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Native Plants for NSW

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The Journal is a forum for the exchange of views of members and others and their experiences of propagating, conserving and gardening with Australian plants.

Contributions are warmly welcomed. They may be emailed, typed or hand written and accompanied by photographs and drawings. If handwritten, please print botanical names and names of people.

Photographs may be submitted as either high resolution digital files, such as jpg, or prints.

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**Deadline for the July 2017 issue is
1 June 2017.**

**Deadline for the October 2017 issue is
1 September 2017.**

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Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| May gathering – Central Coast..... | 4 |
| Inverawe Gardens | 6 |
| DM Clarke Botanical Consulting..... | 7 |
| Report on February gathering | 8 |
| July gathering and Blue Mountains annual seminar | 12 |
| Coates Wildlife Tours..... | 13 |
| 2017 Get-together: Coffs Harbour ... | 14 |
| Growing Persoonia from seed..... | 18 |
| <i>Hakea eriantha</i> | 20 |
| Strategic Plan update | 22 |
| Prunings and cuttings | 24 |
| Membership form..... | 25 |
| Get-together registration..... | 26 |
| Membership form continued | 28 |
| New members | 29 |
| District Group directory..... | 30 |
| President's Report | 32 |
| Conservation Report..... | 34 |
| Seed Bank Full list..... | 36 |
| Prunings and cuttings continued ... | 38 |
| Group activity – Thirlmere Lakes... | 40 |
| Study Groups notes..... | 44 |
| Study Groups directory | 48 |
| Membership discounts..... | 50 |
| APS NSW contacts, committees and services | 51 |

Cover Cover: *Melaleuca huegelii*

Back Cover: Grasstree after fire

See page 35 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*
editorNP@austplants.com.au



A large portion of this issue is dedicated to future APS NSW activities. On 20 May we have the next quarterly gathering and AGM at Kariong on the Central Coast (p 4). Please make the effort to come along and support the local group, they have suggested activities to fill the entire day. The July gathering will feature the annual Blue Mountains Group seminar, so pencil in the date (p 12). In September the 2017 Get-together of APS NSW is being hosted by Coffs Harbour group. We now have a detailed program of events (p 14) and a registration form (p 26). Please note that Coffs Group would prefer you to register online if possible.

By the time you read this, the Society will have closed its physical office (p 32). This move was necessary to reduce operating costs and it also fits with the move to a greater online presence that is part of the strategic plan for the Society's future. An update on progress to implement that plan is on page 22. A membership discussion paper has been circulated and contractors engaged to provide a new-look website and an online membership system.

The annual Seedbank List (pp 36–38) is getting shorter each year. If the Seedbank is to continue and remain viable members need to help by providing new stock. Perhaps local groups could program an exercise to learn about seed collection, preparation and storage? Then they could share their excess seed with the seedbank. This could be followed up with seed propagation activities.

Continuing that theme, we have a brief article on propagating *Persoonia* species from seed (p 18). Other plant related articles include *Hakea eriantha* (p 20), Conservation (p 34) and a walk at Thirlmere Lakes (p 40).

Sharp-eyed readers will notice a couple of temporary changes in this issue - the membership form has moved (p 25) along with the District Group directory (p 30). Prunings and Cuttings is a new section for sharing some of the smaller items that come the editor's way. If you have an item, please send it to the email address on this page.

Finally, I note the recent death of several well-known members (p 29). We will miss them.

Future APS NSW event May gathering at Central Coast

Saturday 20 May 2017

**Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang
Road, Kariong**



You are cordially invited to the lovely Central Coast for the next APS NSW Quarterly Gathering.

Registration for the day's events will be from 10.30 am to 11.30 am at Phillip House. Morning tea will be available, and there will be plenty of plants for sale. The APS NSW Annual General Meeting will be held between 12 noon and 1 pm (the agenda and associated forms were published in the January 2017 edition of *Native Plants for NSW*).

Following the AGM lunch will be from 1 pm to 2.30 pm, so that there is plenty of time for catching up with APS friends and buying plants. Sausage and onion sandwiches will be on offer for \$2.50, and a mug of home-made soup for \$1.50. Or bring your own, if you prefer.



At 2.30 pm Central Coast member, Olga Blacha (image left), will give a talk on *Attracting Birds with Native Plants*. Olga is a well-known local horticulturalist and landscaper, co-owner of *Sustainable Natives*, a wholesale nursery located at Somersby, and has been involved in the planning of Mt Penang Gardens. She holds a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Canberra and a Master's degree in Landscape Design from UTS. She is currently studying for her Doctorate in

Landscape Design at the University of Newcastle. There will be time for questions at the end of her talk.

At 3.30 pm we will end the meeting and enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea – and, yes you’ve guessed it, more time for buying plants! The meeting will close at 4.15 pm.

Possible morning activities

We would like to suggest a few options for the start to the day. Near to Phillip House are the lovely *Mt Penang Gardens*. There you can explore at your leisure 8 hectares of over 1000 native plant species, cascading waterfalls and sculptures in stone. There are 12 unique garden rooms, and an added bonus is the lovely Waterfall Café. Best parking is at the Information Centre car park in The Avenue, Kariong, and from there it’s just a short 10 minute walk to Mt Penang Gardens or 5 minutes to Phillip House. This parking area is recommended for all those attending the Gathering who do **not** have mobility issues. For those with mobility issues, however, there will be parking at Phillip House. Just follow the signs.

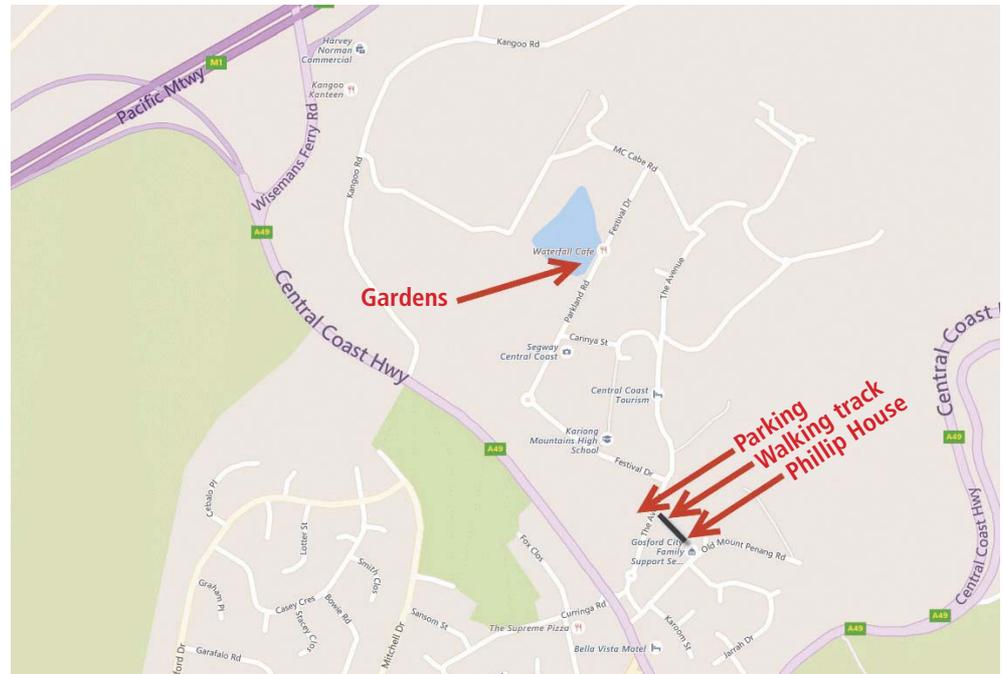
Central Coast members will be at the information centre carpark from 9.30 am to direct you wherever you want to go. Signs will direct you to nearby Phillip House after your visit to the Gardens.

Another option is to visit the well-known native plant nursery, *The Wildflower Place*, at 453 The Entrance Road, Erina Heights. For



those with broader interests, our area also boasts the lovely *Japanese Gardens*, next to the Gosford Art Gallery, at 36 Webb Street, East Gosford – again, with a delightful café nearby.

We look forward to welcoming you on 20 May.



DM Clarke Botanical Consulting Services

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Dan Clarke holds a Bachelor of Biological Science with First Class Honours in Botany (University of Sydney 2010) and has acquired six years' experience as a botanical consultant. Dan has undertaken flora assessments, large scale vegetation surveys, weed surveys, and implemented conservation management strategies in many areas of NSW. Dan is a full practicing member of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW and has been in business since 2015.

Dan is happy to chat to you about any botanical expertise you require.

Services Provided:

- Assessment and survey of vegetation including threatened flora surveys.
- Vegetation Management Plans.
- Plant identification and taxonomic research.
- GIS/mapping.
- Horticultural advice for native landscapes including the sourcing and collection of native plant propagation resources and installation of landscapes.
- Directing implementation and undertaking of native ecosystem revegetation and rehabilitation (bushland regeneration).
- Ecological education for students and land managers including delivery of Conservation and Land Management practices.

Qualifications:

- B.Sc. Biology (Hons-Botany)
- Certificate IV in General Horticulture
- Certificate II in Bushland Regeneration

Report on recent APS NSW event February gathering at Menai

John Arney has written about the morning walk at Barden Ridge and Rhonda Daniels has reported on her experiences at the gathering. Both authors are from APS Sutherland and these articles appeared in their March 2017 newsletter.

Barden Creek Walk

Saturday, 25 February, was the date for the first APS NSW Quarterly meeting for 2017 and the day was hosted by the Menai Wildflower Group (MWG).

