Australian Plants Society NSW

2015 Annual Report

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Front cover photo: *Actinotus helianthi*, West Glenbrook
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Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
A Company Limited by Guarantee
ACB 002 680 408

Notice is hereby given that the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Plants Society NSW Limited will be held at the Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre, 123 Flora Street, Sutherland at 1.00 pm on 21 May 2016

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Declaration of proxies

Motion: To receive and allocate all proxies received.

Moved: Heather Miles Seconded:

3. Apologies

Motion: That all apologies received be accepted.

Moved: Heather Miles Seconded:

4. Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting held 23 May 2015

Motion: To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held at Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church, 909 Forest Road, Lugarno on 23 May 2015.

Moved: John Aitken Seconded:

5. Business arising from 2015 Annual General Meeting

6. President's Report

Motion: To receive and adopt the President's Report for the year 2015.

Moved: John Aitken Seconded:

7. Other Reports

Motion: To receive and adopt all other reports contained in the Annual Report including the Membership Report, the Conservation Officer's Report, the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Report, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW Report and all District Group Reports.

Moved: Alix Goodwin Seconded:

8. Financial Report

Motion: To receive and adopt the Directors' Report to members and financial report for the 14 months ended 31 December 2015.

Moved: Harry Loots Seconded:

9. Election of Life Members

The Board received one nomination for life membership and after careful consideration resolved to propose the nominee be put forward to the Annual General Meeting.

Motion: That Alexander Geoffrey Floyd be made a life member of the Australian Plants Society NSW.

Moved: Seconded:

10. Conservation Award

The Board received no nominations for the Conservation Award.

11. Any questions of the Board

12. Election of officers

In accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company, the positions of all directors except delegates from district groups will be declared vacant. An election for all such positions will be conducted by Returning Officer, Rhonda Daniels, as nominated by the Board.

By Order of the Board

Heather Miles
Secretary
18 April 2016

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
ACN 002 680 408
Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Held: Saturday 23 May 2015 at 1.05 pm at the Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church, 909 Forest Road, Lugarno, NSW.

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Attendance: 73 members present as per Attendance Book.

1. Welcome

2. Declaration of Proxies

Motion: To receive and allocate all proxies received.

Moved: John Aitken Seconded: Dick Turner Carried.

Meeting Opened: With the quorum being satisfied, the meeting was declared open at 1.10pm.

3. Apologies

Motion: That apologies received from Penny Sexton and Harry Brian be accepted.

Moved: John Aitken Seconded: Kyril Taylor Carried

4. Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting held 17 May 2014

Motion: To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia, Shortland on 17 May 2014.

Moved: John Aitken Seconded: Alix Goodwin Carried.

5. Business arising from 2014 Annual General Meeting

Nil.

6. Vice President's Report

The Vice President's Report was presented as contained in the meeting papers.

Motion: To receive and adopt the Vice President's Report for the year 2014.

Moved: Graeme Ingall Seconded: John Aitken Carried.

7. Other Reports

Motion: To receive and adopt all other reports contained in the Annual Report including the Membership Report, the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority, the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Report, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW Report and all District Group Reports.

Moved: Graeme Ingall Seconded: Harry Loots Carried.

8. Financial Reports from Furzer Crestani Audit Services

Motion**:** To receive and adopt the Director's Report to Members, Financial Report and the Auditor's Review for the 12 months ended 31 December 2014.

Moved: Graeme Ingall Seconded**:** Phil Keane Carried.

9. Election of Life Members

Motion: Under Clause 3 of the Articles of Association life membership is appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Where a husband and wife's nomination for life membership is submitted to the Annual General Meeting, the Annual General Meeting must approve the joint nomination to be known as one. Therefore it is proposed that the joint nomination of the Davies submitted, if approved, be considered as one.

Moved: Graeme Ingall Seconded: Kyril Taylor Carried.

Motion: That Robin and Ron Davies and Pat Pike be made life members of the Australian Plants Society NSW.

Moved: Harry Loots Seconded: Phil Keane Carried.

10. Conservation Award

Motion: That Bill Hardin be awarded the Conservation Award.

Moved: John Andrews Seconded: Alix Goodwin Carried.

11. Questions of the Board

There were no questions of the Board.

12. Election of Directors

Mark Henley was invited to be the Returning Officer. Mark Henley declared all positions vacant and the positions were filled:

Position	Name	District Group
President	John Aitken	Sutherland Group
Vice President	Alix Goodwin	Blue Mountains Group
Honorary Treasurer	Harry Loots	Northern Beaches Group
Membership Officer	Merle Thompson	Central West/Blue Mountains Group
Publicity Officer	Richard Street	Central Coast Group
Exhibition Coordinator	Graeme Ingall	Central Coast Group
Program Officer	John Andrews	Central Coast Group
Property Officer	Roger Starling	North Shore Group
Conservation Officer	Vacant	
Company Coordinator	Vacant	

As there was no further business, the Annual General Meeting was declared closed at approximately 1.30 pm.

John Aitken
Honorary Secretary
23 May 2015

President's Report — John Aitken

It was wonderful that the majority of elected Board positions were filled this year. In addition to the elected members, the Board also consists of the group delegates. The Board consisted of:

John Aitken	President and co-editor *Australian Plants*
Alix Goodwin	Vice President and Blue Mountains Group delegate
Harry Loots	Treasurer and Northern Beaches Group delegate
Merle Thompson	Membership Officer, Central West Group delegate, co-editor *Australian Plants*
Graeme Ingall	Exhibition Coordinator
Richard Street	Publicity Officer
John Andrews	Program Officer and Central Coast Group delegate
Roger Starling	Property Officer and North Shore Group delegate
Rhonda Daniels	Sutherland Group delegate
Mary Hedges	Menai Group delegate
Tony Maxwell	Parramatta and Hills Group delegate
Heather Miles	Hunter Valley Group delegate.

Dan Clarke was appointed Conservation Officer but was not a member of the Board due to work and family commitments.

For many years the Society has not had a Treasurer. This year, Harry Loots, took on this role. He has done a wonderful job getting on top of our finances and has made an important contribution to improving the Board's understanding of the Society's finances.

Again, in 2015, the Board continued to work hard to reduce costs and to promote the Society within the community. APS NSW continues to make a loss, which is due to:

- the cost of operating the Society's office at Wentworthville
- the cost of a paid part time employee
- declining revenue from membership as 60% of memberships are at the concession rate and declining interest rates on term deposits.

The Board has spent a great deal of time looking at ways to grow the Society's membership, reduce expenditure and to increase income. In order to grow, the Society must both attract additional younger members and retain the members we already have. As an organisation, we cannot rest on our laurels and say that all voluntary organisations are facing the same problems as our own. Members need to carefully consider the strengths and weaknesses of our Society so that we can make it relevant and attractive to the public.

The 2015 Presidents' Dinner was designed to assist the Board and district group Presidents to reflect on the challenges the Society is facing and how these can be addressed. Greg Smith, Performance Partners, spoke generously and honestly about his experiences as the former CEO of three membership-based not-for-profit organisations and the approach he used to reposition them to ensure their successful longevity.

Following the Presidents' Dinner, the Board decided to develop a strategic plan to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure our members are working toward common goals, agree on intended outcomes and results, and assess and adjust the Society's direction in response to a changing environment. To achieve a successful outcome, the Board has engaged Greg Smith to assist with the planning and facilitation of a workshop to be held on 28-29 May 2016. District groups will be invited to attend the workshop to contribute to the development of

an effective strategic plan that articulates not only where the Society is heading and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful. The plan will require a disciplined effort that will produce fundamental decisions and actions that will shape and guide what the Society is, who it serves, what it does, and why, with a focus on the future.

I would like to thank Alix Goodwin and Heather Miles for their tireless efforts in the preparation and organisation of our strategic planning including the workshop. We are most fortunate that we have two highly professional people such as Alix and Heather on the Board who bring a wealth of corporate knowledge and experience to the Society.

The APS NSW display at the Royal Agricultural Society Easter Show in 2015 was once again fabulous and was a great credit to Leonie Hogue, Marie O'Connor, Liz Aitken and Graeme Ingall who set up the display and prepared the wonderful floral arrangements. The stall and display is an excellent way to promote APS NSW and let the public know about the Society and the district groups and what they offer. I was impressed by the large number of people the display attracted and their enthusiasm for Australian native plants. A special thanks to those members who gave up their valuable time to staff the display and promote the Society and its district groups.

The quarterly gatherings and the annual get-together continue to be successful in drawing large numbers of members to these events. They provide a wonderful opportunity for members to not only hear excellent talks on growing Australian native plants but to socialise and renew friendships with members from other groups. I would like to congratulate and thank East Hills, Blue Mountains and North Shore Groups for their hospitality and willingness to host these events.

Congratulations to Pat Pike, North Shore Group, and Robin and Ron Davies, Macarthur Group, who were awarded Life Membership and Bill Hardin, Tamworth Group, who was awarded the Conservation Award at the 2015 AGM. Pat, Robin, Ron and Bill are truly worthy recipients of these awards which are a small token of the Society's appreciation of their enormous contributions to the objectives of APS NSW over many years. Sadly Bill Hardin died recently.

Congratulations also to Peter Olde, who was awarded the prestigious Australian Plants Award (Amateur Category) at the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Biennial Conference in Canberra in November 2015 for his outstanding contributions to our knowledge and understanding of Australian native plants, in particular grevilleas. Peter has been a past President of APS NSW and is a life member of the Society.

Those who knew Allan Woollett would have been saddened to hear of his death in June 2015. Allan was a committed and tireless worker for the Sutherland and Newcastle Groups and was Honorary Secretary of APS NSW for many years.

It was with regret that the Board accepted Rhonda Daniels' resignation as a director due to her work commitments. Rhonda was the delegate for Sutherland Group and was the Chair of the Growth and Promotions Committee for a number of years. She was a tireless worker, who made valuable contributions to the organisation of the Society during her time on the Board. We will miss her valuable insights and her many skills which she generously shared with us. The Board wishes Rhonda every success in her new business venture.

I would like to thank the Board members for their commitment and hard work during the year in attending to the business of the Society. It has been a great privilege to be part of such a talented team of people who are so committed to the growth and promotion of the Society.

I would also like to thank David Crawford, editor of *Native Plants for NSW,* for the fantastic job he is doing with the journal. David has maintained a very high standard which has been reflected by the wonderful quality and presentation of the content of each quarterly issue.

I would also like to thank our office manager Sharlene Cormack for her commitment and the professional way in which she has managed the administration and financial accounts of the Society.

OTHER REPORTS

Membership — Merle Thompson

Membership continues to be relatively stable. The table below, with membership as at 31 December 2015 and comparative figures from the 2014 annual report, shows membership has decreased by 40 memberships. These figures were based on the database strictly at 31 December. Payments received by groups but not forwarded are not reflected in these figures.

