



Eucalyptus blakelyi

TAMWORTH GROUP

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2018

<i>PRESIDENT</i>	Martin O'Rourke 0409 036 668 blotchb@hotmail.com
<i>VICE PRESIDENT</i>	Matt Cosgrove 6765 2693 cosgrove72@bigpond.com
<i>SECRETARY</i>	To be filled
<i>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</i>	To be filled
<i>TREASURER</i>	Lee Esdaile 6760 8525 pjltesdaile@gmail.com
<i>PUBLICITY</i>	Doreen Goddard 6760 6216
<i>MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR</i>	Lee Esdaile 6760 8525 pjltesdaile@gmail.com
<i>CATERING</i>	Prue Campese 6766 3423 YYDYE61@gmail.com
<i>ACTIVITIES OFFICER</i>	Matt Cosgrove 6765 2693 cosgrove72@bigpond.com
<i>LIBRARIAN</i>	Jan Freemantle 6761 7528 tonyfreemantle@gmail.com
<i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	Beth Stokes 0458 515 738 beth.stokes@bigpond.com

CONTENTS

- President's Notes
- Dungowan Dam Upgrade
- Mistletoe
- Greg's Garden
- Fan Flowers
- Lilly Pilly
- Summer Garden Visitors
- Book Review
- Free Seeds
- Plant Table
- NEXT MEETING 26 May
9:30am at the Tamworth

Disclaimer

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

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Martin O'Rourke

Well there is only one thing to say dry, dry and more dry to come. I have lost some plants to the dry and warm conditions. My garden is looking rather miserable, but I take the approach that if it needs constant watering then it's not for my garden. When I look at my rainfall records I have had 86.7 mm for the year so far, with March being the wettest month with 43.9 mm. It appears that the weather is stuck in a rut.

I also heard some people talking recently about the dry conditions and one person was saying that the stringybarks near where they live are dying. That is not good for anyone. I guess that all we can do in our gardens is mulch well, water long and let it soak in deep (if you have water to use) and hope for the best. Frequent short watering that doesn't soak in well just develops shallow rooted and thirsty plants. I just hope and pray that we get some rain soon. It will soon be winter and that will mean frosts if it remains clear skies and whatever moisture is left in the soil will be taken by the frost. Hopefully things will turn around and it will be green again.

In a book I recently bought '*The Water Dreamers, the remarkable history of our dry continent*' by Michael Cathcart I saw a great quote. 'The trouble with water – and there is trouble with water – is that they're not making any more of it.' Marq de Villiers, *Water*. How true you can only move it around.

DUNGOWAN DAM UPGRADE

By Martin O'Rourke

It looks like the Dungowan Dam Upgrade is on shaky ground unless more money can be found.

I was talking to a councillor this week and I asked how big was the upgrade to be? He said a new capacity of 50 GL is proposed. Currently Dungowan Dam is 6.3 GL. Given the size of the catchment it takes about 70mm of rain to collect 6.3 GL if all rain that falls runs into the dam. To fill 50 GL you would need about 555 mm of rain. If Tamworth is to grow to 100,000 we will require more water harvesting. Not exactly making more water but harvesting more of what is available, moving it around.

If Dungowan Dam is enlarged that may not look good for the 'Dungowan Starbush'* as its habitat may be submerged. Not sure if that is the case. Does anyone still have any still growing that we can propagate more from? Mine were not very successful and it is a difficult plant to keep going.

* Editor's Note: *The Dungowan Starbush, Asterolasia beckersii*, was first collected in 1995 and is listed as endangered. It is known from only eleven locations around Dungowan Dam. Fruiting bodies were observed for the first time during recent surveys in February this year. A recovery strategy has been developed under the Saving Our Species program and the Office of Environment and Heritage has established three management sites where conservation activities need to take place: Dungowan Dam, Back River Nature Reserve and Tuggolo Creek Nature Reserve.

A detailed description of the Dungowan Starbush has been compiled by Warren and Gloria Sheather and can be accessed on the Australian Plants Society NSW website's Plant Data Base.



MISTLETOE

By Baida McIntyre



Baida addressing a recent meeting of the Tamworth Group

Some years ago I was quite astounded when my gardening guru neighbour showed me how to get rid of mistletoe...this involved getting rid of the "black spot" which remains in the centre of the branch when the mistletoe itself is removed and, from this, it will inevitably grow again, twice as big and twice as healthy. To remove the black spot the branch was cut back....and back....and back until what remained of a nicely shaped tree was a ruddy mess and in some cases the tree never recovered. So I and a botanist friend of mine decided that there had to be a way to give the trees a better deal.

