

Hakea fraseri



Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Volume 29 No 5

October 2008 - January 2009

President:

Barbara Nevin

6775 2128

Secretary:

John Nevin

6775 2128

jrnevin@northnet.com.au

Treasurer:

Phillip Rose

6775 3767

President's Message

It is raining; we had a couple of weeks of Spring and now I think we are into Summer. Oh what lovely weather we have up here.

We had a great outing to Bolivia Hill in August to look for *Homoranthus croftianus*. Unfortunately it was not found on this walk but we did find *Eucalyptus boliviana*, *Boronia boliviensis* and *Acacia pycnostachya* in flower. Many thanks to our member and National Parks Officer Peter Croft for his great preparation for the walk.

At our general meeting in August Ian Telford, the head of the UNE Herbarium, spoke to us about the name changes of plants. While I understand the need for this it has convinced me more than ever not to bother learning the names because they change so frequently. I will use common names where appropriate, but then of course common names are different for plants in each state so how do we keep up with it all? Just enjoy the plants for what they are.

In September we were involved with the Sustainable Living Expo and apart from spreading the word we sold nearly all of the plants that we had for sale. Those of you who attended would have noticed our brand new banner; thank you Ingrid Kalf and Pam Rooney for a job well done.

Congratulations also to Phillip and Julia Rose, winners of the Northern NSW Sustainable Gardening Challenge 2008 with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. The Rose garden ("*Carwell*") will be open during the St Peters Open Gardens on the first weekend in November.

Two of our members had 80th birthdays recently and we send our congratulations to Beth Williams and Kath Wray, hope you both had wonderful days.

John and I are off to the Fred Rogers Seminar in Victoria and on the way we are meeting up with Paul Kennedy to do a Hakea crawl. Paul is the leader of the Hakea Study group and will be our guest speaker at the 21 October meeting. I recommend this talk to you all.

Best Wishes

Barbara

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Thank to authors of articles and reports; this is the last newsletter until March 2009

Contributions in the way of articles, photos, hints for next year are welcomed.

Send hard copy to the Editor: Pam Rooney PO Box 807 Armidale 2350 or email pamrooney@bigpond.com

GROUP INFORMATION

(Group commenced 6th August 1977)

We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora. 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 to our outings (page 9).

Business 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.

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN OUR GROUP IS A GREAT LOVE OF OUR NATIVE PLANTS

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

Newsletters by email

If you received this newsletter by post and in future would like a full colour version emailed please let me know at pamrooney@bigpond.com.

Members without email addresses will continue to receive their newsletters by post.

Wattle Day

This year we celebrated Wattle Day with a display and by handing out sprigs of wattle stapled to a card of notification, at the 31 August market day.

It was interesting to note the number of people who did not know that we celebrated Wattle Day and the many others who said that they were allergic to wattle. We need to get a lot of publicity out there about the different ways that pollen is spread. Unfortunately at the same time that the wattle is out there are also pine trees in flower that have windborne pollen and dust that collects on the trees. I can accept that people may be allergic to the perfume but not to the pollen.

Unfortunately it did rain a little but there were plenty of people milling around. Even one of our constabulary was proudly wearing a sprig of *Acacia leprosa* 'Scarlet Blaze' for us.

There is much organisation to do for next year when we will try to make it bigger and better.

Many thanks to Barbara Colledge, Graeme and Pam Fairweather, Ingrid Kalf, Pam Rooney and Kath Wray for their help on the day.

Barbara Nevin

Arboretum Working Bees are usually held at 1 pm on the 1st Saturday of the month except November, December and January. Do bring all the relevant gardening equipment including a wheelbarrow if possible, plenty of water, sunscreen and hat and afternoon tea things. Contact Pat to confirm date (see the report on page 3). If you would like to help but Saturday does not suit you please let Pat know on 0427 327 719.

Sunday Markets

October markets fall on the 26th October which is our weekend away at Mole Station to collect plants for the St Peters Open Garden weekend. As Pat will be away could two members volunteer for the October Markets? Pat will make all the arrangements. Please contact him either at the October Meeting or on 0427 327 719 or 6775 1842.

August markets were good with 48 plants sold; September less so with 39 plants sold. We sold 149 plants at the SLEX weekend which may have contributed to the poor September sales.

Pat Laher

Markets in the Mall : Pat (6775 1842 or mob 0427 327 719) would like some help with the Plant Display at the monthly markets.

Because of increasing costs including freight the committee has decided to increase the price of plants to \$5.00 for members; the cost to the general public remains at \$7.00.

