

Native Plants for New South Wales



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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 should be submitted as high resolution digital files, such as jpg.

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Front Cover: *Alloxylon flammeum* (Tree Waratah)

Photo: Jan Douglas. **Back Cover:** *Bauera*

rubroides (Dog Rose) Photo: Philippa Gordon

See page 44 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*

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This issue contains several articles related to the very successful 2017 Annual Get-together held in Coffs Harbour at the beginning of September. Alix Goodwin (p 6) has looked at the event in a broad APS context, identifying common themes and motivations evident in the Society as it continues to evolve. A more prosaic review of the Saturday presentations is on page 10. There is also a thought-provoking follow-up article by ecologist Mark Graham on ‘What future for our rainforest’ (p 18) – it really does depend on the choices we Australians make.

The visit to a remnant area of rainforest and its restoration effort was a wonderful but sobering experience. Coramba Nature Reserve, at only 9 ha, is the largest remaining piece of lowland temperate rainforest in the Clarence River catchment. John Ross has provided some detail to remind us of the challenges and rewards involved (p 20). In addition there are as many images from the AGT as could be squeezed in to give members a feel for the event, the front cover among them.

Moving to the future: the November gathering is fast approaching. It will be held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and hosted by North Shore Group (p 4). This event was advertised in the July issue of NP and most group newsletters have carried details.

Our Seedbank is closing: John Aitken makes the formal announcement in the President’s Report (p 36). Our gratitude goes to John Randall who has managed the service for many years. There is still time to obtain seed – but be quick. Several ANPSA Study Groups also have seedbanks specific to their speciality.

Your editor consistently calls for contributors of both text and images. Sometimes this bears fruit. This is such an occasion, and beautiful fruit too! Lesley Vincent from SE Region sent some images of her garden and ended up writing an article (p 14). Philippa Gordon made the offer of her images currently on Instagram and Facebook; the first is on our back cover. Lynda McPherson has written about a bushwalk that revealed a native treasure (p 45). Thanks to all who contribute – there is no journal without you. Unfortunately, sometimes I have too much for one issue, so apologies to Harry Loots and Dick Turner who missed out this time.

Finally we have just awarded life membership and the Conservation Award, but it is time to call for nominations again (p 29), so make a suggestion to your local committee and get the ball rolling.

Future event

November gathering

Saturday 18 November 2017

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

The final APS NSW gathering for 2017 will be hosted by North Shore Group. The event will be at Caley's Pavilion in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden at 420 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives.

The guest speaker will be Bronwen Roy (below left). Bronwen is a PhD student at Western Sydney University, studying the impact of pathogens on honeybees and native bees. Bronwen was the winner of the University's 2016 Three Minute Thesis competition. She will be speaking about Australian native bees (for example the Carpenter Bee on a *Grevillea buxifolia* photographed by Noel Rosten from NSG below right).

Our November gathering is perfect for this talk as Australian Pollinator Week is from 12 – 19 November 2017. More information on Australian Pollinator Week will be available on www.beesbusiness.com.au closer to the date.

Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30 am. Go for a self-guided walk in the extensive grounds – maps are available from the Visitors Centre near the Garden entrance – or be part of a guided walk organised by NSG, starting at 11 am and ending about 12 noon. Lunch (bring your own) and plant sales from 12 noon. The Meeting begins at 2 pm and will be followed by afternoon tea.

We hope to see you there.

Barry Lees (President North Shore Group)





Coates Wildlife Tours

Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986 (Small groups 12–14 passengers)

New Zealand South Island Wildlife & Wilderness Expedition

16 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Queenstown 10 February 2018

This tour is designed for nature lovers as we travel off the standard tourist track and explore the breathtakingly beautiful lower south Island and Stewart Island.

Sri Lanka Wildlife, History & Culture

16 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Colombo 19 March 2018

Join Tom Grove and experienced Sri Lankan naturalist/birder Saman Veediya Bandara as we help you to discover Sri Lanka's abundant and exotic natural riches, ancient historic sites and a rare insight into rural Sri Lankan life. No one else offers such a diverse yet comprehensive tour.

W.A. Pilbara Reef & Ranges

15 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 7 April 2018

Include visits to: Abrolhos Islands, Monkey Mia, Coral Bay, Ningaloo Reef & Karijini National Park. Our flagship nature tour – Exotic marine life, pristine islands, vast varieties of bird life, ancient landscapes and breathtaking gorges.

Flinders Ranges and Lake Eyre Basin Expedition

11 Day Camping / Accom Tour – Departs Adelaide 7 May 2018

This tour is a must-do for all who long to experience the Australian outback. We will cover some of South Australia's most historic outback locations in the spectacular Flinders Ranges and around Lake Eyre. Both regions offer vastly different examples of our great country and offer an opportunity for a wide range of wildlife sightings.

Rudall River Expedition

13 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 23 June 2018

Join us as we head to the very remote, harsh, yet beautiful Rudall River National Park. Experience the wildlife that the very remote, harsh yet beautiful Rudall River National Park has to offer. Situated approximately 400 Km east of Newman in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. This is truly one of the most remote wilderness areas in the world.

Kimberley Wonders

13 Day Camping Tour – Departs Broome 4 July 2018

A different twist on the Kimberley, we including exploring along the Fitzroy River flood plain around Camballin, the best of the Gibb River Road including visits to Mt Elizabeth and Home Valley Stations. Add this to a visit to the Mitchell Plateau where experiences include the spectacular Mitchell and Mertons Falls plus great examples ancient rock art along with the regions wonderful flora and fauna you have a tour to good to miss.



Contact us for our full 2018 tour program: Free Call 1800 676 016

• Web www.coateswildlifetours.com.au • Email coates@inet.net.au

Report on recent APS NSW event

2017 Annual Get-together

Alix Goodwin, Blue Mountains Group and APS NSW Vice President

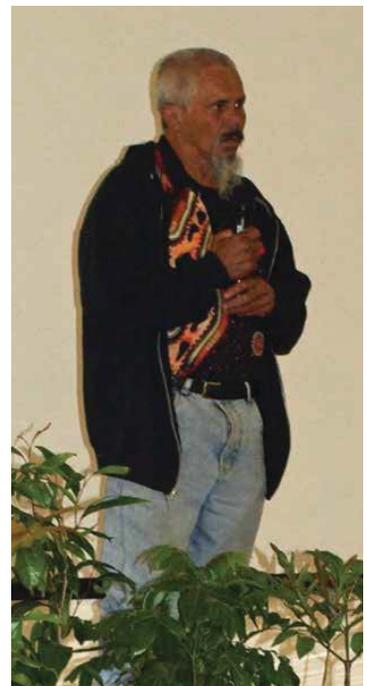
Hosting an annual get-together is no small task. This year, our Coffs Harbour Group demonstrated just what a strong theme and a small, united group of local members can achieve. Over two beautiful September days, nearly 130 Australian Plants Society members and visitors were treated to a series of talks, guided walks and garden visits founded on the theme *Rainforest Riches Revealed*.

Rather than attempting to give an overview of what we learnt over the weekend – I couldn't possibly do justice to the richness of the knowledge shared by the guest speakers and activity leaders – I thought I'd share some of my broader reflections about our get-togethers.

Connecting with Aboriginal people

Australia is an ancient country and evidence today suggests that Aboriginal people have been custodians of this land for 60,000 years. By observing the flowering patterns of plants Aboriginal people could detect subtle changes in the seasons. They were able to survive in the harshest of conditions through their understanding of how to manage the land in order to benefit from the fruits, seeds and roots it had to offer. They also had and continue to have names for the plants that grow on our landscape, some now extinct. Given this, it makes sense that Aboriginal people should have a presence in APS.

