

Hakea fraseri



## Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

<http://www.anps-armidale.org.au>

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### President's message

Hello to everyone from sunny/windy/rainy Victoria where John and I are enjoying the ANPSA (AGAP) Conference. More will be revealed about this wonderful experience in another newsletter.

In the last month we have been quite active with a visit to Digger's Camp (between Minnie Water and Wooli on the coast). On the Sunday we met up with the Coffs Harbour Group and had a lovely visit with them. Many thanks to our member Jean Mott who invited us to share her holiday home and all those locals whom she roped in to show us around. Amongst my favourite native plants are flannel flowers and grass trees. I never thought that I would see so many that I would be thinking of them like weeds.

At the end of September our group, under the direction of member Maria Hitchcock, set up an exhibition garden at the SLEX weekend. Maria designed an outdoor entertaining area and used all local plants that were sold to the public. Unfortunately John and I were unable to be there but I understand that it was just great and am looking forward to seeing many photos of it. Thanks to Maria and her crew of members for the display.

Luckily we missed the terrible dust storm that swept through our area as Victoria did not get it and I am not looking forward to seeing what damage has been done to our garden. Hope the damage to your gardens was not too bad.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of our former member Bob McCaig and we send our best wishes and share many wonderful memories with Jean and her family. We were also sad to hear of the passing of Lynne Thompson who was the Membership Officer at NSW APS. Our best wishes go to her sisters Merle and Pat and their families.

As you all know we have been having trouble getting the flower that we were going to have for our emblem, looking good in a drawing SO what do you all think if we go back to something that looks like the emblem we had before. That is a daisy. We are looking at a newly described daisy in the Glencoe area that fills all the criteria, the *Xerochrysum neoanglicum*. It will be much easier to draw and will be readily available.

Please give some thought to the AGM in February as the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions have run their 3 year course so we need some new blood in the mix with some new ideas. A group is only successful if all members take on the many positions to help with the smooth running of the group.

This will be the last newsletter for 2009 so together with your committee I wish you all a very healthy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all at the functions before the end of this year and at the AGM 2010.

Best wishes, Barbara

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**Thank you all contributors. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday 29 January**  
**Reports, articles, snippets, photos and ideas are all very welcome.**

**Send hard copy to the Editor: Pam Rooney PO Box 807 Armidale 2350 or email [pamrooney@bigpond.com](mailto: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 Activity** 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*

You may wish to receive your newsletters by email, a cost effective option for our Society. The bonus for members is that the newsletter is in colour. In general the size of the file is 1MB or less. If you would prefer newsletters by email please contact the editor at [pamrooney@bigpond.com](mailto:pamrooney@bigpond.com)

## Markets in the Mall

Pat (6775 1842 or mob 0427 327 719) would like some help with the plant display and sale at the monthly markets.

(All SLEX photos by Maria Hitchcock)



## SLEX 2009

Despite wind and dust storms during the setting up and over the weekend we did very well with plant sales. We sold 43 x 200mm pots and 38 x 140mm pots. Many people



commented on how well the garden was set up and they were impressed with the range of flowering plants. All credit is due to Maria Hitchcock

not only for the design and selection of plants, but also for negotiating with the Armidale Dumeresq Council and other organizations such as nurseries who loaned plants and individuals and clubs who helped with the construction. My thanks to those helpers over the weekend.

**Pat Laher**

## SLEX 2009

Who could have predicted that SLEX 09 would coincide with not one but two severe dust storms that covered Armidale and kept many visitors away from the Expo. After all the work it was somewhat disappointing but the central garden was admired by all and we managed to sell a lot of our plants. A big thank you to all those who helped in planning, setting up, supervising and pulling down. It was a very good exercise in community partnerships and something we should keep in mind for any future events. The expo gave us some excellent publicity on television, radio and in the press.

I would like to thank the following contributors.

- \* The Rotary Club of Armidale and friends,
- \* Paul Marquardt - Marquardt Constructions,
- \* Martin Chaseling - Armidale Building Recyclers
- \* Richardson's Hardware and Agriculture,
- \* New England Garden World,
- \* Waterfall Garden Centre,
- \* Mole Station Native Nursery,
- \* Armidale Tree Group,
- \* Myall Blue Grasses Inverell,
- \* Joakim Ho - Natural Matters Design,
- \* Armidale Dumaresq Council,
- \* Peter Ducat - Ducats Earthmoving,
- \* Rob Taber - New England Solar Power

Here are a few pictures for those who couldn't get there.

### Maria Hitchcock



(All SLEX photos by Maria Hitchcock)



## From Yallaroo

### Our Ants

As our garden develops wildlife in all shapes and sizes has appeared. Some organisms are permanent whilst others make seasonable appearances.

Birds are the most visible evidence that our garden has become a wildlife haven with nearly 90 species identified over a period of 14 years.

Insects and their relatives (centipedes, spiders, scorpions etc) are not as visible as the birds but they also have become part of Yallaroo's menagerie.