Arboretum report

As mentioned in the previous newsletter our working bees are not always on the first Saturday of the month. The day is set according to the availability of the main participants, i.e. Nevins and Roses. Please contact Pat prior to the first Saturday of the month to confirm the date of the working bee.

On the 16 August sawdust was spread on the WA eremophila garden. In September 37 plants were planted as well as some spreading of sawdust. From now on until early next year we will concentrate on pruning, weed removal (privet etc) and spreading of sawdust.

Thanks to John Nevin and Phil Rose.

Pat Laher

St Peters Open Garden, Saturday & Sunday 1-2 November; at the garden of Phil and Julia Rose.

This is our annual fund-raising and promotional weekend. The Roses have been hard at work for this and it promises to be a very interesting weekend. We need members to help with setting up, manning stalls and dismantling. You do not need extensive botanical knowledge. A roster will be circulated at the October meeting but if you are unable to attend that and are able to help please phone Pat Laher on 6775 1842 or 0427 327 719 .

Friday 31 October: we will set up trestles, plants, raffles and other displays from 5pm. Members holding plants should bring them along for sorting.

Saturday 1 November: the garden will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm.

Sunday 2 November: again the garden will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm.

Members helping during the day will need to bring food and drinks for themselves.

On Sunday after closing we will need helpers to dismantle and pack displays, plants etc. When that is completed all members are invited to stay and share in drinks and nibbles at the post-mortem. Items needed are card tables, chairs, hats, name tags, large umbrellas and gazebo.

Please contact Pat Laher on 6775 1842 or 0427 327 719 if you are able to help with your time or lending any of these items.

Bolivia Hill Revisited

Spring is in the air! After a punishing winter, the days are lengthening and warming up heralding our welcome escape from winter. On Sunday, 24th August, our group went to inspect Bolivia Hill with Peter Croft. After gathering at North Armidale, we travelled in convoy to Glen Innes where we met up with those from Guyra, Glen Innes and Inverell. In all our group totalled twenty.

Peter provided us with information for the day: a list of taxa of conservation significance; a map of vegetation communities; two maps (topographic and satellite imaging) of Bolivia Hill; summaries of vegetation types and geology and a complete flora list for Bolivia Hill put together by John Hunter.

We drove out to the southern aspect of the area and accessed it via a series of fire trails that had been named

with a South American perspective consistent with the name Bolivia, Peru trail, Chile trail. The roads were quite steep so we rationalised vehicles, leaving the two wheel drives and proceeded in four wheel drives up Angoperran Hill. After a few kilometres, we pulled up on the Peru trail for the walking part of the day.

Peter had surveyed the area a few days before and had marked out two walks. As it turned out, we elected to take the easier walk so that we could all stay together. Although there had been some recent rain, conditions were very dry, something unusual for the area which had been an oasis from the drought in recent years.

After an hour, we reached a granite dome with an expansive view to the south. Although it was a little early for flowering, we were rewarded with a spectacular flowering of the rare endemic *Eucalyptus boliviana*. The flowers of this are not described in Flora of NSW and there are no pictures of the flowers on Plantnet or at the NBG website. They are truly spectacular, large and yellow. It was the first time that Peter Croft had seen the tree in flower.

The local endemic *Boronia boliviensis* was just coming into flower and had a contrasting understorey of *Mirbelia rubiifolia*. Other plants included *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Callitris endlicheri*, *Gahnia aspera*, *Lepidosperma gunnii* and *L. laterale*, three *Lomandras* (*confertiflora*, *filiformis* and *longifolia*), *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Brachyloma saxicola*, three *Leucopogons* (*lanceolatus*, *melaleucoides* and *neoanglicus*), eight wattles (*adunca*, *fimbriata*, *neriifolia*, *pycnostachya*, *rubida*, *ulicifolia*, *venulosa* and *viscidula*), *Hovea lanceolata*, three *Eucalyptus* (*andrewsii*, *boliviana*, *prava*), *Kunzea bracteolata* and *obovata*, *Leptospermum brevipes*, *minutifolium*, *nova-angliae* and *polygalifolium*, masses of *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Hakea laevipes*, *Cryptandra amara*, *Boronia anethifolia* and *Correa reflexa*.

