

*Hakea fraseri*

# Australian Plants Society

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

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**President:**

Col Mulquinney – 6772 6012 (H)

**Secretary:**

Kristine Gow

**Treasurer:**

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## President's Message

Writing this in early October I can almost hear the plants (and weeds) growing after the rainfall of a few days ago. Shoots have appeared in places where no shoots have ever been and those plants that did not survive the winter have become obvious. I am reasonably certain that weeds grow about 10 times more quickly than plants.

The plantings under the pine trees have survived reasonably well over our trip north. Three of the twenty seven eventually planted did not make it and there even appears to be new shoots and buds on the others. The exotics (a wisteria and a couple of fuchsias) that we left because we didn't have the heart to throw them out, really like being watered.

In the rest of the garden all plants seemed to have survived although we were disappointed to find that one, *Pimelea physodes*, did not. Whatever the cause it must have been painless. Leaves and flowers from all over the plant started to curl and dry out just on the day we returned. A couple of days later there was no hope that the plants would re-shoot. This was a magnificent plant that had survived nicely for just on three years.

The trip north was great! We drove for about 12,000km; up the coast to north of Townsville, Atherton Tablelands, across the Gulf to Lawn Hill National Park, to Borroloola, Darwin (not intended, but to replace our fuel tanks), Parry's farm near Wyndham, Keep River National Park and various parks in the ranges around Alice Springs. There were a few gardens and nurseries along the way. The plants around Alice Springs were superb. Eremophilas and prostantheras, for example, were in full bloom in conditions that did not seem to be ideal. Plants were growing in cracks between rocks with daily temperatures ranging from below freezing to high twenties. Needless to say I did take a couple of photos.

The plants at the arboretum responded well to the rain and the attention they had over the past years. Many are in full flower and there are buds everywhere. It's well worth a visit!

Cheers

Col

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED at ANY TIME**

Postal address as above or email – jrnevin @ northnet.com.au

## GROUP INFORMATION

(group commenced August 1977)

We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members to enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora. Most of all we range from raw beginners to others who have been at the game for many years - all willing to share their knowledge.

**General Meetings** are held at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except December, January, June and July) at The Tree Group Woodland Centre where a display of flowers is presented by members.

Old and new members and visitors are very welcome to these meetings and any outings that we organise.

**Committee Meetings** are held on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm – see diary for where - members are welcome to these meetings too.

**Annual General Meeting** is held in February.

**Solstice Function** is held in June.

**Wattle Day Function** is held on a day closest to 1 September.

**December Meeting** is taken up by an end of year function, usually a BBQ or picnic.

*Cover: Background is adapted from a drawing of Hakea fraseri in Forest Flora, NSW*

## Mole Station Weekend 30/31 October by Pat Urbonas

This is our annual weekend to collect the plants from Mole Station Nursery for sale at St Peter's Open Gardens the following weekend. Apart from our members, I especially invite those people who receive our complimentary newsletter to come along and join us in these fabulous activities. Knowledge of native plants is not a requirement as it's a learning process that comes through seeing plants in gardens, on our displays or out in the bush.

### AGENDA:

We will meet at the Torrington hall, in the middle of town, at 10am on Saturday 30 October. Bring lunch, morning & afternoon tea. There are hundreds of spectacular wildflowers on the granites and heaths around Torrington such as boronia, prostanthera, epacris, etc. I hope we can find the all pink form of *Prostanthera teretifolia* near town before the Caldwells take us to Bismuth Falls. I'm hoping also that our resident botanist, John Hunter, will be able to join us for this outing.

### ACCOMMODATION:

This is available at the Shearers Quarters that is self contained and sleeps eight. Additional people can sleep in the lounge room, verandah or tent in the back yard if they wish. I need to know the number of people staying overnight to make sure everyone is accommodated.

### COST:

Approximately \$15 to \$20 per person depending on numbers. Only need to bring personal items, food and drinks; as linen, blankets, pillows, cutlery and crockery are supplied.

### SUNDAY MORNING:

After breakfast we will either explore the plantings around the nursery or perhaps the Rock of Gibraltar. Late morning we will load up in excess of 500 plants to bring back to Armidale. If anybody is unable to stay the weekend at Mole Station but can come up on Sunday to collect plants; that would be a great help.

If anyone is going to make the trip to Torrington on the Saturday and is unable to stay overnight at Mole Station then do let Pat know as he can arrange for you to bring some plants back, if you so wish.