Recent get-togethers have shown that district groups have good connections with their local Aboriginal communities. Our most recent annual get-togethers have opened with a Welcome to Country from a respected local Aboriginal elder, an important element in the pathway to reconciliation. What has been striking about these welcomes is the warmth and generosity of the elders. In Tamworth, Kamilaroi elder, Leonard Waters welcomed us with a smoking ceremony and a lesson in their importance in Aboriginal culture and ceremony. In Coffs Harbour,





Mark Flanders (previous page) shared dreamtime and creation stories as he took us on a magical journey across the land of the Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal Nation to its borders and neighbouring nations.

Welcome to Country has also been a feature of some gatherings. In the Blue Mountains in July this year. Gundungurra Aboriginal elder, David King, not only welcomed us but generously shared the history of his family through the lens of the Garguree Swamp regeneration project he leads. Garguree is an Indigenous Protected Area.

Perhaps it is time for us to take the step of developing an Aboriginal Reconciliation Plan.

Protecting our flora and fauna

Only nine per cent of the area of NSW is in relatively pristine condition and protected through our national park and reserve system. Bushland outside this system is increasingly under threat from land clearing, logging, agriculture, urban development and climate change. With this backdrop it is not surprising that the precariousness of our natural environment has emerged as more than a thread in the rich tapestry of our annual get-together presentations and activities in recent years.

In 2015, Margaret Baker gave two lectures on the geological history of the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park and its threatened vegetation communities. In Tamworth in 2016, David Carr presented on the conservation values of travelling stock routes. We

also visited Peel Wetlands, where Brett Coble has led the restoration of agricultural land at the local high school with the assistance of students and community members.

At Coffs Harbour, four presentations had a marked conservation flavour. Mark Graham from the Nature Conservation Council spoke eloquently on the past, present and potential future values of rainforests in northern NSW. Craig Stehn presented on the Jaliigirr rainforest restoration project in Dorrigo, with obvious lessons for how we approach future large-scale rainforest regeneration projects. Lawrie Smith took us on a guided tour of botanical gardens in Queensland and Dan Clarke spoke of his work as APS NSW Conservation Officer.

A visit to Coramba Nature Reserve reminded us of the commitment involved in protecting and maintaining remnant bushland. It also demonstrated the weaknesses of 'islands' of bushland as conservation areas and the importance of connection through 'green corridors'. As a nine hectare 'island' Coramba is home to many species of birds and reptiles but sadly no terrestrial mammals.

Sharing our interest in Australian plants

As a membership group, APS NSW has around 1300 members from a diverse range of backgrounds who share in a common interest: Australia's native flora. Yet even with this shared interest, we interact with Australian plants in different ways.

Some of us love to garden using Australian plants. Some of us are purists preferring to plant with natives only, some with species indigenous to our local area, and others mixing them with exotics. Some of us propagate Australian plants for ourselves and for others. Some of us work with Australian plants, either in nurseries, as horticulturalists or bush regenerators. Some of us are natural teachers and love to share our knowledge. Some of us campaign for their protection. And some



of us just love being in the bush, seeking every opportunity to enjoy Australian plants in their natural setting, preferring nature over people. We are a mixed bag.



Through our annual get-togethers, we have shown that we can accommodate our different interests in Australian plants through a program of diverse activities: speakers, visits to regional gardens and conservation areas, visits to the gardens of members, plant sales and a dinner on Saturday night. The work involved in preparing for and running an annual get-together is significant; the knowledge shared and friendships and partnerships that form and grow as a result are what make this worthwhile.

Thank you to the Coffs Harbour Group for hosting our 2017 annual get-together and particularly to the committee who made it possible – Gwyn Clarke, Janice Fitzpatrick, Angela Lownie, Lyn McCabe and Alison Moore. And, of course, thank you to our guest speakers and all those involved in leading activities across the two days.

What follows is a suite of contributions from some of the speakers at Coffs Harbour including the opening address given by group president, Alison Moore, an article by Mark Graham, information on Coramba Nature Reserve, and a terrific selection of photos. Enjoy!

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AGT Welcome & Saturday presentations



Alison Moore



Lawrie Smith

Alison Moore is the President of APS Coffs Harbour Group. She welcomed attendees to the get-together, introduced the Saturday morning session, the welcome to country and the guest speakers. The following is an extract from her introduction.

Our theme, *Rainforest Riches Revealed*, reflects upon the location of a number of reserves in our region, which were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 for their outstanding universal values, now listed as the Great Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, formerly known as the Australian East Coast Sub tropical and Temperate Rainforest Parks. We will demonstrate Gondwana links to particular plant species in our sub-tropical environs at the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden and the Coramba Nature Reserve which show the fragility of this vegetation community struggling to survive in a world of urban expansion, depletion of resources and climate change.

Rainforests cover less than 0.3% of Australia's land surface but contain about half of all Australian plant families and about a third of Australia's mammal and bird species. In organisations such as ours, the Australian Plants Society, we can and must play a vital role in educating our children, friends, neighbours, and our society as a whole by bringing awareness and appreciation of our native plants into our gardens, schools, parks and reserves and the integral role they play with our birds and other fauna. Over the next couple of days our programme intends to illustrate aspects of our endangered Rainforest communities which we hope will encourage inspiration and responsibility at your local level in meeting the challenge of protecting and conserving our natural heritage and assets.

Saturday morning presentations

Lawrie Smith gave the first presentation. Lawrie established Landplan Studio in Brisbane in 1974 and built his career around a strong personal belief in two major areas: one, the unique quality and value of the Australian environment and two, the provision of quality open-space facilities for the community.

Retired since 2004, Lawrie has concentrated on providing consultancy roles in specialised areas of his personal expertise, specifically Botanic Gardens. Lawrie's presentation took us on a rapid but extremely well illustrated tour of Queensland botanic gardens with a focus on native rainforest plants.

Mark Graham was the next presenter, an ecologist who has lived, worked and played in the rainforests of Northern NSW for much of his life. Mark has an active interest in the relict biota inhabiting the refugial forests of north-east of NSW and the lessons that these forests might be able to teach us about the persistence of ecosystems over immense timescales. He has worked in biodiversity management at all levels of government and across a broad spectrum of NGOs in NSW and in more recent times has been a co-custodian of the Black Scrub at the head of the Bellinger catchment. [Mark has written a brief article on page 18 summarising some of his presentation –Ed.]

The next speaker **Craig Stehn** has been involved in restoration ecology and natural resource management for the last 14 years. He has worked previously as a bush regenerator and has a degree in Environmental Science with a focus on Restoration Ecology. For the past five years Craig has worked for Coffs Harbour City Council where he delivers the Coffs Jaliigirr Project, a large scale environmental restoration project aiming to connect and restore the landscapes of the Coffs Harbour LGA.



Attendees during the Saturday morning presentations

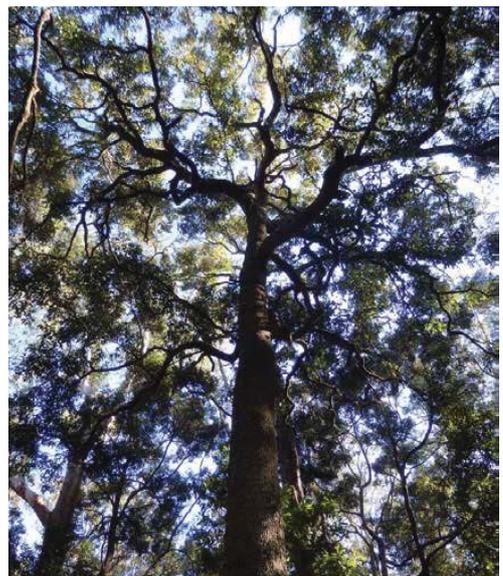
Dan Clarke, the Conservation Officer of APS NSW, presented just after morning tea. Dan writes a regular column in *Native Plants for NSW* and in this issue (p 38) includes some comments on participating in the AGT.