In the morning, prior to the APS meeting, 17 participants, joined archaeologists Greg Jackson and Pam Forbes from the MWG for a 2.5 km, 2 hour, guided tour along the Barden Creek 'Blue Track' that begins opposite the access road to the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights. You will know that February is perhaps not the best month for wildflower displays, however, we were not disappointed with several species of Banksias and a smattering of other plants in flower including *Acacia linifolia* (White Wattle), *Corymbia gummifera* (Red Bloodwood), *Epacris pulchella* (Wallum Heath), *Goodenia hederacea*, *Lambertia formosa* (Mountain Devil), *Lobelia gracilis*, and *Platysace linearifolia*.



(A) *Platysace linearifolia*
(L) *Goodenia hederacea* (Forest Goodenia)

Photos: John Arney



A break in the walk. Photo: John Arney

Our guides had a sound knowledge of the history of the area and imparted accounts of past occupation and some of the difficulties of the early European settlers in what was then a fairly remote area of Sydney. The miller, John Lucas, was on the nearby Woronora River and David Duncombe had 700 acres just to the south of our location, both dating from the mid 1820s. We also viewed some of the surviving Aboriginal sites that are to be seen quite near to the track in the form of stone tool and possibly later iron tool sharpening grooves, and as we mounted a large rock platform our attention was drawn to the engravings of a kangaroo and the outlines of two men.

We were also visited by a few trail bike riders who appeared to become wary when they detected our presence. It is unfortunate that they ride here on the fragile soils and evidence of their use of the areas can be clearly seen in the heavily eroded tracks and the adjacent disturbed grounds.

While we paused for a break at a small scenic waterfall we were apprised of the proposal for a major town and industrial development that is planned for the area, beginning just a short distance to the north of the waterfall. We can only hope that plans will be put in place to protect the biodiversity of the adjacent remnant bushland areas.

A book on the area that perhaps sets a challenge for describing other local walks can be downloaded from: menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/bardensbook.pdf

Overall a most interesting morning and our thanks go to our guides, Pam and Greg, especially for the work that they had put into the historical research of the area.

The Pink Flannel Flower – *Actinotus forsythii*

Arriving at the Illawong Fire Station for the first quarterly gathering of 2017, I strolled around Menai Group's community propagation nursery and was thrilled to see a few pink flannel flowers (*Actinotus forsythii*) in pots – although at the very end of their summer flowering. They were very much bigger plants than I had imagined, with smaller flowers than our familiar flannel flower *Actinotus helianthi*.

At the meeting I bought a pink flannel flower in a 15 cm diameter pot and then was lucky enough to win one in a larger pot in the raffle, both propagated by Lloyd Hedges and his team. I am spreading the risk and responsibility by giving one to Leonie Hogue to look after until both plants hopefully flower at the end of the year. If they do, you'll know all about it. In his talk, Lloyd reported on his experience with seed germination and growing trials. The good news is they appear to be reasonably hardy in pots, but less so in the ground, not unexpected for a plant found in the upper Blue Mountains. The bad news is they are an annual, which makes it very unlikely they will ever be developed and sold commercially.

Following Lloyd's advice, I will be potting mine into a larger pot, watering it and watching its health very closely. In the meantime, I am admiring a



Quarterly Gathering. Photo: Menai Group Facebook

magnificent close-up photo by John Prats of the flower in Menai Group's 2017 calendar. I am also struck by how similar the foliage is to one of my favourite small local plants, *Trachymene incisa* (Native Parsnip). Both are in the Apiaceae family which also includes carrots, parsnips, parsley and coriander.



Photo: John Prats, Menai Group 2017 Calendar.



Lloyd Hedges presenting at the gathering

Photo: Menai Group Facebook

Future APS NSW event

APS NSW July Gathering & Blue Mountains Annual Seminar

Save the Date

Alix Goodwin, Vice President APS NSW

We had planned to host a climate change summit in the Blue Mountains this year. Given the work involved in preparing for such an event, it has been decided to postpone the summit until early 2018. The Blue Mountains Group will however be hosting an APS NSW quarterly gathering on **Saturday 8 July 2017** from 9.30 am at the Sharon Burrige Hall in Blaxland. The gathering will double as the Blue Mountains Group's annual seminar. There will be three speakers.

- Paul Rymer from Western Sydney University will be speaking on the citizen science research program on Australian legumes. The research program is designed to fill the gap in our knowledge of the growing patterns of Australian legumes in native bushland by looking at the interactions between the plants and insects and how these interactions might change over time.
- David King, a member of the Gully Traditional Owners Group will speak about the creation and success of Garguree SwampCare in the Upper Blue Mountains which, with the assistance of the local council and volunteers, is restoring degraded swamp systems in the area known as the Gully in Katoomba.
- Dick Turner, the Blue Mountains Group President, will speak on the Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program. This has been running for over 20 years and has now resulted in the planting of over 100,000 native trees.

More details about the gathering and seminar will be sent to district groups and members directly closer to the date.

ANPSA 2018 Conference – Hobart

Conference Theme: Grass Roots to Mountain Tops

Dates: 15–19 January 2018

More information at www.apstas.org.au/conference





Coates Wildlife Tours

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Alice Springs to Kununurra

14 Day Camping Tour – Departs Alice Springs 21st May 2017

This trip is packed with highlights including a Lake Argyle cruise, the Keep River National Park, Duncan Highway, Wolf Creek Crater, Lake Stretch, Tanami Road, Newhaven Sanctuary and West MacDonall Ranges.

Kimberley Wonders

12 Day Camping Tour – Departs 22nd July 2017

A different twist on the Kimberley, we include the best of the Gibb River Road but add a visit to the Mitchell Plateau. On the plateau experience the spectacular Mitchell and Mertons Falls plus great examples ancient rock art along with the regions wonderful flora and fauna.

Western Explorer

14 Day Camping Tour – Departs Broome 12th August 2017

HIGHLIGHTS: Karijini National Park, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Ranges.

This trip is designed to coincide with the Pilbara wildflower season and provides the opportunity to explore the wonderful Karijini, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Range National Parks.

Carnarvon Range Expedition

14 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 19th August 2017

Join us as we visit this special journey to explore this semi arid zone. The Carnarvon Range is currently closed to the public and we have been fortunate to gain approval from the traditional owners for this visit. The tour also visits Lake Ballard and Credo Station in the eastern goldfields north of Kalgoorlie.

Great Western Woodlands and Helena Aurora Ranges

12 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 16th September 2017

Join us and experience the diverse wildlife and spectacular wildflowers of the world's largest temperate woodland, including the historic woodlines (where timber cutters operated from 1899 to 1964) and the ironstone Helena Aurora Ranges which are currently under threat of being mined.

Christmas and Cocos Islands

12 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 21st November 2017

We will be exploring the wildlife and history of these two diverse islands. The tour is timed to coincide with one of the most amazing sights the Red Crab migration. All this combined with rainforest walks, vegetation and birdlife makes these islands a naturalists wonderland.

Contact us for our
full 2017 tour program:
Free Call 1800 676 016

- Web www.coateswildlifetours.com.au
- Email coates@iinet.net.au

Future APS NSW event

APS NSW 2017 Get-together

Coffs Harbour 2–3 September 2017 Rainforest Riches Revealed

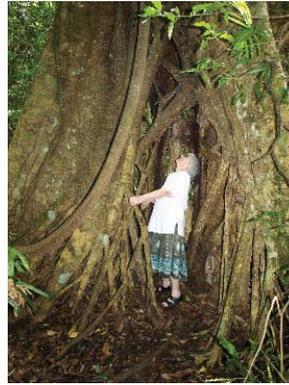
The Coffs Harbour Group of APS NSW is delighted to welcome all members of the APS NSW to participate in the **APS 2017 Get-together** with the theme **Rainforest Riches Revealed**.

We are particularly pleased to invite you all to meet **Alex Floyd** OAM, who in 2016 was awarded life membership of APS NSW. Alex has written one of the most influential rainforest guides: *Rainforest Trees of Mainland South-eastern Australia* and has been at the centre of rainforest identification and preservation for nearly the last 50 years. Alex will open the Get-together.



Venue: the beautiful mid-north coast city of Coffs Harbour and its surrounds will be the location for the activities. Coffs Harbour has a climate generally recognised as one of the most liveable in Australia, and early spring is one of the most attractive times to visit.

Activities: our **Saturday morning program** will be held at the Cavanbah Centre, close to downtown Coffs, and will include a range of speakers chosen for their knowledge and involvement in rainforests. They include **Lawrie Smith** AM, a renowned landscape architect, past President of ANPSA and a member of the APS for more than 40 years, who will discuss aspects of rainforest preservation in botanic gardens. We have several leading local ecologists, including **Mark Graham** and **Craig Stehn**, who will present a case study of rainforest restoration and rehabilitation adjacent to the Dorrigo World Heritage Area. **Dan Clarke**, APS Conservation Officer, will report on the work being undertaken for the APS in 2017 on revamping the Conservation agenda and developing an action plan. Rainforest plant identification is the key to having species protected and well-known writers, **Gwen Harden** and **Peter Poropat**, will be speaking about their books and apps for smartphones for identifying rainforest plants.



COFFS HARBOUR & ENVIRONS

Top L. & clockwise; Bongil Beach; Strangler Fig in Bruxner Park; Frogmouth family of five in Moonee Beach garden; Epiphytic Birds Nest Fern in Dorrigo National Park; APS outing to Bangalore Falls, Bindarri National Park; Dorrigo N.P. elevated Rainforest walkway; Coffs Harbour from Forest Sky Pier at Sealy Lookout; Billabong in Bongil Bongil N.P.



