



Eucalyptus blakelyi

**TAMWORTH
GROUP
NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2017**

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Disclaimer

The articles contained in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views held by APS.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Martin O'Rourke

Autumn has come upon us with a rush. I don't know why we in Australia insist that autumn starts on the 1 March. For me it doesn't really get going until the equinox and this year it didn't disappoint. It seemed that summer went on forever then bang in came autumn.

Last weekend I was in Canberra and a trip to Canberra would not be complete without a visit to the Canberra Botanic Gardens. This time it was as good as always. I really like the way they have put the various groups of plants together and created other environments for different plants to flourish depending on their natural habitat. There is always something in flower. The temperate rain forest is always good with its carefully constructed misting sprays that deliver the required water to keep the rainforest moist and lush. Different to a tropical rainforest the experiences times of wet and dry.

A few weeks ago I hooked into a conference call with the APS executive and other member groups to discuss the new membership options and payment methods. The APS executive is working towards a web based payment option. The good news is that for every membership collected, \$10.00 comes back to the nominated group on the application form. It is a much better and fairer system than we used to have with \$9 or \$10 going to the group depending on where the membership was paid. I think that it will work better. Hopefully it will be easier for our long suffering membership officer.

Finally while I was away I stopped in at the Florilegium Book shop in Glebe. It was well worth the visit and I came away with some good books. I didn't even scratch the surface of the shop. There is the lower level where there were more books to view that I didn't have time to see. I did get

a copy of their latest catalogue that I'll bring to the April meeting.

Also a big thank you to those who came to the last meeting and helped to propagate some of the plants from the Tamworth Botanic Gardens.

PLANT TABLE

By Martin O'Rourke



February 2017 There was only one species this month, probably because it had been so hot in early February.

| Botanical Name | Common Name |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i> | Illyarrie, Red Capped Gum |

March 2017 There were 7 different species:

| Botanical Name | Common Name |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Acacia salicina</i> | Cooba |
| <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> | Coast Banksia |
| <i>Banksia spinosa</i> | |
| <i>Correa sp.</i> | |
| <i>Hibiscus panduriformis</i> | |
| <i>Hibiscus sp</i> | |
| <i>Olearia viscosa</i> | Sticky Daisy Bush |

THREATENED SPECIES GARDEN REPORT

By Martin O'Rourke

Not much to report except, that I have planted some *Hakea macrorhyncha* seeds. The plan is to grow them up and plant them out in single species group.

Later in the year I would like to have a working-be at the site to clear an area for planting out some of the *Hakea macrorhyncha* seeds that I have managed to propagate.

Boongala Gardens

Thank you to Matt Cosgrove and Mal & Jenny Johnston



Boongala Native Gardens and Rainforest is an 11 acre property located in Kenthurst, NSW. These extensive gardens have been developed over a number of years by Mal and Jenny Johnston.

Mal and Jenny Johnston operated Annangrove Grevilleas, a native plant nursery in Kenthurst, between 1981 and 2005. While working this nursery they were creating Boongala Gardens and Rainforest, hoping to create a suitable environment for birds, native bees, possums, and other wildlife.

Boongala Gardens are dedicated to Sid Cadwell, Jenny's uncle. Sid was a native plant pioneer and owned 'Boongala Gardens' nursery in Annangrove for many years. Boongala, is an Aboriginal word which means shaded place. Sid is remembered by his Grevilleas, Sid

Cadwell, Boongala Spinebill and Jessie Cadwell.

The gardens were planned, shaped and planted on land which had been used by their family, the Cadwells, for farming since 1940. This land was a citrus orchard and open range poultry farm until 1970. The property lay idle for the next ten years, in which time it became barren and lifeless, some areas were overrun by large and small leaf privet trees, lantana, and many other weeds. This noxious vegetation was cleared by hand.



The first plantings were the Eucalyptus, Angophora and Turpentine trees which are dotted throughout the property to slow the wind and create shade. Casuarina stands were planted for wind breaks, and to attract black cockatoos that feed on the nuts of these, and the cones of the Banksias.





The outer garden beds are raised and planted with Grevilleas and Banksias to attract honeyeaters, lorikeets and parrots. These raised outer gardens act as a wind barrier for the inner gardens, and create protected grassy areas for finches and wrens.



Boongala Gardens is a great place to spend the day with your family. There are tables and chairs available to those who would like to have a picnic lunch within the gardens (no BBQs please).