Gwen Harden is a well-known botanist who started her career at the University of New England and whilst there was involved (with Bill McDonald) in the preparation and publication of identification guides for rainforest plants. For two decades Gwen was a botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and was the project leader and editor of the four-volume *Flora of New South Wales*.

As a member of APS Coffs Harbour since retiring to Valla Beach, Gwen has continued her interest in rainforest species in eastern Australia. She has produced the electronic key *Rainforest Plants of Australia – Rockhampton to Victoria* (USB 2014) and more recently the app for smart phones and tablets (2016). Her presentation showed the use of this latest identification tool. The app brings practical rainforest identification to a new level of convenience through the processing power available in smart phones and tablets.



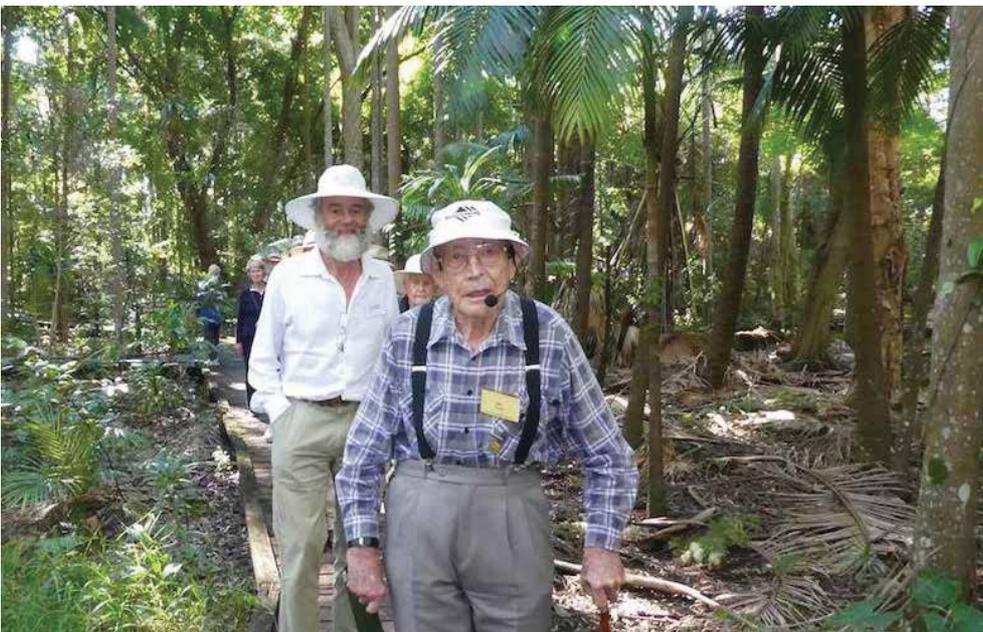
Gwen Harden



Magnificent specimen of *Corymbia intermedia* (Pink Bloodwood) in the botanic garden

Peter Poropat was the final speaker for the morning. Peter's interest in identifying Australian rainforest trees has led him to publish two popular books on the subject: *Barks and Trunks* and *Barks and Trunks Vol 2*. His skill and experience enables him to link rainforest trees to their family by close attention to bark characteristics, textures and trunk shapes and features.

After lunch the focus moved to the **North Coast Regional Botanic Garden**. In order to accommodate the large numbers groups walked in two opposing directions, ten minutes apart. Walk leaders included Alex Floyd, Gwen Harden and Peter Poropat so there was plenty of rainforest expertise on hand.



Member's garden

A garden in the forest

Lesley Vincent is a member of APS South East Region. She responded to your editor's request for some good plant and garden images to use in *Native Plants for NSW* and then graciously agreed to write a brief article to put her images into context. I hope members will agree it was very worthwhile.

Our home is situated on a north/north-east facing slope next to Mogo State Forest on the South Coast of NSW. The three and a half acre block was partly cleared when we purchased it some 15 years ago. The indigenous species on the block included eucalypts, predominantly *E. paniculata* (Grey Ironbark) and *E. maculata* (Spotted Gum), acacia, macrozamia and native grasses. At the bottom of the block is a dry rainforest gully that has been left untouched. The topsoil is brown silty loam, with weathered shale in an orange-brown clay underneath.

In order to build the house and to meet Council and NSW Fire Service requirements we had to remove several large eucalypts. The timber from the felled trees has been used extensively in our house and we stockpiled topsoil and mulch for garden beds. The excess firewood from the tree branches will keep us warm for years to come! My husband is an architect and together we designed and managed the build of the house and designed and planted the garden. We moved in two years ago although I started planting during the building process.

I developed an interest in Australian native plants several years ago whilst studying horticulture at CIT (Canberra Institute of Technology). On moving to the South Coast I was inspired by a visit to Horse Island (an outstanding private native garden on the NSW South Coast) and also by the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens where I work as a



Xanthorrhoea glauca, *Macrozamia communis* and *Acacia fimbriata* dwarf P: Gail Stortz



Lower garden featuring grevillea, banksia and acacia.



Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Lutea' flower. *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle' with *Lomandra* and borrowed landscape of the forest behind.

volunteer. My objective was to have a predominantly native garden, although I do have a few non-native deciduous trees, and I plant annuals for extra colour. As we rely on tank water, the garden (apart from my vegetable beds) needed to have low water requirements. Fortunately, during the first year after my initial plantings we had plenty of rain and the plants got a great start and are thriving.

Our site is fairly steep and so it was necessary to manage the slope with retaining walls and also deal with the stormwater. The retaining walls created some lovely deep beds to plant into, and also to help collect rainwater for slower dispersion. We wanted to have a ground plane relationship with the garden from the house and so compromised the view a little by tucking the house into the slope. To the side of the house nearer the forest we have retained some of the original Grey Ironbarks, acacia, cycads and grasses.

I love flowers and wanted to encourage the birds (and bees) so I have planted many flowering shrubs including *Grevillea*, *Banksia*, *Acacia* and *Correa*. Along the driveway I planted *Anigozanthus* (the taller landscape variety, on the advice of Angus Stewart), *Westringia*, smaller *Lomandra* and low plantings of *Scaevola*, *Chrysocephalum* and *Hardenbergia*. On the slope immediately below the house I have kept the plantings low so as not to obstruct the view. In this area I planted ground covers including *Grevillea*, *Hardenbergia*, *Carpobrotus* and *Myoporum*. To provide contrast in foliage and texture I planted several fine leaf *Lomandra*, a beautiful *Xanthorrhoea glauca* and am fortunate to still have a few original *Macrozamia* fairly close to the house. I was conscious of the bushfire risk and tried to avoid plants with a high oil



Banksia ericifolia flowers with lawn and forest.



Close-up of flower of *Eremophila platycalyx* subsp. *pardalota*



Anigozanthos flavidus 'Landscape Lilac'



Anigozanthos 'Big Red' and *Acacia baileyana* prostrate form.

content. This is probably in vain because I have used organic mulch extensively as it is my main weapon against the weeds!