A major factor affecting membership is non-renewals. At 31 December 2015 there were still 80 memberships which were due on 30 September 2015. There were 40 non-renewals in the June 2015 quarter and 51 in the March 2015 quarter. Payments made after 31 December 2015 would decrease non-renewals.

A new approach to reminders is under consideration and may be important in stemming the losses.

Table 1: Membership of Australian Plants Society NSW, 31 December 2015

Membership Type	*No. of memberships 2015*	*No. of individuals 2015*	*No. of memberships 2014*	*No. of individuals 2014*
Individual Ordinary	272	272	290	290
Joint Ordinary	107	214	120	240
Individual Concession	367	367	361	361
Joint Concession	229	458	241	482
Overseas	2	2	5	5
Life memberships	28	39	29	39
Total	*1,005*	*1,352*	*1,045*	*1,417*

Unfortunately we lose a small number of members each year from death. During 2015 we lost two valued life members, John Wrigley and Harry Brian, as well as former Secretary, Allan Woollett.

When members do advise of the reason for their resignation comments received often refer to ageing, illness, not being able to participate in activities any longer and downsizing reducing opportunities for gardening and/or journal storage.

There were 111 new memberships during 2015, a decrease compared to 148 in 2014 which was the highest number of new memberships for some years, but slightly higher than the two previous years in each of which there were 103 new memberships.

There have been around 12 people re-joining after a considerable time period and a similar number of other members re-joining after one or two years lapsed.

Approximately 90% of members are affiliated with a district group.

It is very pleasing that some members add a donation to the Society to their membership payment, a number of whom are not involved in a district group or participants in other activities. The total received during the year was $584 in amounts ranging from $5 to $100.

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) — Rhonda Daniels

The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) or ANPSA is an administrative body which does not have individual members. Its members are the societies for native plants in each state. ANPSA is funded by an annual levy of $1.60 per membership in each state society.

The ANPSA biennial conference in Canberra on 15-20 November 2015, hosted by Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region, was successful, with attendees from member states across Australia. APS NSW was pleased to nominate Peter Olde in the Amateur category for the national Australian Plants Award for 2015 and Peter received his award at the ANPSA conference. The next ANPSA biennial conference will be hosted by Australian Plants Society Tasmania in January 2018.

ANPSA business is conducted by teleconferences twice a year, by email and at the ANPSA annual general meeting, biennial meeting and Council meeting held at the ANPSA biennial conference in Canberra. On 15 November 2015, the ANPSA secretariat passed from Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland to Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region for the next two years.

Progress on many strategic issues in 2015, as in 2014, has been limited by the primary commitment of voluntary office bearers to their own state organisation, the infrequency of teleconferences and limited budget to pay for services. In 2015, issues discussed by ANPSA included concerns over the operation of the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority and member society endorsement of products.

The ANPSA website www.anpsa.org.au has much information about Australian native plants including Study Group newsletters. With APS NSW member Brian Walters as web manager since 1995, the ANPSA website celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015 – a great achievement.

Conservation Officer — Daniel Clarke

Several conservation objectives were targeted for APS NSW in 2015.

I signed APS NSW up as a volunteer group for the NSW Save Our Species Program – an initiative which aims to protect a wide range of threatened flora and fauna species in NSW for the next 100 years. The objective was to do an updated and detailed monitoring survey of *Prostanthera densa* (Villous Mint Bush) in the Royal National Park. A group of APS NSW volunteers conducted a preliminary investigation and survey in June 2015. Twenty seven plants were recorded in detail in a patch of vegetation in the Marley region where they had not been previously documented. In

November 2015, I located another disjunct group of plants which requires further investigation in 2016. I have produced a formal report on the monitoring study with the assistance of APS NSW members and sent it to the NSW Environmental Trust (project managers) with links also provided on the and APS NSW and Sutherland Group websites.

In 2015, I made several submissions on behalf of APS NSW on issues that members brought to my attention. These included:

1. Letter to the Area Manager of the Royal National Park requesting that risks of injury to bushwalkers from cyclists in the Royal National Park requires review and management strategies (4 May 2015).
2. On behalf of Spring Gully Protection Group (Bundeena) – Letter to NSW Minister of Environment requesting that approval be declined for the proposed widening of a road to enable a development adjoining the Royal National Park (dated 27 January 2016). I, along with other Sutherland Group members, attended a Section 34 Land and Environment Court conference on the Spring Gully lands in November 2015, where I addressed the court directly, outlining ecological concerns associated with the development and the conservation values of the land.
3. On behalf of Spring Gully Protection Group – two submissions (dated 4 May 2015) to the Minister of Environment and General Manager of Sutherland Council requesting that a 8.5 hectare patch of land adjoining the Royal National Park be given to the Royal National Park Estate. The land in question was granted to the Royal National Park Estate later in 2015.

Currently, my efforts have been focused on:

- Keeping up to date with the development of the new NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act*. I have drafted a submission with recommendations for the content of the new legislation. However, this has been held back pending the release of the draft legislation in 2016.
- Assisting Alix Goodwin in the formation of an APS NSW Conservation Committee, which will support and enhance our conservation work.
- Re-visiting older conservation issues which I previously provided submissions on such as the development at West Menai, in addition to providing an update on the proposed new Plan of Management for the Royal National Park Estate.
- Scheduling a second monitoring survey for *Prostanthera densa*.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW — Margery Street

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) is the state's peak environmental non-government organisation representing 150 community groups including APS NSW. The Annual Conference consolidates member groups' views on policy and on action to be taken, usually by means of the Executive communicating with politicians. Prior to the Annual Conference, member groups analyse particularly pressing environmental issues and submit written background, wording of motions, and desirable actions, thus allowing delegates to digest the issues before speedily passing, amending or deferring the motions at the Annual Conference.

The Minutes and Professor Ian Lowe's climate change presentation are on the NCC website at www.nature.org.au. The Business Papers, including fascinating background to the issues, are not on the web but are held at the APS NSW office. Sharlene Cormack has offered to make them available if you are interested: please email the office.

Day One

Open to the public, Day One included remarks by the Minister for the Environment and the Greens spokesperson.

A Biodiversity Legislation Review Workshop revealed that the NSW Review Panel recommends repealing the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and parts of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*; and broader and deeper application of offsetting through mechanisms such as biodiversity certification and BioBanking. Although the Panel acknowledges there may be biodiversity loss at site scale, it hopes that through increasing public investment in biodiversity conservation on private land, off-site biodiversity offsetting, supporting biodiversity corridors, adequate resourcing of the Saving Our Species program, and community goodwill and effort, biodiversity will be conserved at a bioregional and state scale while facilitating sustainable development. See http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/review.htm

Day Two
Restricted to delegates, Day Two included a keynote speaker and voting on previously submitted motions. Geoff Cousins, President, Australian Conservation Foundation, believes that it is effective to work with large companies, partly because they own the assets.

Background is available in the Business Papers; however the Conference passed motions opposing Western Sydney Airport, unsustainable wood supply quotas in the Pilliga Forests, development of stand-alone power plants that source wood from native forests, sports fields in Berowra Valley National Park, and proposed development on former Scout land at Spring Gully, Bundeena.

The Conference passed motions supporting a comprehensive public offsets register, accreditation for environmental consultants, inclusion of Cumberland Conservation Corridor in the District Plan for Western Sydney, protecting native forest carbon storage, and prompt reservation of the entire Gardens of Stone Stage Two in a State Conservation Area.

Communication of agreed and recommended actions on pressing environmental issues to state government decision-makers by the peak body of NSW environment groups is invaluable to NSW conservation interests. An increased role for APS NSW in the Nature Conservation Council could use our members' expertise and passion for growing Australian plants.

DISTRICT GROUP REPORTS

Armidale and District — Phil Rose

This has been another busy year for our group. Topics at meetings have ranged from wetlands, inland habitats and species, remote sensing, frost protection, garden design, plant evolution and collection for herbaria. Meetings have been well attended. The business meeting held immediately before the forum seems to work well, facilitated by our new venue at ASCA House. There is a constant dilemma as to when to meet, hold working bees and go on field trips, not to mention the meeting format. All we can do is to be flexible and receptive to new ideas. Constructive criticism is always welcome.

Five members opened their gardens for our group visits including the solstice gathering and Christmas lunch. The St Peters Open Gardens was an outstanding success and a great opportunity for the public to see the versatility of native plants. All events were well attended and the generosity of all owners is very much appreciated. It is interesting to see different approaches and visions to

growing native plants in our difficult environment. This year Armidale weather station recorded 92 frosts, some of which fell to -7° C and some in more exposed areas were far worse than that.

For the more adventurous members, outings included Oxley Wild Rivers, Gibraltar Range and Girraween National Parks and Battery Hill near Urbenville, to discover the variety of flora in our district.

Members have again been busy promoting native flora and our Society. A stall at the Armidale markets sells quality plants at reasonable prices, displays flowers, gives away newsletters and answers a myriad of questions. Some members volunteer at the herbarium at the University of New England including contributing to research for papers and the collection. Regular working bees maintain a native plant section at the Armidale Arboretum to demonstrate what can be grown locally; it is good to hear compliments from the locals as they walk through while we are working. An attempt to treat the day as more of an outing without a need to be involved in any work has not immediately succeeded. Being the first Saturday of each month it was hoped that those who could not attend the Tuesday night meetings might have preferred the alternative time. We will keep trying. Others members write articles for newspapers, host outside groups to their garden, host study groups or work with the nursery trade by bringing new species into cultivation.

One of the great strengths in our group is the co-operation and willingness of members to assist and work together. Where there is a gap someone seems to appear without fuss to make it work. To everyone who helps in any way, your contribution is valued and appreciated.

Blue Mountains — Dick Turner

We had a big year with the 14-month reporting year; after all, this time span includes two Christmas barbecues. The 2015 barbecue in particular, had a good attendance of members, most of whom were Wednesday afternoon volunteers or Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve nursery volunteers.

During the year we had a talk and a demonstration in the information centre at the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve.

Four walks held by the group were mostly well attended, although October had a burst of unseasonally hot weather. At Mt Wilson, in November, we saw 55 different species in flower out of an estimated 100 species sighted – 55% of the bush in flower!

For the last four years the group has travelled to another region with different botany. After three trips to Mt Perisher in the Snowy Mountains, we headed north to Port Macquarie. Here we were able to admire sub-tropical rainforest, coastal salt swamp, tall sclerophyll forest and coastal heath.

Another highlight was hosting the annual get-together in July 2015. Over 90 people attended which is not as many as other meetings, possibly because we are located close to Sydney, and have fewer differences from the Sydney flora. The annual get-together was combined with our group's annual seminar which this year had two inspiring lectures about the Blue Mountains National Park and its flora.

We arranged a Clean-up Australia Day in March to remove rubbish from the areas outside the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve boundary. We also had a display tent with tubed seedlings at Glenbrook Day in November. Some members have travelled to functions organised by other groups.

Our annual wildflower show was not as profitable this year, probably because of the timing and location of our advertisement in the local newspaper. The success was the displays from our participating neighbours, Glenbrook Historical Society, Glenbrook Arts and Crafts, and the Blue Mountains Woodturners Club.