Saturday afternoon will be spent in the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, a short walk from the Cavanbah Centre. With many of the morning speakers also on hand to act as guides, visitors can walk through the rainforest sections of the Gardens, as well as enjoy the

diversity of this beautiful sub-tropical garden. The original Garden design was prepared by the **late John Wrigley** and its implementation and on-going development owed a great deal to former and present APS members, including **Alex Floyd** and life member **Barry Kemp**. The Garden is unusual in that volunteers (the Friends) have always had a vital role in its funding, maintenance and management in cooperation with the local Coffs Harbour Council.

Sunday morning will start early for bird watchers in the Botanic Gardens, led by local enthusiasts; followed by a trip to Coramba, 15 kms west from Coffs along the Orara Way, to visit the garden of local conservationists and APS members **Rowan and Lyn McCabe**. This will be followed by a visit to the nearby Coramba Nature Reserve, led by Rowan and other conservation warriors. Coramba Nature Reserve is a remnant of subtropical lowland rainforest lying along the Orara River that has been successfully brought back to life through a rainforest regeneration project.

Sunday Afternoon: The next stop will be further north along Orara Way, past the village of Glenreagh, to the unique garden of Gwyn and Geoff Clarke. Many will be familiar with this garden through the articles Gwyn wrote in *Native Plants of New South Wales* of the effect of the August 2014 bush fire on their garden. In the last article in the January 2016 issue, she describes the beginning of the regeneration, and 18 months on, the effect is amazing. From there visitors with the stamina can choose to continue to various other sites, such as the coastal heath at Red Rock or sub-tropical rainforest along a creek at Sealy Lookout, or just call it a day and return to Coffs.

Saturday Evening Dinner: The Get-together dinner will be held in the Rainbow Room, CeX Club, Coffs Harbour. This is optional – all the speakers from the morning session have been invited to continue sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Registration: Your registration fee will cover the talks and visits, morning and afternoon tea on both days, and lunch on Saturday (Sunday is own lunch). There will be further details of the program on Facebook closer to the time.

NOTE: Please complete one Registration Form per person attending. You can download the Registration Form from the NSW APS website, under the 2017 Get-together announcement under Special Events: austplants.com.au/specialevents.html

The Registration Form will also be available from the Coffs Harbour Facebook page for the event - see www.facebook.com/nativeplantsCH.

In the meantime we encourage you to put these dates in your diary so as not to miss out. We offer 'Earlybird' registration reductions and encourage you to take advantage of the savings by booking before the end of July.

You can find information about accommodation and other places of interest around Coffs Harbour at: www.coffsc Coast.com.au/

There are many national parks and reserves in the area – well worth a visit: www.coffsc Coast.com.au/see-and-do/nature/national-parks-for-ests-reserves/

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The 2017 Presidents' Dinner

Alix Goodwin, Vice President Australian Plants Society NSW

The 2017 Presidents' Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Annual Get-together at Coffs Harbour. The dinner is on Friday 1 September 2017 at Pasfields Restaurant, just north of Coffs Harbour.

Similar to last year, the evening will involve an update on implementation of the APS NSW strategic plan and will include an opportunity for groups to provide input into the implementation of key priorities for 2017. The dinner is limited to two committee members from each district group only – the district group's President (or Vice President if there is no President) and another committee member.

Dinner will be a two course meal, at a cost of \$45 per person. The Board will meet 50% of the cost of dinner for the two committee members attending (i.e. \$45), with district groups (or individual attendees) being responsible for the remaining 50% (i.e. \$45). Those attending will be responsible for purchasing their own drinks.

We would encourage as many district groups as possible to join the Board at this important dinner. Groups have been contacted by email seeking confirmation of numbers. Details of payment arrangements will be sent to you closer to the date.

If you would like to chat about the dinner or have any questions please call me on 0417 679 964.

Growing *Persoonia* from seed

One member's personal experience

John Van Peer, East Hills Group

Persoonia is a genus in the Proteaceae family. These plants are known by the common names of Geebung in the eastern states and Snottygobbles in WA. They include groundcovers, small and medium sized shrubs. They have attractive foliage and yellow flowers.

Growing *Persoonia* has been a strong personal interest of mine for many years. Over this time I have grown the following *Persoonia* species successfully from seed and have found the minimum germination period to be as follows.

| <u>Persoonia sp.</u> | <u>Germination period</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>P. levis</i> | 3 – 4 months |
| <i>P. linearis</i> | 3 – 4 months |
| <i>P. lanceolata</i> | 6 – 7 months |
| <i>P. laurina</i> subsp. <i>laurina</i> | 7 months |
| <i>P. mollis</i> subsp. <i>mollis</i> | 6 months |
| <i>P. myrtilloides</i> subsp. <i>myrtilloides</i> | 8 months |
| <i>P. pinifolia</i> | 3 – 5 months |

I now have 20 years of experience growing *Persoonia* species from seed in plastic pots.

Persoonia prefer to grow in a sandy soil with relatively good drainage. The seedlings of all these plants consist of many juvenile leaves with 3–5 leaflets. *Persoonia laurina* subsp. *laurina* is an exception, having only two flat leaflets.

Seeds of the *Persoonia* species need to be very ripe for an extended period of time to achieve successful germination. I have observed that the period of time varies between plants of the same species from different locations.

Growing *Persoonia* from seed requires excellent patience for good results. Some *Persoonia* seed may take a year or more to germinate.

From the editor

John's article is quite brief and native plant growers will naturally have lots of questions, as propagating *Persoonia* is a topic of considerable interest. I have been to John's back yard, where I saw his plants and attempted to draw him out a little more on his methods.

John gardens almost entirely in pots. His suburban backyard is close to full with native plants in pots, many of which he has propagated. In recent years *Persoonia* have become an increasing

passion for John. He and his brother often visit bushland around Sydney and they both have a keen eye for native plants, especially something a little out of the ordinary. On these trips John is always looking for *Persoonia* especially those with fruit, preferably very ripe fruit.

John begins his propagation with these very ripe fruit from which he removes the flesh. He germinates and grows his *Persoonia* in sand he buys from a local supplier; it is not particularly special product but it does provide good drainage.

John waters by hand, a long and time consuming process when you have hundreds or thousands of pots, but it does mean that he observes his plants closely and regularly and is very well aware of how his plants are performing. His watering is closely adjusted to weather conditions and moisture requirements.

John's patience is again evident at pricking out stage, as root damage can set back or kill a precious *Persoonia* seedling.

What is the attraction of growing *Persoonia* from seed? I suspect it is partly the challenge. The common consensus is that it is difficult if not impossible to propagate these plants from seed, and yet it clearly happens in nature. John's success stems largely from his persistence, his patience and his well-developed observational skills. He will spot the smallest *Persoonia* seedling, and recognise it as valuable when weeding the unwanted miscellanea that germinate in a pot which has been in the garden for months or years. He has the determination to keep persevering and watering and watching when most of us would have given up and moved on to something else, something quicker, something easier.



Plant profile

Hakea eriantha

Warren Sheather is well-known to many APS members. He is a member of the Armidale Group and he writes an occasional column about plants of the New England region. His website www.yallaroo.com.au contains a wealth of information about Australian plants.

Hakea eriantha is known as the Tree Hakea, but this common name could apply to any number of species in this genus. *H. eriantha* is a tall shrub or small tree usually reaching a height of five metres in cultivation. The bark is grey and smooth (see image next page). Juvenile growth is softly hairy whilst the adult leaves are typically leathery, broad, lance-like, glossy above and paler beneath.

Flowers are held in axillary clusters of from two to ten blooms. The stalks and perianth are white and woolly. Profuse flowering occurs between August and November. Smooth, beaked, persistent fruits follow the flowers. Typical of the genus, each fruit contains two winged seeds. Fruits are often held in large clusters indicating that many of the flowers are pollinated.

H. eriantha occurs in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. The species is widespread on the Northern Tablelands of NSW. There is a small population, east of Armidale on the Waterfall Way, that has very narrow leaves (see image below). This form develops into a dense,



upright shrub. Plants grown from seed of this population come true to form with the narrow leaves.

Propagation for all forms is from seed. Fruits will open and release their seeds about ten days after picking. Propagation may also be possible from cuttings.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos will often attack the fruits on our specimens and extract the seed. They favour *Hakea eriantha* over all the other hakeas in our garden.

H. eriantha has proved to be free flowering as well as drought and frost resistant. This is an ideal plant for shrubberies, shelterbelts, windbreaks and could be used to attract Yellow-tailed Cockatoos to your garden. The species could also be cultivated as a street tree.

The type specimen was collected somewhere along the Hastings River in northern NSW, by Charles Fraser in 1818. The species was named by Robert Brown in 1830. The specific name refers to the woolly parts of the flowers.

H. eriantha is recorded as a naturalised species in New Zealand. This may be an incorrect identification as the common name is given as needle bush. This is a name usually given to *Hakea sericea* and other prickly hakeas.

H. eriantha was featured in Volume 5 of Joseph Maiden's Flora of New South Wales published in 1912. The image (below left) is a lithograph drawn by Margaret Flockton that accompanied Maiden's description.



Strategic Plan Implementation Update

Alix Goodwin APS NSW Vice President

Members of the APS NSW Board have been working hard to implement our three year strategic plan. The focus over the past few months has been on improving our use of technology both to manage membership and to communicate with members and the general public.

Membership discussion paper

In late February we released a discussion paper to district groups on what it means to be a member of the Society and the benefits that should apply. The paper proposes five key changes.