I try to follow the principle of having fewer species in greater numbers, but I can't help purchasing individual new plants just to see how they go. If they thrive I might buy more! Some areas of the garden are yet to be landscaped. I may have underestimated the maintenance involved in maintaining a native garden, however, I am learning to enjoy the good 'bits'; put up with the untidy 'bits' and deal with the weeds as best I can. It is an ongoing project but definitely worth the effort!



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.

What future for our rainforest?

Mark Graham is an ecologist with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW which represents over 160 community organisations throughout the state. For more than 60 years NCC has advocated and campaigned for the natural environment. Mark was a guest speaker at the recent Coffs Harbour Get-together. His intimate knowledge of the rainforest, his understanding of ecological processes and his passionate delivery made his presentation a standout. Here he provides a brief introduction to rainforest and its value and some of the issues it faces, and finally – a call to action.

Many of the rainforests in northern NSW are ancient and globally-significant ecosystems; they are amongst the most ancient forests on the planet. Dinosaurs literally roamed through these forests. Hearing the dawn chorus of these forests is a chance to marvel at the calls of the earliest and most primitive songbirds: it is quite literally a direct window upon the origin of the songbirds within Gondwana over 100 million years ago. The evolutionary radiation that followed enabled the global spread of songbirds.



Mark Graham giving his presentation during the Saturday morning session



Imposing rainforest tree in Coramba Nature Reserve on Sunday morning

These Gondwanan rainforests occur within a complex mosaic of tall wet sclerophyll forests along the Great Escarpment; the health, diversity and viability of each is intrinsically linked to the presence and health of the other. Fire within this landscape matrix has been a major driver of the composition of these ecosystems over many tens of millions of years and has mediated the boundary between eucalypt dominated forest and rainforest: fire is responsible for the maintenance of tall wet sclerophyll forest within landscapes dominated by rainforest. In order to ensure the survival of biodiversity within both forest types their connectivity and health need to be maintained and in places improved, for example by filling cleared gaps in the forested corridors along the Great Escarpment.

Northern NSW rainforests have myriad values to humanity including as life support systems. They provide reliable water supply and invaluable base flow to coastal catchments: most urban residents along the NSW North Coast depend upon the clean and reliable water provided by these forests, and the productivity of agricultural industries and fisheries depend upon healthy flows across these catchments.

Rainforests across Northern NSW have persisted across unfathomable timescales and through unimaginable global change. Modern humanity has created possibly the greatest ever threat to their survival. Whilst having survived largely unchanged across tens of millions of years, today these forests face many threats. Industrial clear-fell logging in wet sclerophyll forests is removing the corridors that hold these ecosystems together and leaving behind a weed-infested mess. Fire regimes are shifting and are likely to become more intense as a consequence of global warming; this has the potential to have dire consequences for these most ancient of forests. Transformer weeds such as Madeira Vine are rapidly degrading diverse and productive riparian rainforests.

The North Coast of NSW is a global leader in rainforest restoration in places such as the Big Scrub and many residents want a healthy future for these forests. Australia is amongst the wealthiest of nations, we have the money and the know-how to ensure the survival of these precious forests. What seems currently lacking is political will and a shared vision to ensure the maintenance of our life support systems. Much public environmental restoration funding is expended in landscapes that will cease to exist this century because of sea level rise, whilst in many upstream landscapes there is a complete failure to invest in the survival of our Gondwanan heritage. It would be a global tragedy if these forests were to vanish after such an incredible existence.

Coramba Nature Reserve

This article was prepared from notes provided by John Ross who hosted the get-together visit to the Reserve on Sunday morning. It was our best opportunity to see rainforest in close to natural state during the weekend.

The reserve is 9.43 ha and is the largest remaining patch in the Clarence River catchment – a distressingly poignant fact. So much rainforest has been removed and so little remains. It could very easily be lost and would future generations even know what they were missing?

The forest is structurally complex with emergent trees, large lianas and lots of epiphytes. It is also floristically complex with 70 tree and shrub species, 17 vine species, 8 orchids, 11 herbs and 12 fern species.

It is of conservation significance, being the only significant remnant of the once extensive lowland rainforest along the Orara River floodplain. It is an endangered ecological community in NSW and nationally. From Maryborough to the Hastings River 94% has been cleared and what remains is fragmented with an average size of 5.4 ha.

There has been no systematic fauna survey for the reserve, but 51 bird species are listed in the NSW Wildlife Atlas, including the Rose-crowned Fruit Dove and Wompoo Pigeon. The reserve is thought to be an important food source and stepping stone for some rainforest pigeons.



Above: John Ross explaining the value and history of Coramba Nature Reserve.

Right: View from inside the reserve where the air was noticeably cooler and stiller





Part of the group assembling outside the Reserve to hear John Ross

Only two mammals are listed in the Wildlife Atlas: Platypus and Grey Headed Flying Fox. The absence or scarcity of possums, wallabies, pademelon and bandicoot is thought to be due to isolation and foxes.

Historically the reserve is part of Gumbaynggirr country. It was possibly used for hunting scrub turkey and pademelon among others, and for collecting foods such as yams, figs, wild grapes and Black Apple (known as Woolgoolga in the local language).

There are no recorded Aboriginal sites in the Reserve. However adjacent open grassland 'Burrigarriga Plains' was used for camping and meeting. In the late 1880s a settler, Eugene Rudder, organised a sports day for local Aboriginals and 600 attended.

The first Europeans in the area were the Cedar cutters who reached Coramba around 1875 and opened up the locality for land selection. In 1900 the Reserve area set aside for 'Preservation of Native Flora'. In August 1982 it was designated a Nature Reserve.

Bush regeneration work began around 1999 and continues to this day. A Weed Strategy (1998) identified 14 weed species, several of which were identified as a current or potential serious threat. The most significant were *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Trad), *Ligustrum sinensis* (Small-leaved Privet), *Ligustrum lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet), *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) and *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (Cat's Claw Creeper).

The particular factors favouring weeds in the reserve include

- small area means the edge effect is considerable
- the reserve is in a floodplain, so periodically the entire reserve floods and weed propagules are carried in from upstream and redistributed throughout the reserve – this is especially an issue with Trad and Cat's Claw

- moist warm climate with rich alluvial soils
- disturbance opening the canopy allowing sunlight to the forest floor.

The bush regeneration program in the reserve began at roughly the same time as the Orara River Restoration Program which was planned and implemented on a sub-catchment basis. Work at CNR benefits from and contributes to the larger program. The sub-catchment Cat's Claw Control has removed perhaps the greatest medium-term threat to CNR and riparian revegetation on nearby properties will have been supplemented by seed dispersal from CNR.

The control of Privet and Camphor Laurel in the Reserve and along adjacent river reaches is complementary to the long term control of these weeds in the reserve and the sub-catchment. However inability to control upstream Tradescantia means continued re-infestation with each flood event.

Control strategies and methods are as follows

- Tradescantia – spray glyphosate and hand weed using taped transects to minimize damage to natives. Follow up transects as allowed by funding. Reduced funding has made control harder and levels of Trad have increased.
- Privets along western and northern edges – barrier plantings of frost tolerant pioneer species, especially *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood), then after a year or two staged poisoning with glyphosate, either by direct injection or cut and paint.
- Cat's Claw – cut and paint stems ascending trees with glyphosate, spray seedlings with glyphosate.



Walking through the rainforest admiring its many delights.



Impressive buttresses on a rainforest giant.

SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS

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BANKSTOWN**

Experience the delights of spring in a 1.5 hectare floral oasis.