On Wednesdays, a loyal group of members sort out tubes for sale, raise new seedlings and cuttings and patrol the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve for weeds. For three years there has been a member-led workshop on identifying native flora. A roster of members to attend the nursery each weekend continues to be impressive, with few mishaps.

Membership is reasonably stable, although there is room for new members. Our finances are even more solid than last year. A program has been prepared for 2016 with our usual mix of Saturday and Sunday meetings walks and talks.

Central Coast — Richard Street

This year was a much quieter year than 2014, thankfully, after the excitement and hard work of the annual get-together, but nonetheless still a very busy year.

Highlights in 2015 included two bus trips that were very well received. Thanks to Andrew Melville, Jane Borton and Graeme Ingall for all the hard work required to get these organised.

Speakers included Angus Stewart, Dot Camp, Steve Goodwin, Tony Wells and even me!

Walks included Mt Elliot, Redhead, Van Dahls, Chain Valley Bay, Pearl Beach Arboretum and Palm Grove.

Garden visits included Audrey Taggart, Gini and Rens Stigter, Barbara and Andrew Melville, and Graeme and Margaret Ingall.

Easter Show entries were once again whipped up by Olga Blacha and Jonathon Steeds – maybe next year will be the year of the blue ribbons!

I must say a special thank you to our incredibly hardworking Secretary Liz Hoese. She has managed to create sensible minutes and action lists from some complex and multi-threaded meetings, as well as keeping track of correspondence and the events calendar. We wish you well in the coming year and look forward to your continued involvement.

Graeme Ingall has once again worked tremendously hard to cover the finance requirements. As a member of the APS NSW Board, it has become very clear to me that Graeme is setting the standard in group financial reporting.

The Deans have once again kept track of our members with accuracy and good humour. We have gained a few new members, retained most and lost more than we gained. At 30 October 2015, we had 99 individual members. Hopefully Diana Deane has found a replacement in these elections after having carried the membership torch for so long.

Elsie Bartlett has again kept our newsletter at the highest standard. The answer to almost any question posed is, it is in the newsletter.

Hearty thanks to our bushwalk leaders and organisers, the walks have been fabulous. I enjoy them greatly and I don't think I am the only one learning new things with every trip; I just have more to learn than most.

Barbara Melville our publicity officer is doing a magnificent job in getting the message out there, and as a result we have continued to see new people coming through the doors.

We also bid farewell to our program officer, Jonathon Steeds who faces a very challenging year building a new nursery. We thank him for a flow of interesting and relevant speakers. Also thanks to our specimen table commentators for their ongoing unscripted and unrehearsed scholarship.

Special thanks to those who have provided plants for the raffles, plants for the specimen table and food for the suppers. Thanks of course to our catering officer Karen Street.

The torch passed to me by my predecessor, John Andrews, was that of revitalisation and growing membership. This is a struggle for most organisations these days. Specialist knowledge can be gained at the push of a button and communities are as likely to be virtual and online as real and face-to-face. We all need to be alert to new ideas and opportunities to reach out to potential new members and to be alert to offerings that might appeal to new demographics. With the annual get-together now out of the way I hope we can devote some more effort to the task of growth and revitalisation.

The need for revitalisation and growth remains a key focus. In 2016 APS NSW is planning to devote considerable resources to a strategic planning exercise aimed at increasing relevance and increasing membership and revenue flows. I commend the process to you all as necessary for the medium to long term survival and prosperity of an organisation dear to us all.

Central West — Gillian Baldwin

The group's committee continued to meet monthly in the Bathurst City Community Club on the second Thursday of every month during 2015. At these meetings we planned our monthly excursions and events, and our delegate Merle Thompson brought us up to date with the important happenings at the APS NSW Board.

In 2015 much time was spent planning our plant display at the Bathurst City Community Club held on 16 and 17 October. This event was part of Bathurst's bicentennial celebrations. Two hundred years ago, on 7 May 1815, Bathurst became the first inland city in Australia to be proclaimed a town. I would like to thank all those who attended these planning meetings and contributed to the outstanding display.

Unfortunately I was not always able to be present at outings in 2015 because of two prolonged trips overseas where my status as a grandmother demanded I be available for baby-sitting and child-minding. As the same is to happen in 2016 I will not be putting myself forward as president for next year.

In 2015, there were fewer local monthly events than in previous years. A couple of planned events had to be cancelled for different reasons. However it was great to have an early summer event which was organised at the 2014 AGM. It was a tag-along tour to the Newnes Plateau, Mt Wilson and the Mt Tomah in February 2015. The rarely flowering pink flannel flowers, *Actinotus forsythii*, on the Newnes Plateau were the standout feature commented on by those who attended. In March we had a working bee at the Bathurst City Community Club native garden. There was a guided walk through

the Peel Common by Dr Anne Kerle in September. Some members were able to attend the APS NSW AGM and quarterly gathering and some were also able to attend the annual get-together. Eva and Gerd Wolf hosted the group in November at their amazing underground house with its native roof garden. ANPSA held its annual conference and seminar in Canberra, also in November, and some in the group were able to attend it. Our newsletters are a great way for those who cannot go to events, outings and seminars, to find out what happened. Thank you, Laney Cooper, for putting the newsletters together and thank you, also, to those who submitted articles.

The October plant display was a great success. Prior to the display weekend we held another working bee in the native garden when a labelling plaque was attached to one of the surrounding rocks. Contributing greatly to the success of the display was the flyer we used for advertising, which was designed by Lyn Burgett's daughter, Laura. Not only was the flyer put up in storefronts all over Bathurst, but was also used by the *Western Advocate*, and the radio stations 2BS and 2MCE to advertise the exhibition. Fiona Johnson designed the banner, which again was exceptionally good and can be used at future events. There was an outstanding bookmark designed by Merle Thompson featuring our *Indigofera australis* logo. It was given to all who bought raffle tickets for the donated Colin Fenn engraved *Banksia* slate. Thank you Colin for the slate plaque which was won by our newsletter editor, Laney Cooper, after her raffle ticket was drawn by Bathurst councillor, Monica Morse. Monica was so impressed by the great display of native plants put together by the group that she asked for a selection of the plants to put on Bathurst Council's front counter. One outcome of the plant display was a booklet outlining native plants from a historical perspective by Merle Thompson. Much research was involved in compiling this booklet, which is to go on the *Greening Bathurst* website. Many new APS members were another positive result of the plant display.

Coffs Harbour — Morrie Duggan

The Coffs Harbour Group has had another successful year. We have maintained a full range of activities including field trips, garden visits and day and night meetings. Average attendance has been 15 at outings and night-time meetings and 14 at daytime events. At a time when many small community groups are struggling to survive, especially in regional areas, we have even managed a small increase in membership.

Field trips and garden visits

January	Bongil Bongil National Park, a relatively new national park south of Coffs Harbour that completes a forested corridor from the coast to Dorrigo National Park.
March	Cathedral Rocks National Park consists of sub-alpine open forest and woodland over granite near Ebor on the New England Tableland.
May	Rosewood Creek Walk, an area of warm temperate rainforest on the west side of Dorrigo National Park.
July	Red Rock. The Red Rock heath north of Woolgoolga is an area of low coastal heathland.
August	Gwyn and Geoff Clarke's garden, Kungala. A visit to this beautiful bushland to look at regrowth since being impacted by fire just one year earlier.
September	Bundagaree Rainforest walk, an area of littoral rainforest behind the dunes near Repton, south of Coffs Harbour.

Evening meetings

February — AGM. Wayne Jeffrey on rainforest plants for the average backyard. Wayne's talk focused on the huge variety of smaller rainforest plants which can be grown in the average backyard.

April — Barry Kemp on the world of fungi. Though not actually plants, the fungi are closely related and Barry's talk focused on the many species that live on rotting vegetation.

June — Members' talks on my plant passion. Rohan McCabe spoke about one of his favourite plants, *Eleocarpus obovatus*. Fiona Duggan spoke on her passion for photographing and documenting fungi on her property at Braunstone.

August — Geoff Clarke on fire. Geoff described the ordeal of the fire and how their garden has responded in the year since.

October — Members' meeting. This was an extended "show and tell" and plant identification session, with contributions and discussion from those present.

Daytime meetings and outings

March — Eve Colley on the sex life of orchids. Eve presented an account of the reproductive methods of native orchids.

May — Garden nursery native plant survey. A visit to a local retail nursery to survey the range of native plants being offered for sale for winter planting.

July — Open forum, growing plants in pots. A roundtable discussion on growing natives in pots based around examples brought in by members.

September — Garden nursery native plant survey. A follow-up to the May visit to survey the range of native plants on sale for spring planting.

November — Gwyn Clarke on bells for Christmas. Gwyn's talk featured some of the many bell-shaped flowers of the Australian flora including *Correa*, *Epacris*, *Billardiera* and many others.

Challenges

Like all small voluntary organisations, Coffs Harbour Group faces the usual challenges of maintaining membership and especially finding ways to attract more young members. We also have a small group in the process of updating and producing a new edition of the group's publication *Growing Native Plants on the North Coast of New South Wales* and we will continue fundraising activities to enable publication when the revision is complete. However, it must be emphasised that projects such as this, and even simple survival of a relatively small district group, is made especially challenging by the requirement to share the income from membership fees with the state office. Without the constant and tireless fundraising efforts of committee and other local members, such activities would be impossible and it is even highly likely that the group would cease to exist.

As retiring President, I would like to acknowledge and commend the splendid work of all committee members through the year. Thank you also to all the meeting speakers and field trip leaders, and to garden visit hosts for their hospitality.

East Hills — Graham Walters

After over 30 years meeting in the library of South Peakhurst Public School, February 2015 saw East Hills Group in our new venue at Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church to commence the year with our planning meeting. Kathy Manning, our newsletter editor for 2014, was unavailable for re-election and Jan Douglas took this quite demanding position. The rest of the committee was as for 2014 and the other positions also as for the previous year. Fourteen members was the average attendance at meetings, down about three on last year with 43 visitors spread over the year.

At the March meeting, Karlo Taliana gave a very well illustrated talk on the five days he spent in WA

covering a considerable area of that state.

In April, Marion Anstis accompanied by Wendy Grimm from North Shore Group presented an interesting talk on frogs of the Sydney area. Marion has a great facility in mimicking the calls of these fascinating creatures which made the evening quite entertaining.

Phil Trickett, ably assisted by Catriona Bate, presented the May meeting with an interesting demonstration of his grafting technique.

On Saturday 23 May, East Hills Group hosted the APS NSW AGM. Prior to the afternoon's event a morning bush walk was organised in Oatley Park and led by Alan Fairley assisted by Liz Cameron. This attracted about 40 participants and for many their first visit to this area. Refreshments were provided by East Hills Group members, as was the afternoon tea. The AGM was held in the Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church Hall and attracted about 80 people. Following this we had two speakers on fertilisers for Australian native plants; Jeremy Smith as a commercial grower of Australian natives for cut flowers and Vince Davy from the fertiliser company, Neutrog. This was a very successful day from everyone's point of view and much of its success can be attributed to our East Hills Group members who put their best foot forward to make it so.

