



*Eucalyptus blakelyi*

**TAMWORTH  
GROUP  
NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2016**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Martin O'Rourke 0409 036 668 <a href="mailto:blotchb@hotmail.com">blotchb@hotmail.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Matt Cosgrove 6765 2693 <a href="mailto:cosgrove72@bigpond.com">cosgrove72@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Kerrie Gray PO Box 1193 Tamworth 2340 6701 7509 <a href="mailto:Karrie.Gray@essentialenergy.co.au">Karrie.Gray@essentialenergy.co.au</a>
<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	Craig Pullman 0428 649 581 <a href="mailto:craig412@bigpond.com">craig412@bigpond.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	Lee Esdaile 6760 8525 <a href="mailto:pjltesdaile@gmail.com">pjltesdaile@gmail.com</a>
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	Doreen Goddard 6760 6216
<b>MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR</b>	Lee Esdaile 6760 8525 <a href="mailto:pjltesdaile@gmail.com">pjltesdaile@gmail.com</a>
<b>CATERING</b>	Prue Campese 6766 3423
<b>ACTIVITIES OFFICER</b>	Beth Stokes 0458 515 738 <a href="mailto:beth.stokes@bigpond.com">beth.stokes@bigpond.com</a>
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Greg Carr 6760 8331 <a href="mailto:carrg379@gmail.com">carrg379@gmail.com</a>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	Beth Stokes 0458 515 738 <a href="mailto:beth.stokes@bigpond.com">beth.stokes@bigpond.com</a>

**CONTENTS**

- President's Notes
- Threatened Species Report
- Plant Table
- Plants, plants & more plants
- *Typhonium*
- A Pair of *Melaleucas*
- Forthcoming Events

**Disclaimer**

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

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Martin O'Rourke

As I sit here at home on my day off wondering what to write in my first president's report for the newsletter, I look out on my garden and notice a White-plumed Honeyeater flitting around a *Grevillea*, that I grew from a cutting, obtained from the plant table at one of our meetings and I realise that is what our society is all about.



It is the growing and appreciating Australian native plants for what they are; the diversity that we have in great country of ours and how much they can enrich our lives.

Our big event for this year has been and gone, the APS NSW Get-Together that we held in Tamworth in August this year. By all accounts it was a resounding success. I would like to thank all of those involved in putting it together; your contribution big or small was greatly appreciated. Two people stood out who I would particularly like to thank, Beth for organising the speakers and putting together such a fantastic program and Lee who was our registration officer who collected the fees, issued receipts and dealt with some interesting characters.

The range of speakers that we had covered some good local topics and the local attractions and walks were well received. Inviting Len Waters, Kamilaroi Man and Elder, for his Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was a

fitting way to start the proceedings for the Get-Together.



The APS committee was suitably impressed with the whole event and we received some good feedback. I think that it helped to close the country-city divide and showed that we in country can put on a pretty good event.

With the recent rains that we have had the enlarged Chaffey Dam at nearly full 88 % we look like having enough water to keep us going for several years to come. So stay dry, enjoy your garden and the bush and remember why do we do all of this? To make the world a better place.



*Grevillea* in my garden – species or hybrid? photo Martin O'Rourke

## THREATENED SPECIES GARDEN REPORT

By Martin O'Rourke

At the recent APS NSW Get-Together a viewing of the threatened species plot was one of the activities. We had some interesting comments as to some of the plants that we have in our collection. "I didn't know that such and such plant was threatened". The answer to that is "the plants that we have are threatened to our area". Prior to the visit Craig Pullman did a bit of a tidy up which was much appreciated.

In June, Matt and I went up to the site to do an inspection and discovered that some of the trees had died. A week before the visit I went up to the site to remove some of the dead plants. Much to my surprise I discovered that some of the plants were not quite dead. The two *Eucalyptus olidai* Strawberry Gums that I thought were dead one had sprouted new growth from the bottom of the tree and the other had some leaves on a low branch that I had missed earlier. One of the *Eucalyptus cypellacarpra* syn *quinniorum* Monkey Gums had also sprouted new growth from the bottom of what appeared to be a dead tree. All of the *Cadellia pentastylis* Ooline appeared to be lost but on close inspection some of those also had new shoots sprouting from the base.

Matt informed me last week end that some of the Acacias are setting seed so he was going to try and put some stockings over the seed heads to keep the weevils out. Our aim is to collect the seeds and propagate more of the same and plant out larger numbers. We think that a good strategy will be to have large numbers of plants of a smaller number of species rather than few a specimens of a large number of species. We hope to apply the safety in numbers strategy.