A large range of native plants are for sale at the gardens. These include bird-

attracting, rainforest and bushtucker plants. These plants are available in various sizes (tubestock and larger).

The gardens open twice a year to the public, during specific periods in Autumn and Spring. Check the website for dates: www.boongalagardens.com or phone (02) 9654 9072. Groups and other times by appointment only.

Admission for adults is \$2.00 (Donated to The Royal Flying Doctor), children free. A guided rainforest tour will cost you \$3.

Winners and Losers in my Garden

By Beth Stokes

The challenging summer we have just experienced has made me rethink my garden – yet again. I lost some treasured plants in the endless +45 degree heat but as the saying goes, a loss is a planting opportunity.

I'll never learn to restrain myself from planting small things in Spring rather than waiting for more suitable conditions in Autumn! So the tiny *Veronica perfoliata* (previously *Derwentia perfoliata*) needed some special care, here seen sheltered by a rather beautiful umbrella – and yes, I think it has survived, but it certainly hasn't thrived:



I was very sad to lose my *Kunzea parvifolia* which has bloomed so prolifically for me every Spring. Should I re-plant? Maybe not.



The noisy friarbirds became very enamoured of the mirror in my garden, so much so that I had to cover it up to save my ears from the loud and raucous conversations they were having with their reflections!



Eremophila maculata – I think 'Blue Thunder'

The real winners in my garden this summer were the *Eremophilas*...such a hardy lot! Here are *E. nivea* and *E. magenta* with *Acacia montana* in the background.



Eremophila splendens

The *Goodenias* also earned their place in the garden, soldiering on in the heat:



As did this vibrant *Grevillea* that was one of the few plants in the garden when I moved in....don't know the species, but it is very accommodating:



So what have I learnt this summer? I have decided that while the books may say 'plant in full sun' I don't think they account for the extremes of 'full sun', so it's more SHADE I'll be working on this year.

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden – a Native Bushland

By Beth Stokes

When I start to go stir-crazy with the traffic, noise and crowds in Sydney, I escape the chaos for an hour or so at Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden at Dee Why. Here I enjoy the rainforest gully, the Federation Cascades and the beautiful sandstone heath.



This peaceful oasis has been created on the site of a 1950's disused stone quarry on a Hawkesbury sandstone ridge.

It boasts some wonderful plants, displayed at their finest when I visited last Spring:



The wax flower, *Eriostemon australasius*



The purple pea-flowers of a *Hovea*



The deep pink form of the spider flower, *Grevillea sericea*



Acacia longifolia



The Fuchsia Heath, *Epacris longiflora*



Brush Turkeys are at home at Stony Range

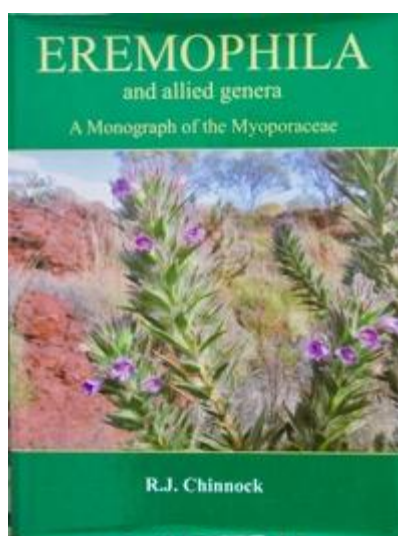
Entry is free and the Garden is open every day from 8am to 8pm. Plants propagated by an enthusiastic group of volunteers are available for sale on Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons.

Book Review

By Beth Stokes

As the *Eremophilas* in my garden survived the extreme conditions this summer better than most I want to plant more, so I'm studying up on this beautiful group of plants – with the help of two very useful books borrowed from our library:

EREMOPHILA and allied genera. A Monograph of the Myoporaceae – by R J Chinnock

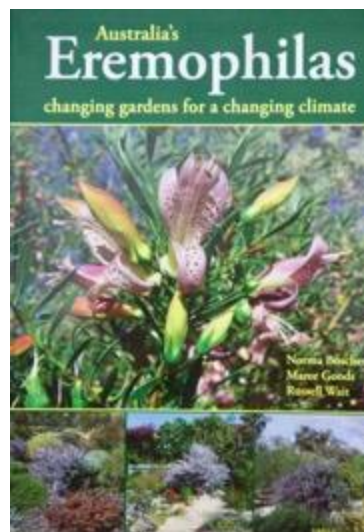


Dr Chinnock from the State Herbarium of South Australia is a world authority on this family which includes not only the *Eremophila* genus but also the *Myoporum*. This highly technical book, first published in 2007, is the culmination of Chinnock's 30 years' research and includes detailed descriptions, photographs, analytical drawings and notes on distribution, ecology, conservation status and relationships.