June was our biennial trivia night, again very capably contrived and presented by Karlo Taliana assisted by his wife Lisa; a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Attendance was 16 East Hills Group members with representatives from Menai, Sutherland and Macarthur Groups plus three non-APS members; a total of 19 visitors.

In July, we had Peter Olde speaking to us on his specialty, grevilleas. Peter concentrated mainly on our local species which have been left in the dark somewhat with the advent of so many hybrids.

In August, we had presentations from several of our East Hills Group members: Helen Wright spoke on her recent walk in Central Australia, Kyrill Taylor on ferns, Graham Walters brought in Black Bean pods, Karlo Taliana played a disc produced by Maria Hitchcock on rare and less well known plants, and David Crawford gave us an insight into the structure of *Grevillea* flowers.

Susan Lewis uses Australian native plants and exotic plants in dried form as a feature in jewellery, bookmarks and cards. The plants are dried using a microwave oven and we experienced an interesting evening in September as she demonstrated her art.

The visit to Sylvan Grove on Wednesday 9 September was well attended attracting many visitors from neighbouring groups, encouraging East Hills Group to continue to organise this event.

In October, Karl Schurr talked about his recent exploits in Italy following old pilgrim pathways taking him through parts of Tuscany and Umbria with photos of Spoletto, Sienna and Assisi.

In November, Graham Fry presented us with the Eden Project in Cornwall, United Kingdom. This is an educational and social project which includes two huge self-contained biomes constructed in a disused clay pit.

East Hills Group had their usual stall at the East Hills Girls Technical High School in September. Plant sales were not brisk and Graham Fry and Liz Cameron sold some of the leftovers at the Oatley Festival in October.

Propagation days were organised for October and November at Menai Group's site at Illawong Fire

Station. This setup is very satisfactory and we thank Menai Group, and Lloyd Hedges in particular, for making it available.

We decided to make our December meeting a little different from previous years so we put on a bar-be-cue and invited adjacent groups to join us. A total of 30 enjoyed a happy evening where, after the meal, most participated in a game of crazy whist followed by a plant table, drawing of lucky door prizes and plant raffle, then finishing with supper.

We had two resignations from the group – one due to different working hours and the other because of more travelling here and overseas.

We had representatives at the quarterly gathering in March and the annual get-together in July.

Hawkesbury — Arthur Rutter

Not available at time of publication.

Hunter Valley — Michael Belcher

2015 was a fairly quiet year in many ways. Membership continued on a fairly even, if low, level and the few new, or returning, members made up for a number who did not renew their membership. Many members are finding the task of being active members at odds with the demands of family as their role as grandparents widens. We, like so many other groups, are at a loss as to what we can do to attract more members and to widen interest in native gardens but will try and take a more active part in the local community to try and stimulate membership.

The move to winter meetings at members' houses combined with garden visits has proven to be a winner again. Some members who cannot make it to our regular Wednesday night meetings welcome the opportunity to attend the Sunday meetings and to look at gardens. The highlight this year was the visit (on a bitter, cold, wet and windy day) to APS NSW Secretary Heather Miles' garden at Stanhope which was the subject of an article in the October 2015 edition of *Native Plants for New South Wales*.

We had a number of very interesting speakers investigating areas such as African Olive and Hexham Wetlands Rehabilitation interspersed with accounts of members' wide ranging excursions into floral edens. The smallness of our group makes it very difficult to sell to potential speakers, especially those of note who are not local. Combining with other groups and opening the talk to the wider community are being looked at for 2016.

Our excursions this year were very badly affected by the weather. Many planned excursions had to be either cancelled or truncated because of the weather at the very last moment. Most required co-operation with private landholders which made it very difficult to reorganise them at short notice.

The April storms cut a swath through many members' gardens although most members' houses, sheds and nurseries survived (some had very narrow escapes from falling trees). There was a lot of hard work involved in getting them back to "normal" but the rain and the work has paid dividends with flowers in profusion and growth beyond expectations in spring. It also provided us with immense amounts of woodchip to cover gardens.

It's a pity that success in gardens does not translate widely into the preservation of our bush. Much attention has been focused on the destruction of bushland in Sydney as a result of the rash decision known as the 10/50 vegetation clearing ruling after the 2013 bushfires, but it has also been used extensively in our region to destroy much bushland. We can ill afford this. We are rapidly growing as an urban area and new developments are being given *carte blanche* to not only clear the area to be developed but the buffer zone surrounding the development. If it's not storms it's fire.

Illawarra

Not available at time of publication.

Macarthur

Robin Davies

Macarthur area was blessed with good rain to start the year, lovely for our gardens and all things green and growing.

In February, we kicked off with "show and tell" and spoke about the excellent 2014 quarterly meeting hosted by the new Hawkesbury Group at Windsor, a Macquarie town, and also "revisited" the Australian Plants Society Victoria seminar at Bendigo and how our kurrajongs and other brachychitons were thriving.

In March, we enjoyed a film about dingoes as top predators and their role in our natural environment; thought provoking indeed.

In April, Tony Sexton shared his success and tips in creating and maintaining his lovely "Black Stump" native garden. He also had some slides to show "from little beginnings bigger things grow". This certainly got us all enthused for their Open Garden Day in May. The actual day was a bit damp, but the garden lovely and we had a good roll up and shared lots of country fare. As a volunteer guide, I was chuffed to share a "walk and talk" about bush tucker at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan with some members from the Southern Highlands Group on the same weekend. We did lots of tasting, smelling and sharing of recipes too.

In April, three teams, one from each of our Botanic Gardens (Royal, Australian and Blue Mountains), completed their 150 kilometre walks to save several threatened plant species. Finishing at Mount Annan, they raised $50,000. Their technical researcher, Kate Cateloni, entertained us with her team's adventure; walking from the South Coast, sleeping out, leeches, ticks etc. What dedication; bless 'em!

May was a very busy month. East Hills Group hosted the APS NSW AGM. Lots of super walks along the Georges River with guides Dick Turner and Alan Fairley. Then back to the hall for lunch and our meeting, an interesting speaker from Neutrog fertilisers, and to cap off a top day, Ron and I were awarded life membership of APS NSW. What a lovely surprise and privilege. Our thanks to all.

In June and July are our "daytime dos" being winter. We visited Val Finch's garden and had a lovely lunch overlooking the Kirkham countryside. We also attended an afternoon talk hosted by the Southern Highlands Group in Moss Vale on flying foxes, fascinating and reinforcing the links between plants and other creatures. These often maligned little fellows are a "keystone" species and essential pollinators in rainforests and for many eucalypts too. We did brave the June evening and a group went along to East Hills Group famous trivia night.

In July, Blue Mountains Group were hosts to a lovely weekend in the mountains for the annual get-together. A lovely venue and some interesting speakers; the plants and geology of the mountains are very unique, as well as beautiful. There were several lovely walks on both days and a garden visit. I especially love the Darwin walk at Wentworth Falls, as do so many tourists. Here in Macarthur we had an outing too, visiting the University of Sydney campus at Cobbitty. We met for a sunny morning tea and then checked out their native plantings. We loved the flourishing corridor of flame trees.

In spring, another visit to Sylvan Grove with East Hills Group. Oh those lovely dendrobiums, walks, talks and lunch under the watchful eye of a currawong.

In October, some lucky Macarthurites travelled to Canberra for another busy and eventful ANPSA biennial conference.

Our last speaker for the year was Chris Lloyd. Passionate, funny and entertaining, Chris spoke about powerful owls, mainly along the Georges River and environs. What amazing survivors! We loved his talk and slide show. Subsequently two of us went along to one of his workshops to investigate and document their regurgitated "pellets". Top predators they are rare, but I wish they did not dine on sugar gliders.

This year we had our Christmas party at the Picton Botanic Gardens – top spot, clean, green, quiet and great facilities. We had a lovely gathering and lots of good food.

So another successful year for our small group of loyal members, including two new members. The same small committee and I are looking forward to lots of shared APS activities in 2016.

Menai

Jason Cockayne

The committee and members of Menai Wildflower Group experienced a rich and diverse calendar of events for 2015.

Whilst entertaining its members with educational speakers throughout the year, there has been an ongoing sense of connection amongst fellow APS groups, particularly East Hills, Sutherland and Macarthur Groups.

Menai Wildflower Group has managed to strengthen ties amongst neighbouring groups by sharing the propagation area and participating in garden visits within the compound of the Illawong Rural Fire Station. Activities have included sowing seeds, cuttings and potting on demonstrations as well as native orchid growing with our local members and visitors. Plants propagated are used locally for national tree day and school groups, and shared amongst members expanding each person's knowledge of native plant species. The compound nursery area has expanded to accommodate growing member interest – this has been achieved through various working bees and successful grant funding opportunities to acquire nursery equipment and education materials.

The propagation meets and our other activities are advertised through the Menai Wildflower Group program of events, which is produced yearly and distributed widely through fellow APS groups.

Newcastle — Colin Lawrence

We had some excellent speakers at our monthly meetings, and when we changed the speaker's time to before the formal meeting rather than afterwards, we did seem to get increased attendance. In addition the committee decided to video speakers' presentations (with their approval) and make the presentation available in our library on DVD.

Speakers

February	Stuart Blanch, new CEO of Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia
March	Jill Richardson from Taste of the Bush on bush food supplies and bush foods
April	John Simpson, environmental planner, on estuarine ecology of Port Stephens
May	Heidi Pritchard, university student studying environmental management, on fungi
June	Peter Vaughan, APS Newcastle member, on attracting birds to your garden
July	Members' night – three members speaking about a plant related topic
August	Brian Parry, cut flower industry
September	Olga Blacha, nursery owner and PhD student, on native plants in Japanese gardens
October	Martyn Robinson, Australian Museum, on plant-insect interactions
November	Members' night – three members speaking about a plant related topic.

Outings and activities

February	Sea shore ramble, Swansea Heads and Blackbutt Reserve
March	Three garden visits: a new garden in Fletcher, and older gardens in Cardiff and Glendale and Teralba
April	Dangar Island and three-day trip to Mudgee
May	Morisset area bushwalk and working bee Parry Place, Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
June	Old Great North Road, Devine's Hill to Finches Line, a seven kilometre walk with historic relics, sandstone flora and great views and Fern Bay
July	Hunter Botanical Gardens, Parry Place working bee, 55th Anniversary lunch and Warrah Trig
August	George McGregor Park in Rankin Park and Munmorah State Recreation Area
September	Awabakal Wildflower Walk with the Hunter Branch, National Parks Association and Norah Head Heathland
October	Two garden visits and Watagan Forest Cooranbong.

Nursery

Our nursery at the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia continues to provide plants propagated by a small group of dedicated members. These plants are sold at the nursery, at group meetings and at Tea Gardens. Normally we would also have had a stand at the Tocal Field Days in April, but the East Coast low storms saw the field days cancelled. After discussions with Stuart Blanch we have also agreed to undertake propagation of rainforest plants in our nursery for the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia.