## PLANT TABLE

By Martin O'Rourke



The plant table has been happening at all of the recent meetings. Below is a list of the plants as best can be determined from the labelled plants displayed. Thanks to Matt for identifying each plant and writing up the list each month.

This is not as comprehensive as what Bill would have done; consequently we are looking for a new person to take over the writing up of the plant table notes for future newsletters.

### June meeting

*Eucalyptus youngiana* (pink flower),  
*macrocarpa* (red flower), *lansdowneana*  
*Eremophila, glabra*, Rottnest, sp *manori?*,  
Coconut Ice, Lipstick, yellow, pink,  
*Correa* White Tips (obtained from Maria Hitchcock)  
*Hakea scoparia* – *petiolaris, obtusa*  
(Burrendong)  
*Acacia* Cootamundra, *millifolia, sp*  
*Myoporum sp*

*Grevillea* sp  
*Banksia* by 2 (Kerrie)  
*Pittosporum angustifolium* (formerly  
*Pittosporum phillyraeoides*)  
*Senna cartlmbiodes* ?  
*Rhagodia spinescens*  
*Hibiscus* sp yellow flower with dark purple  
almost black centre, possibly *Hibiscus*  
*diversifolius*  
*Olearia viscosa*

### July meeting

*Acacia merinthophora*, *tetragonophylla*,  
*iteaphylla*, *haviglandii*, *podalyriifolia*  
*Hakea venicosa*, *laurina*  
*Eremophila maculata* (3 colours), Yanna  
Road, *subfloccosa*  
*Correa* sp Grandfathers Choice  
*Hakea laurina*, Burrendong Beauty,  
*Thelionema grande*  
*Grevillea obtusifolia*, *longistyla*, *paniculata*,  
and many more cultivars  
*Leionema lamprophyllum*  
*Banksia* sp x 3  
*Senna artemisioides* (Cassia)  
*Thryptomene* sp  
*Eucalyptus lansdowneana*, *preissiana*

### August meeting

*Acacia decora*, *spectabilis*, *uncinata*,  
*floribunda*, *montana*, *cultriformis*,  
*spinosissima*, *continua*, *sinuate*, *acinacea*,  
*genistifolia*, *phlebophylla*, *enterocarpa*,  
*baileyana*, *lineata*, *vestita*, *cultriformis*,  
*Guichenotia macrantha*  
*Celmatis microphylla*  
*Banksia dentata*, sp,  
*Grevillea* Scarlet King, Canberra Gem,  
Red Sunset  
*Senna artemisioides* (Cassia)  
*Hakea bucculenta*, *francisiana*, *purpurea*,  
*multilineata*  
Mint Bush

*Chamelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton Wax  
Plant)  
*Eriostemon* sp  
*Hardenbergia* sp  
*Indigofera australis*  
*Guichenotia macrantha*  
*Eremophila nivea*, *glabra*, *maculata*  
*Leptospermum* sp  
*Eucalyptus preissiana*  
*Thryptomene* sp  
*Westringia* sp  
*Prostanthera* sp

## ***Plants, Plants & More Plants***

By Beth Stokes

### ***Pandorea pandorana* 'Ruby Belle'**



This vigorous climber was photographed in Prue's garden: hardy, fast-growing, evergreen, but be warned, it is a potential vandal, as seen in Lee's photo below where the arch is breaking down under the weight!



Lee has had great success with growing native plants in pots:

### ***Tetradthea thymifolia* Black-eyed Susan**



There are around 55 species of Tetradthea, many still un-named and not many in cultivation. Rounded shrub to 60cm diameter. Hardier than most. Cuttings please Lee!

### ***Guichenotia macrantha***



A stunning Western Australian with a tongue-twister name. It is one of only 17 species in the genus. All are small, woody shrubs with showy mauve, pink or rarely white flowers. Strikes readily from cuttings.

I guess we are all enjoying visits from many of our native birds as our gardens spring into spring.

Here is one of Lee's resident blue-faced honeyeater in *Grevillea* 'Scarlet King':



*Hardenbergia violacea* 'Sea of Purple'



Greg has used this ground cover *Hardenbergia* to great effect in his garden. I was delighted to find it available at Bunnings.

*Hakea bucculenta*, Red Pokers



A striking plant photographed at Greg's garden, and at Prue's. It grows to 4m high by 3m wide...the flowers hide away in the foliage but a bit of pruning could show them off to better effect.



## *Typhonium* sp. Wingen Maid

By John Hosking



There are many unnamed *Typhonium* species. The one from Wingen Maid is just one of them.