After taking in the plants and the views, we walked back to the track where we were parked and enjoyed each others company over lunch. As it was getting on, we declined the longer walk and set off to retrace our steps back to Armidale. Great weather had been topped off by seeing *Eucalyptus boliviana* and *Boronia boliviensis* in flower. It should be a great spring. Thanks go to Peter Croft for leading the trip and putting so much into the preparation for the visit.

text by John Nevin

page 4



Eucalyptus boliviana; Phil Rose ©

Mole Station weekend 25-26 October

This is our annual weekend away during which we visit places of botanical interest on the Saturday, stay overnight at Mole Station on Saturday and on Sunday bring plants to Armidale for sale at St Peters Open Garden the following weekend.

On Saturday 25 meet and leave from Angus Society Headquarters (northern roundabout) at 7.45am.

Arrive at Giraween National Park visitor centre at 10am for morning tea with Sarah and David Caldwell.

Bring also lunch and afternoon tea.

On Saturday evening the Caldwells will join us for a BYO BBQ at the Shearers quarters at Mole Station.

Sunday morning after breakfast members can explore the garden and nursery. Sarah may have scones, jam and cream lined up for morning tea or equivalent!! We will then load approximately 500 plants to bring back to Armidale.

Accommodation is available at the Shearers Quarters at Mole Station. It is self-contained and sleeps eight in four shared rooms. Extra people can be accommodated in the lounge room, verandah or BYO tent. Cost of accommodation is approximately \$20 per head depending on numbers.

Please bring personal items, and all food and drink. Linen, blankets, cutlery and crockery are supplied.

We need to provide all food and drink for Saturday evening BBQ and for Sunday breakfast. Members often stop at Tenterfield for lunch on the way home on Sunday.

If they wish members will be reimbursed \$7 per box of plants that they bring back to Armidale. Please apply to the treasurer.



Pat Laher

Tears of Ice at Weeping Rock

On Sunday, 17th August, I joined Peter Metcalfe and half a dozen others on a trip to New England National Park to view Weeping Rock. In past years I had inspected this impressive South facing cliff face that oozed water and had admired the prolific array of ferns that grew there. This year, August had been unusually cold, with the maximum daily temperature consistently failing to get above ten degrees

centigrade. There had been reports of ice forming at the Weeping Rock, so we decided to go and have a look.

The day was fine and the park its usual spectacular self,

although it was a little early for the flowering season. We were rewarded with a view of stalactites and stalagmites made up of columns of ice and an ice sheet covering the weeping rock. It was a privilege to view this unusual spectacle of nature. The photo does not do it justice.

**text and photo
John Nevin ©**

Hi Pam

I would like to put a question in the next newsletter. I have this peculiar “bug” on one particular *Banksia spinulosa*. It is conical shaped and less than 10mm in length. It seems to cover itself with bits of the leaf and is like a thin tiny hard black worm that sucks all the green from the leaves and leaves the branch brown and dead looking. Other APS members I have asked do not know it. I cut most of the badly infested branches off and put them in the rubbish. I go out each day and pick off any more that arrive. They hang on quite tightly to the leaf. I have sprayed the tree with Confidor but that did nothing to deter these little beasts. I hope I now have got them under control and that the bush will survive because of one branch they did not attack. If there is anyone that knows what it is and how to get rid of it – in case it should arrive again – I would be very pleased to hear from them (as no doubt others would in case it arrives at their place).

Barbara Colledge
page 5

From 'Yallaroo'

Acacia amoena

There are many native acacias or wattles that develop into medium shrubs reaching a height of two metres or so. A few of these shrubby wattles are well known in cultivation but there are literally dozens of species that are virtually unknown. Many of these wattles have horticultural potential and could be grown as components of native hedgerows and shrubberies.



Acacia amoena is one of these virtually unknown shrubby wattles. Its common name is Boomerang wattle and refers to the shape of the phyllodes. The Boomerang Wattle grows into an erect medium

shrub with bright, golden globular flowers in spring. The distinctive feature of the Boomerang Wattle is the number of glands that occur along the margin of the phyllodes. There are usually two but in some cases there may be three or four. Usually wattles have only one gland. The multiple glands are a distinctive feature and are used in the identification of the species. As with all acacias, pruning after flowering is beneficial. Cut branches behind the spent flowers. This will encourage dense growth and bounteous blooming.

Acacia amoena is a local species with populations in the camping area at Apsley Falls and along the Oxley Highway at Stony Creek. There is also small population in the eastern highlands of Victoria. Propagate from seeds and probably cuttings.

Melaleuca blaeriifolia

Melaleuca blaeriifolia is a native of Western Australia that may reach a height of two metres but is usually much shorter. Our original plant, after three years, is about one metre tall.