Other activities

Our 55th anniversary fell this year, and we had a lunch in July at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens to celebrate. Members from Central Coast Group attended to swell our numbers to close to 50. Considering the incredible weather we were having and the possibility of not even getting into the Gardens for safety reasons, the attendance was extremely pleasing to see. Newcastle Group has a close relationship with the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, which I hope continues into the future.

A new website has been set up, and although still having teething problems, is progressing well. Our Facebook and flickr pages are linked to the website, as well as having links to APS NSW and national bodies.

The group has also had a logo designed and printed onto shirts. These have proven to be a popular item with members and sales have been excellent. We have also had new cups designed for presentation to guest speakers – sales of these to members are helping to defray our costs.

Challenges

We desperately need to encourage younger people to join our group. In this area we have had some small successes, but the viability of APS and our group is in getting younger people involved. We recognise that this will be difficult, with many if not all younger people extremely involved in raising their families and furthering their career. For many this means gardening and the time involved comes a very poor last. Additionally we need to consider the decreasing possibility of home ownership for many of our young people and perhaps seek to provide an opportunity through our activities for them to appreciate native plants.

North Shore — Barry Lees

North Shore Group had a busy and successful 2015. We improved our financial position and maintained memberships at about 125.

We held 10 monthly meetings on Friday nights with interesting guest speakers. We also re-introduced 10 minute talks by members. The guidelines were they could speak on any subject, providing it was vaguely plant related. This was an effective way of giving 'quieter' members a chance to be heard and we learnt a lot about each other's gardens. About 50 people attend each meeting.

On the Sunday following the monthly meetings, we went on bushwalks that related to the guest speaker's topic where possible. Walks were organised and led by a different member each time.

The outstanding weekly Walks and Talks program continued at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, led by Bill Jones and Wendy Grimm. Different people (mostly members) gave a one-hour educational talk followed by a one-hour walk to reinforce the subject. On average, 30 people attended each week.

The propagation group run by Margaret Hamilton met each fortnight at the Shadehouse in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, producing plants for sale at meetings, the Visitors Centre and the annual wildflower festival at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Sales produced much of the income needed to run North Shore Group. The Wildflower Festival included a large plant stall, orchid stall, kids' touchy-feely stall, raffle, guided bushwalks and a glorious native cut-flower display. It was financially very successful, but a lot of work.

We assisted with Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushcare program in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden led by group member Marilyn Mason. Wendy Grimm and others maintained an area of Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden called the Knoll where attractive native plants are grown, with nametags, encouraging visitors to grow them at home.

The Hornsby Herbarium group went bush most Fridays, listing all native plants on the chosen track, finding and reporting rare plants, scanning plant specimens to obtain high resolution images and maintaining the Hornsby Herbarium website. It now contains 966 native plants found in the Hornsby Shire, plus a number of introduced plants.

We continued funding tertiary level botanical scholarships worth up to $2000 for one year. In 2015, a scholarship was awarded to Jonathan Pankhurst for research into coastal foredune plants and their mycorrhizal fungi. Wendy Grimm administered the scholarship.

Our colourful monthly newsletter, *Blandfordia,* was produced by editor Jan Williamson; our website was maintained by webmaster Max Gregory; Facebook by membership officer Narelle Barden; and extensive library by librarian Lyn Kirby.

A committee of 16 elected members and six non-elected members managed North Shore Group's affairs. All positions were filled, with a couple of people doing more than one job.

In 2016 we plan to run a survey of members to obtain their ideas on possible improvements to North Shore Group.

Northern Beaches — Conny Harris

2015 already over? We all are astonished at how fast it has gone. Northern Beaches Group has achieved all their tasks again smoothly and I think we all should be proud of this! Most of us take on something and it does require some extra work, which makes the overall result looking perfect.

We held our monthly meetings with great guest speakers. We had alternating monthly excursions and garden visits. We attended and discussed the issues APS NSW requested, dealt with our own issues and some development issues, and together with the Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden committee we organised and put on the annual Spring Fair; a fair amount of work.

Thinking back, I particular treasure our leisure time, the outings and garden visits and *Caleyi*, our newsletter, which often brings back those sweet memories with the addition of most interesting snippets about other environmental things or a wonderful member profile!

Our newsletter is not an item on our standing agenda, is rarely discussed and it is such a treasure! Thank you, Jane March.

Now a big thank you to all office holders for your dedicated contribution and to Lindy Monson for battling through the dry task of getting insurance sign on sheets for activities sorted.

Nowra — Lesley McKinnon

The annual propagation day, held at the garden of John and Jenny Kubale at Tapitallee, marked the start of our busy year.

Despite the weather there were an abundance of identification walks led by Chris Hallahan over the year. Many and varied local areas were visited including Moona Moona Creek, Hylands Lookout, Bomaderry Creek and Yerriyong – a fantastic way to experience the local flora.

Monthly working bees were held at our Wirreecco Wildflower Garden at the newly named Jervis Bay Maritime Museum with work done to prepare the garden for the ANPSA pre-conference tour in November. The day included walks, garden tour and morning tea.

We were entertained by a variety of speakers with topics ranging from the sex lives of orchids, photographing flowers, local frogs to botanical nomenclature and soils.

The promotion of Australian native plants was expertly provided through regular articles by Gisela Chorley appearing in the local *Nowra News*. Nowra Group's monthly newsletter contained a broad selection of interesting articles from our members, wonderfully facilitated, collected and penned by editor Ken Smith.

We enjoyed two garden visits. The first, in the Ulladulla area, showcased three private gardens, the first at Kings Point including a foreshore bush regeneration project. Later we visited three gardens in the Tapitallee area all displaying their own unique styles and uses for Australian native plants. Garden visits are a highlight of the calendar and always much enjoyed.

A visit to Berry School nursery to see the upgraded propagation facilities, used as a learning tool for the school students, highlighted the difference a small group of dedicated and passionate volunteers can make. The nursery supplies local rainforest species for bush regeneration projects and will supply plants for the revegetation of the Berry bypass.

Members visited the campus of Yallah TAFE. A tour through remnant woodland, and the top quality propagation and horticultural facilities, was led by our group patron John Gabriele.

A visit to PlantBank at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan was a highlight of the outings calendar. The building, thanks to its architecture and landscaped surrounds, has a real presence. The guided tour showcased these state of the art facilities.

Our major plant sale was held over the four days of the Berry Garden Festival in October. Good weather and crowds meant we ably met our aim of encouraging people to 'plant native'.

Local orchid expert, Alan Stephenson, led the group on an Orchid 'crawl' in the Callala area, focusing on these delicate beauties that can often be overlooked.

Members enjoyed a trip to the property of Sue Patrick at Oallen near Nerriga where Sue gave her botanist perspective on the flora.

It was another wonderful year of events filled with learning about, promoting and enjoying Australian native plants.

Parramatta and Hills Committee

The changes introduced in 2014 have continued and multiplied in 2015. Saturday afternoon meetings at Gumnut Hall have been accepted and generally regarded as a positive change. The meeting format changes, with the wider use of activities within meetings, have been successful in generating involvement, interaction and interest from attendees. Numbers at meetings have varied but are usually respectable, although certainly with no sustained growth. We still have a lot to do to grow membership and attendances at meetings and activities. Current membership is 32 which includes 11 couples so the current headcount is 42 and static.

Our meeting program for 2015 started in February with a talk by Peter Street on a scientific expedition to Kakadu. Peter had a great collection of photos on the natural environment of this interesting area. The meeting activity was DIY home propagation ably conducted by Pip Gibian and Lesley Waite. In April, Mark Abell talked on vertical gardening with native plants. This is of increasing interest as our gardens become smaller in urban areas. The meeting activity on identification of local banksias was conducted by Pip Gibian. In June, Michael Batley talked on bee families of Australia. All the bee fans turned up and Michael's photography and videos were stunning. Brodie Sutcliffe hosted the meeting activity – making insect hotels. In August, Karlo Taliana spoke on Eastern Banksia cultivars. Karlo's passion and knowledge for his subject came through in the talk. The meeting activity was again hosted by Brodie Sutcliffe – eco flower arranging. Doug Rickard returned in September after his tour de force on western wildflowers last year. His subject this year was dirt for dummies (getting to know your soil). This basic but very important topic, was presented by Doug in his inimitable style, with absolutely no loss of audience interest throughout. Doug also hosted the meeting activity where members brought in their own soil samples for profiling.

Saturday activities in the "off" months ran as follows. In March, a bushwalk was held at Lake Parramatta. In May, the activity was postponed due to a clash with the quarterly gathering and APS NSW AGM. In July, an open garden tour was held at Ian and Tamara Cox's lovely native garden at Kenthurst. In October, members toured the Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden at Dee Why. In August, we ran our traditional stall at the Samuel Gilbert School Fete at Castle Hill. This was the usual botanical, people and financial success – it helped to contribute to our profit for the year.

Our propagation group guided by Lesley Waite continues every month producing great quality local native plants – all are welcome to attend. Chris Coe and Sue Bell manage our website – great thanks to them. Gordon Brooks, assisted by Marilyn Cross, produces a great quality *Calgaroo* each month – eight pages full of interest and photos and an integral element of Parramatta and Hills Group. Sue Gibbons has managed the disposal of our library with great care and attention.

Our committee met four times in 2015 and, in the absence of a president, have allocated the various tasks among committee members. This report has been prepared on behalf of the committee for the information of members.

South East

Not available at time of publication.

Southern Highlands — Wendy Johnston

Our year in the Southern Highlands has been very busy, enterprising and most of all enjoyable. We continue to meet on Thursday afternoons and enjoy the well patronised plant sales along with the "in season" plant table which generates much interest and provides the educational opportunity of learning "what plant is this?".

Our guest speakers have both educated and entertained us on subjects such as Mount Gibraltar, native plants, garden design, flying foxes and not least maps and the role they play in the management of our shire and the amazing amount of information now carried on modern maps.

Pleasant rambles continue with visits to Echo Point and surrounds in the Morton National Park at Bundanoon, and the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan to learn about bush food. Other popular rambles were our visits to private native and mixed gardens.

Improvement to Rotary Park at Mittagong continues with the substantial planting of more than 500 tube stock provided by Wingecarribee Shire Council nursery this year with plans to continue this project.

Other activities included a plant stall at the Harper's Mansion Berrima Plant Fair and an "in house" book sale.

An initiative by the Wingecarribee Shire Council on suitable street tree planting has resulted in Southern Highlands Group forming a sub-committee to research suitable native flora for this purpose. A list has now been compiled for comment and/or addition by the general membership.

I am pleased to note that our financial membership stands at 60 members, a small but steady increase over the past year. Our group, I believe, is well placed to meet the challenges of the years ahead. The committee has demonstrated much enthusiasm, innovation and commitment. Individually and as a team they deserve much praise. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be president for the past three years.