Great range of flowering plants from all states of Australia, including Acacias, Anigozanthos, Banksias, Chamelauciums, Epacris, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Orchids, Prostantheras, Thomasias and many rainforest species.

The Gardens are open from 7.00am–3.00pm on weekdays all year, plus weekends from 12 August – 26 November 2017 9:00am – 4:30pm.

We are located at 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, Sydney.

ADMISSION FREE !!



For enquiries or to arrange a guided group tour, call (02) 9707 9699.

ANPSA 2018 Conference – Hobart

Grass Roots to Mountain Tops 15–19 January 2018

ANPSA (the national body for APS state groups) presents a national conference every two years. These rotate through the six states & the ACT. Tasmania is to be the host in January 2018 which enables access to flowering alpine flora.



The conference will be based at Wrest Point in Hobart. In January the average temperatures range from 12 – 23°C, it is also one of the driest months but pack a rainproof jacket and be prepared to dress in layers.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1 July 2017 | Early-bird registration opens |
| 30 September 2017 | Early-bird registration closes |
| 15 November 2017 | Standard registration closes |
| 8 January 2018 | Start of King Island & Alpine to Rainforest tours |
| 9 January 2018 | Start of Hobart Environs Tour |
| 13 January 2018 | Bruny Island Day tour |
| 15–19 January 2018 | Conference |
| 20 January 2018 | Start of Alpine to Rainforest tours & Bruny Island Day tour |

There are multiple pre-conference and post-conference tour options

- Alpine to rainforest 5 days (8–12 January & 20–24 January)
- King Island 5 days via Melbourne (8–12 Jan & 20–24 Jan if required)
- Hobart environs 4 days (9–12 January)
- Bruny Island 1 day (13 January & 20 January)

Expressions of interest: To receive updates, register or update your details or indicate your tour preferences please send your details to asgapjan18@gmail.com or mail to: APST PO Box 3035, Ulverstone MDC, Ulverstone, Tas 7310.

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: Pat Carlton ☎ (02) 4394 0228
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: fryg45@gmail.com
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: (Except winter see below) The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm. Winter (Jun-Aug) 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 am in members' gardens.

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.

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 | \$ _____ | | |

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 ANZ

Account name Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

BSB 012 352

Account no. 302 301 693

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

10/17

District Group directory continued

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies ☎ (02) 4653 1275
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 7.00 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 Barry Lees ☎ 9653 3691
Email: president@blandfordia.org.au
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) 4421 3212
Secretary: Gwen Smith ☎ (02) 4443 3497
PO Box 180, Tomerong NSW 2540
Email austplantsnowra@gmail.com
Facebook: australianplantsocietynowra
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: johnnonvista49@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.

APS NSW Life Membership and Conservation Awards 2018

Nominations are being sought for these two awards.

Life Membership is the highest accolade the Australian Plants Society NSW can bestow upon a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Society, their Group and their community.

No more than two Life Members may be appointed in each calendar year except where a nomination includes both a husband and wife.

Conservation Award – each year, APS NSW seeks to recognise the significant contribution made by an individual member or a District Group to the conservation of Australia's native plants, in particular those of NSW. This may include the conserving of a population, a species or a community of plants.

APS NSW invites District Groups to submit nominations for Life Membership and/or the Conservation Award.

Nominations for Life Membership and the Conservation Award can only be made on the official application forms that are available from the APS NSW office or can be downloaded from the APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au . Nomination forms will also be emailed to District Group presidents and secretaries in October 2017.

The Board of the Australian Plants Society NSW must endorse all nominations prior to consideration by the Annual General Meeting in May 2018.

Nominations in both categories must be received by APS NSW no later than Tuesday, 20 March 2018.

Postal address:

APS NSW

PO Box 263

Cremorne Junction NSW 2090 or

Email address:

office@austplants.com.au

For further information or any enquiries, please contact the office.

New members October 2017

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 66 new members (56 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hani Baghdan | Darlinghurst |
| Merrick Bailey | Moruya |
| Renate Barrett | Goulburn |
| M Beckingham | West Ryde |
| Suzanne Bell | Beaumont Hills |
| Kathleen Bennett | North Rothbury |
| Susan Bowden | Carwoola |
| Gerrard Carney | Emu Plains |
| Margo Carter | Epping |
| Suzan Clear | Millers Point |
| Susanne Crabbe | Woollahra |
| Basil Ellis | Sutherland |
| Russell Erwin | Bannister |
| Jo Fenwick | Upper Orara |
| Linda Fernihough | Narooma |
| Barry Hart | Long Beach |
| Lynette Haselgrove | Stanthorpe, Qld |
| Narelle Holloway | Kirrawee |
| Ruth & Len Hoye | North Nowra |
| Sandra l'Anson | Bowral |
| Lucinda Islip | Como |
| Robyn Jarvis | Kangaroo Valley |
| Maxine Jollye | Hornsby |
| Kelly Kuehn | Soldiers Point |
| Robert Lance | Goulburn |
| Jonathan Lawson | Glen Innes |
| Steven Lock | Mount Annan |
| Dane Lyddiard & Ben Greatrex | Armidale |
| Ashlea Mahoney & Greg Warden | Goulburn |
| Elizabeth & Mark McGeachie | Illawong |
| Patricia McVeagh & Steve Parker | Tallong Park |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Joan Muller | Lorn |
| Suzanne Munro & Stephen Genner | Mystery Bay |
| Robyn Murphy | Stockton |
| Terry Murphy | Aranda, ACT |
| Lynne Neilson | Floraville |
| Jenny & Greg Newland | North Gosford |
| Marianna Patchett | Goulburn |
| Michael Reede | Mosman |
| James Robertson | Cambewarra |
| Ian & Judie Rose | Ulladulla |
| Stephanie Simko | Moruya |
| Margaret Sky | North Wahroonga |
| Narelle Smith | Pennant Hills |
| Greg Taylor | West Pymble |
| Jennifer Taylor | Glenbrook |
| Murray Taylor & Helen Fisher | Pyrmont |
| Karen Thorn | Engadine |
| Brent Turner | Toormina |
| Glenda Veitch | Medlow Bath |
| Judith Anne Walker | Oyster Bay |
| Nev White | Tamworth |
| Anne Wiggan | Bungonia |
| Cameron & Sue Wild | Molong |
| John Williams | Narrabeen |
| Jack Wolfenden | Springwood |

We welcome back the following former members who have re-joined.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Neil Fordyce & Janet White | Tenterfield |
| Karen Hudson | Sylvania |
| Lyn McCluand | Tamworth |

Vale We are sad to report the deaths of two life members: Shirley Kemble who jointly with husband, Norm, edited *Native Plants for NSW* for some years and was active in Central Coast Group until their move to Mildura; and Betty Hicks, wife of Bill Hicks, the first president of the Society in NSW. Apparently Betty died last year but we have only recently been informed. Betty was also linked to Central Coast Group.

Vale Peter Abell

This tribute was prepared by Peter's brother, Mark Abell. Mark is a 2017 recipient of life membership of APS NSW, he was a long-term member of North Shore Group before leaving Sydney, and is now active with the Hunter Valley Group



Right: Flowers of *Anigozanthos manglesii* (Mangles Kangaroo Paw).
From Peter Abell's Flickr page.



20 December 1963 – 1 March 2017

Many people in the Australian Plants Society will know or have heard of Peter Abell. Unfortunately I have to report that Peter is no longer with us, as he tragically drowned whilst swimming off the coast south of Coffs Harbour.

Peter had a lifelong passion for Australian plants: he was involved in growing, propagating, collecting, photographing and breeding our native flora. He had an infectious enthusiasm for our flora and was an excellent communicator who could pass on his extensive knowledge.

