was generous and enthusiastic. A sign of his character is maintaining good relations with all during three years on the cramped *Endeavour*, including with the older Cook and Solander, and his long, active tenure as president of the Royal Society.

Joseph Banks is commemorated in the genus *Banksia*, named in 1782 by Carl Linnaeus (son of Carl Linnaeus), with *Banksia serrata* as the type specimen. *Banksia* species, except one, are found only in Australia. Banks is also commemorated in over 80 species names, including *Grevillea banksii*, a parent of many popular garden cultivars, *Viola banksii* and *Eucalyptus banksii*. Between 1772 and 1784 Banks commissioned over 700 engravings of the plants he had collected, known as Banks' Florilegium, but they were never published in his lifetime. A complete set was issued in 1990 under the direction of the British Museum and 147 prints were published in a more affordable book in 2017.

Local places named after Banks include Cape Banks at the head of Botany Bay (itself named by Cook for the extraordinary collecting there) and the Sydney suburbs of Bankstown (named Banks' Town in 1795 by Governor Hunter after Flinders and Bass explored the Georges River), Banksia and Banksmeadow. There is a lovely sculpture of Banks in action, with the greyhound who accompanied him on his great voyage, at Sir Joseph Banks Park in Botany.

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela was established in the late 1960s to commemorate the bicentenary of Cook's landing in 1770, which means the 250th anniversary of Banks' visit and 50th anniversary of the reserve are coming up in 2020 (also 200 years since Banks' death in 1820). Like Sylvan Grove Native Garden at Picnic Point, the reserve showcases many species of Australian plants, including species of local *Banksia*. It would be fitting to have a memorial to Joseph Banks at the reserve, celebrating his great contribution to natural history and botany in both Australia and Europe – perhaps a garden showcasing plants he collected at Botany Bay in 1770 and public art (ideas welcome). The Sir Joseph Banks Society in the UK (www.joseph-banks.org.uk) is also working to raise his profile and recognise his achievements. The State Library of NSW has an archive of Banks' papers at www.sl.nsw.gov.au/banks. Let's start planning and spreading the word.



Photos:

Left: Portrait of Banks by Joshua Reynolds. Wikimedia Commons.

Centre: Photo by J Barr

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Botany_Sir_Joseph_Banks_Park_4.JPG [I was unable to establish the name of the sculptor – Editor.]

Right: *Banksia ericifolia*. Sutherland Group CD of the plants of Royal National Park.

THE BUSINESS

East Hills Group meeting – 5 September 2018

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno

Notes by Liz Cameron

The meeting opened at about 7.35 pm with 18 in attendance including three visitors from Menai and Sutherland APS groups. Apologies from Jan Douglas and David Crawford.

Income at meeting:

Plant sales	\$38
Raffle	\$39
<u>Membership</u>	<u>\$48</u>
Total	\$125

Guest speaker Rhonda Daniels gave a presentation on Joseph Banks: his life and legacy.

Business matters:

- Graham discussed arrangements for the APS quarterly gathering on 22nd September. John Aitken has produced a brochure to advertise the event. Graham F will ask Jan Douglas to circulate it to EHG via email.
 - 10.30 am start at Sylvan Grove (helpers to arrive at 10 am).
 - Marie O'Connor has drawn up a list of provisions needed at Sylvan Grove, and for afternoon tea, and members indicated what they would contribute.
 - Alan Fairley will be the speaker at the meeting in the afternoon.
 - Karlo will be selling plants and Graham F will ask Jason Cockayne if Menai Wildflower Group would like to sell some too. [Jason subsequently delivered some plants to Graham for this purpose, and Lloyd Hedges also supplied two trays of Waratah seedlings.]
- Graham F announced that Lloyd Hedges of Menai Wildflower Group had undergone an operation that day and the members of EHG wished him well.
- Receipts and thanks have been received from the four organisations to which EHG made donations – Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Bush Heritage Australia, Total Environment Centre and Environmental Defender's Office.
- Graham reminded members of the forthcoming Lions Festivals in Lugarno and Oatley.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm and was followed by a spectacular plant table overflowing with spring flowers, the drawing of the raffle, and supper.



COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at

<http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Wednesday 3 October from 7 pm for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting: Matt Hall on urban ecology: Brush Turkeys and others in our changing suburban environment.
Saturday 6 October 1 pm	East Hills Group propagation session with Menai Wildflower Group. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters. [click for map]
Wednesday 10 October 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group Meeting. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters.
Wednesday 17 October, 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting. GyMEA Community Hall, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA.
Saturday 10 November Sunday 11 November	APS NSW Seminar supported by Sutherland Group. A themed walk in Kamay Botany Bay National Park (Kurnell), a garden visit , a great speaker – more details next newsletter.
Saturday 13 October - Sunday 21 October 10 am - 4 pm daily	Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney – Artisans in the Gardens at Lion Gate Lodge. Free entry. See https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/whatson/whatson-artisans-in-the-gardens



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