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## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

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### WELCOME(S)

A belated welcome to the APS 2017 year. The delay for this newsletter has been due to a number of things - settling on dates being the main factor.

A very special welcome also to new members Bob and Roz Philipson who joined in January. The last few months have seen several new members and we look forward to their input and ideas. We welcome very much their suggestions and we are committed to being open to such suggestions.

### 2016 AGM/END-OF-YEAR GATHERING

This took place on the property of Sandra and Tony at Back Arm. The usual formalities were carried out including the tabling of President's and Treasurer's reports. The election of office bearers took place with a minor change in the committee's composition. Pauline who had been fulfilling the role of Publicity Officer in addition to Newsletter Assistant, relinquished that role to Stephanie Murphy.

The traditional walk took place and the members got a taste of the bush in that area as well as Tony and Sandra's developing garden. Still essentially living in Sydney, Tony and Sandra visit their hideaway on weekends. We thank them very much for hosting the function. During the general business discussion took place on quite a few of our activities - including walks for 2017, wetlands report, propagation to name a few. These were further discussed at the committee meeting held in January and a number of decisions made.

### AUSTRALIA DAY STALL

This event had been somewhat overlooked at the end of 2016 but some hurried emails got our application under way. Further feverish activity for our plants, labels and other information got us ready in time. Pauline reports:

Once again the market stall at Victoria Park on Australia Day was highly successful.

About 150 plants were sold—which will of course be planted in Goulburn gardens. Two new members joined, (Bob and Roz - above), with many others taking information about the Southern Tablelands Group and the Australian Plants Society. So the goals of the APS—to promote appreciation and use of Australian plants in the community—were well and truly achieved.

Most fortunately, it was a mild day, with a light breeze, so it was very pleasant to be at the stall, chatting about Australian plants. A big "thank you" to members who helped out—particularly new members, Sarah Bridge and Leigh and Roger Tuck—it's wonderful to get input from fresh faces on these days, as the more people involved, the lighter the weight of commitment for all. (\$387 was raised on the day from sales - ed.)

### COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting took place late January and continued discussion of a number of issues that had been raised at the AGM in December.

A good deal of deliberation went into our propagation program and its direction. In the past we generally have aimed at what might be called farm plants and home garden plants in approximately equal proportions. A shift in emphasis has been occurring and we are now working to increase the effort put into the growing of 'home garden' plants. At least two factors have led to this turnaround.

In the last few years, sales of what I have called farm plants have not been as strong as we would have liked. In each of the last two years, it was through Bob's contacts and efforts that we have been able to offload quite a few crates of such plants - e.g the local tree wattles. These plants had not sold on our selling days. Propagating such plants in significant numbers for an uncertain result could hardly be justified.

In the second half of last year, a number of our members accepted an invitation from the Southern Highlands Group to attend a special meeting with a guest speaker. In addition, flowers from some of the Group's members' gardens were on display. Our visiting members were duly impressed and urged our group to follow that lead.

As part of the propagation this Autumn, a collection of plant cuttings material will be done with a highlands garden visit. This material will then be potted up a few days later at one of our timetabled propagation mornings. So the emphasis is on 'garden' plants but the material from the Southern Highlands will supplement material from gardens of our own members. We recognise that the highlands and our own area differ in some respects so that the venture will not be without its challenges.

Species that are propagated from local bush sources are not excluded and diversity in our plant sales is a plus.

Another important change also relates to our propagation program. Our propagation efforts are directed towards our own plant sales and the wetlands proper and a number of wetland gardens. While this will continue, we are making it possible for members attending a propagation session to propagate some plants for their own use. This can include both

seed and cuttings. Members may like to bring with them seed of their selected species (or use the Group's seed) and sow that seed on the day - it would then - if they wish - be placed in Jen's propagation unit where it will be subject to controlled watering and heat. The Group's pots and potting mix will be available. For cuttings, a similar arrangement will apply. Members may bring their own material for propagation and leave it in the propagation unit. Also, Jen has kindly agreed that members on the propagation mornings may take cuttings material from her garden and have it looked after in the propagation area. Again, there would be no problem if members wished to take their potted material back home to look after it themselves

Typically, not many of our new members have much propagation experience; this is not a problem as there are always some 'old hands' around to show how it's done and offer guidance. While I've got your attention, the next propagation session is on **this Thursday** at Jen's place.