He had been involved with APS since the 70s, when as children we would attend the outings of the Newcastle group of SGAP (as it was known then).

This was the start of an association with APS that continued over the years.

Peter was also involved with several ANPSA Study Groups, most notably contributing to the Grevillea and Banksia Study Groups. He also presented at a number of APS NSW general meetings and gatherings, as well as at District Group meetings.

Peter started his career as an apprentice horticulturalist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. He became involved with plant propagation and collection for the gardens, including some of the pioneering work on grafting Australian plants (particularly Grevilleas).

A passion for breeding new plant varieties was fostered whilst working for the Sydney Plant Breeding Institute at Cobbitty. This interest continued after leaving PBI, and resulted in the development of a number of commercial varieties.

Throughout his career he also worked as a horticulture teacher at TAFE at Richmond and Wentworth Falls. Through his teaching, Peter inspired a great many students and passed onto them a love of our native flora.

Most recently, Peter was leading a Green Army team working in the sensitive Dorrigo and New England National Parks.

Peter was also involved with a number of publications on native plants, most notably *Burnum Burnum's wildthings: Plants and animals commonly seen around Sydney*, and as editor and author for the *Gardening with Native Plants* magazine.

He also had a talent for plant photography: some examples can be seen on his Flickr page – www.flickr.com/photos/sprocz/albums

As a consequence of all the time spent working with our flora, Peter acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Australian flora and its horticulture. You would get an answer, often accompanied by a long explanation, on any question or topic you cared to raise with him.

Peter's interests went beyond plants: in past years he spent a lot of time designing, building and flying radio-controlled gliders. In this field he was a national champion (F3B category), and represented Australia at the world championships.

Peter was in many ways 'larger than life' and his knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for our Australian flora will be greatly missed.



Flowers of *Macropidia fuliginosa* (The Black Kangaroo Paw). From Peter Abell's Flickr page.

Plant profile

Leptospermum brevipes

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.

Leptospermum brevipes, the Grey or Slender Tea-tree is one of about 13 species of *Leptospermum* that call the Northern Tablelands home.

The Grey Tea-tree is an upright shrub or small tree that may reach a height of seven metres. The leaves are small (up to 20 millimetres long), grey-green in colour, with a minute sharp point. Soft, new growth is pendulous.

The flower buds have a pinkish tinge and in late spring open to reveal small white flowers about seven millimetres in diameter. What the blooms lack in size they make up for in quantity. In the flowering season plants become crowned with masses of flowers. The blooms are followed by small capsules. Most tea-trees retain their capsules for lengthy periods and they usually open after fire or other damage. In contrast *L. brevipes* capsules open when they mature, usually before the next flowering period. Seedlings often appear near mature plants due to the annual shower of seeds. We have *Leptospermum brevipes* regenerating on our property, Yallaroo, west of Armidale. The species



made a welcome return after sheep were removed from the property about 20 years ago.

A specimen growing near our back patio is favoured by our resident Striated Pardalotes. We have nesting tubes under our eaves which are used regularly by the Pardalotes. On the way to their nests they stop off in the tea-tree to make sure the coast is clear.

Tea-tree Creek is east of our property and is a stronghold of *L. brevipes*, which grows there in large numbers on rocky outcrops. The Grey Tea-tree is found in all NSW botanic zones except the Far Western Slopes and Plains, and also in Queensland and Victoria.

L. brevipes could be grown in shelterbelts and windbreaks. Its fibrous roots will bind soil and control streambank erosion. It is propagated from seed or cuttings.

Cut foliage is decorative and dries well. Leaves and young shoots were reputedly useful in colonial times for treating urinary complaints.

The species name is from the Latin *brevis* meaning short and *pes* meaning a foot, perhaps referring to the leaf petioles and flower stalks.

The Bleeding Obvious: Things I've learnt

Inverawe Native Gardens is Tasmania's largest landscaped native garden. Bill Chestnut is one half of the couple who have developed this garden. In his latest newsletter Bill shared some learnings from a lifetime of gardening. As the name suggests they may be common sense but common sense is often surprisingly uncommon!

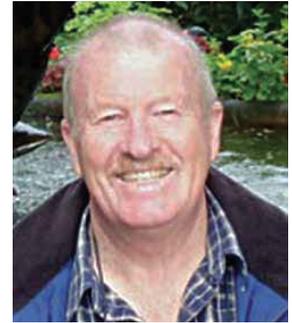
- Spreading groundcovers grow downhill, so plant at the top of the slope.
- Fine pine bark mulches cake and become water repellent.
- Coarse pine bark mulch throws large chunks onto paths, creating a hazard.
- Use medium pine bark.
- Eucalypt bark mulch is lovely but expensive.
- All mulch gradually slides down steep slopes and onto the path below – it's called the law of gravity.
- Plants won't grow where you want them to grow. They only grow where they want to grow.
- Prune after flowering.
- Make sure your compost doesn't become a weed seed delivery system.

President's Report

John Aitken, President APS NSW

Annual Get-together

Congratulations to the Coffs Harbour Group for organising an outstanding Annual Get-together, which was attended by 120 members and visitors. Thanks to all the members of the Coffs Harbour Group for your warm welcome and for making the weekend such a memorable and enjoyable time.



The weekend was once again a celebration of our Australian flora and provided a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships with those from different parts of the State and to explore new areas. The two days provided plenty of interest for everyone who attended.

The weekend was kicked started by a very warm welcome from Alison Moore, President of the Coffs Harbour Group, and with an excellent and comprehensive 'Welcome to Country' by Gumbaynggirr elder, Mark Flanders, who took us all on a fascinating journey which introduced us to the aboriginal communities who have lived in the surrounding countryside and cared for and nurtured it for thousands of years. This was followed by a series of excellent speakers who engaged with the audience on a variety of fascinating topics, with an emphasis on rainforests. The remainder of the program for the weekend included guided tours of the wonderful North Coast Regional Botanic Garden and visits to a number of members' gardens.

The annual dinner, held on the Saturday night, provided the ideal opportunity to present Dick Turner, Blue Mountains Group, with his Life Membership, Bob Ross, South East Group, with the APS NSW Conservation Award and Leonie Hogue, Sutherland Group, with a lovely bouquet of flowers in recognition of her fantastic efforts in organising the APS NSW display at the RAS Easter Show. Congratulations to all three for their invaluable contributions to the Society.

The Presidents' dinner on the Friday night preceding the Get-together provided a great opportunity for the APS Board members and the Presidents or their representatives from 12 District Groups to meet together and obtain an update on the progress of our strategic plan. It was very disappointing that noise from an adjoining room reduced the opportunity for Presidents to share their Groups' experiences with the others present.

Alex Floyd AM, recipient of the ANPSA Australian Plants Award, 2018

Congratulations to Alex Floyd AM from the Coffs Harbour Group for being awarded the prestigious ANPSA Australian Plants Award, Professional category for his service to botany, particularly through research and identification of sub-tropical rainforest plants and through support for the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, and to conservation and environmental education. The award will be made at the ANPSA Biennial Conference to be held in Hobart in January 2018. Alex was awarded Life Membership of APS NSW in 2016 and the Australian Plants Award is a fitting tribute to a person who has contributed so much to our knowledge and understanding of rainforest plants.

APS NSW Strategic Plan

Work on the strategic plan continues to go well. The new website and online membership system are up and running and have been very well received. The new website has already attracted eight new members. The financial systems are progressing well and we are finally able to do online banking. I would like to thank Alix Goodwin, Harry Loots, Heather Miles and Merle Thompson for their fantastic efforts in implementing many areas of the strategic plan.