Ants, because of their numbers, are a prominent feature not only in the garden but sometimes in the house. It has been said that the presence of a variety of ants is the mark of a healthy environment. With at least ten species of ants we feel that our environment is in reasonable condition. There are the excitable meat ants with their large mounded nests. They have worn a track from one nest across our road into the depths of our garden.

Large, red sugar ants build their nests near our shed. There is a smaller, similar species, that in small numbers, forages in our kitchen. Small black ants are also fond of the kitchen. They invade in large numbers and usually herald weather changes. Their numbers are too high to tolerate so some control is necessary.

Outside we occasionally find nests of ants similar in appearance to meat ants but they have red abdomens and calmer personalities than the usual meat ants.

Seed distribution is an important environmental role played by ants. Meat ants collect wattle seeds. They remove

the fleshy growth (funicle) from the seed as food for ant larvae. Last year we found mounds of *Acacia implexa* (minus their funicles) in various parts of the garden. Near Backwater we have observed mounds of *Acacia dealbata* seeds apparently collected for their funicles.

Meat ants and sugar ants collect grevillea seeds and remove the fleshy rings (elaiosome) that surround the seeds. These are also used as ant larvae food. Grevillea seeds do not appear to be gathered together but dropped as soon as the elaiosomes are removed. Grevillea seedlings have appeared near our sugar ant nests. Meat ants seem to be fond of *Grevillea arenaria* with seedlings appearing in many places. The elaiosomes are firmly attached to the

## From Yallaroo (contd.)

seeds. The seed coat is probably damaged during elaiosome removal. This would aid germination.

Ants, in their various forms and behaviour, in company with other arthropods are interesting inhabitants of our garden.

*Hakea maccreana*



### *One, now two Hakeas.*

Once upon a time there was *Hakea maccreana* with two populations one in southern NSW and the other in northern New South Wales. Close examination of the southern and northern populations revealed that there were enough botanical differences to split the species in two.

The southern population, confined to the South Coast and Southern Tablelands of NSW, remained *Hakea maccreana*. The northern population, occurring in the Dorrigo area, became *Hakea ochroptera*.

The most visible difference between species is that *Hakea maccreana* has blackish-brown seed wings whilst *Hakea ochroptera* seeds have light brown to off-white wings. Horticulturally there is virtually no difference between species.

Both Hakeas are rather handsome tall shrubs that will reach a height of seven metres. Growth habit is spreading and mature plants have a conifer-like appearance. Leaves are bright green, soft, narrow, 13 centimetres long and tipped with a sharp point. White flowers appear in spring and cover the branches. The woody fruits are oval and covered with warty bumps. Each fruit contains two winged seeds. Propagate from seed. Both species are rare with limited distribution.

These two Hakeas could be cultivated in shrubberies and informal hedges.

### *The Long & Short of it*

With over 1000 species there is an Acacia for every garden location. The following are two Wattles that will survive and thrive in local gardens and are suitable for two different landscaping situations.

*Acacia neriifolia*, the Oleander Wattle, is a local species that is found west of Tea Tree Creek. The Oleander Wattle is also common on the Moonbi Ranges.

*Acacia neriifolia* will reach a height of ten metres and has rough, grey-brown bark. The phyllodes are usually linear and may be straight or curved. There is a prominent gland at the base of the phyllode and sometimes one or two others spaced along the margin.

The bright yellow flowers are carried in racemes at the base of each phyllode. Flowering occurs in late winter to early spring. This season the flowers on our specimens had faded by the end of August.

*Acacia neriifolia* is also found in Queensland.



*Acacia neriifolia*

*Acacia amblygona*



Apparently there is some variation between populations so in the future this species may be rent asunder.

Try this tall wattle as a “stand alone” specimen or included in shelterbelts and windbreaks. Propagate from seed and probably cuttings.

*Acacia amblygona* is known as the Fan Wattle and is usually a sprawling to upright shrub reaching a height of one metre. There is also a handsome prostrate form known as “Austraflora Winter Gold”.

*Acacia amblygona* as a rather disjointed distribution. In NSW the Fan Wattle occurs on the Western Slopes and Plains extending into Queensland. There is also another occurrence on the other side of the continent near Ravensthorpe in Western Australia. The species is common in the Pilliga Scrub.

Small phyllodes are almost triangular with a sharp point. There may be an inconspicuous gland near the base. Bright yellow, globular flower heads appear in late winter. One of two flower heads are carried at the base of the phyllodes.

The Fan Wattle is an attractive small shrub in either upright or prostrate forms but the prostrate cultivar is particularly eye-

catching. Our specimen has spread over an area of two metres by one metre and in late winter forms a golden carpet. This cultivar could be grown under other shrubs or spilling down an embankment.

Propagate the upright form from seed whilst the ground covering form is best grown from cuttings. This will ensure that plants will retain their prostrate growth habit.

**text & photos, Warren & Gloria Sheather**

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## Armidale Arboretum

Arboretum Working Bees are usually held at 1 pm on the 1st Saturday of the month except where otherwise notified and in November, December and January. Contact Pat to confirm date. If you would like to help but Saturday does not suit you please let Pat Laher know on 0427 327 719.