- (1) Restricting new concessional memberships to those with current Australian Pension Cards (both members) or Health Care Card holders with grandfathering of current concessional memberships for a period of three years. This approach is consistent with other membership-based organisations and was recently adopted by our sister organisation in Western Australia.
- (2) Introducing a new student membership category from 1 January 2017 with a highly reduced fee of \$30 (approximately 66% of the individual concession rate) and available to individuals only. This proposal is designed to encourage younger people to join and become active members of the Society.
- (3) Introducing differential pricing for memberships based on electronic versus printed delivery of *Native Plants for NSW – Australia and overseas*. Many members are now asking that they be sent these journals electronically rather than in hard copy, a suggestion that received good support in our 2016 member survey.
- (4) Encouraging tax-deductible donations with those donating being able to subscribe to updates on the activities of the Society. To do this the Society would need to amend its constitution to establish a public fund for the receipt of donations and a governing committee, apply to the Australian Department of the Environment to become a registered environmental organisation and then apply to the Australian Taxation Office for the public fund to be granted deductible gift recipient status.
- (5) Encouraging members to make a bequest to APS NSW in their will, with information on how to do this on the APS NSW website and a prompt to seek additional information on all membership forms (online and hard copy). Many organisations include written material on their websites on how those interested can make a bequest in their will.

Feedback on the discussion paper received to date has been generally positive. A teleconference was held with interested district

group representatives on Saturday 11 March and submissions on the discussion paper closed on 24 March 2017. A summary of feedback received will be sent to district groups. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the discussion paper please email alix.goodwin@bigpond.com and a copy will be sent to you.

Website and membership systems

Late last year we engaged a small consulting firm, Maysix, to review our business systems with a view to improving our use of technology to manage the operations of the Society and communicate with members. This project resulted in the specification of an agreed set of business requirements for an integrated system to manage our finances and membership, and digital technology to engage with our members and the general public. It was agreed that our priorities should be moving to a single online membership system to improve membership attraction and retention, and a new simpler website which supported both the state office and district groups to share knowledge and engage members and the community in our activities.

In January we approached two companies for quotes to design and implement a new website and online membership management system using two different sets of off-the-shelf software. A small number of members with skills in information technology who had expressed an interest in this project were engaged in the assessment of the proposals we received. Both companies were invited to give demonstrations to and respond to questions of the assessment panel.

We have since engaged Highland Creative to implement Wild Apricot for the Society. This will result in a new look website based on this software and an online membership system. We will be redesigning our logo as part of this project and will run a focus group in Sydney on possible options. A number of members have offered their IT skills to assist us with this project. We hope that, with their help, both our new look website, new logo and membership system will be in place by the end of the year.

Wild Apricot is widely used by not-for-profit membership-based organisations in the United States. If you would like to find out more about this membership management system go to www.wildapricot.com. If you would like to find out more or become involved in this project please email heather@heathermiles.com.au.

Member's garden photos



The images above were sent in by Ah Moi Tharmarajah, a member of the Hunter Valley Group. The plants are growing on her property at Stanhope in the lower Hunter Valley. Ah Moi was responding to the editor's continuing requests for images and short articles. Thank you Ah Moi.

The plant on the left is *Alyogyne huegelii*, a relative of Hibiscus, which has a striking flower colour and makes a great statement in the garden when grown well. The identity of the stunning callistemon on the right is uncertain: perhaps *C. violaceus*, but it could be a hybrid with *C. citrinus* as a parent.

AFF Funds *Persoonia* germination study in WA

The Australian Flora Foundation (AFF)* recently announced some new grants for work in 2017. Among these was a grant to Kerry Chia in WA, for research into 'Germination of *Persoonia* Species'. *Persoonia* has long been difficult to propagate and Kerry's PhD work into *Persoonia longifolia* has produced some exciting results of relevance to mining rehabilitation, floriculture and horticulture. This project will continue Kerry's investigations into the effects of warm and cold stratification on germination to determine if the methodologies developed for *P. longifolia* are applicable to other *Persoonia* species.

*See page 38 for some information about the Australian Flora Foundation.

Australian Plants Society NSW

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Membership application and renewal form

Please select your application type.

New member. I wish to apply for membership of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd and agree to the Memorandum and Articles of Association at www.austplants.com.au

Renewing member: Membership number _ _ _ _ _
Please tick if any details have changed from last renewal

Gift membership. Donor name _____
Include any personal card you wish to accompany the new member's pack.

1. Complete your details

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone () _____

District Group (if relevant) _____

2. Select your membership type

12 months membership. Rates at 1 January 2017. GST inclusive. Joint membership applies to two people at the same address. Each receives a membership card. A concession is available to Seniors, people on a limited fixed income and full-time students.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$56 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual – Concession | \$48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint | \$66 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint – Concession | \$58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas | A\$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 year renewal | 3x\$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optional donation to APS NSW | \$ _____ | | |

**2017 APS Get-Together At Coffs Harbour
September 2-3, 2017**

REGI
Ema

Theme: RAINFOREST RICHES REVEALED

| Surname/Family Name | First Name | email |
|---------------------|------------|-------|
| | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| POSTAL ADDRESS (if not online) | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|

Early Bird Discount applies to Registrations

| ITEM | TOTAL |
|--|-------|
| Saturday Seminars and Guided Walks (incl. lunch, morning & Sunday Garden Visits and Guided Walk (incl. morning & afternoon teas) | |
| Saturday Night Group Dinner (3-course meal, excludes drinks) | |
| | |

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Vegetarian – Y/N

Gluten free – Y/N

Dairy Intolerant

A. Online Registration and Payment

1. Complete Registration Form, scan and email to aps2017coffs@gmail.com
2. Make your online payment (see below). Your registration will be confirmed once payment is received.

PAYMENT: EFT (preferred)

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| BSB: 533 000 | ACCOUNT Number: 100631564 | Account Name: 2017 Get-Together APS Coffs Harbour |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|

Note – you can combine payment for multiple registrations in one payment

| | |
|--|--|
| This registration included under Payment for REF: Surname/Family Name: | |
|--|--|

B. By Post

1. Cheques payable to: APS Coffs Harbour, and sent with completed Registration Form.

CANCELLATIONS: Full refund for cancellations up to and including July 31, 2017

REGISTRATION FORM 2017 APS Get-Together **Any questions: Janice Fitzpatrick, TR**

REGISTRATION FORM

to aps2017coffs@gmail.com

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| | APS District Group | Mobile OR | Landline |
| | | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Reservations received BEFORE July 01, 2017.

| | Early Bird Cost | Regular Cost | Your Cost |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| afternoon tea) – bring own lunch | \$50 | \$55 | |
| | \$50 | \$50 | |
| COST PER PERSON | | | |

Vegetarian Y/N

Disability Access Required Y/N

[m](#) (preferred).

needed when payment is received.

REF = Family/Surname.

| | |
|---------|------|
| Harbour | REF: |
|---------|------|

but please tell us as follows:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Registration Form to 2017 APS Get-Together, PO Box 79, Coramba, NSW 2450

17. No refund from July 31, 2017

Treasurer, APS Coffs Harbour email: aps2017coffs@gmail.com Mob 0418 350 937

3. Select your payment method

Cheque or money order payable to Australian Plants Society NSW

Visa MasterCard

Card number _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

Expiry date _ _ / _ _

Cardholder's name _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Direct deposit

Bank Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

BSB 062 217

Account no. 0090 7163

Please use as the reference your surname and 6-digit membership number which is on your membership card and your journal mailing envelopes. Please email merleaps@bigpond.com to advise of your deposit.

4. Return your form by post or email

Australian Plants Society NSW
Membership Officer
PO Box 3066
BOWENFELS NSW 2790

Membership inquiries

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer
merleaps@bigpond.com
Ph (02) 6352 3805 Fax (02) 6351 2384



Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
ACN 002 680 408
www.austplants.com.au

01/17

New members April 2017

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 28 new members (25 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Michael Bentley | Frazer, ACT |
| Alicia Cooper | Dangarsleigh |
| Mithra Cox | Corrimal |
| Elizabeth Dudley | Dorrigo |
| Anne Gray | Frenchs Forest |
| Carol Harris | Korora |
| Felicity Harvey | Ettalong Beach |
| Patricia Hellsing | Narooma |
| Deirdre & Zach Lee | Glenbrook |
| Charles McCloskey | Taree |
| Della McKenzie | Lindfield |
| Annabel Murray | Bowral |
| Bron Newman | Canowindra |
| Julie Nicholls | Narooma |
| Bob & Roz Philipson | Goulburn |
| Timothy Phillips | Blaxland |
| Anne Phillips | North Durras |
| Marie Quinn | Narrabeen |
| Andrea Shelley | Pomonal |
| Daniel Richard Sloane | Macquarie Park |
| John & Lyn Williams | Winmalee |

We welcome back the following former members

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Mrs Eileen Burnus | Thirlmere |
| Sue Grahame | Lilli Pilli |
| David Litchfield | Jewells |
| Suzanne Little | Menai |

Vale

It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths of Peter Abell (Coffs Harbour), Tamara Cox (Parramatta Hills), Kevin Mantle (Secretary, Hunter Valley) and Deirdre Morton (Blue Mountains). The Board extends condolences to their families and friends.

District Group directory

District Groups are located in many areas throughout New South Wales and range in size from fewer than 20 to over 100 members. Group members are able to take part in many activities including bushwalks, bush regeneration and conservation projects. Regular meetings enable members to keep in touch with people of similar interests and to hear expert guest speakers. Contact the Secretary of a specific group for further information.

Armidale and District

President: Phillip Rose ☎ (02) 6775 3767
Email: prosecarwell@bigpond.com
Secretary: Penelope Sinclair ☎ (02) 6771 5639
PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Email: apsarmidale@gmail.com

Meetings: ASCA House, 166 Barney Street, Armidale
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.00 pm (excluding December, January, June, July).