Please ring Pat on 6771 1703 to let him know what part of the weekend you will be attending.  
if you can help to get plants back to Armidale

## Taking care of unwelcome visitors

In attracting fauna to your garden you may from time to time end up with more than you bargained for –

aggressive currawongs and noisy miners or possums in your roof for instance.

These problems can be addressed and the harmonious balance restored in your garden.

For information on how to deal with unwelcome visitors click on the Flora for Fauna website at - [www.floraforfauna.com.au](http://www.floraforfauna.com.au)

## SOME MORE WEB SITES!

- \* From Hunter Valley Group – <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf.Content/Home> - Wonderful information, from management plans to fact sheets about your favourite flora and fauna, guided tours around various parks and a photo gallery.
- \* From East Hills Group – [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au) – All you need to know about WIRES
- \* From Sutherland Group – [www.aussiebee.com](http://www.aussiebee.com) – All about native bees

## Developing New Gardens by Pat Urbonas

I've talked the owner of the house I'm living in to allow me to donate plants to his garden. I expected the soil to be basalt, but it's actually sedimentary (trap) which won't present a problem to the five *Euc. codonocarpa* and one Augourie form of *Banksia integrifolia*, but the three colour forms of *Eremophila maculata* won't like it. Phil Rose suggested digging in some shell grit around the eremophilas that I'm going to try.

The other gardening project has been the edging, planting and mulching of Brian Carter's garden. I know Brian through table tennis and he's been of great assistance to me since my accident. Brian lives in the Girraween area, and to my surprise the soil is a sandy grey loam. Could this be filling or a previous flood plain area? Anyway, two small north facing garden beds up against a brick wall have been planted with *Eremophila* "Summer Blue", *E. racemosa*, *Correa* "Federation Belle", *Kunzea pauciflora*, *Ziera sp.* 'Enmore', 2 *aspalathoides*, *Grev. lavandulacea* Penola form, *Hemiandra pungens* pink and several *Tetrateca thymifolia*.

A garden bed along the eastern fence was also edged and mulched and planted with *Correa* "Dusky Bells", *Cryptandra scortechenii*, *Grev. rosmarinifolia* "Bathurst" and *Tetrateca thymifolia*. There are established in this area a *leptospermum*, *Melaleuca thymifolia*, an unnamed exotic shrub and several herb like plants.

There will be an additional front fence garden to develop later on. Gardens are constructed to be as maintenance free as possible for the Carters.

I'll give reports on this garden as it develops over time. My Fittler Close address might be a bit more difficult as I may need to seek new accommodation next year.

## A NEW BOOK

TITLE: “*Wildflowers of the North Coast of New South Wales*”

AUTHOR: Barry Kemp

Back cover blurb - *Wildflowers of the North Coast of New South Wales* describes over 300 of the most commonly seen plant species. Each entry is illustrated with a colour photograph. The book is organised by habitat, for example Coastal Dunes, Coastal Heath, Open Forest and Rainforest. Within each chapter plants are further categorised by type, for example Trees, Large Shrubs or Small Shrubs and Herbs, and then arranged alphabetically by family name.

In his letter to us Barry says that while some of the species are restricted to the coastal areas, many are shared with the tablelands.

If our local booksellers are not stocking it. “Alternatives Bookshop”, Monterey Arcade, Coffs Harbour is selling it for \$28.50 and could be ordered by mail with \$3.50 packing/postage added.

## SUNDAY MARKETS/WATTLE DAY by Pat Urbonas – Coordinator

Members who helped on this day went home very happy and satisfied. We had a great day handing out wattle sprigs stapled onto our printed cards as well as keeping up with our normal plant sales plus wattle tube sales. The massed wattle display caught peoples attention as did the Nevin’s *Hakea multilineata* and their red wattle “Scarlet Blaze” on the display stand.

It was a hot day with lots of people around and we sold 73 wattle tubes and 80 pots. We ran out of wattle sprigs as we handed out in excess of 200 cards. Those who took cards (approx 90% of those approached) were ‘tickled pink’ to receive wattle sprigs and surprised that it was for free!

We should do it again next year and be better prepared with more wattle, another stapler and additional printed info on the history of Wattle Day as well as pollen, perfume and hay fever.

