

# CALEYI



## Newsletter of the Northern Beaches Group.

September 2020

From the (temporary) editor.

Our regular editor, Jane March, is taking a short break from producing the newsletter as she recovers from brain surgery. She is doing very well, and we wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

Many, many years ago I did a stint as newsletter editor when it was four pages of black and white text and few images, if any. Publishing times have changed with new technology that permits anybody to produce whiz-bang, full colour communications from their home. I hope members will accept my puny efforts and remember that Jane will return.

We will not be holding our regular monthly meetings for the immediate future, so our newsletter is the main source of communication apart from email and phone. We have, however, re-started our monthly walks with appropriate spacing etc. So, please help me out by sending in plenty of information, articles, images etc for inclusion in Caley.

### OUR LOGO

We are all familiar with the plant image on our Group logo – *Grevillea caleyi*. We also know that this species is classified by both State and Federal Governments as Critically Endangered. A look at the NSW State Government's 'Office of Environment and Heritage' web page <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspeciesapp/project.aspx?ProfileID=10361> shows us that *G. Caleyi* occurs in three major areas of suitable habitat found in Belrose, Ingleside and Terrey Hills/Duffy's Forest within the Ku-ring-gai and Northern Beaches local government areas. It also provides the following description of *G. Caleyi*. "A medium to tall shrub, with long spreading branches, which grows to a height and width of up to 4 m. The divided green leaves are covered in soft, rusty hairs and are up to 15 cm long. The flowers, which open in late winter and spring, have a toothbrush-like appearance with racemes up to 8 cm in length and are dark burgundy-red in colour".

There is a recovery plan in place for the Terrey Hills area but there are considerable pressures from development proposals and the widening of Mona Vale Road, the main East/West traffic route through this area.

Within our Group I know that Harry Loots has one growing on his 'nature strip' garden and Jennifer McLean probably has some on her property at Ingleside. Growing endangered species in our home gardens can provide a valuable backup of material if there is a disaster with the wild population. David Drage.

## EVENT

In spite of Covid-19 restrictions, we managed another outdoor activity recently. We walked from the the Arabanoo Lookout onto part of the Manly to the Spit Coastal Walk that runs around Dobroyd Head. Views from the track out towards the Sydney Harbour Heads were stunning, as was the weather, bright and sunny and dry.



The following is Penny Hunstead's report on the walk, along with Russell Beardmore's images.

On the beautiful sunny Saturday morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, our group of eleven people enjoyed one of the best walks of the Sydney Region, at Balgowlah Heights.

We met at the Arabanoo Lookout, for a one kilometre walk through the Dobroyd Head Scenic Area of Sydney Harbour National Park. The track had an easy, almost level gradient and was fairly narrow in most of its length. The narrow aspect was nice for feeling close to the vegetation, but because the track was popular with sightseers, we often had to stop observing the plants to allow others to pass. However, the interruptions of others did not detract from the immense pleasure we all felt, at the end of the walk.

The walk had two equally appealing attractions. These attractions were the abundant variety of plant species in flower and the spectacular ocean and landscape views to North and South Heads of Sydney Harbour.

The dominant large shrubs, along the walk, were *Allocasuarina distyla*, *Angophora hispida*, *Banksia serrata*, and *Leptospermum laevigatum*. The dominant trees were *Eucalyptus haemastoma* and *Banksia integrifolia*. The variety of species is remarkable. The following list of species that were in flower could be followed with a list of double that number of species that were not in flower.

*Acacia longifolia ssp longifolia*, *Acacia suaveolens*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Actinotus helianthi*, *Actinotus minor*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Bauera rubioides*, *Dampiera stricta*, *Darwinia fascicularis ssp fascicularis*, *Dillwynia retorta ssp A*, *Epacris longiflora*, *Epacris microphylla*, *Phyllothea buxifolia*, *Gahnia sieberiana*, *Grevillea buxifolia*, *Grevillea speciosa ssp speciosa*, *Hibbertia linearis*, *Kennedia rubicunda*, *Leptospermum laevigatum*, *Phyllota phyllicoides*, *Pimelia linifolia ssp linifolia*, *Rhagodia candolleana ssp candolleana*, *Senecio lautus ssp dissectifolius*, *Velleia lyrata*, and *Xanthorrhoea resinosa*.

A dominant species, growing densely along both sides of much of the track, was *Rhagodia candolleana ssp candolleana*, a member of Bush Tucker species for its succulent small red berries.