Blue Mountains

President: Dick Turner ☎ (02) 4739 5362
Secretary: Alix Goodwin ☎ 0450 430 891
PO Box 23, Glenbrook NSW 2773
Website: www.apsbluemtnsgroup.org

Meetings: Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Hwy, Glenbrook
1st Friday of the month at 8 pm (Sep-May) and
1st Sunday of the month at 10 am (Jun-Aug).
No meeting when there is an outing in the month.

Central Coast

President: Richard Street ☎ 0414 762 535
Secretary: Joan Harden ☎ (02) 4325 3807
Email: aps.cc.secty@gmail.com

Meetings: Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong
Generally 2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 7.30 pm but winter meetings on Saturday afternoons. Check website for details.
Website: www.australianplants.org

Central West

President: Roy Menzies ☎ (02) 6337 7388
Email: rjmenzies@activ8.net.au
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
Email: l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Meetings: Monthly outings to various locations. Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour

President: Alison Moore ☎ 0439 597 118
Email: anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au
Secretary: Robert Watt ☎ (02) 6655 0043
PO Box 241 Bellingen NSW 2454
Email: rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au

Meetings: Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Display Room normally on the 2nd Tuesday of each month alternating between day (10 am) and evening (7 pm). Excluding January.

East Hills

President: Graham Fry ☎ (02) 9580 6621
Email: fryg@zipworld.com.au
Secretary: Karl Schurr ☎ (02) 9644 8217
Email: kschurr@bigpond.net.au

Meetings: Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm (excluding January).

Hawkesbury

Contact: Arthur Rutter ☎ (02) 4577 3271
99 The Terrace, Windsor NSW 2756
Email: aande42@bigpond.com.au

Meetings: This group was re-launched at the APS NSW gathering in November 2014.

Hunter Valley

President: David Williams ☎ 0439 505 899
Email: davidvacy@gmail.com
Secretary: Andrew Pengelly ☎ 0468 535 234
30 Lindsay Rd North Rothbury NSW 2335
Email: apengelly@muih.edu

Meetings: The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45 pm.

Illawarra

President: Kath Gadd ☎ 0414 333 475
Email: kath@malleedesign.com.au
Keith Hunter ☎ 0481 599 008
Email: keithjohnhunter@gmail.com
Facebook: type 'APS Illawarra' in the Facebook search bar.

Activities: This group is aiming to have an activity each month – check the Facebook page or contact the leaders.

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies
Secretary: Rod Bray ☎ (02) 4647 9928
147 Holdsworth Drive, Mt Annan NSW 2567
Email: yarbdor@westnet.com.au
Meetings: Jack Nash Club Rooms, Nash Place
Currans Hill NSW 2567. 3rd Wednesday of the
month at 7.30 pm (Feb-Nov).

Menai

President: Jason Cockayne ☎ (02) 9570 8559
Email: Jay.shaz@hotmail.com
Secretary: Annette Tuckfield ☎ (02) 9543 1490
Email: menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au
PO Box 3104, Bangor NSW 2234
Meetings: Illawong Rural Fire Service.
2nd Saturday of the month at 1 pm (June–Aug)
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.00 pm (others
excluding January).

Newcastle

President: Colin Lawrence ☎ (02) 4965 6110
Email: president.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Secretary: Maree McCarthy ☎ (02) 4943 0305
Email: secretary.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Meetings: The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd,
Shortland
1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm
(excluding January).

Northern Beaches

President: Conny Harris ☎ (02) 9451 3231
Email: conny.harris@gmail.com
Joint Secretaries:
Lynne McNairn ☎ (02) 9982 7964
Julia Tomkinson ☎ (02) 9949 5179
PO Box 393 Dee Why NSW 2099
Meetings: Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee
Why. 1st Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm
(Feb-Nov).

North Shore

President: vacant
Email:
Secretary: Sue Bowen ☎ 0478 957 951
PO Box 141 Roseville 2069
Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au
Meetings: Willow Park Community Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.
2nd Friday of the month at 8 pm (Feb-Nov).
Website: www.blandfordia.org.au

Nowra

President: Lesley McKinnon ☎ (02) 4443 4004
Secretary: Gwen Smith ☎ (02) 4443 3497
PO Box 25, Berry NSW 2535
Email: rapidpulse@bigpond.com
Facebook: australianplantssocietynowra
Meetings: North Nowra Community Centre
7 Hood Close, North Nowra. 2nd Thursday of the
month (Feb-Nov) at 7.30 pm.

Parramatta and The Hills District

President: vacant
Secretary: vacant
Email: info@apsparrahills.org.au
Meetings: Bi-monthly meetings 2 pm on 4th
Saturday of Feb, April, June, August, Sept and
Nov at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook
Website: www.apsparrahills.org.au

South East Region

President: John Knight ☎ 0434 674 347
Email: johnonvista49@outlook.com
Secretary: Michele Pymble ☎ (02) 4473 8587
Email: secretary.apsse@gmail.com
Meetings: At various locations, generally on
1st Saturday of every month except January.
Contact President or Secretary.
Website: southeast.austplants.com.au

Southern Highlands

President: Kristine Gow ☎ (02) 4861 1913
Email: krislloyd2@bigpond.com
Secretary: Kay Fintan ☎ (02) 4861 2594
Email: kaynbrian@bigpond.com
2 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Bowral 2576
Meetings: CWA Room, next to Council building
in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale at 2 pm on the first
Thursday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug and Nov.

Southern Tablelands

President: Tim Hayes ☎ 0468 472 237
Email: knockaroura@skymesh.com
Secretary: Bob Galland ☎ 0407 248 154
PO Box 1046 Goulburn NSW 2580
Email: rcgalland1@bigpond.com
Meetings: Only when essential – our group is
concentrating on walks and other activities.

Sutherland

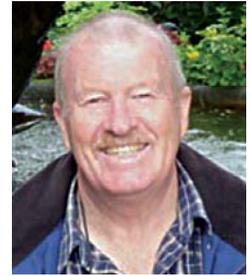
President: John Aitken ☎ (02) 9589 1363
Email: jeaitken@gmail.com
Secretary: Leonie Hogue ☎ (02) 9528 6083
Email: leoniehogue@gmail.com
Meetings: Gymea Community Centre, Gymea
Bay Rd, Gymea. 3rd Wednesday of the month
at 8 pm (February–November).
Website: www.sutherland.austplants.com.au/

Tamworth

President: Matt Cosgrove ☎ (02) 6765 2693
Email: cosgrove72@bigpond.com
Secretary: Kerrie Gray ☎ 0427 652 986
PO Box 1193, Tamworth NSW 2340
Email: dyso57@bigpond.com
Meetings: Botanic Garden Meeting Room.
10 am on 4th Saturday Feb to Nov. Outings
and field trips at other times – contact the
Secretary.

President's Report

John Aitken, President APS NSW



Closure of APS NSW office

Sadly, APS NSW has reached the end of an era with the closure of our office at Constitution Hill on 9 April in an effort to reduce the Society's costs. Over the past few months, members of the Board have reduced years of accumulated and unnecessary items. The core items will be placed in storage and will be available if and when needed. These items include relevant historical records, copies of past minutes, annual reports, *Australian Plants*, *Native Plants for NSW* and the last 5 years' accounts and other documents as required by ACNC. Whilst our physical office may have closed, APS NSW will continue to function as usual, except that business will be done via the phone, email and the website. Sharlene Cormack, our Office Manager, will continue to manage the daily administrative matters of the Society as she has done in the past. I would like to thank Jonathon Steeds for his very generous offer to provide free storage space for the Society's items, which will be another cost saving to the Society.

February gathering

Many thanks to the Menai Group for hosting the last gathering which was held on 21 February at the Illawong Rural Fire Station. The meeting was a great success with over 70 members attending. Lloyd Hedges gave an excellent talk on his experiences in propagating the Pink Flannel Flower, *Actinotus forsythii*. My wife, Liz, bought a very healthy specimen hoping to grow it in a pot and enjoy it when it flowered. Unfortunately, we found that the possums preferred the foliage and decimated it.

Acknowledgement of members

Some of the many strengths of APS NSW are the enthusiasm and support of the members who are committed to ensuring the success of the Society. I would like to especially thank the following:

- Mark Abell, who relinquished his role as the Society's web master. Mark did a fantastic job for many years on the website, especially revitalising it after it had been virtually defunct for quite a while. Our thoughts are with Mark at this time, following the loss of his mother in December last year and the recent tragic drowning of his brother Peter

- the four members who volunteered at the recent gathering to help us with the development of the new website and associated technology.
- the eight representatives from different District Groups who gave up their valuable time to participate in the teleconference, facilitated by Alix Goodwin, on Saturday 21 March to discuss membership. Alix reported that she was very heartened by the enthusiasm and constructive contributions of those participating.
- those members who have volunteered to staff the APS NSW display at the RAS Easter Show. The Show provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Society to a large section of the general public. The wonderful display the display. The visitors are warmly greeted by volunteers who share their passion for our plants and share their enthusiasm for the Society.

It is with deep regret that I have to share with you the sad news about three of our members who recently died: Tamara Cox, a long time and committed member of the Parramatta-Hills Group, Kevin Mantle, past President and Secretary of the Hunter Valley Group and Peter Abell, brother of Mark Abell. On behalf of APS NSW I extend our deepest sympathies to their families. Tamara, Kevin and Peter will always be fondly remembered by those who knew them.

Alex Floyd, who was made as life member of the Society last year, has finally received his Life Membership badge at a recent meeting. Last year, the Coffs Harbour Group had organised a special presentation afternoon for Alex at the local Botanic Gardens at which I would present him with his badge. Unfortunately, the flight I was due to catch was severely delayed by fog, which prevented me from attending the presentation. Despite the disappointment, the festivities went on and Alex spent an enjoyable afternoon with his friends.