Melaleuca blaeriifolia has very small, bright green, tightly clustered leaves that spiral around the branches. Small flower heads are yellowish-green to green.

Blooms may be carried on the ends of branches or on old wood. Spring and summer are the main flowering periods. There is said to be sporadic flowering at other times but our specimens confine their blooming to spring and summer. Growth habit, foliage and flowers are all attractive features. Prune lightly after flowering.

Melaleuca blaeriifolia has proved to be drought and frost resistant. The species is small enough to be accommodated in most gardens.

Melaleuca blaeriifolia is one of a number of plants, in our garden, whose origins are lost in the mist of time. We cannot remember where we acquired the original plant.

We have propagated the species successfully from cuttings.

The species name refers to the leaves resembling those of the *Blaeria*, a member of the Ericaceae family.

Grevillea x semperflorens

Grevillea x semperflorens is an historic hybrid whose parents are *Grevillea thelemanniana* and *Grevillea juniperina* subspecies *sulphurea*. The hybrid was developed by Miss F. E. Briggs of Plymouth, England in 1926 or 1927.

As far as we know this is only one of two hybrid Grevilleas that has been given a Latin-based name. Semper means always and florens means flowering. The name refers to the long flowering period. *Grevillea x gaudichaudii* is the other hybrid with a Latin name. This is a naturally occurring hybrid from the upper Blue Mountains of New South Wales.

Grevillea x semperflorens is a shrub that may reach a height

of two metres and has pendulous branches. The leaves are usually divided into a small number of segments and are up to 45 millimetres long.

Flowers may be terminal or carried in leaf axils. They are orange-yellow and red. As the hybrid name implies, flowering extends over a lengthy period. Honeyeaters are attracted to the blooms.

The information about the history of this cultivar was gleaned from *Banksias, Waratahs, and Grevilleas & All Other Plants in the Australian Proteaceae Family* by Wrigley & Fagg, published by Collins Australia. This is a very useful reference book that we dip into frequently.

Wrigley & Fagg also note that *Grevillea x semperflorens* is not available in Australia. This may have been the case in 1989 when their book was published. Last year we bought a plant that had been propagated by Sarah and David Caldwell.

Propagate *Grevillea x semperflorens* from cuttings that strike readily.

photos and text by Warren & Gloria Sheather. ©



Annual General Meeting

Do not forget that our meeting in February 2009 is our AGM.

For the meeting we will have the AGM, followed by any important announcements and then a quiz.

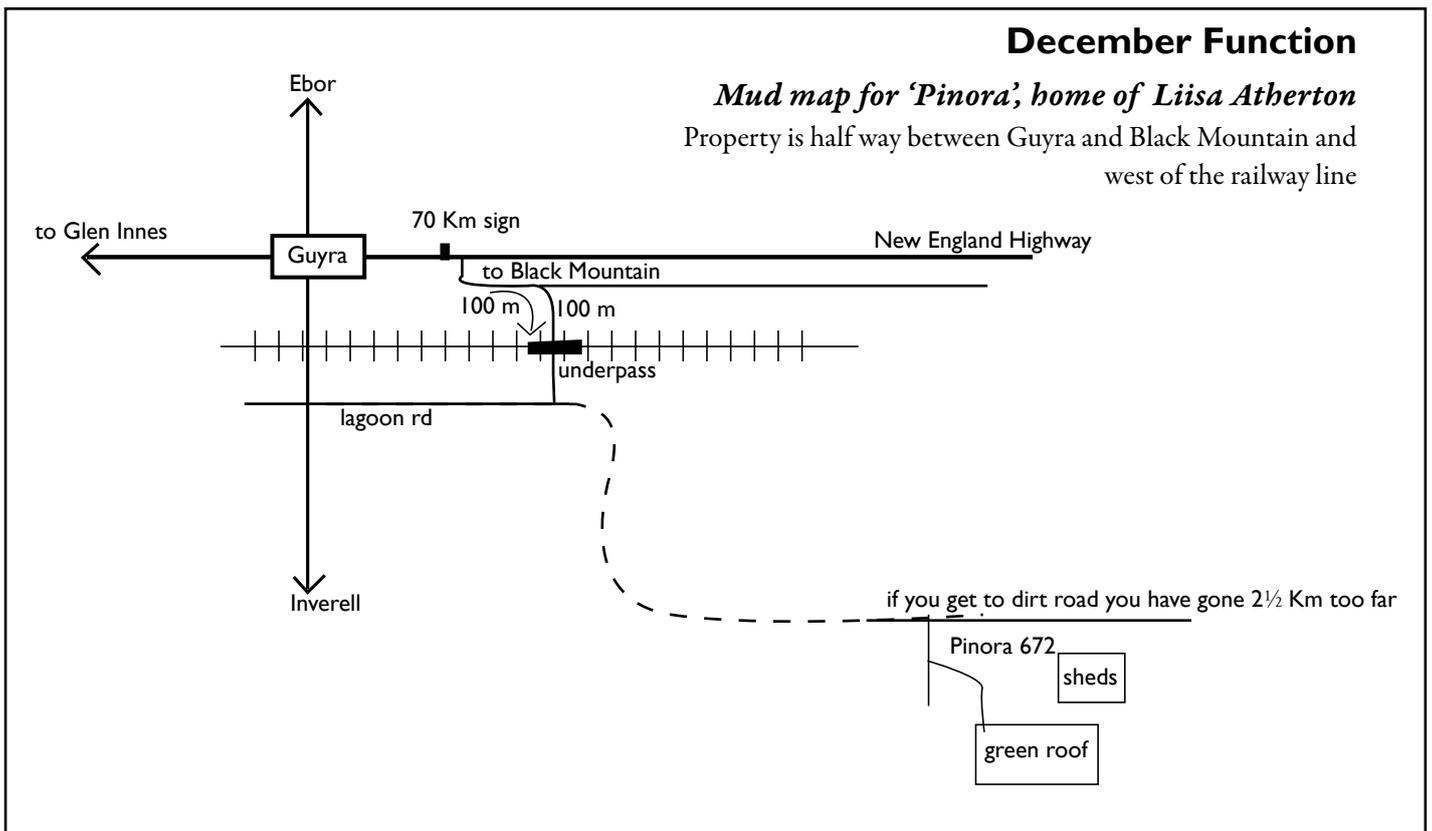
All positions will become vacant so please consider taking on a position on the committee as we really need other members to help out. If you have any questions about any of the positions please ask one of the current committee.