At the end of the walk, below us, there was a good view of Crater Cove and its seven cliff huts, built between 1923 and 1964. No longer occupied, they are maintained by National Parks staff. Members of the public are discouraged from dropping in.

After the walk, our group assembled with their folding chairs and picnic lunches, back at a grassy area near Arabanoo Lookout. Out of the wind, it was a very pleasant place to reminisce about this and that! Penny Hunstead.

*Phyllota phyllicoides*



*Pimelia linifolia*



*Hemigenia purpurea*



*Actinotus helianthi*



*Chloanthes stoechardis*



*Philotheca buxifolia*



*Zieria laevigata*



*Velleia lyrata*



*Leucopogon microphylus*



*Bossiaea scolopendra*



*Thelionema umbellatum*



*Bauera rubioides*



Russell Beardmore

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10:30 am.** Eleanor Eakins, a long time volunteer, will lead a walk around Stony Range Botanic Garden, relating the history and detailing the plantings of this important garden.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 10:30 am.** The Group is invited to visit Nancy and Ted Shaw's garden in Bayview. It is some years since a previous visit but I remember the garden as quite large and jam-packed with Australian plants.

## AFTER THE FIRE

A new book has been purchased for the library entitled '*An Australian Garden*'. The author is Philip Cox, a well-known Australian architect, and he relates his "non-traditional way of revealing and enhancing an Australian bush garden on a park-like scale". The property is on a headland at Thubbul on the estuary of the Murrumbidgee River, about 20k south of Bermagui. I mentioned this to a former member of our Group, Jillian Peck, who now lives in Moruya and is associated with the South Coast APS Group. Jillian said that they had paid a visit to this garden and the following is their report of that visit.

"In October 2015 the APS SE NSW group were lucky enough to be invited to renowned Australian architect Philip Cox's property Thubbul, south of Bermagui on the NSW south coast. Pronunciation is closer to "The Bull", not Thubbul.

There were many unexpected treats awaiting us. The first was the stunning venue in which we had our meeting. A large pavilion had been constructed in the grounds with a huge Gary Sheard fresco painted on the main wall.

A second treat was an impromptu performance by the Brass Banter Trio from the Australian National Academy of Music in Melbourne. They were contracted to play at the Four Winds Festival which occurs in Bermagui every two years and were staying in Philip's guest accommodation.

The third treat was a talk by Philip's partner, author Janet Hawley, who wrote "Wendy Whiteley and the Secret Garden". She gave us a wonderful insight into how and why the garden had developed as it had and just the night before they had received the wonderful news that the NSW Government had granted a 30-year lease with another 30-year option to North Sydney Council to maintain the garden.

Philip then gave us a talk about his property that had been in his family since the 1960s. It is an area of mostly native bushland. There are formal gardens around the house and the development of these was explained by Philip's property manager, Tristan Dalziel. Few of the gardens had native plants but Tristan advised us that this was going to change. He was extremely open to advice from our knowledgeable members on how to achieve this.

The group then repaired to the arbor for lunch and, afterwards, we enjoyed a ramble over the property with its stunning coastal views and sculptures.

Member Chris Tynan presented Philip with native plants she had propagated, and Phil Trickett also presented three grafted Western Australian *Isopogons* as a thank you for the hospitality that had been extended to us."



I asked if the garden had been affected by the fires earlier this year and Jillian thought not. She sent me the above images taken at the time of that visit (presumably by her).

#### A QUESTION

Below is a photo of a white *Eriostemon australasius* from Slippery Dip Track. Interestingly it grows very much in the location where 5 years ago a white *Lobelia sp* appeared. I wonder if it is something in the soil that makes plants go albino in that location? Conny.



## RUSSELL – AGAIN.

You cannot keep a good man down. As well as taking part in the Group walks and volunteering in a Northern Beaches Council nursery and doing bush regeneration, Russell goes on other walking expeditions in our area. And always with his camera. Here is the result of his latest jaunt.

“On Wednesday (12<sup>th</sup> August ed) a friend and I walked parts of the Perimeter Track/Long Track in KNP, behind Duffy's Forest. It was wonderful with plenty of flowers, including Waratah. I am sure it will be even better in a month's time. Only problem was that it is a long walk - we took about 2½ hours. As well as the Waratah, there was a lot of *Boronia pinifolia* (as well as some *ledifolia*) and in one place what seemed to be a field of *Eriostemon australasius* – beautiful”.

*Telopea speciosissima*



I had to give this image pride of place. We have all seen many Waratah pictures but I think this one is rather special. Ed.





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