Closure of the APS NSW seed bank

It is with great sadness that I announce the closure of the APS NSW seed bank that has been run so excellently by John Randall from the Central Coast Group for over 30 years. John has been receiving only about one request for seed each month. In addition, much of the seed stock has reached its use by date, and little fresh seed is forthcoming from members. Consequently, John felt that continuing the APS NSW seed bank was no longer viable and that there were commercial seed distributors that members could use.

On behalf of APS NSW, I would like to thank John for his tireless efforts in maintaining the seed bank, and the many hours he has spent collecting, cleaning and cataloguing the seed sent in by members and dispatching it to members. The seed bank under John's auspices has been a valuable part of the Society and for many years provided seed that could not be sourced elsewhere.

John will continue to supply requests for seed from members until 31 December 2017, after which the seed bank will officially close.

Conservation Report

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



During the last quarter, I managed to do some additional *Prostanthera densa* survey work in Royal National Park with Sutherland Group stalwarts John Arney, Ian Hill and Ralph Cartwright. We felt that we had a 50/50 chance of finding any more plants at the Marley site and I identified a cluster of possible sandstone outcrops in the area before the survey. We struggled through very dense vegetation to these locations and managed to find approximately 40 more plants. This takes our total now to 115 plants. In my previous report (www.austrplants.com.au/page-18695), I outlined a limited area of likely habitat for the plant at Marley. One more site visit is needed to fine-tune these findings so we can give as accurate a picture as possible to the NSW Government. We then plan to move onto other sites and can't wait to get our teeth into a population at nearby Helensburgh where there are plants of *P. densa* which have markedly different morphological traits!

I was really appreciative that I was able to get to the annual Get-together at Coffs Harbour in September 2017. I gave a talk about the



conservation agenda at APS, focussing mainly on the Saving Our Species Program. For the benefit of the Coffs Harbour Group I identified and described some threatened species in the Coffs Harbour area. (One example is *Zieria prostrata*, which is described below.)

I have had a lot of positive feedback regarding this talk and will soon be visiting Menai and North Shore groups to give the same talk and discuss Saving Our Species plans

Dan presenting at the Coffs Harbour Get-together

in their local areas. I am more than happy to hear from APS members throughout NSW who want to get involved in the SOS program in their local areas.

The Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens were quite beautiful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Coffs Harbour members, especially Janice Fitzpatrick and Robert Watt, for the assistance they gave me over the weekend.

Saving Our Species

An example from the Coffs Harbour region

Most members of APS will know *Zieria prostrata* (below right). It is often available through commercial nurseries and is a popular groundcover in domestic gardens. But did you know it is endangered in the wild? This attractive, robust little groundcover has a natural distribution that is restricted to just four coastal headlands in the Coffs Harbour area of north-east NSW. There it grows in low grassy heath on exposed sites and in wind-pruned open to sparse shrubland in more sheltered aspects. As such it is one of the plants to be found on the Saving Our Species Program in the Coffs Harbour area. More information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10863

This species reproduces primarily from seed and fruit set commences in September and October. The seeds are thought to have only a short period of viability in the soil seedbank. This would increase their vulnerability to even short duration disturbance to these critical headlands.



Zieria prostrata in the Australian National Botanic Gardens by Geoff Derrin creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0

Study Group notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

A hearty 'welcome back' to the Banksia and Correa Study Group newsletters. These two genera are vibrant providers of year-round colour in our gardens and sustain insects, birds and mammals with pollen, nectar and habitat wherever they grow.



Banksia Study Group (Winter 2017, Vol. 112 No. 1)

Study group leader Kevin Collins deliberates on the lack of acceptance by many growers and dryandra enthusiasts of the inclusion of *Dryandra* into the genus *Banksia*. Kevin also seeks the origin of an east-coast banksia seed that has grown into 'Pongy', a lignotuberous *Banksia spinulosa* with noticeably smelly flowers.

Banksia vincentia is a critically endangered NSW South Coast species. It was only recently formally described by botanists Marg Stimpson and Peter Weston. Species recovery and conservation programs are being implemented through Partnerships Protecting Shoalhaven Plants.



Five year old *Banksia vincentia* in cultivation near Milton NSW, courtesy of Phil Trickett & Catriona Bate who are the leaders of the Isopogon and Petrophile SG



Close up of inflorescence from the same plant of *Banksia vincentia*

Wallum Study Group (March 2015, No. 41)

Banksias are an integral component of wallum vegetation, so the study group will be contributing their know-how to record locations, flowering times and colour ranges of four wallum Banksia species on the south-east coast of Queensland: *Banksia robur*, *B. oblongifolia*, *B. aemula* and *B. serrata*. Western Sydney University is coordinating this research.

Acacia Study Group (March 2017, No. 137)

A tannery in Victoria maintains the tradition of using tannin derived from the bark of *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) to tan their leather goods. Most tanneries worldwide use synthetic tannins.

Acacia wollarensis is a newly described bipinnate-leafed wattle species endemic to the Hunter Valley. This rare plant is known from only two closely-located populations.

Vachellia nilotica (Prickly Acacia), an introduced spiny acacia from Africa and India, seeds prolifically. It infests huge areas in Queensland and has been declared a Weed of National Significance. [Readers may be interested to see an ABC Landline program on the use of drones to control this weed www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/landline/old-site/content/2017/s4657312.htm -Ed.]



Correa 'Coralie' photo by Barbara Pye. Special Effects Nursery in Colac Vic. have developed a label for this variety.

Correa Study Group (April 2017, No. 55)

This issue features articles on cultivation and identification of several varieties and hybrids of the Mountain Correa, *Correa lawrenceana*.

The study group leaders, Dot and Bob O'Neill, are achieving healthy resilient *Correa* plants by planting into raised beds in their garden in Victoria.

Correa 'Coralie', a chance hybrid which bears delicate, coral-pink flowers, proves that it is worth letting self-sown plants produce their first flowers before weeding them from your garden.

Garden Design Study Group (May 2017, No. 98)

Study Group founder Diana Snape analyses the sources of calm and beauty in the Japanese-style garden and presents ways to achieve this while employing native plants and themes. Trees present no obstacle, but the serenity contributed by water is more of a challenge in many parts of Australia. Diana questions how readily we can integrate the humble fence or shed into these landscapes.

With the passing of time, home swimming pools may lose their purpose and move from luxury to liability. Members are making pool conversions to use the best sunny spot in the back yard. Clever reuse of smashed concrete pieces in gabion walls can minimise waste and reduce terracing costs, but the possible effect on soil pH needs to be considered. A sunny, low corner was augmented with a bog garden in one such conversion.

Two articles, though describing contrasting outcomes, both support the need to define 'weedy species', in these instances *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle) and *Solanum linearifolium* (Mountain Kangaroo Apple).

Eremophila Study Group (May 2017, No. 117)

A fascinating variety of hybrid *Eremophila* seedlings germinated after the Pinery fire in South Australia in 2015. Flower colour, leaf shape and leaf colour, provide clues as to the possible parentage of each seedling.

The recently described *Eremophila calcicole* is the featured species for this issue. It has proven hardy and vigorous in most frost-free locations. The flowers are similar to the leaf colour and are hidden in the foliage, so the display lacks impact. The species responds well to pruning; maintains a low profile in full sun and each plant can grow to several metres across. It strikes readily from tip cuttings.

Regular meetings of local study group members are held in Sydney.