Southern Tablelands — Bob Galland

During the year Southern Tablelands Group has improved its general promotional material with a new pamphlet focusing on our range of activities. We also prepared a colourful pull-up banner, with photos and information specific to the group, and a large banner for use to advertise our stall when we attend field days and markets to sell plants.

We significantly improved our plant propagation facility and have more than doubled the number of plants being grown out. This year we supplied approximately 1,800 plants to the Goulburn wetland restoration project being managed by Friends and Residents of Goulburn Swamps (FROGS). By the end of the year we had more than 4,000 plants being grown out for the FROGS 2016 plantings as well as about 500 plants for our own sales program.

At the invitation of FROGS we formed a group to design and establish a garden in the wetlands area to demonstrate and promote the use of native plants in gardens. The group, with the assistance of FROGS members, have completed the first plantings which are established and growing well.

Southern Highlands Group focuses on three major types of activities – bush walks on the first Saturday of the month; propagation of native plants for sale and for the Goulburn wetlands restoration project; and talks aimed at improving members' knowledge of native plants. This year we had a very full calendar especially towards the end of the year.

Through the year we planned nine field outings including a visit and inspection of the Goulburn wetlands project. We cancelled a walk to Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens due to lack of interest and had to cancel the proposed Wollondilly River walk to accommodate a new activity involving the design and establishment of a native plant garden in the Goulburn wetlands site. As the year progressed we made some changes to the venues for two of the walks. One of the changed walks was to a local reserve, the other was to a privately owned site at Tallong. Both were conducted jointly with the Goulburn branch of the Field Naturalists Society and involved a survey of plants and

animals and the preparation of a report for National Parks and Wildlife Service and for the landholder in the second case.

There were five propagation days during the year for members and two with the Green Army. To encourage more interest in the use of native plants in gardens we have altered our plant selection policy to focus on attractive garden plant species. This reduced our attendance at markets this year as the new plant species had to grow out. During the year we sold the remaining stock of 350 plants from previous propagations at a discount to Landcare and 100 (small) newly propagated plants at a recent Goulburn Connects Sustainability Festival day. During that day, cut native flowers were sold and a very popular free children's activity was conducted involving the preparation and sowing of a pot with *Leptospermum rotundifolium* seed to take home along with instruction on its care and subsequent planting. One of the highlights was the involvement of one member's young daughter in guiding and instructing the young children in this activity.

The challenge to create a group website remains to be tackled next year.

Sutherland — Leonie Hogue

I would like to thank all the members of this year's committee for their wonderful efforts during the year. They are an enthusiastic, hard-working and committed group who have ensured that Sutherland Group has enjoyed another successful year. APS NSW President John Aitken received a community award in the federal Cook electorate for his service to the Society and Sutherland Group.

Highlights of the year included:

- the wonderful, talented and varied speakers that we have enjoyed at the monthly meetings
- a number of weekend activities which included a variety of bush walks and a population survey of the threatened *Prostanthera densa* in the Royal National Park
- a week at Charlotte Pass, in January 2015, where members and guests were able to enjoy the beautiful alpine plants in their floral glory
- the interesting, informative and beautifully presented newsletters that we receive each month
- our active Facebook and website with information on activities and native plants
- successful fundraising through the Cook Community raffle
- the continued success in the flower arrangements by our members at the Royal Agricultural Society Easter Show. In the General Australian Plants section, members received the Grand Champion, five firsts, three seconds, one third, and two highly commended prizes. In the Banksia section, members received the Champion, three firsts, seconds, thirds and two highly commended prizes.
- major plantings by members and labelling of new plants at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela, following major landscaping by Sutherland Shire Council in 2014
- a successful stall at the Jannali Neighbourhood Aid 50th anniversary Fair, at which we sold plants and cut flowers as well as promoting Sutherland Group and the Society
- the Spring Walks day at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve after missing a year due to the landscaping works. The day was a wonderful success and attracted a very large number of members of the public. We sold many plants and cut flowers and it provided a wonderful opportunity to promote the Reserve, Sutherland Group and the Society. It was very encouraging to see the number of new members who volunteered on the day. Angus Stewart was a great success and attracted many members of the public to the three workshops he held during the day.

- our Children's Day at Burnum Burnum Reserve during the September school holidays, which attracted over 20 children and their parents and grandparents. There were many activities organised to entertain the children, such as plantings of *Rhodanthe* seeds into pots, a short walk to explore the area, examining seed pods and sampling bush tucker. The sausage sizzle at the end of the activities was very popular among both children and adults.
- the members' night at the September meeting where we entertained with a variety of activities, including a wonderful trivia quiz, a brilliant display of flower arranging, and art and crafts with an Australian native plant theme. As usual, we were spoiled with the wonderful selection of Australian native flowers that members brought in.

Tamworth — Matt Cosgrove

2015 was a year of stability for Tamworth Group. Our member numbers remained steady and financially we remain viable with income well above expenses. Our group continues to strive to increase awareness of native plants in our area and the joys cultivating them can bring.

Our meetings have been well attended with our activity officer Beth Stokes providing outstanding guest speakers with a wide range of topics. Topics and speakers included Andrew Wright talking on restoration of woodland habitat post agriculture and mining activities, and John Hosking giving a talk on flora of Warrabah National Park, just to name a couple. Contributions from members varied from being a guest speaker to bringing plants for the raffle. Our plant table that holds a display of botanic floral wonders from our gardens shows the wide array of interest in the diverse genera that we have on offer. Activities included bush walks, a tour of the Peel wetlands, garden walks and working bees.

We also had the pleasure in nominating and seeing Bill Hardin receive the APS NSW Conservation Award. Bill has worked hard for years in the name of conservation and the award was very fitting and well deserved. The award ceremony was held in an award-winning garden owned and manicured by our secretary Kerrie Gray.

We held a plant sale during the year that helps keep our books on the up. With the majority of plants grown by members we can keep cost down. It's at these sales that we get to talk to the public and try and gain new members and create interest in the local community. Our purchases for the year included books for the library and general stationary and equipment needed in the day-to-day running of our group.

The threatened species garden that we have at the Tamworth Regional Botanical Gardens is going smoothly. Past plantings are growing nicely with future plantings in the plans. General maintenance is required in the form of earth works and mulching and preparations for plantings.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2016 annual get-together in August. We are busy planning venues, guest speakers and activities. I am sure it will all come together nicely. We as a group are excited about the get-together and I'm sure it will come around before we know it.

All in all, Tamworth Group is looking forward to the challenges that 2016 will bring. With the help of its members, the committee will strive for increase in all areas and we will remain prosperous and enjoy the fellowship that the Society has to offer.

Directors' report to members

1. General information about operations and activities

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company in 2015 have been promoting interest in the growing, conservation and use of Australian native plants.

Review of operations

APS NSW recorded a surplus of $5,783 compared to a loss of $6,302 in 2014. This surplus was recorded despite a 4% decrease in membership and an increase in the cost of publishing and distributing *Native Plants for New South Wales* and *Australian Plants.* The decrease in membership was offset by an increase in fees introduced on 1 January 2015. Audit and accounting fees also decreased by 76% resulting in a saving of $6,455. The increased cost of publishing our journals has resulted from the need to engage a printing house to collate, package and distribute these journals. In the past, these tasks were undertaken by volunteers.

While the state office recorded a loss of $16,678, this was 18% lower than the loss recorded in 2014. An increased surplus was recorded at the district group level in 2015. Fortunately, a significant increase in administration costs at the district group level of over $11,552 was offset by a significant increase in income of $18,518. The reasons for the increase in administration costs are unclear and requires discussion by the Board with district groups. With very little expenditure in 2015, the value of the Bequest Fund increased by 2% to $575,664 in 2015.

The financial performance of APS NSW in 2015 is influenced by the decision made by the Board in October 2015 to align the financial years for the state office and district groups, with the financial year commencing in January and ending in December each year. As a consequence, the financial report for 2015 contains 14 months of financial information for district groups (1 November 2014 to 31 December 2015) and 12 months of financial information for the state office (1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015). This decision was made on the recommendation of APS NSW previous auditor and accountants, Furzer Crestani Auditing Services. The Board also determined that district groups be asked to provide information on all income and expenditure transactions for the full year. These decisions are designed to improve the accuracy, transparency and understanding of the financial position of APS NSW.

Consolidated Profit and Loss	2015 $	2014 $
State Office	(16,678)	(20,270)
District Groups	9,913	8,377
Australian Plants Society Bequest Fund	12,537	5,591
Grevillea Book Project	10	-
Net surplus/loss	5,783	(6,302)

Membership

The Society is a Company Limited by Guarantee and without share capital.

The total membership of the Society at 31 December 2015 was 1,005 memberships, which represents 1,352 individual members compared with 1,045 memberships and 1,417 individual members at 31 December 2014.

The total guarantee by members of the Company at 31 December 2015 is $10,500 (1,005 x $100).

State of affairs

The primary focus of the Board during 2015 has been on facilitating the development of a strategic plan for APS NSW while exploring ways to reduce the cost of APS NSW operations at the state level. The need for both of these activities is due to the continuing shortfall in revenue driven by declining revenue from interest on term deposits and membership fees necessitating the drawing on APS NSW capital reserves. As previously reported, the future viability of the Society is threatened unless it can increase its revenue stream from membership and other sources.

To start addressing APS NSW revenue shortfall, membership fees were increased from 1 January 2015. While the Board resolved not to increase membership fees again in 2016, it decided to examine ways to reduce its compliance costs.

APS NSW is classified as Tier 1 not-for-profit organisation under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)*. Tier 1 organisations are not required to have their financial accounts audited or reviewed. Historically, APS NSW has engaged the services of an accounting firm to review its accounts. In 2014 the cost of this service represented 9% of the state office expenditure. Following discussion with Furzer Crestani Auditing Services and careful consideration by the Board at its October 2015 meeting, the Board determined that from 2015 it would no longer engage an auditor to conduct a review of APS NSW accounts. This has resulted in significant cost savings. The accounts were reviewed in accordance with the requirements of ACNC Act and our constitution will be updated to ensure consistency with these requirements.

Discussions on an APS NSW endorsement and royalty agreement with Neutrog Fertiliser designed to increase revenue have not progressed.

In 2015, APS NSW promoted the Society at the RAS Easter Show, on Facebook and on the Society's website. The 2015 annual get-together, held in the Blue Mountains, and the quarterly gatherings, which are open to the public, continue to be a positive mechanism for promoting the Society within the broader community and have made a small contribution to new memberships. The annual get-together in 2015 was run without financial assistance, with Blue Mountains Group donating $200 to the state office as a result of its successful hosting of this event.

The Board has spent significant time on improving its governance arrangements. New financial reports have been developed, and position descriptions endorsed by the Board for all elected positions. The Board also agreed to the establishment of a conservation sub-committee to support the Conservation Officer, Daniel Clarke, in his role. Following the receipt of a large number of nominations in early 2015, a life membership nomination form was developed and approved by the Board. The nomination form was published on the APS NSW website and distributed to district groups in November 2015.