You can find out all you would wish to know about the morphology and anatomy, reproductive biology, toxicity, traditional and economic and horticultural uses. There is a section on trichomes – the hairs, papillae and scales – that are of taxonomic value in the classification of *Eremophilas*.

This is a very valuable reference book with in-depth information that I doubt would be readily available on Google.

Australia's Eremophilas. Changing gardens for a changing climate – by Norma Boschen, Maree Goods & Russell Wait



Dr Chinnock wrote a supportive Foreword for this book which was written in 2008. It provides the down-to-earth, hands-on information required for growing and enjoying *Eremophilas*.

The authors are members of the Australian Eremophila Study Group, an APS subgroup. They have a wealth of knowledge gained from their vast experience of growing plants under different conditions over many years. It is a complete guide to the cultivation of *Eremophila*.

There are chapters on growing *Eremophilas* from seed, propagating from cuttings, grafting, pests and diseases. Also covered are water requirements, soil types, mulching, frost tolerance, fertilising and landscaping opportunities.

Species are grouped by size: small trees and large shrubs, medium shrubs, small shrubs, prostrate shrubs, all accompanied by colour images.

This will certainly be my go-to reference as I embark on yet more *Eremophilas* for my garden – drought-tolerant, many variable forms...and stunning flowers!

Warren Sheather's Plant Picks

Victoria is home to about 100 grevillea species. We are concentrating on two species that we are growing successfully. Working on the principle that if a plant grows successfully in our garden on our frosty and windswept hill then it will survive and thrive in the Tamworth area.

Grevillea jephcottii



Grevillea jephcottii, the Pine Mountain Grevillea, has proved to be hardy, free flowering and with low water requirements once established. As well as these advantages this species is relatively easy to propagate.

G. jephcottii is a dense shrub reaching a height of about two metres. The leaves are light green, hairy and have a rough feel. The flowers are borne in dense clusters that circle the branches. Flowers are pale green and become pale yellow or cream as they age. The flower colour is unusual for grevilleas. Flowering is prolific during winter and spring. Honeyeaters are attracted to the blooms. Both foliage and flowers are interesting features.

G. jephcottii is classified as rare and is only found on Pine Mountain, northern Victoria near the Murray River. In one publication the author states that this species has little or no horticultural

value. We disagree and find that *G. jephcottii* is an unusual and attractive shrub that is certainly worth cultivating.

The species name honours Sydney Jephcott who discovered the species in 1878 when only 14. Dr. J. H. Willis (see below) named *G. jephcottii* in 1967.

Grevillea willisii



Grevillea willisii, Omeo Grevillea, is a medium to large spreading shrub that reaches a height of three metres with a similar spread in our garden. The leaves are grey-green, lobed, 60 millimetres long and each lobe is crowned with a prickly point. The eye-catching flowers are carried in toothbrush-shaped clusters. They are large and creamy-white and appear during spring. Honeyeaters visit the nectar-rich flowers. The grey-green foliage complements the blooms.

Once again this species has been recorded as having insignificant flowers. Once again we disagree. *G. willisii* in full flower is an outstanding feature in our garden. Propagation from cuttings is relatively easy.

The Omeo Grevillea is considered to be rare with limited distribution. We first came across this splendid species on a visit to the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra many years ago. The garden's specimen was in full flower and we noted the name with a view to buying a plant.

Fortunately we found one in a Canberra nursery.

describing 64 species. *G. willisii* was named in 1975.

The species name honours Dr. J. (Jim) H. Willis (see above). He was a noted Australian botanist who is credited with

TAMWORTH APS MEETING DATES FOR 2017

Meetings - 4th Saturday of every month except January and December at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden - and sometimes in a member's garden. At 9.30am.

| Date | Day | Activity | Time |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|--------|
| <i>April 22</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>May 27</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>June 24</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Annual General Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>Jul-22</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>August 26</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>Sep-23</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>October 28</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |
| <i>Nov-25</i> | <i>Sat</i> | Meeting | 9.30am |