To make a long story short an evil plan evolved where we trialled removing the mistletoe as closely as we could to the branch and then wrapping the area in alfoil and then using electrical tape to secure the alfoil....tried out again and again over some years, it does work really really well, the tape eventually disintegrating and by that stage there is no chance of the mistletoe making a comebackit has been smothered!

I have a lot of mistletoe here as I planted 1000s of trees years ago.....to attract the birds!....and the mistletoe birds think that it is Christmas specially when they see silver alfoil all over a tree!! these little birds also deposit the seed on the power line here and you can see a small green shoot as the mistletoe tries to take hold but after a while it gives up!...I get the box mistletoe *Amyema miquelii* and the casaurina mistletoe *Amyema cambagei*, both very pretty when in flower, but the latter I do not worry about.

If you are going to remove a patch make sure firstly that it is not used as a nesting site, the crested pigeons and the finches here love it for this reason, so I always leave any that has a nest, even a very old nest....there are a lot of insects and birds that rely on mistletoe and it is good to keep this in mind...good old Australia has 90 different mistletoes discovered to date.



Amyema cambagei, She-oak Mistletoe
Warrabah Conservation Reserve

GREG'S GARDEN

By Lee Esdaile

I took some photos in Greg's garden the other day: his grafted Sturt's Desert Pea planted on a mound must be 1.5 metres across! Both it and a *Ptilotus* came from Heathcote Native Nursery and all their plants have been successful.



Greg's new plantings

SCAEVOLA

By Beth Stokes

The Fan Flowers, *Scaevola* sp. provide ongoing colour in my garden. The name is derived from the Latin *scaevus* which means left-handed, referring to the one-sided appearance of the flowers. It makes a great ground cover and tolerates light frost but is short lived, so keep propagating new plants. There are 96 species world-wide, 70 are native to Australia.



LILLY PILLY

By Beth Stokes

Despite the challenging weather conditions, my lilly pilly is thriving, but I'm not sure what species it is. Is it *Syzygium australe* or *S.paniculatum*? Both are native to warm rainforests of eastern Australia. I'm tending to *S.australe*, otherwise known as the Resilience Lilly Pilly because it is resilient to many pests and diseases. *S.paniculatum* is uncommon in the wild and its Conservation Status in NSW is endangered, although it is considered a weed by some as it is widely cultivated and has become naturalised in some places. Whatever, the fruits can be harvested to make delicious lilly pilly jam, or jelly or sauce – yum!



SUMMER GARDEN VISITORS

By Beth Stokes

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater



The **Monarch or Wanderer Butterfly** is native to North America. It was introduced into Australia in the early 1870's.



The **Superb Fairy-wrens** love my garden! There are plenty of spiky, bushy shrubs for them to shelter in, which gives me an excuse to delay pruning. Here is the colourful male, and the jenny wren admiring her reflection in my car window (or maybe 'she' is a young 'he' that is yet to develop the blue colouration).



I'm not sure if I welcome this visitor! My moggy bought me this juvenile **Eastern Brown Snake**, retrieved from under the house. This is the second most venomous snake in the world, second only to our Inland Taipan. Hopefully the family has vacated and found somewhere else to take up residence.



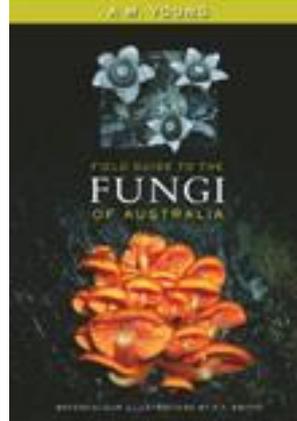
A Red-bellied Black Snake comes to drink from the water baths in the garden...always curious.



BOOK REVIEW

By Beth Stokes

A Field Guide to the Fungi of Australia written by A M Young and illustrated by Kay Smith
UNSW Press, 2009



'The discovery and documentation of Australia's flowering plants, conifers and related species is nearly at an end, and will probably be completed within a decade or so. On the other hand, taxonomic investigation of the fungal species has hardly begun and represents a completely new frontier with new discoveries likely for the next 100 years – but the challenge is not being taken up because so few people understand the need and they in turn do not control budget allocations.'

So writes Dr Tony Young in the Preface to his book – along with a heartfelt plea for politicians to appreciate the need for more funding in order to better understand this vitally important group.