Events occurring after the end of the financial year

Other than the continuing decline in income as outlined above, the directors are not aware of any matter or circumstance that has arisen since the end of the financial year that, in their opinion, has significantly affected or may significantly affect in future years the Company's operations, the results of those operations or the state of APS NSW's affairs.

Likely developments in the future

Significant attention will be spent during 2016 on developing a strategic plan for APS NSW. Expected to be completed by October 2016, the strategic plan will guide the activities of the Board over the next three to five years in retaining existing members, growing APS NSW membership and expanding its revenue base, and improving and streamlining governance arrangements and the business model.

The Board is committed to involving all members in developing the plan. Meetings will be held with all district groups on the challenges facing APS NSW and how these can be best addressed. A survey of members will be conducted in early 2016 and the results made available in *Native Plants for New South Wales*. A facilitated workshop will be held on 28-29 May 2016 in Sydney with all district groups being invited to send a member to participate.

At the same time, the Board is continuing to explore ways to reduce costs. These include examining options for improving the cost effectiveness of APS NSW office arrangements; examining options for reducing the production and distribution costs of *Australian Plants* and *Native Plants for New South Wales*; considering new membership options and methods for managing membership and subscriptions; and marketing and partnership opportunities. Online subscriptions for *Australian Plants* are expected to go online in early 2016 with APS NSW membership to follow.

A sub-committee of the Board has been formed to continue improving the governance arrangements for APS NSW. The Board remains committed to developing a new constitution based on the model distributed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and available on its website, www.acnc.gov.au.

As part of the strategic planning process consideration is being given to how APS NSW is structured – currently a board with up to 31 directors and district group delegates – to determine whether there are more effective ways of structuring the Society to manage the Society and engage members in decision-making while reducing volunteer fatigue. This will be discussed at the May workshop.

2. Directors' benefit

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, no director has received any benefit by way of dividend, bonus or other such advantage other than expenses due to carrying out of their duties.

3. Insurance premiums for officers

During 2015, the Company paid a premium of $1,730 for insurance against Directors' liability for legal costs. This also included liability for the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of district groups.

4. Directors' attendance

Each director attended the following Board meetings during 2015 while a member of the Board.

Name	Number of meetings attended in 2015	Number of meetings held in 2015 during the time the Director held office
Mark Abell	3	3
John Aitken	7	7
John Andrews	7	7
Rhonda Daniels	7	7
Alix Goodwin	7	7
Mary Hedges	3	7
Graeme Ingall	6	7
Harry Loots	7	7
Tony Maxwell	6	7
Heather Miles	1	1
Roger Starling	7	7
Richard Street	4	4
Merle Thompson	7	7

Heather Miles accepted the position of Honorary Secretary at the June 2015 meeting and attended all three Board meetings held from that time until her appointment as a Director in December 2015.

5. Directors' qualifications and experience

Mark Abell, BSc
APS NSW Vice President (until May 2015)

Mark has spent his working life in the IT industry and is currently employed as a database consultant. He has a science degree with botany and computer science majors. Mark has been involved with native plants since childhood and his father Bruce was a past president of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley District Groups of the SGAP (as it was then known). Since moving to Hornsby, Mark has been involved in the activities of the Australian and New Guinea Fishes Association and a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. He has been a director since 2010.

John Aitken, BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Ed, Dip Law (SAB/BAB)
APS NSW President (from May 2015)

John is a retired schoolteacher who has had a passion for Australian native plants for over 40 years. Following graduation from the University of Sydney with BSc (Hons) in Microbiology, he worked as a virologist at Prince Henry Hospital. John later entered the teaching profession as a Science teacher and gained a Graduate Diploma in Education. John subsequently qualified and practised as a barrister, however he later returned to teaching. He is a former President of the Sutherland Group and has been a director of the Society since 19 February 2007. John was the President of the Society and an ANPSA delegate from May 2012 to May 2014 and Secretary from May 2014 to May 2015.

John Andrews
Program Officer and Delegate for Central Coast Group

John has held information technology positions in a number of large companies. He has been a member of the Central Coast Group for ten years where he has held the positions of President, Vice President and group delegate.

Rhonda Daniels, BSc (Hons), PhD, M Policy Studies, Cert Hort
Delegate for Sutherland Group

Rhonda is an active member of the Australian Plants Society since joining in the early 1990s and has held various positions with APS Sutherland Group over 20 years including President, Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. She has been a director of APS NSW since October 2012 and her roles have included Study Group Liaison Officer, member of the Growth and Promotions Committee, organiser of the Publicity Workshop for groups, proofreader for *Native Plants for New South Wales*, and NSW delegate to ANPSA. She is self-employed at Right with Rhonda providing research, review and editing services, and also works at a native plant nursery. She is a Bushcare volunteer with Sutherland Shire Council and is active at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela.

Alix Goodwin, BSW, MPH, MAICD, 2014 Churchill Fellow
Vice President and Delegate for Blue Mountains Group

Alix was elected to the Board of the Society in 2014. She is an active member of Blue Mountains Group and has held the position of group secretary since 2008. In 2014 she was appointed to the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve Trust. The Reserve is home to and maintained by the Society's Blue Mountains Group. Alix works in disability policy and regulation within the Department of Family and Community Services. In 2015 Alix successfully completed her Churchill Fellowship study on programs to prevent the abuse of people with disability using direct payments to purchase supports in England, Scotland and Sweden.

Mary Hedges, BSc (Hons), BA
Delegate for Menai Wildflower Group

Mary is a retired microbiologist having worked in Sydney since 1970 in public hospital pathology at St George and Prince of Wales Hospitals. She has a degree in Science (University of Queensland) with Honours in Microbiology and an Arts degree (English and French). Since retiring in 2004 she has been pursuing a hobby of bead and wire jewellery, both making it and teaching how to make it.

Mary has been interested in Australian native plants all her life, starting as a child growing up on a station in far south-west Queensland and with her husband Lloyd has been a member of the Menai Group for many years and involved in all the group's activities. Other volunteer work includes ESL, Women's Immigrant Health Centre, Fairfield. Mary has been a director of the Society since February 2007.

Graeme Ingall, Dip Ag (Wagga Wagga), Cert Hort.
Exhibition Coordinator and Project Manager

Since 2001, Graeme has served the Australian Plants Society NSW in various capacities including for Central Coast Group, President, Program Officer, group delegate and currently Treasurer and, at state level, President 2009 to 2012, Vice President on two occasions, Secretary, delegate to ANPSA, and currently Exhibition Coordinator and Project Manager. Graeme has been a director since 2006. During the past three years, Graeme has served as a steward at the RAS, native plant section. During his membership he has attended most ANPSA biennial conferences.

Harry Loots
Treasurer and Delegate for Northern Beaches Group

Harry has been a member of the Australian Plants Society since 1992 when he joined Harbourside Group. Harry was Harbourside Group president from 1999 until its closure in 2010 and its newsletter editor from 2006-2009. Harry has been a member of the Projects Committee (Bequest Fund) from 2000. In addition, he has been an Australian plant grower for the last 25 years and an active bushwalker for most of his life. Harry was vice president of the Society between 2009 and 2013.

Tony Maxwell, BSc, BA
Delegate for Parramatta and Hills Group

Tony is a retired paint chemist and has been a member of Parramatta and Hills Group since 2006. He served on the Parramatta and Hills Group committee as Vice President in 2011 and was elected President for 2012. He became Parramatta and Hills Group delegate and a director of the Society in 2011. Tony's main interest is the distribution of native plants in southeast Australia. He is on the Parramatta and Hills Group committee and is its immediate past president.

Heather Miles, BSc (Biochemistry and Zoology), MBA, GAICD, FAHRI
Delegate for Hunter Valley Group (from December 2015)

Heather is a member of Hunter Valley and North Shore Groups and the Garden Design Study Group and is currently a director and Secretary of APS NSW.

She has extensive experience as a director, executive and consultant across multiple sectors including financial services, agribusiness, education, health and environment in private, public sector and not for profits. She is currently an independent consultant specialising in strategy, organisational performance and culture change and non-executive director and Secretary of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community Transport.

Roger Starling, Cert Hort
Delegate for North Shore Group

Roger spent his early life in the UK, followed by several years in pharmaceutical sales and subsequently in various other sales positions. He is a qualified horticulturalist having a Certificate 3 in Horticulture and completed the Diploma course in Horticulture. He was actively involved with HG Kershaw Pty Ltd Seedsmen. Roger has been a director of APS NSW since 2005.

Richard Street, MBA
Publicity Officer (from May 2015)

Richard spends his working life in the financial services and IT sectors. Richard is currently President and former Vice President of the Central Coast Group, and has been a member for five years.

Merle K Thompson, BA, Dip Psych
Membership Officer and Delegate for Central West Group

Merle has extensive experience in counselling, administration, policy and training within vocational guidance and educational fields. Her previous roles in the Australian Plants Society include Federal Secretary 1993-1995, Federal Treasurer 2007–2009, Property Officer and Program Convenor for APS NSW, secretary and president of the Blue Mountains Group, NSW delegate to ANPSA conferences and on the ANPSA Council, tour manager for the 2007 conference and membership of conference planning committees for both 1993 and 2007 conferences.

Signed in accordance with the Directors' resolution on 18 April 2016.

John Aitken	Alix Goodwin	Harry Loots
President	Vice President	Treasurer

Life Members of the Australian Plants Society NSW

Year	Name	Year	Name
1957	Thistle Harris AM *	1997	Eric Packer *
1967	John Wrigley AM *		Brian Walters
1972	William H. Payne *	1998	Peter Olde
1974	H Max Hewett *	1999	Ross Doig *
	Pearce Parry OAM *	2001	Mary Hancock *
	Olive Parry OAM *		Royal Pullen *
	Joyce Ward *	2002	Jim Webb *
1978	Susan Heins *	2003	Edna Devlin
1981	Don L McNair *	2004	Harry Brian *
1982	Joan Doney OAM *		Laurel Kathleen Wray
1984	Errol Thurston *	2005	Jennifer Lewis
	Ruth Overton *		Barbara Burke
1986	Frank Hatfield *	2006	Maureen McGuire
	Jean Hatfield *	2007	Audrey Taggart
1987	Ray Page *		Barry Kemp
1990	Les Taylor *	2008	Carolyn Gillard
	Tess Taylor		Bill Hicks
1991	Betty Rymer	2009	Kyrill Taylor
1992	Dr Paddy Vernon Lightfoot	2010	Jean Mott
1993	Geoff Blyton *		Bill Hardin *
	Marjory Blyton *		Sonya Hardin
	Brother Pat Stanley *	2011	John Nevin
1994	Irene Vale Lane *		Merle Thompson
	Hugh Stacey	2013	Graeme Ingall
1995	Alec Hansen	2015	Robin Davies
	Maria Hitchcock		Ron Davies
1996	Gordon Brooks		Pat Pike
	Norm Kemble		
	Shirley Kemble		