Thanks to the following who helped on the day, Joan Boyd, Bob & Jean McCaig, Susanne Robertson, Patricia Rossi, Phil Rose, John & Barbara Nevin.

**NB: SUNDAY MARKETS on 31 October**

As I am hoping to participate in the Mole Station weekend, can anyone not going to this weekend campout, do the Markets for me? We need 2 people and I will make all the arrangements. I will be seeing a specialist surgeon in Sydney on 13 October but I’m hoping if surgery is required that it won’t happen until after St Peters Garden Weekend. I would like all bases covered so that all the work won’t fall on the same members.

Contact me on 6771 1703 (Pat)

**NB** Please read your label so that you can keep up with when your subscriptions are due.  
If there is a red dot here you need to renew your membership ASAP.

## 5th FRED ROGERS Seminar by John Nevin

Over the weekend of 4/5 September, Barbara & I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Fred Rogers Seminar at Colac in Victoria, hosted by the Colac-Otway branch of APS Victoria.

We had attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar at the Grampians four years ago and thoroughly enjoyed that. It was a long trip down (1800 km) so we took two days for the trip so as to not be too tired on getting there.

It makes you realise how big NSW is as on day one we travelled from Armidale to Jerilderie, travelling all day and still not getting out of NSW. The country down the Newell Highway was looking much refreshed compared with earlier trips, reflecting good recent falls of rain.

The next day we crossed Victoria in a morning arriving at Geelong. We took the afternoon to look at John Mahoney's Glenleith Nursery at Mt Duneed before going onto Colac. John has extensive plantings around the house, but had a large range of unusual, largely WA plants, in tubes at \$2.00 each. We stocked up with many of the species we find hard to obtain in NSW.

On the Saturday we registered for the Seminar at the Trinity College in Colac. There were 180 registrants from all over Victoria, WA, SA and NSW. Many attendees we had met at earlier ASGAP Conferences and enjoyed renewing old acquaintances.

In conjunction with the seminar there were a lot of inexpensive Dryandras and Banksia plants available for sale, a large flower exhibition, book sales, (care of APS Victoria) and also cards and paintings for sale.

A series of talks occupied the Saturday. Cas Liber, leader of the Banksia Study Group, gave an overview of Banksia including Alex George's taxonomic review, Thiele's cladistic analysis and the DNA analytic work of Mast.

Cas and Kevin Collins (proprietor of the Banksia Farm at Mt Barker, WA) spoke about new species and varieties, including low growing forms, colour variants, new species (especially *Banksia rosserae*) and hybrids.

After Banksias, Tony Cavanagh and Margaret Pieroni (leader of Dryandra Study Group) gave an overview of Dryandras with a useful lists of species and their culture characteristics including frost hardiness.

Roger Elliot spoke on propagation techniques and Mark Ross gave us his experience with cotyledon grafts. He has used the DNA analysis relationships to try and find compatible rootstocks. He is having consistent long term success with *Banksia speciosa* / *aemula* and *Banksia brownii* / *integrifolia*. There is hope to extend the range for growing banksias from the west just as grafting has done for grevilleas

Finally a commercial grower told us of his experiences growing for the commercial flower market.

All in all, a very informative day with top experts participating and sharing their knowledge.

On the Saturday night a low key dinner was held at Trinity College with after dinner speaker being the botanical artist, Celia Rosser OAM, who spoke about her career, especially noted for illustrating Banksias, with 77 in the Monash University monograph of Banksias painted over a period of 25 years.

On the Sunday, we split into two groups with a morning inspection of John Benzie's 3.5 acre garden at Barongarook. After lunch we inspected Brendon and Maureen Stahl's 14 acres at Deans Marsh.

The first garden was a collectors garden with many Banksia species represented. The second garden was a more landscaped work with mass plantings – both very interesting and provoked lots of discussion and information exchange of growing experiences.

On Monday we visited Phillip Vaughan's new nursery at Geelong. Many of us had been amazed at the garden of his old nursery at Pomonal. He has laid the foundation for a similar great display at Geelong and we look forward to following progress in coming years. Again, many unusual species. Then headed for home.

The next seminar is in 2006 and will deal with small wattles for the suburban garden. We have marked off our diaries in anticipation.

Colac and Victoria APS are to be congratulated on a well organised inspiring function.

## ANOTHER NEW BOOK

TITLE: "*Eucalypts of the Northern Tablelands*"

AUTHOR: Dr John Hunter

This book will be for sale on our Mole Station and St Peters Open Gardens weekend.