Only the macrofungi are considered in this book – those which can be seen with the unaided eye. There is information on collecting, describing and preserving fungi. A pictorial key assists identification and species descriptions include information on toxicity, where known. Colourful and quirky terminology is used to describe species: the Jelly fungi, Leathery fungi, Coral fungi, Toothed fungi, Wrinkled Fungi, Stinkhorn fungi and Bird's Nest fungi being just some of the descriptors. Then there's the even more colourful common names – Poor Man's Beefsteak, Curry Punk, Pagoda Fungus, The Prince of England, Yellow Stainer, Death Cap, Lawyer's Wig...

This is an essential reference book for me. Let's just hope we get to see more of this fascinating group in our bushland, when it rains again!



One of the Stinkhorn Fungi *Colus pusillus*

FREE SEEDS

By Beth Stokes

If you collect seeds from your native plants and have surplus, consider donating them to Tamworth Library for free distribution...just one way to encourage more use of native plants in Tamworth gardens.



PLANT TABLE

By Martin O'Rourke

In spite of the dry weather we had good showings of plants for the February, March and April plant tables. April had 6 species that we haven't had before. I have summarised Bill's list of Australian Plants Suitable for Tamworth Regional Council Areas - 2004 into excel if anyone wants a copy. I have also listed the plants from the plant table lists from 2007 to 2010 and 2016 to the present. I still have to do 2011 to 2015, but I'm working on it.

February 2018

Botanical Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Acacia aneura</i>	Mulga	Fabaceae
<i>Brachychiton sp</i>		Malvaceae
<i>Eremophila maculata</i>	Spotted Emu Bush	Myoporaceae
<i>Eremophila sp</i>		Myoporaceae
<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i>	Illyarrie, Red Capped Gum	Myrtaceae
<i>Grevillea "Superb"</i>	Grevillea "Superb"	Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea dryandri</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea insignis</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea paradoxa</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea pimeleoides</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea thyrsoides</i> subsp. <i>Pustulata</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea treuriana</i>		Proteaceae
<i>Sarcostemma viminale</i> subsp. <i>Austral</i>	Caustic Bush	Apocynaceae

March 2018

Botanical Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Acacia aneura</i>	Mulga	Fabaceae
<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i>	Illyarrie, Red Capped Gum	Myrtaceae
<i>Grevillea "Superb"</i>	Grevillea "Superb"	Proteaceae
<i>Acacia pendula</i>	Weeping Myall	Fabaceae
<i>Acacia rigens</i>	needle wattle, needlebush acacia	Fabaceae
<i>Acacia salicina</i>	Cooba	Fabaceae
<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>	Lemon Scented Myrtle	Myrtaceae
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia	Proteaceae
<i>Correa 'Grandfather's Choice'</i>	Correa "Grandfathers Choice"	Rutaceae
<i>Eremophila divaricata</i>	Spreading Emu Bush	Myoporaceae
<i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i>		Myoporaceae
<i>Eucalyptus lansdowneana</i>	Red-Flowered mallee box	Myrtaceae

<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga	Rutaceae
<i>Jasminum suavisimum</i>	Sweet Jasminum	Oleaceae
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	formerly <i>Pittosporum phillyreoides</i>	Pittosporaceae

April 2018

Botanical Name	Common Name	Family
<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	Flinders Range Wattle	Fabaceae
<i>Correa alba</i>	White Correa	Rutaceae
<i>Correa alba</i>	prostrate form	Rutaceae
<i>Eremophila "Aurea"</i>		Myoporaceae
<i>Eremophila "Yanna Road"</i>		Myoporaceae
<i>Eucalyptus lansdowneana</i>	Red-Flowered mallee box	Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus sp</i>		Myrtaceae
<i>Eucalyptus viridus</i>	Green Mallee	Myrtaceae
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga	Rutaceae
<i>Grevillea "Superb"</i>	Grevillea "Superb"	Proteaceae
<i>Grevillea thelemanniana</i>	Prostrate Form	Proteaceae
<i>Halgania preissiana</i>		Ehretiaceae
<i>Jasminum suavisimum</i>	Sweet Jasminum	Oleaceae
<i>Macadamia tetraphylla x integrifolia</i>	Macadamia hybrid	Proteaceae
<i>Olearia sp</i>		Asteraceae
<i>Phebalium notii</i>	Pink phebalium "Kay Bryant"	Rutaceae
<i>Pittosporum rhombifolium</i>	White Holly	Pittosporaceae
<i>Swainsonia formosa</i>	Sturts Desert Pea	Fabaceae