### WETLANDS

This project is continuing. Jen has recently prepared a planting list for 2017 and a propagation list for 2018. The Wetlands garden-sub-committee is meeting soon at the site to assess what work needs to be done. Also on the agenda at the moment is the possibility of a garden devoted to bush tucker plants; because of the perceived difficulty in organising this, the planting of selected bush tucker plants (as used by the indigenous locals) may be undertaken instead.

### ROADSIDE VEGETATION NEGLECTED

For the second year in a row, inappropriate and somewhat reckless weed spraying has affected populations of the nationally-endangered variety of the daisy *Leucochrysum albicans* in a few areas west of Goulburn including Range Rd and Mt Baw Baw Rd. Letters were sent to Council - both from individuals and one was also sent on behalf of APS. Council has yet to reply.

### WALKS'N'TALKS

Most of the walks selected on this year's program were from those mentioned during the AGM. An extra one was added - one to a private reserve near Tallong. The reserve in question is owned by a Sydney school which uses it for camps and various related activities. Group member Helen (Ward) works with some of these groups on weekends and asked the Operations Manager if the Group could visit the reserve. (In fact, the group visited the reserve very early in its existence under a previous owner - so early that the list of species we provided was mostly of the trees). This walk comes up in May and our thanks to Helen for her role in getting it going. Our annual talks this year will cover the interesting topics of bees, birds and soils - all in the garden context.

### NSW APS AND THE GROWTH/PROMOTION DRIVE

Members will be aware of an email sent out recently by Bob to each member seeking responses to some proposals forwarded by the state body. These relate to certain aspects of

membership. Please keep this in mind and more will be said about it shortly. You will also have noted an invitation to the biennial ANPS conference in Tasmania later this year.

### 2017 CALENDAR

Sat Feb 11	Propagation at Jen's (cuttings)
Thu Feb 23	Propagation at Jen's (cuttings)
<b>Sat Mar 11</b>	Walk at 'Silver Wattle' near Lake George ( <b>2nd Sat</b> )
Thu Mar 16	Propagation at Jen's (seed & cuttings)
Sun Mar 19	Propagation at Jen's (seed & cuttings)
Sat Apr 1	Walk at Nadgigomar NR eastern section
Wed Apr 12	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sat May 6	Walk on private property - near Currawang
Sat May 20	Walk at reserve in Tallong
Sat Jun 3	Walk in Morton NP via Bundanoon
Sat Jul 1	Bees/Birds/Soils presentations
Sat Aug 5	Walk at Pomaderris Reserve
Sat Sep 2	Walk in Monga NP via Braidwood
Thu Sep 14	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sun Sep 17	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sat Oct 7	Walk at South's Reserve via Kooringaroo Rd
Wed Oct 18	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sat Nov 4	Walk at Reedy Creek TSR
Sat Dec 2	Xmas party, AGM and property walk - Raina's place

### CUTTINGS PROPAGATION

From the calendar, this is what is coming up on Thursday for those who are able to come. Sessions begin around 9 and go til 11 or a bit later. Jen's place is the first property on Mill Ford Road off Range Road in the Pomeroy area.

For anybody new to cuttings - to get a quick handle on this kind of propagation, the following website could be accessed:

[anpsa.org.au/cuttings.html](http://anpsa.org.au/cuttings.html) ; this is just one site of many that could be looked at. Remember, however, there will be help on hand.

Below is a rough map to Jen's place if coming from the Goulburn direction - for those who have not been there before.