I look forward to catching up with you at the May gathering and AGM in the Gosford area, which is being hosted by the Central Coast Group.

Find APS NSW

on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/APSNSW



Conservation Report

Dan Clarke is the Conservation Officer for APS NSW and can be contacted at conservation@austrplants.com.au



I have been busy with a few APS side projects since my last report. One of these includes the compilation of a masterlist of native garden specimens that have made an appearance on the plant table at Sutherland Group meetings over the last several years. The list can be viewed on the Sutherland APS website sutherland.austrplants.com.au/Plant-Table-Masterlist.pdf. Plants are profiled in the category of size and habit with brief descriptions and additional websites provided for each plant. This list gets updated after every monthly meeting.

With some assistance from fellow member Ralph Cartwright, we were able to complete a third targeted survey of *Prostanthera densa* in Royal National Park in January. After a few more recordings, plants soon petered out in the survey area and we could not find any more. I have some additional potential locations targeted on aerial photography, and intend to investigate these by ground-truthing in the near future. To date we have recorded 78 plants all up. Our third report can be viewed under the Conservation tab on the APS NSW website at austrplants.com.au/component/attachments/download/119.html

Stemming from our survey work, staff working on the Saving Our Species project at NSW OEH/NPWS made contact with APS and congratulated us on our efforts. I have had some meetings with them and have been told that funding for further survey of *P. densa* may be available, at the five known locations up and down the NSW Coast. I am not sure how this will pan out but it is positive news! In addition, we have been told that some form of media exposure regarding the survey is in the pipeline. I am also scheduled to present our findings at an upcoming forum as part of a series of seminars at Royal National Park in April.

Sutherland Group are not the only APS members involved in the Save Our Species project. Wendy Grimm from APS North Shore Group has been monitoring and maintaining a population of the threatened (vulnerable) orchid *Genoplesium baueri*. The site is in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens (KWG) at St Ives, as well as Kuring-gai Chase National Park (KCNP). APS NSW is a partner with Ku-ring-gai Council and National Parks for the management of this species. Educational signage depicting the endangered orchid has been installed at several locations within KWG.

Wendy discovered the population at KWG in 2009 and located 25 plants, as well as 22 plants in KCNP. She has been conducting yearly monitoring and in 2016 she recorded 247 plants in KWG and 90 plants in KCNP.

I feel strongly that these projects are very worthwhile and satisfying for APS members, especially when we are providing new data to government and adding to what is known about these threatened plants. I get a thrill researching and compiling data regarding herbarium collections and sightings at previously recorded locations in order to plan field investigations. Recently, I have been providing the Save Our Species staff with historic information about *Prostanthera densa* that they were not aware of. This reinforces the importance of the knowledge our members have and makes us very valuable in terms of our contribution to the promotion and conservation of Australian flora.

I look forward to reporting further on our positive contributions and discoveries!



Flowers of *Genoplesium baueri*. It may be rare but it has several common names including Bauer's Midge Orchid, Yellow Gnat Orchid, Brittle Midge Orchid.

Cover images



Front Cover

Melaleuca huegelii (Chenille Honey-myrtle) photo taken by Marie Stevenson of APS in SA. This highly ornamental shrub is native to WA, requires well-drained soils, responds to pruning and attracts nectar-feeding birds and insects. Plant singly as a background shrub in a mixed planting or in a group as a wind-break. But be warned: in SA it is not to be planted closer than two metres to any sewer main or connection.



Back Cover

Xanthorrhoea (Grasstree) photo taken by Alix Goodwin after a hazard reduction burn in Darks Common at Lapstone last autumn. Within two weeks, and with virtually no rain, fresh growth and colour was emerging.

APS NSW Seed Bank update

John Randall, Seed Bank Curator

Requests for seed can be sent by mail to:

John Randall
8 Coachmans Place,
Mardi NSW 2259



Seed is available free to members. The full seed list is published annually in the April issue of *Native Plants for New South Wales* with additions and deletions being published in the other three issues. This list can also be found on the APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au by selecting **Seed Bank** in the **Resources** pane on the Home page, or it can be accessed directly by pasting the following address into your browser: <http://austplants.com.au/seedbank.html>.

There is a limit of six seed packets per request. Inquiries can be made to John at johnannerandall@gmail.com or on (02) 4353 9390. Please enclose a stamped (\$2.00) self-addressed envelope (110 x 220 mm) for return of the seeds. Please list seed requests in alphabetical order and include a list of alternative selections.

Seed donations are always welcome and are vital if the seed bank is to remain viable. Please state the source of the seed, whether from natural or cultivated material. Please do not send seed from hybrid plants. Our curator is running low on many local species and would welcome seed donations from groups and individuals.



APS NSW on the web

www.austplants.com.au

For the latest information about your Society see the web site, where you can read articles and newsletters, and participate in the forum about all aspects of native plants.

Seed bank list: April, 2017

Acacia – buxifolia, conferta, covenyi, cultriformis, deanei, decurrens, elata, elongata, falcata, falciformis, fimbriata, iteaphylla, littorea, linophylla, macradenia, melanoxyton, neriifolia, obtusifolia, pravissima, prominens, pubescens, pulchella, pycnantha, rubida, saligna, simsii, stricta, suaveolens, verniciflua, vestita, victoriae

Allocasuarina – distyla, littoralis, nana, torulosa, verticillata

Angophora – costata

Banksia – ericifolia, integrifolia, oblongifolia, serrata

Brachychiton – acerifolius

Callistemon – linearis, montanus, rigidus, rugulosus, sieberi

Callitris – intratropica, muelleri, oblonga, preissii, rhomboidea

Calothamnus – quadrifidus

Casuarina – cunninghamiana, glauca

Clematis – gerantioides

Corymbia – (formerly Eucalyptus) citriodora, intermedia, maculata, tessellaris

Dodonaea – rupicola

Doryanthes – palmeri

Elaeocarpus – angustifolius

Eucalyptus – acaciiformis, acmenoides, apiculata, astringens, bancroftii, behriana, botryoides, caesia ssp. caesia, camaldulensis, capitellata,

Eucalyptus -clelandii, coccifera, cordata, cordieri, coronata, crebra, curtisii, delegatensis, dumosa, dwyeri, ebbanoensis, elata, eudesmioides, fibrosa, gardneri, globoidea, grandis, grossa, luehmanniana, longifolia, macrandra, maidenii, moluccana, nicholii, nutans, ovata, paniculata, pellita, phoenicea, pilularis, piperita, platypus var. platypus, pleurocarpa, polyanthemos, punctata subsp. punctata, racemosa, resinifera, rhodantha, robusta, saligna, siderophloia, sideroxylon, stowardii, tensis, viminalis, woodwardii

Flindersia – australis

Gahnia – melanocarpa, sieberiana

Graptophyllum – ilicifolium

Grevillea – johnsonii, longistyla

Hakea – archaeoides, grammatophylla, laurina, petiolaris

Hibiscus – panduriformis

Hovea – acutifolia

Hymenosporum – flavum

Ixiolaena – brevicompta

Kennedia – rubicunda

Kunzea – ericoides

Leptospermum – arachnoides, juniperinum, laevigatum, lanigerum, petersonii, polygalifolium, rotundifolium, rupestre, speciosum, squarrosus

Lomatia – fraseri, myricoides, silaifolia

Seed bank list: April, 2017 continued

Lophostemon – confertus

Melaleuca – armillaris, hypericifolia, nesophila, preissiana, quinquenervia, saligna

Notelaea – ovata

Olearia – axillaris

Orthrosanthus – laxis

Pandorea – jasminoides, pandorana

Paraserianthes – (syn. *Albizia*)
lophantha

Philydrum – lanuginosum

Pittosporum – *revolutum*

Rhodospaera – rhodanthema

Senna – acclinis, aciphylla, artemisoides subsp artemisoides, barclayana, clavigera, coronilloides, nemophila var. zygophylla, odorata, odorata (prostrate)*, planitiicola, sturtii.

Sophora – tomentosa

Stenocarpus – sinuatus

Syncarpia – glomulifera, hillii

Tecomanthe – hillii

Toona – ciliata

Viminaria – juncea

* Where colours and specific growth habits are shown against the name of the species, this indicates that the seed came from a plant with those features. There is no certainty that the colours or features will be retained by seedlings.

About the Australian Flora Foundation

The Australian Flora Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit charity dedicated to fostering scientific research into Australia's flora. It is totally independent. All members of the Council and the Scientific Committee give their time freely as volunteers.



Each year the Australian Flora Foundation provides funding for a number of grants for research into the biology and cultivation of the Australian flora. While the grants are not usually large, they are often vital in enabling such projects to be undertaken. Many of the researchers are honours or postgraduate students, and their success with an Australian Flora Foundation grant hopefully stimulates their interest in researching Australia's unique and diverse plants throughout their careers.

This work is only made possible by the generous support of donors and benefactors. For more information www.aff.org.au

Native Garden in Grenfell



The following is an extract from the March 2017 issue of the Nowra Group newsletter. It is from the president's column written by Lesley McKinnon.

An opportune stop for morning tea at Grenfell had us accidentally find one of the highlights of our trip, a community developed garden of native plants endemic to the area. The garden is located on O'Brien's Hill (for anyone wanting to visit). The signage was wonderful, all gardens and plants numbered with corresponding metal plates listing botanical and common names. So well maintained and set out, it was a fantastic snapshot of the plants local to the area showcasing their garden potential. The stand outs included a tall screen of *Callitris endlicheri* (Black Cypress Pine) and two great groundcovers, *Rhagodia spinescens* (Creeping Salt Bush) and *Eremophila debilis* (Winter Apple).