COST: At this stage it will be around \$25.00

## OCTOBER ARBORETUM REPORT by Pat Urbonas Coordinator

Our working bee consisted of planting out a total of 43 plants on a mild Saturday afternoon. Thanks to Col & Glenda Mulquinney and Phil & Julie Rose.

The grevilleas are taking over the flowering from acacias at the arboretum, although *Acacia viscidula*, *siculiformis* and *pynostachya* are in full bloom. Grafted *Hakea francisiana* is flowering with lovely pink brushes as were several eremophilas. *Grev. rosmarinifolia* "Scarlet Sprite" looks a picture as are the non local forms of *Grev. juniperina* – red and lemon/apricot flowers. Other grevilleas in flower are the various forms of *Grev. lanigera*, *lavandulacea* and *victoriae*. The Grampians form of *Grev. alpina* looks great with yellow/orange flowers in contrast to the fat red/white flowers of *Grev.* "Granya Glory". The deep pink flowers of *Euc. sideroxylon* are attracting flocks of lorikeets, so I'd recommend a visit to the arboretum to view a great range of flowering plants this October.

I'm available most days to identify plants; I do require to be picked up!

## ANOTHER NURSERY!

Randwick City Council Nursery at 2B Barker Street, Kingsford (just off Anzac Parade near the University of NSW) – open weekdays from 9am to 3pm.

## ST PETERS OPEN GARDENS 6 /7 NOVEMBER at 23 Tulong Road, SAUMAREZ PONDS

This is our annual fund raising event and this year our venue is at the home of John and Barbara Nevin. There has been extensive landscaping carried out with additional raised gardens beds, sleeper edging and planting of hundreds of native plants. It will be a sight to behold!

PS - there will be exotic plants to be seen, as well as for sale.

We need as many hands as possible to help out. Knowledge of plants is not a requirement as there will be jobs for everyone. If you're unable to come to the October meeting AND would like to help, please ring me and I'll include you on the roster. Pat 6771 1703

### **AGENDA: Friday 5 November**

Set up trestles, plant sales, raffles, displays, etc from 1.00 pm onwards.

Please bring specimens for display stand and anything you may think is appropriate.

There will be plant sales, propagating demos by Warren Sheather (Sat) and David Caldwell (Sunday), Reptile display and Wildlife Corridors talk. This will be an exciting weekend.

### **Sunday afternoon:**

The garden closes to the public at 4.00 pm. We will then dismantle and pack away our displays, plants, etc. Everyone is invited to stay or come back for a BBQ and drinks at the Nevin's home.

## **CATS, BIRDS AND NATIVE GARDENS** by Pat Urbonas

There's no doubt that cats, like all pets, are great company for the sick and those on their own, because they return affection unconditionally.

Can you have a native garden that will not attract native birds into the clutches of a pet cat?

Food, water and shelter are the ingredients necessary in attracting birds to a garden. Water is easily eliminated, but what about food and shelter?

One suggestion is to use non nectar producing plants such as hibbertia, acacia, boronia, tetraetheca, olearia, veronica, etc. These plants would need to be prostrate or low growing and planted in such a way as to prevent a cat from hiding amongst them. This garden could be raised and incorporate rocks, looking very attractive.

Honeyeaters and most small birds are very loath to expose themselves to open areas away from shelter, even though insects are a part of their diet. Plants listed previously do attract insects.

Another option could be to use shrubs / trees that grow over 2 m tall. These could be nectar producing but would need to have lower branches removed and also pruned to encourage dense internal branching.

Plants at mid level would need to be eliminated because even if prickly shrub were used, birds would fly between them at a height that would make them susceptible to a leaping cat.

*Pat would like to hear any comment from fellow members – Ed!*

*COMMENT from John Nevin – The only good cat is a dead cat!*

## NEWSLETTER

We have been receiving some newsletters from other branches of APS by email.

At our last meeting we were discussing having our newsletters delivered by email. This will take some time for me to set up but in the meantime if you would like to receive your copy that way please include your email in your renewal form or let me know so that I can include you on my list. This will probably not be until 2005 (just a couple of sleeps).

Anyway having members email addresses is useful as an almost instant tool to get information out and about.