The positions include:

President, Vice Presidents X 2, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Supper Coordinator, Arboretum Coordinator, Markets In The Mall Coordinator, Membership Officer, Publicity Officer and another position that I would like to introduce is an Events Coordinator.

We look forward to welcoming some new blood on the committee for some new ideas.

Barbara Nevin



Below: Members at 'Milani', the property of Wal & Lynne Chapman. Photo: Phil Rose ©



FOR YOUR DIARY, COMING EVENTS: October 2008 to February 2009

October

Contact Pat Laher re Arboretum working bee

- Monday 13th** 7.30pm Business meeting, all welcome. At Barbara & John Nevin's
- Tuesday 21st 7.30 pm General meeting at Mann St Tree Nursery. Talk and slides by Paul Kennedy from Hakea study Group; "Growing and propagating Hakeas".
- Saturday 25 - Sunday 26** 7.45 am at Northern Roundabout Weekend trip to Giraween National park and Mole Station. Details page 5.
- Sunday 26 Markets in the Mall; 2 volunteers required. See Page 3

November

- Saturday 1 - Sunday 2** St Peters Open Garden. At 'Carwell', Phil and Julia Rose's Garden, **Volunteers needed.** Contact Pat Laher. Details page 3.
- Monday 10th** 7.30 pm Business meeting, all welcome. At Barbara & John Nevin's
- Tuesday 18th 7.30 pm General meeting at Mann St Tree Nursery. Speaker John Nevin, slide show and talk from the Fred Rogers Eremophila seminar and Hakea Study Group crawl.
- Sunday 30 Markets in the Mall

December

- Monday 1st 7.30 pm Business meeting, all welcome. At Barbara & John Nevin's
- Saturday 6th** 12 noon **December Function. Plant swap and lunch at 'Pinora' the property of Liisa Atherton, 67 Lagoon Rd Guyra. Telephone 6779 2365. See Mud Map page 8.**
- Sunday 21st Markets in the Mall

February

- Monday 2nd 7.30pm Business meeting, all welcome. At Barbara & John Nevin's
- Saturday 7th 1pm Arboretum working Bee (Contact Pat Laher to confirm date)
- Tuesday 17th 7.30 pm **Annual General Meeting** and General meeting followed by a quiz at Mann St Tree Nursery. **Details page 8.**
- Sunday 22nd** Markets in the Mall

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM for Australian Plant Society (ABN 87 002 680 408)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: please tick appropriate box

Single:

Joint: (2 adults at the same address)

Concession applied for:

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