



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

JUNE WALK

This, of course, did not occur as it coincided with one of the wettest weekends for quite some time. The following Saturday also did not suit people and some rain had continued in that week. So June turned out to be a very quiet month..

NEW MEMBER

We welcome John Tozer to the Group. John is a retired teacher and we will not hold that against him. I worked with John a few years back when we were involved in setting up the garden at the Abbeyfield establishment. We look forward to meeting John as the opportunity arises.

JULY ACTIVITY

This is our annual talk/presentation to the group and details have been emailed in the last few days. A number of people have emailed their intention to come - thanks for that.

Mention had been made before of a painting depicting part of the wetlands and the plantings done in it. Not all members have seen the artwork. Pauline has written the article (below) to accompany the work and it is reproduced on the second page of this newsletter.

CALENDAR

Sat Jul 2	Workshop: Plant Frost Resistance and Ecology
Sun Aug 7	Wollondilly River walk
Sat Sep 3	Narrangill NR veg. survey with GFN group
Sat Oct 1	West Goulburn Bushland
Sat Nov 5	Windellama Field Day
Wed Nov 23	Wetlands Garden maintenance
Sat Dec 3	Christmas get-together and walk at Tony and Sandra's property at Back Arm

ART IN THE WETLANDS

On a chilly May day, artist Susan Pearson, joined the members of the Southern Tablelands Group (STG) and the Friends of

Goulburn Swamplands (FROGS) during their break from planting and weeding at the Goulburn Wetlands. Susan has created a wonderful watercolour painting of how the woodland garden in the Wetlands may appear when it is mature.

Susan described the process she went through of making half a dozen preliminary paintings, fine-tuning the composition and detail prior to starting the final product. She explained that the dominant species in the woodland garden, *Eucalyptus pulverulenta*, was painted with a high degree of realism, whilst some artistic licence was taken with the understorey. Rocky Hill is positioned in the background to provide a sense of locality, while the human figures give a sense of people enjoying the tranquillity and beauty around them.

The painting grew out of the friendship between the local artist and Stephanie Murphy, member of the display garden committee and creator of the woodland garden concept. Susan has generously donated her painting to the STG of the Australian Plant Society (APS)—to promote the display gardens and the Wetlands. During morning tea Stephanie presented Susan with a Grevillea as a token of thanks for her gracious



Stephanie and Susan

contribution to the project.

Less than 18 months ago, the STG were asked to take on a project within the Wetlands—to create a garden which would demonstrate how Australian plants may be attractively used within any home garden. Species have been selected for qualities they bring to a garden—attractive foliage, form, flowers or bark; hardiness in the Goulburn climate; providing habitat for fauna; or fulfilling a particular function such as screening. The gardens have been designed, propagated and planted by the STG, which has also propagated thousands of plants for the rest of the Wetlands.

There are now three display gardens showcasing different ways in which Australian plants may be used within a garden.

Woodland garden

The woodland garden features *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* or Silver-leaved Mountain Gum. Suitable for smaller gardens, their beautiful trunks are revealed by peeling bark, while their silver leaves will form the overarching canopy. The understorey has a range of low growing flowering shrubs, grasses and herbaceous plants which thrive in the dappled sunlight.

Bird-hide garden

Australian plants are also effective in more formal garden styles as demonstrated at the bird-hide garden. The most recent planting this autumn was the semi-formal hedge of *Crowea exalata* surrounding plantings of *Correa*. It is intended that upturned pipes will be used in the centre of the bed for *Xanthorrhoea australis* (Grass trees), not only will this help to highlight what will become stunning features, but they will also advance slow-growing specimens by giving them immediate height while ensuring excellent drainage.

Carpark gardens

Many Australian plants may be used to create informal garden rooms or as quick growing screens or hedging. The shrubs selected to surround the carpark including *Melaleuca lateritia* (Robin Redbreast Bush) and *Callistemon pallidus* (Lemon Bottlebrush) will provide excellent shelter from the elements for humans and birds alike, while the flowers will provide a valuable food source for nectar eating birds as well as for bees and butterflies.

The recent rains are just what has been needed for the new plantings to settle in and really establishing themselves. Don't expect any growth at this time of the year, all the action is below ground, as the root systems beaver away into the rich soil of the Wetlands basin. Come spring, it will definitely be worth a visit if you haven't been there lately. The STG will join the FROGS for regular maintenance working bees in spring and autumn—perhaps you'd like to join us!