A taxonomist in Western Australia is in the process of naming the species - I have no idea what name he will use for it. I think that the person naming the species is Matthew Barrett. He and his brother Russell have been naming many species from the Kimberly Region in recent years. Matthew is naming many *Typhonium* species at the one time, most from the Kimberly region but also the one from Wingen Maid. I gather that the paper is supposed to be coming out some time this year.

There are likely to be other unnamed *Typhonium* species in NSW. *Typhonium* species are not easy to collect and retain the distinctive features hence the problems with taxonomy of this group. Use of digital images helps to show such features. When I collected *Typhonium* plants from Wingen Maid I thought they were *Typhonium brownii* but on looking at

plants of this species at NSW (the herbarium in Sydney) realised that the flowers were much larger than those of *Typhonium brownii*.

I showed the plants to Alistair Hay who worked on the family Araceae (*Typhonium* is a genus in this family) and he said that it was an unnamed species. He initially said that he would name the species but then ended up leaving research on plant taxonomy so it had to wait until Matthew Barrett came to the Australian Systematic Botany Society conference in Armidale (when plants in cultivation at Jeremy Bruhl's house were in flower) before the naming of the species looked likely to take place. Matthew was doing his PhD on *Typhonium* at the time of the Armidale meeting.

Currently the Wingen Maid *Typhonium* is only known from Wingen Maid Nature Reserve but a *Typhonium* has also been reported from the nearby Towarri National Park and is probably the same species.

**Editor's note:** I love the Dreamtime story of the Wingen Maid explaining the profile of a woman that can be seen in the rocks as you approach Wingen. A grieving Wonnarua woman whose husband was killed in battle was turned to stone by the sky god. She wept tears of fire which set the mountain alight, hence the origin of Burning Mountain nearby.

## A Pair of Melaleucas

By Warren Sheather

The southwest corner of Western Australia is home to an interesting range of melaleucas. We are growing *Melaleuca blairiifolia* and *M. micromera* in our Northern Tableland's garden. Both are short to medium shrubs.



*M. blairiifolia* has bright green, small, triangular leaves that are either alternate or spiralling around the branches. Flowers are greenish yellow held in globular heads. They may be terminal or on old wood. Flowering extends over a lengthy period that extends from winter to October. Woody fruits are bell-shaped and form a small spike. The flowers contrast with dark green foliage. Light pruning, after flowering, prevents plants from becoming straggly.

This interesting species would make an eye catching plant grown along the border of a native garden.

The species name means with leaves similar to those of the *Blaeria*, a group of heath-like plants from South Africa.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings. We prefer cuttings as the plants flower much sooner than those grown from seed. Also cuttings only take about one month to produce roots.



*Melaleuca micromera* is another species from the flora rich southwest of Western Australia. *M. micromera* grows to about one metre tall by a similar width in our garden. The minute leaves are pressed against the stems in threes. Yellow flowers are held in small globular clusters about one centimetre in diameter. Clusters are carried terminally. Spring is the main flowering period. At this time plants become a blaze of colour. Woody, club-shaped fruits are held in small clusters.

Tip prune after flowering to keep dense growth and plants blooming bounteously.

*M. micromera* could be said to have a crisis of botanical identity. When not in flower because of the scale-like leaves plants resemble a dwarf conifer. During the flowering period they resemble a wattle because of the shape and colour of the flowers. Specimens have survived and thrived for many years in our garden. In our garden this species causes plenty of comments from visitors during both flowering and non-flowering periods.

The species name means small parts and refers to the size of the leaves and flowers.

*M. micromera* is classified as a threatened species.

Propagate from seed or cuttings. Once again we prefer cutting propagation because plants flower sooner than seed grown plants. Cuttings produce roots in just over a month.



## Forthcoming Events

### TAMWORTH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2016

Meetings - 4th Saturday of every month except December and January usually at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden and occasionally in a member's garden

Date	Day	Activity	Time
<b>Oct 8</b>	<i>Sat</i>	<b>Visit to Quirindi Community Nursery</b>	9am-12.30pm
<b>Oct 22</b>	<i>Sat</i>	<b>Meeting</b> at Jan Freemantle's home: 56 Flagstaff Rd, North Tamworth. Bring morning tea and labelled plants for discussion	9.30am
<b>Oct-29</b>	<i>Sat</i>	<b>Visit to Woodsreef with John Hosking</b> Meet at Beth's place, 11 Stoddart St Manilla. Morning tea will be provided but bring a picnic lunch	9.30am
<b>Nov 26</b>	<i>Sat</i>	<b>Meeting</b> Angus Irwin from Neutrog will speak about biological fertilisers	9.30am
<b>Dec ?</b>		<b>Christmas lunch</b>	