Talking about the newsletter I would be ever so pleased to get some items of interest from members to include. How about you write a profile about yourself and tell us what your interest in native plants is and how it developed, especially those of you who we never see at our meetings – lets call it a getting to know you segment – Ed!

### Acacias & Hay Fever

*(taken from Wildflower Society of Western Australia Newsletter)*

The following information has been provided by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA). The society advises that pollen from grasses, weeds or trees can trigger symptoms of hay fever (allergic rhinitis) and asthma in sensitive people. Pollen seasons can last for several months and exposure is difficult to avoid.

Some plants (such as flowering plants, including wattle) produce small amounts of pollen, which are distributed by birds and bees from one plant to another. Other plants (such as pasture grasses and weeds) rely on wind to disperse their microscopic pollens, which are produced in vast quantities, are blown long distances and can cause allergies in people.

Certain flowering trees and shrubs, including wattle, Jacaranda, jasmine, pine trees, eucalyptus and tibouchina, are frequently blamed for inducing hay fever symptoms, but do so primarily through chemical (perfume) hypersensitivity and perhaps, in some people through truly allergic reactivity. In addition, since wattle pollens are not wind-blown any great distance from the trees, it is likely that they would pose a problem only in the immediate vicinity for people who are sensitive to this trigger.

Information about common allergy causing plants in Australia can be accessed via the ASCIA website 'pollen calendar' web page which is at <http://www.allergy.org.au/month/pollen.htm>

Another useful website is: [http://www.allergy.org.au/aer/infobulletins/pollen\\_allergy.htm](http://www.allergy.org.au/aer/infobulletins/pollen_allergy.htm)

### BITS & PIECES

I really enjoy going to APS Seminars and Conferences because you pick up lots of bits and pieces from the ordinary people who pass on many years of just loving growing native plants (not just the experts).

\* If you wish to rid your place of the feral English Blackbirds set a rat trap with a glacé cherry (just passing it on).

\* Heard on Victorian ABC radio – if you suffer from hay fever, sniff on a dry teabag first thing in the morning before you leave your house and then carry it with you just in case you start to feel stuffed up and need to have another sniff during the day. (have not tried this one yet)



# Coming Diary Events

- Tuesday 19 October at 7.30pm:*            **General Meeting at Woodlands Centre  
John Hunter – Granite flora of Torrington**
- Saturday 30 / Sunday 31 October:*       **Mole Station weekend to pick up plants (see page 2)**
- Sunday 31 October:*                       **Markets in the Mall Plant Display (TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)**
- Monday 1 November at 7.30 pm:*         **Committee Meeting at the Nevin's**
- Saturday 6 / Sunday 7 November:*       **St Peters Open Gardens - all hands on deck (see page7)**
- Tuesday 16 November at 7.30 pm:*       **General Meeting at Woodlands Centre  
Peter Metcalfe – Australian Orchids**
- Sunday 21 November:*                    **Possible outing to Mt Yarrowyck (Bush Tucker) OR trip to Warialda  
to look for *Calytrix longifolia*? To be discussed at next meeting!**
- Sunday 28 November:*                    **Markets in the Mall Plant Display**
- Saturday 4 December at 1.00pm:*       **Arboretum Working Bee**
- Monday 6 December at 7.30 pm:*       **Committee Meeting at the Nevin's**
- Sunday 5 December at 11.00 am:*       **Christmas function at Mulquiney's  
Wal Whalley – Local Grasses then excursion to apex Lookout to look  
at the grasses with Wal Whalley. (see page for requirements)**

**NB:** *Pat (6771 1703) would like some help with the Plant Display at the monthly Markets in the Mall –he would very happy to hear from you.*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE:</b> please tick appropriate box	Annual Fee	Concession
<b>Single:</b>	\$44	\$36
<b>Joint:</b> (2 adults at the same address)	\$52	\$44
<b>Concession applied for:</b> Limited Fixed Income		Full Time Student

**PERSONAL:** Joint members please complete a) and b)

a) Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other.....    b) Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other.....

Given Name (s):.....                      Given Name(s) .....

Surname:.....                                Surname:.....

Postal Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel: Home ( ).....                            Work: ( ).....

Fax: ( ).....                                    email:.....

**PAYMENT:** Payment of \$.....is enclosed by:

Cheque                      Money Order                      payable to APS Armidale Branch

**Please return this completed form with your payment to :**

Membership Officer    APS Armidale Branch    PO Box 735    ARMIDALE NSW 2350