Group activity

Thirlmere Lakes Day Trip

Alix Goodwin with the assistance of Dick Turner, both from Blue mountains Group

Late last year, 17 members of the Blue Mountains Group enjoyed a relaxing excursion to Thirlmere Lakes National Park under the steam of our local community transport service.

Thirlmere Lakes have been in existence for 15 million years, a period of time that is hard to comprehend. The five 'lakes' which make up this small national park form part of the UNESCO world heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains National Park. Perched lakes, they are sisters to Glenbrook Lagoon and Mountain Lagoon [both local features for Blue Mountains Group members – Ed.], and were formed from sandstone erosion that holds rather than drains stream-fed water. This was the reason for our visit. This and the fact that the lakes, of which two are now dry, are threatened by long seam coal mining in the Illawarra region.

Originally home to the Gundagurrah people whose land extends to Katoomba, the lakes were first 'discovered' in 1798 and then again in 1802 by our friend George Cayley. They have been a playground for locals and visitors ever since. Aboriginal people wandering through the area used the lakes for water and as a food source. Later they provided water for steam trains with the sandstone pumping house remaining as a reminder of those times. German migrants built holiday cabins



Thirlmere Lakes National Park. Photo NationalParks.nsw.gov.au

and planted northern hemisphere gardens beside the lakes. Water skiers spent their weekends on Lake Werriberri while others swam and picnicked beside Couridjah. Horse riders also used the area and there is evidence that they continue to this day, although restricted to fire trails.

As we entered the National Park the main trees were Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*), with an understory of banksias, paperbarks and Christmas bush. Under the shade of *Angophora floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple) and *Corymbia eximia* (Yellow Bloodwood) beside Lake Couridjah we were met by Denise Alexandra, a member of the recently formed action group, *Undermined*, which is fighting for the survival of the lakes. Denise spoke about the damage being caused by long seam coal mining and other activities undertaken in and around the lakes in the past, including logging. She also told us of the discussions the group is having with the mine owners about strategies to prevent further water loss, most notably returning water pumped from the mine into the lakes rather than into the Bargo River as currently occurs. The best solution is to stop the mining.

On Denise's advice, rather than walk the six kilometre loop around the lakes, we took the ridge walk, a circuit that travels through open forest in sandstone country on the southern side of Couridjah and Werriberri. As we slowly ascended the ridge we were greeted by many familiar friends both from the Lower Blue Mountains and Muogamarra Nature Reserve visited by our group in August. These included our beloved Mountain Devil (*Lambertia formosa*), *Exocarpos cupressiformis* covered in masses of fruit, *Petrophile pulchella* about to burst into flower, *Isopogon* sp., *Eriostemon australasius* and boronia. The latter two showed evidence of recent flowering but were definitely on the wane and starting to set seed. The canopy along the ridge was formed from *Corymbia gummifera* (Red Bloodwood), *E. sclerophylla* (Scribbly Gum) and *E. punctata* (Grey Gum) both smooth barked, as well as *E. sieberi* (silver-topped ash) and *E. globoidea* (White Stringybark) both of which are rough barks.

The return walk alongside the dry lakes, Nerrigorang and Baraba, also offered rich plant life, some of which are shown in the accompanying photos including bearded orchids, dianella (broad leafed) and the single petalled beauty, the name of which I cannot recall. We were also greeted by local species requiring detective work to identify them correctly. New to us were *Bossiaea lenticularis* with its uneven pods and small round leaves and *Leptospermum trinervium* which presented with larger flowers and leaves than the same species in the Blue Mountains. By the water's edge we found *Viminaria juncea* or native broom, with



Xerochrysum viscosum



Hybanthus monopetalus

bright yellow flowers and stems for leaves. Under the canopy of trees we found the very beautiful *Cooperhooia barbata* or Pink Goodenia.

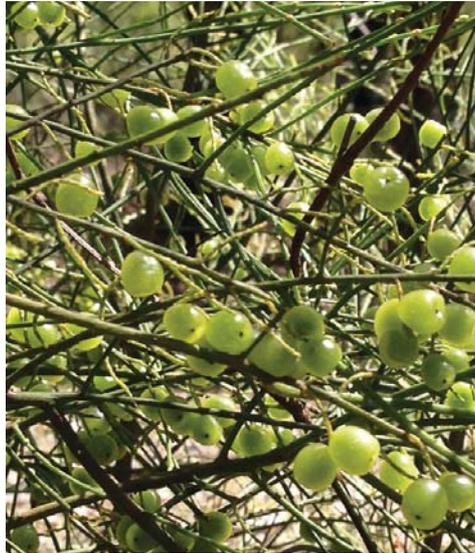
There were sobering moments where we were reminded of the realities of Australia's magnificent fauna: they all require sustenance to survive. While on our way to the lakes, a Laughing Jack was sighted flying overhead with a snake hanging from its beak. At the Werriberri Lake picnic ground, a Sacred Kingfisher was spotted with a fresh meal of lizard in its pincers and not long after a kite swooped upon and took a Rufus Whistler with a loud thud. The kite was seen a short time later, sitting on a branch enjoying its meal. Astonishingly, the lakes are home to around 140 different types of birds.

The trip also provided other opportunities. Dick Turner, our Vice President, was able to compare *Dampiera stricta* in the wild with his potted cultivar, Glasshouse Glory, with its many exquisite blue flowers. He also has managed to cultivate some woody pear seedlings (*Xylomelum pyriforme*) and white everlasting daisies (*Coronidium elatum*). I'm in the queue for a woody pear!

As we were leaving the lakes we notice that two of the pendulous mistletoe on a Sydney Peppermint had a mistletoe parasitising the primary mistletoe. The second parasitic plant was golden mistletoe, *Notothixos subaurea*. The photo (below left) of pendulous mistletoe below, *Amyema pendula*, is also attached to Sydney Peppermint and illustrates the size and health of the many we saw around the lakes. The swollen junction of the two plants is called an haustoria, and is where the mistletoe contacts the xylem of the host tree to obtain water and minerals needed for its growth.



Bearded orchid



Leptomeria acida (Native Currant)

Since our visit, *Undermined* has reported a number of successes. They have been granted \$5,000 by the Sunrise Project for their own research and have released a video about the damage to the Lakes prepared by *Lock The Gate Alliance*. The video can be viewed by visiting <https://facebook.com/undermined.thirlmere> and then by clicking on the first post under *Save Our Thirlmere Lakes and Creeks*. They have also reported that the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has allocated \$1.9 million to research the state of the lakes. OEH has recently reported that they have completed the installation of a \$200,000 monitoring system to provide the community with information on water levels and climatic conditions in the National Park.



If you are interested in becoming a member of *Undermined* (cost \$20) please simply email Denise at undermined.thirlmere@gmail.com and she will send you a membership form.

Haustoria of *Amyema pendula* where it is attached to Sydney Peppermint.

Study Group notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

The Grevillea Study Group, led by Peter Olde, has aligned with several other study groups by removing membership fees for individual study group members. This reduces costs and time spent on administration. ANPSA, our national Society is providing a better service to all members by broadening the on-line availability of the specialist articles and images that are contributed to study groups. The responsibility remains with our community to continue contributing observations to these newsletters.



Wallum & Coastal Heathland Study Group (Nov. 2016 report)

Occasional meetings are held at the Bribie Island Community Nursery and walks explore areas of local heath or trails in the nearby Glass House Mountains National Park.

Grevillea Study Group (Nov. 2016, No. 105)

NSW chapter of the Study Group was responsible for this issue and a member from Oatley recounts her joy in finding *Grevillea aspleniifolia* in full flower on the summit of Yerranderie Peak in the Blue Mountains.

The population structure of the Tumut Grevillea, *G. wilkinsonii*, has been closely monitored along the Goobarragandra River since its discovery there by Tom Wilkinson in 1982. Reintroduction of cutting-derived plants near its natural range has contributed to conservation of this endangered species.

Ray Brown of Illawarra Grevillea Park provides three pages of very practical gardening advice on aspects of setting up and maintaining a garden: design, planting, mulching, maintenance and pruning.

Australian Food Plants Study Group (Dec. 2016, No. 61)

Wild saltbush is a supplementary stock food source in the drier parts of Australia. An article reproduced from ABC Landline details how one farming family is pelletising varieties of saltbush into stock feed. Saltbush has high protein content and is reported to add flavour to the meat. <http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2015/s4333691.htm>

Human appetites have not been neglected: the newsletter contains an interesting compilation of Australian food plant recipes.

Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group (Dec. 2016, No. 12)

The annual *Wild about Waratahs Festival* is held at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah and study group leader, Maria Hitchcock, provides stunning images of some of the category prize-winners from September 2016.

Total fire ban days are not the time to test Noel Rosten's blow torch method for inducing high rates of on-ground germination of *Actinotus* seeds. Noel also recommends early potting up of the seedlings at the three-leaf stage for consistent rapid development.

As usual this issue contains a comprehensive list of species, cultivars and hybrids of both waratahs and flannel flowers.

Acacia Study Group (Dec. 2016, No. 135)

Seed cases of *Acacia* can exhibit interesting and frequently characteristic forms which may enable identification of the wattle long after the golden balls or rods have withered. *A. idiomorpha* from the Central West Coast and *A. craspedocarpa* from further inland are noted as two Western Australian species with distinctive pods.

Look closely at any acacia and you are guaranteed to find a colony of resident freeloaders. Lace bugs and mites are two groups whose host-specific relationships with acacias are mentioned in this newsletter.