* Deceased

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
2015 Financial Statements

Australian Plants Society NSW
ACN 002 680 408
PO Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Balance Sheet

December 2015

	2015	2014
Assets		
Cash		
General Funds		
Bank account - Admin	$24,614	$17,464
Cash Management account	$-	$207
Term Deposit - Cash Management	$180,000	$200,000
Bank Deposit for rental bond	$5,000	$5,000
On call - cash investment	$32,854	$41,189
Petty Cash	$100	$100
Total General Funds	$242,568	$263,961
Bequest Funds		
Bank account - Bequest Fund	$20,221	$21,969
Term Deposit - Bequest Trust	$228,379	$220,124
Bequest Trust - WC investment	$54,268	$52,534
Bequest Trust On Call	$8,783	$17,560
Term Deposit - BT 2	$52,168	$41,830
Term Deposit - Bequest 3	$207,800	$200,000
Total Bequest Funds	$571,620	$554,017
Total Cash	$814,188	$817,978
District Group Funds		
Bank accounts - District Groups	$123,956	$103,991
Petty Cash - District Groups	$3,115	$2,877
District Group Investments	$131,985	$138,101
Total District Group Funds	$259,056	$244,969
Debtors		
Trade Debtors	$642	$672
Provision for Doubtful Debts	$236	$-
Total Debtors	$878	$672
Other Current Assets		
Book services	$-	$454
District Groups Stock	$12,355	$15,026
Green Binders	$1,642	$1,649
Hats	$725	$-
Prepayments	$1,314	$1,300
Accrued Income	$488	$488
Interest Receivable	$6,823	$11,414
Total Other Current Assets	$23,346	$30,331
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment at cost	$15,968	$15,968
Fixtures and fittings	$2,034	$2,034
Accum. Depreciation Office Equipment	$(15,731)	$(14,985)
Total Office Equipment	$2,271	$3,017
District Group Equipment		
District Groups Office Equipment	$32,618	$29,724
Library District Groups	$14,957	$13,569

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Balance Sheet

December 2015

	2015	2014
Accum. Depreciation - District Groups	$(6,105)	$-
Total District Group Equipment	$41,470	$43,294
Total Fixed Assets	$43,741	$46,311
Total Assets	*$1,141,210*	*$1,140,260*
Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals		
Trade Creditors	$3,790	$(238)
General Admin Trade Creditors	$3,010	$7,500
Total Creditors & Accruals	$6,800	$7,262
ATO Liabilities		
GST Collected	$1,524	$4,544
GST Paid	$(2,458)	$(1,107)
Total ATO Liabilities	$(934)	$3,437
Total Liabilities	*$5,866*	*$10,699*
Net Assets	**$1,135,344**	**$1,129,561**
Equity		
General Accumulated Funds		
Balance at Beginning	$263,144	$283,414
General Admin Surplus	$(16,678)	$(20,269)
Total General Accumulated Funds	$246,466	$263,144
APS Bequest Funds		
Balance at Beginning	$563,127	$557,536
APS Bequest Surplus	$12,537	$5,590
Total APS Bequest Funds	$575,664	$563,127
Publishing Section Fund		
Publishing Group Surplus	$10	$-
Total Publishing Section Fund	$10	$-
District Group Funds		
Balance at Beginning	$303,290	$294,913
District Group Surplus	$9,913	$8,377
Total District Group Funds	$313,203	$303,290
Total Equity	**$1,135,344**	**$1,129,561**

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
State Office	$(16,678)	$(20,269)
District Groups	$9,913	$8,377
Australian Plants Society Bequest Fund	$12,537	$5,591
Grevillea Book Project	$10	$-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**$5,783**	**$(6,301)**

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Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2015

State Office	2015	2014
Income		
Memberships	$39,556	$40,172
Subscriptions to *Australian Plants*	$8,336	$8,261
Sales of *Australian Plants* to other states	$9,594	$10,074
	$57,486	$58,506
Other Sales Items	$3,701	$4,011
Interest Received	$7,587	$8,529
Total Income	**$68,774**	**$71,047**
Expenditure		
Cost of Sales		
Printing & Editing *Native Plants for NSW*	$11,515	$8,297
Printing & Editing *Australian Plants*	$15,999	$13,316
Editorial, insertion & dispatch of journals	$4,127	$2,161
Bulk Postage	$8,751	$7,999
Cost of other items for sale - hats, etc.	$2,512	$394
Total	**$42,904**	**$32,167**
General Administration		
Accounting fees	$2,055	$8,500
ANPSA Levy	$1,672	$1,487
Bank fees	$812	$1,093
Depreciation	$746	$758
Exhibitions & hall hire	$27	$1,380
Business Registration Costs	$79	$-
Insurance	$2,863	$5,934
Internet Expenses	$1,276	$1,370
Office Supplies	$1,644	$3,320
Office Expenses	$1,038	$685
Meeting costs	$556	$355
Rent & Outgoings	$12,146	$11,761
Subscriptions	$626	$210
Sundry costs	$218	$3,603
Telephone	$1,248	$1,023
Study Groups and other donations	$-	$590
Salaries and Superannuation	$14,270	$15,947
Postage	$842	$1,133
Conservation Committee	$154	$-
Travel Expenses	$-	$-
District Group Gathering	$277	$-
Total General Administration	**$42,548**	**$59,149**
Total Expenses	**$85,452**	**$91,316**
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**$(16,678)**	**$(20,269)**

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Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2015

District Groups	2015	2014
Income		
Memberships	$26,808	$24,565
Less membership transfers to region	$(19,733)	$(20,364)
Sales of Plants	$93,957	$90,898
Sales of other goods	$4,818	$1,913
Raffles	$8,864	$7,484
Sundry Income	$25,411	$18,264
Interest Received	$5,516	$4,363
Total Income	**$145,642**	**$127,124**
Expenditure		
Cost of Sales		
Cost of Plants	$57,887	$56,116
Cost of other goods	$16,075	$11,489
Raffle Prizes	$1,225	$2,151
Total Cost of Sales	**$75,186**	**$69,756**
Administration		
Administration Costs	$12,063	$7,071
Meeting Costs	$7,051	$7,345
Bank Fees	$43	$84
Sundry Expenses	$41,386	$34,490
Total Administration	**$60,542**	**$48,990**
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**$9,913**	**$8,377**
Australian Plants Society Bequest Fund	**2015**	**2014**
Established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Napier Thompson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden		
Income		
Donations Received	$-	$-
Interest Received	$15,063	$18,629
Total Income	**$15,063**	**$18,629**
Expenditure		
Advertising - Sponsorship	$199	$-
Bank fees	$64	$77
Meeting Costs	$660	$1,386
Displays and promotions	$1,002	$-
Study Group Donations	$400	$350
Donations & Subscriptions	$200	$11,225
Total Expense	**$2,525**	**$13,038**
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**$12,537**	**$5,591**

Australian Plants Society NSW
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Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2015

Grevillea Book Project	2015	2014
Income		
Grevillea Books Contributions	$464	$-
Total Income	**$464**	**$-**
Expense		
Grevillea Books - joint venture	$454	$-
Total Expense	**$454**	**$-**
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year	**$10**	**$-**

Retained Earnings

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
State Office		
Balance at 1 January	$263,144	$283,414
Transfer	$-	$-
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year - Grevillea Project	$10	$-
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	$(16,678)	$(20,269)
Balance at 31 December	**$246,476**	**$263,145**
District Groups		
Balance at 1 January	$303,290	$294,913
Prior Year Adjustments	$-	$-
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	$9,913	$8,377
Balance at 31 December	**$313,203**	**$303,290**
Bequest Fund		
Established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Napier Thompson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden		
Balance at 1 January	$563,127	$557,536
Transfer	$-	$-
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	$12,537	$5,591
Balance at 31 December	**$575,664**	**$563,127**
Retained Earnings	**$1,135,344**	**$1,129,562**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from members & customers		
- State office and Bequest Funds	$61,651	$63,644
- District Groups	$140,126	$156,168
Payments to suppliers and employees		
- State office and Bequest Funds	$(87,831)	$(90,082)
- District Groups	$(135,729)	$(143,868)
Payment for grants and donations	$(600)	$(11,625)
Interest received	$28,166	$30,582
Net cash generated from (used in) operating activities	**$5,783**	**$4,819**
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	$-	$-
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	$(26,115)	$304
Payments for financial assets	$28,127	$(7,355)
Payment for property, plant & equipment	$491	$(5,967)
Bequests Received	$-	$-
Net cash used in investing activities	**$2,503**	**$(13,018)**
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from borrowings	$-	$-
Repayment of borrowings	$-	$-
Net cash generated from (used in) financing activities	$-	$-
Net increase/decrease in cash held	$8,286	$(8,199)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	**$205,358**	**$213,557**
Cash at the end of the financial year	**$213,644**	**$205,358**

Australian Plants Society NSW
ACN 002 680 408
P.O. Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

District Group Profit & Loss Report 2015

Job Name	Income	Expense	Net Profit (Loss)
Armidale District Group	$10,878	$9,097	$1,781
Blue Mountains District Group	$69,813	$71,312	($857)
Central Coast District Group	$6,954	$8,390	($1,437)
Central West District Group	$1,829	$1,162	$667
Coffs Harbour District Group	$3,981	$2,615	$1,365
East Hills District Group	$2,335	$1,809	$526
Hawkesbury District Group	$62	$-	$62
Hunter Valley District Group	$740	$516	$223
Illawarra District Group	$903	$297	$605
Macarthur District Group	$737	$666	$71
Menai District Group	$7,741	$6,159	$1,582
Newcastle District Group	$14,036	$13,134	$902
North Shore District Group	$17,062	$11,672	$5,390
Northern Beaches District Group	$1,966	$1,961	$5
Nowra District Group	$5,048	$5,548	($501)
Parramatta and Hills District Group	$2,017	$1,757	$259
South East District Group	$2,650	$2,198	$452
Southern Highlands District Group	$2,741	$3,161	($420)
Southern Tablelands District Group	$2,448	$2,240	$207
Sutherland District Group	$9,122	$10,073	($951)
Tamworth District Group	$2,311	$2,333	($22)

Please note: Those groups with a loss in 2015 have adequate funds to cover all liabilities associated with these losses.

Australian Plants Society NSW Limited

Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the directors of Australian Plants Society NSW Limited ("the company"):

(i) The directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no end users who are dependent on its general purpose financial statements. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under the Australian Accounting Standards. The attached financial statement complies with needs of the members.

(ii) The attached financial statement gives a true and fair view of the Company's position as at 31 December 2015 and its financial performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

(iii) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

John Aitken	Alix Goodwin	Harry Loots
President	Vice President	Treasurer

Barry Pike from Furzer Crestani & Co Pty Ltd**,** Accountants & Auditors**,** carried out a limited review of the APS NSW MYOB general ledger, and gave advice on allocating key transactions and general assistance to Sharlene Cormack in finalising MYOB profit and loss statement and balance sheet.