Arboretum: photos pam rooney

## St Peter's Open Garden 7-8 November

at the garden of Steven Thiele & Sue Vile,  
12 Braund St, Armidale

This is our annual fund-raising and promotional weekend. It has been quite a number of years since we were last at this garden and it will be interesting to see how it has changed with maturity.

### Description of Steven & Sue's garden from St Peter's Armidale Gardens 2009 brochure.

*"The garden is on a one-hectare block in south-eastern Armidale with an easterly aspect, though there is some northern slope. It is within the old Armidale streambeds. The indigenous rock is ironstone conglomerate derived from a basalt cap. The soil is very poor but well drained, so good for Australian natives.*

*There are a few matters that distinguish this garden:*

*\* low growing herbs have been extensively used.*

*\* various grasses, lomandras and grass trees have been widely planted*

*\* an attempt has been made to select plants, to prune them, to develop banks of plantings that maintain ground cover and give a sense of dense foliage,"*

We need members to help with setting up, manning the plant stalls and dismantling. A roster will be circulated at the October meeting, but if you are unable to attend and are able to help please phone Patrick Laher on 67751842 or 0427 327 719.

### Friday 6 November

We will set up plant trestles, information table and other displays from 5pm. Members holding plants need to bring them along for sorting and placement.

### Saturday 7

The garden will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm.

### Sunday 8

Again the garden will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm.

Members who are helping will need to provide their own food and drinks. On Sunday after closing we will need helpers to dismantle and pack away plants, trestles, tables etc. When this is completed all who have helped over the weekend are invited to stay and participate in drinks and nibbles at the post-mortem. The Society will pay for this. Items needed for the weekend are card tables, chairs for talks, hats, name tags, large umbrella or gazebo.

**Please contact Patrick Laher on 67751842 or 0427 327 719 if you are able to help with your time or with items.**

## Mole Station Weekend 31 October - 1 November 2009

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

### Saturday 31 October

Meet at the public hall in the middle of Torrington township at 10am for morning tea with David and Sarah Caldwell. We will either visit two areas of interest off the Silent Grove Road or visit a private bush block.

Saturday evening the Caldwells will join us for a BYO BBQ at the shearer's quarters at Mole Station.

Sunday morning after breakfast, members can explore the garden and after morning tea have the opportunity to purchase plants for themselves. We will then load the approximately 500 plants to bring back to Armidale. Members usually have lunch at a pub in Tenterfield on their way home.

Accommodation is available at the shearer's quarters at Mole Station. It is self-contained and sleeps eight in 4 shared rooms. Extra people can be accommodated in the lounge room, veranda or BYO tent. The cost will be approx \$25 per head, depending on numbers. Please bring personal items and your own food and drink. Linen, blankets, cutlery and crockery are supplied. BYO all meals for Saturday and breakfast Sunday.

If members wish they can be reimbursed \$6 per box of plants brought back to Armidale for sale. Please apply to the treasurer, Phil Rose.

## Xmas Function;

### Sunday 6th December 12 noon

BBQ lunch & plant swap at the home of Pam & John Rooney 216 Marsh St, Armidale. BYO meat or vegetarian equivalent. Would you please liaise with Pam, ph 67713015 with regard to salad or desert.

# FOR YOUR DIARY, COMING EVENTS: October 2009 to February 2010

## October

- Monday 19, 7.30pm** Business meeting at Nevin's. All welcome
- Tuesday 20, 7.30pm** General Meeting. Genus of the month: **Prostanthera** Venue: "Woodland Centre", Mann Street, Armidale. Speaker John Nevin et al "**The Pilliga**"
- Sunday 25** Markets in the Mall
- Saturday 31 - Sunday 1 Nov.** Outing to Mole Station, details page 8.

## November

- Monday 2, 7.30pm** Business meeting at Nevin's. All welcome
- Saturday - Sunday 7-8** St Peter's Armidale Gardens see page 8
- Tuesday 17, 7.30pm** General Meeting. Genus of the month: **Callistemon**. Venue: "Woodland Centre", Mann Street, Armidale. Speaker: to be announced
- Sunday 29** Markets in the Mall

## December

- Sunday 6, 12.00 noon** Xmas Function: Garden visit, lunch and plant swap. See page 6 for details
- Monday 7, 7.30pm** Business meeting at Nevin's. All welcome
- Sunday 20** Markets in the Mall

## February

- Monday 1, 7.30pm** Business meeting at Nevin's. All welcome
- Tuesday 16, 7.30pm** General Meeting. Genus of the month: **Grevillea** Venue: "Woodland Centre", Mann St. Armidale. AGM followed by quiz.
- Sunday 21** Outing Tree Group Facilities.
- Sunday 28** Markets in the Mall



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

#### for Australian Plant Society (ABN 87 002 680 408)

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE:** please tick appropriate box

**Annual Fee**      **Concession**

**Single:**

**\$50**

**\$42**

**Joint:** (2 adults at the same address)

**\$58**

**\$50**

**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