Grevillea Study Group (June 2017, No. 107)

Peter Olde recounts his 2016 trip in Cape York and describes the locations and appearances of the *Grevillea* species that he observed in the wild. Jan Glazebrook recounts her 2014 trip from Brisbane through to northern Queensland. From both reports it seems that while north Queensland is not particularly rich in grevillea species they do differ considerably from coastal NSW species.

Hakea Study Group (June 2017, No. 64)

There are 169 species of Hakea and they are most commonly propagated from seed. Seed germinated in December could be expected to be ready for planting out late in the following autumn. Green plastic protectors are recommended for protection of new plantings from the adverse effects of wind.

Garden Design Study Group (Aug. 2017, No. 99)

This newsletter explored the concept of 'growing rocks' providing sculptural elements to otherwise uniformly flat areas such as crushed granite paths and under clothes lines. From tiny mounds formed by *Cyperus gracilis* (Slender Flat-sedge) to boulders of tightly-foliaged plants sold as *Babingtonia virgata* 'Minima', or the more alpine Cushion-bush, *Scleranthus biflorus*, these plants retard run off and improve aesthetics.

An extensive checklist of factors to be considered when preparing a new garden design will be put to the test at the Queensland branch workshop in September under Lawrie Smith's guidance. The checklist incorporates many physical aspects but also family requirements, and could be applied in any climate and location across Australia.

Cover images

The front cover is *Alloxylon flammeum* (Tree Waratah). This image was captured by Jan Douglas at Coffs Harbour. The tree was a standout at North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, growing and flowering so abundantly in the carpark it was a fantastic advertisement to come inside and enjoy all the botanic delights.



The back cover is a close-up of *Bauera rubioides* (Dog Rose or River Rose). This photo was taken by Philippa Gordon in North Turrumurra. Philippa says her main aim is to show people what beauty there is in the detail of our local natural environment. I hope you will agree that she has succeeded brilliantly here. A link has been made from the APS NSW Facebook page to Philippa's fawnaphlora Facebook page where members can see many more examples of her beautiful images.



Cobras in Barrington Tops!

Not venomous snakes but large Greenhood orchids were a pleasant discovery on a family bushwalk.



Lynda McPherson is a volunteer at the Don McNair Herbarium at the University of Newcastle where she works closely with taxonomist Abdul Ghafoor. A recent family walking trip to Jerusalem Falls in Barrington Tops National Park provided a botanical surprise.

Our family left the car in the car park and headed down along the Jerusalem Creek trail through temperate and subtropical rainforest. The majestic trees, lichen, fungi and bird calls all fascinated us, however my eyes were continually drawn to the ground. The desire to find a native terrestrial orchid is never far from my mind when I venture into pristine bushland.

Tallowwoods (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) and Sydney Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus saligna*) are a feature of this walk, and the towering giants add a special charisma to this beautiful part of the world. Walking through the forest with no sound but leaves beneath our feet, bird calls, and perhaps a waterfall in the distance, engenders a feeling of privilege. Sharing this environmental wonder with its natural inhabitants for a small moment in time gives solace for the soul and gratitude for the preservation of our protected forests.

We approached Jerusalem Creek Falls slowly, enjoying the sunlight in the occasional breaks in the tree canopy above us, and finding several interesting fungi.

The sound of water became louder, and in the excitement of reaching the rock ledge we almost missed a small colony of *Pterostylis grandiflora* R.Br. This was my first sighting of the Cobra Greenhood, but it was unmistakable. The green and white flower is quite large and strongly curved. The petals have brown markings towards the apex, where they flare out, supposedly like a cobra's head; hence the common name.

There had not been much rain recently, and the bed of the waterfall was quite accessible. We admired the gentle flow of water splashing over the rock ledge to our right, and it was then that we noticed a huge rock that had fallen into the waterfall long ago. On top of this rock, growing out from a luxuriant layer of moss was a large colony of very healthy *Pterostylis grandiflora*. It was a surprise to see the orchids growing in such profusion in this unusual location, however their contentment with their elevated rocky habitat was obvious. The thick layer of moss from which they were growing undoubtedly provided them with all the necessary moisture and nutrients to facilitate such a grand display.

P. grandiflora is considered to be a rather common plant along the coast and adjacent ranges of New South Wales, and is also found in other areas, from Tasmania to Queensland. It flowers mainly from May to August. As with many terrestrial orchids, pollination occurs when an insect is attracted to the sensitive hinged labellum and causes it to trigger, trapping the insect within the galea or hood. It is thought that the translucent parts of the galea may confuse the insect, helping to confine it for some time and increasing the likelihood of pollination.





Annual Get-together Planning

Recommendations for the next host group and APS NSW

Alison Moore is President of Coffs Harbour Group which organised the highly successful 2017 APS NSW Annual Get-together. She shares some thoughts to assist other groups with the task in future.

At the commencement of organising the AGT (ideally twelve months prior or as near to as possible) establish regular communications between a nominated person from APS NSW and the host group. This should continue until the event occurs.

It is extremely important to have a 'friendly and timely conversation' in regard to advertising in the *NPfNSW* and all subsequent posts on both District Groups and NSW websites and Facebook sites to make the process as fluid as possible.

Words for posterity – Start early, aka now, for the 2018 AGT, organise a discrete group committee versus the regular Group committee, draw upon people within the wider group who have pertinent skills and most importantly, people who can set aside twelve months to concentrate on the event, nominate a competent Committee Coordinator who keeps everyone on track with planned meetings, minutes, reminders etc. This is a vital role and integral to the success of the conference.

When choosing speakers, consider people who will reach out to the wider community and hopefully help make connections beyond your local APS group and strengthen its connections and profile.

Maintain cordial relations.

Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

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

Leader: Bill Aitchison
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Donvale, VIC 3111
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Australian Food Plants (free)

Leader: Sheryl Backhouse
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Australian Plants as Bonsai

(\$14/\$20/\$14)
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Banksia (\$7 email)

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

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Fern (\$5)

Leader: Peter Bostock
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Garden Design (\$20/--/free)

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Grevillea (free)

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Hakea (\$10)

Leader: Paul Kennedy
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Elliminyt VIC 3250
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Isopogon & Petrophile (free)

email only group
Joint Leaders: Phil Trickett and
Catriona Bate
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Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

Leader: Barbara Henderson
36 Railway Terrace
Moore QLD 4306
☎ (07) 5424 7073

Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

Leader: Maria Hitchcock
PO Box 4214
Armidale West NSW 2350
☎ (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

Rainforest

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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5% discount, except on landscape materials, garden design services or discounted merchandise.

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The Garden Bookstore
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☎ (02) 9571 8222.
Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun
11am–5pm.

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www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au
10% discount

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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**
Great Western Highway,
Glenbrook 2773
☎ (02) 4739 8597
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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

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

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| Exhibition Officer | vacant |
| Property Officer | vacant |
| Conservation Officer | Dan Clarke |
| Study Group Liaison Officer | Wendy Grimm |
| Seed bank curator | John Randall |
| Website manager | James Ward |

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John Aitken, John Andrews, Alix Goodwin, Mary Hedges, Harry Loots, Tony Maxwell, Heather Miles, Roger Starling, and Merle Thompson.

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| | |
|---|--|
| ANPSA Council | John Aitken |
| Australian Cultivar Registration Authority | David Murray |
| Australian Flora Foundation | Ross Smyth-Kirk |
| Burrendong Arboretum | Lyn Burgett – l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au |
| Native Flower Growers and Promoters | Jonathan Steeds |
| Nature Conservation Council | Margery Street |
| External Book Service | Florilegium -The Garden Bookstore |



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