Dryandra Study Group (Feb. 2017, No. 72)

The relief from long-term drought conditions in Western Australia enabled many species of *Dryandra* to bloom in 2016. Leader Margaret Pieroni has taken advantage of this. With a member from France, she visited over ninety taxa in diverse locations and captured images of the plants in flower to add to the digital archive. The previous mass flowering had been in 2005, prior to wide-spread use of digital photography.



Dryandra corvijuga

Photo: Margaret Pieroni

Inflorescences are held on the ends of upright or prostrate branches or may be hidden in or beneath the shrub and detected first by a tell-tale whiff. *D. epimicta* emits a foul odour which seems to attract blowflies to enter the narrow openings between feathery bracts. Near Ravensthorpe the golden tones of flowerheads of *D. corvijuga* were revealed after a search through the prickly foliage of surrounding dryandras.

Excursion notes are sufficiently detailed to enable NSW travellers to mount their own dryandra hunt and to experience these Banksia cousins *in situ*. The unfortunate message conveyed is that large patches of roadside vegetation are being removed and many mature dryandras are being lost.

Grevillea Study Group (Feb. 2017, No. 106)

Prune early and prune often to avoid leggy growth which may succumb to wind damage or could collapse from its own weight. *Grevillea banksii* hybrids respond well to heavy pruning, but the report cautions that drastically pruned plants need access to plenty of sun to grow healthy new shoots.

The Grevillea Garden is a significant feature of the thirty-year-old Hunter Region Botanic Gardens on the Pacific Highway near Hexham. It has undergone a transformation and now features a greater selection of threatened grevillea species and many grafted, difficult to grow species. Volunteers are rightly proud of the Gardens. Visit the website and, more importantly, visit the Gardens. www.huntergardens.org.au

Images of grevillea follicles holding seed are needed for the website. Consider collecting seed and donating the seeds and images to the study group. <http://anpsa.org.au/grevSG/>



These grevilleas were on Peter Olde's list of suggested plantings at Stockton. (L) *Grevillea speciosa* (Mueller Track, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden); (R) *Grevillea sericea* (Munmorah State Conservation Area). Photos: Wendy Grimm

Correspondence about the Stockton Landcare Group lists bird- and insect-attracting local Proteaceae suitable for planting at its 4 ha beach side regeneration area and outlines how to plan a similar project.

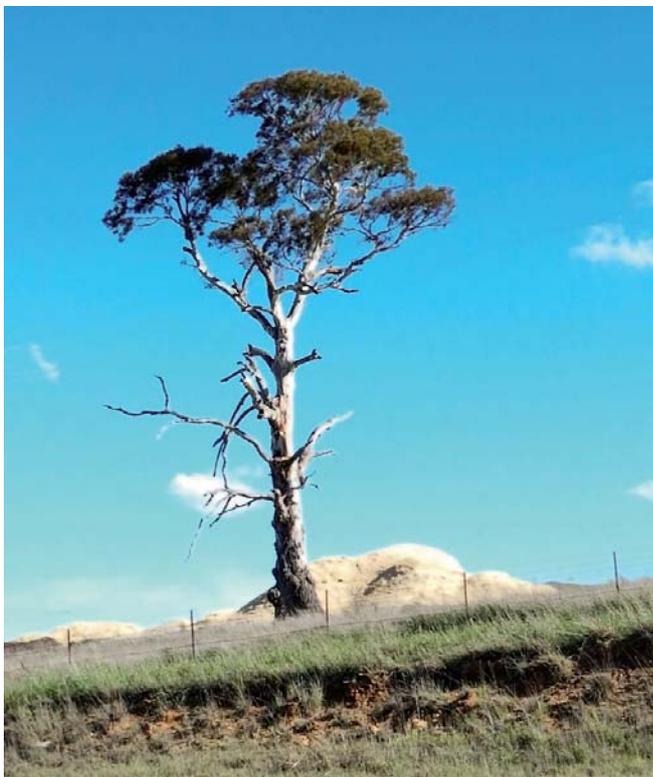
Hakea Study Group (Feb. 2017, No. 63)

Many hakea species produce very few fruit follicles and seed but survive wildfire by shooting from a lignotuber. Species from NSW included *Hakea actities*, *H. archaeoides*, *H. bakeriana*, *H. decurrens*, *H. florulenta*, *H. laevipes*, *H. lorea*, and *H. leucoptera*. Fruit set may also be reduced by lack of plant maturity, small population size, unsuitable seasonal conditions or lack of pollinator availability.

Leader Paul Kennedy observed that the presence of solid structures such as fences can influence a plant's microclimate by channelling more rainfall to beds on the windward side of the fence.

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group (Jan. 2017, No. 30 & 31)

Leader Roger Hnatiuk challenges members to find inspirational Australian native trees in the wild and to spend time 'observing and getting to know these elders of the plant world'. He describes a Yellow Box growing near Bombala and provides an image (below) to ignite our interest in applying bonsai techniques to simulate age-induced ravages.



Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

Acacia (\$10/\$20/\$7)

Leader: Bill Aitchison
13 Conos Court
Donvale, VIC 3111
☎ (03) 9872 3583
Email: acaciastudygroup@gmail.com

Australian Food Plants (free)

Leader: Sheryl Backhouse
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Banksia (\$7 email)

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Eucalyptus (\$10/\$20/\$5)

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Treasurer: Dan Johnston
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email only group
 Joint Leaders: Phil Trickett and
 Catriona Bate
 PO Box 291
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 Email: catrionaandphil@gmail.com

Rainforest (free)

Leader: Kris Kupsch
 28 Plumtree Pocket
 Upper Burringbar NSW 2483
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Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

Leader: Barbara Henderson
 36 Railway Terrace
 Moore QLD 4306
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Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

Leader: Maria Hitchcock
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 ☎ (02) 6775 1139, 0421 961 007
 Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

The following study groups are all in recess and require new leaders. If you are interested in a role contact the APS NSW Study Group Liaison Officer, Wendy Grimm at wagrimm@tpg.com.au

Australian plants for containers**Calytrix****Daisy, the Australian****Fabaceae****Hibiscus and Related genera****Orchids, Indigenous****Palm and Cycad****Prostanthera and Westringia****Rhamnaceae****Succulents, Native****Verticordia****Wetlands (and Water Plants)****Wildlife and Native Plants**

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Discounts are available from the following organisations to Society members who present their current membership card.

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⊗ **All GreenGold Nurseries**
5% discount, except on landscape materials, garden design services or discounted merchandise.

⊗ **Florilegium**
The Garden Bookstore
65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037
PO Box 644, Rozelle 2039
☎ (02) 9571 8222.
Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun
11am–5pm.

10% discount on some titles. Please check before purchasing.

⊗ **Sydney Wildflower Nursery**
9 Veno St, Heathcote 2233
www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au
10% discount

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⊗ **Cool Natives**
Retail mail order nursery
16 Hitchcock Lane,
Armidale 2350
Open by appointment only
☎ (02) 6775 1139
0421 961 007
Email: maria@coolnatives.com.au
www.coolnatives.com.au
10% discount

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⊗ **Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve Nursery**
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Glenbrook 2773
☎ (02) 4739 8597
Sat, Sun, Wed. 12 noon–4pm.
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20% for roster participants.

Central Coast

⊗ **The Wildflower Place**
453 The Entrance Rd,
Erina Heights 2260
☎ (02) 4365 5510
5% discount

Central West

⊗ **Wombat Gully Native Nursery**
1729 Cocks Creek Rd, Rylstone
☎ 6379 6202
10% discount

Hunter Valley

⊗ **Muswellbrook Forest Nursery**
New England Highway,
Muswellbrook
☎ (02) 6543 2622
Email: mfn@hlmaus.com.au
www.muswellbrook
forestnursery.com.au
M–F 8.30am–4.30pm
Weekends 10am–3pm
10% discount

Nepean Valley

⊗ **Darvill Nursery**
Darvill Rd, Orchard Hills 2748
Contact for price list or
arrange to visit beforehand
☎ (02) 4736 5004
www.darvillnursery.com.au
10% discount

Newcastle

⊗ **Leearne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery**
260 Lake Road, Glendale 2285
☎ (02) 4954 5584
Open 7 Days 9am–5pm.
10% discount

North Coast

⊗ **Bonny Hills Garden Centre,**
1055 Ocean Drive,
Bonny Hills 2445
☎ (02) 6585 5764
10% discount on all plant
purchases

⊗ **Greenbourne Nursery**
Oxley Hwy, Wauchope 2446
(opp. 'Timbertown')
☎ (02) 6585 2117
10% discount

Mildura

⊗ **Native Nursery, Mildura**
10% discount on the
purchase of any native plants
or other products, including the
Watertube, ordered online at
www.nativenursery.com.au

South Coast

⊗ **Wildgems Native Nursery**
Illawambra Valley Road,
Yowrie 2550
☎ 0427 937 398
Wholesale / retail nursery.
Please ring and arrange day
before arriving.
10% discount

⊗ **Verdigris Fern Nursery**
Currowan Creek 2536
Mail order is available through
the website which includes
useful information on fern
cultivation. The nursery is
open by appointment.
☎ (02) 4478 1311.
Email: verdigrisferns@gmail.com
Wholesale price for APS
NSW members

APS NSW contacts



APS NSW Office

Email: office@austplants.com.au

Website: www.austplants.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/APSNSW

Postal address: PO Box 5026, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Phone: (02) 9631 4085 (voicemail messages)

Financial Officer: Sharlene Cormack

Please contact office-bearers, internal Committees (Management, Publishing and Projects) and representatives through the office email or by phone.

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| Australian Cultivar Registration Authority | David Murray |
| Australian Flora Foundation | Ross Smyth-Kirk |
| Burrendong Arboretum | Lyn Burgett – l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au |
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