

Australian Plants Society Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 Armidale NSW 2350

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

Volume 34, No. 2

Spring Edition 2013



Crowea exalata ssp. magnifolia



Eucalyptus caesia ... refer article p.6-7 (Photo W & G Sheather)

In this issue:

Officebearers for 2013....p.2

From your President...p.3

Pat Laher reports ... p.3

Excursion to Torrington...p.4

State Get-Together...p.5

Some gems from Yallaroo...p.6

Grevillea lanigera...p.8

For your Diary...P.9

Membership Form...p.11

Contact Us:

Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350

President: Barbara Nevin

Ph. 6775 2128

barbnevin@gmail.com

Secretary: Helen Schwarz

Ph. 6772 1584

woshes@bigpond.com

Treasurer: John Nevin

Ph. 6775 2128

jrnevin@nsw.chariot.net.au

From the newsletter editor : Dear members, this is your newsletter and all articles, snippets and photos are welcome. There is NO DEADLINE for this newsletter. Articles will be included based on a FIRST COME basis. Please send your articles, snippets, letters to me at aslinverna@gmail.com or send a hard copy to 5 Birch Crescent Armidale NSW 2350. PHOTOS should be sent individually as jpg files either via email or copied onto a disk.

Thank you to all contributors to this issue!

Verna Aslin

GROUP INFORMATION

The Armidale and District Group of APS---NSW started on 6th August, 1977 as the New England Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. It has been running continuously since that time with a couple of name changes. We are a very friendly and helpful group who enjoy monthly forums and business meetings, garden visits and field trips to help members enjoy the search for knowledge about our native flora and our local environment. We range from raw beginners to others who have been gardening and researching for many years - all willing to share their knowledge.

Business Meetings are held at 5.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. **Native Plant and Garden Forums** are held in the **TAFE Library Seminar Room** on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except June, July, December and January) from 7.30 – 9.30 where members talk about plants in flower from specimens displayed on the flower table and share information about gardening topics. The Forum is followed by a delicious supper and an interesting speaker. Old and new members, visitors and families, are very welcome at these Forums and on our outings (see page 8 for details).

Annual General Meeting is held in November. **Solstice Function** is held in June. This is usually a lunch and garden ramble at the home of one of our members. **Wattle Day Activity** is held on a day closest to 1st September. **Christmas Party** is held early in December at the home of one of our members. We also lead regular **trips into the bush** and the occasional **weekend escape to the coast** or elsewhere. We participate in **St Peter's Garden Tour** in November each year, opening one of our gardens to the public and holding our **Giant Annual Plant Sale**. We hold a **Market Stall** each month in the Mall. Come along and say hello. Our members have also been active in developing and maintaining the **Native Garden beds at the Arboretum**. We welcome volunteers who would like to help. See p.9 for our calendar and details of events.

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN OUR GROUP IS AN INTEREST IN OUR NATIVE PLANTS

OFFICEBEARERS FOR 2013

President: Barbara Nevin Phone: 6775 2128

Vice President: Maria Hitchcock Phone: 6775 1139

Secretary: Helen Schwarz Phone: 6772 1584

Treasurer: John Nevin Phone: 6775 2128

Membership officer: Colin Mulquiney

Auditor: David Laird

Markets in the Mall and Arboretum Coordinator: Patrick Laher Phone: 0427327719

Newsletter Editor: Verna Aslin Phone: 6772 7548

Hospitality: Barbara Nevin

Company Director/Local Delegate: Maria Hitchcock

Monthly Plant List Coordinator: Suzanne Robertson

OHS and Environmental Officer: Peter Metcalf

Webmaster: Neil Wilson

NSW Get-Together Sub-Committee: Maria Hitchcock (chair), John and Barbara Nevin, Helen Schwarz ,
Patrick Laher

From Your President

Recently John and I returned from a 5 week overseas trip to watch two cricket test matches at Lords and Manchester. Between these two we did a brief tour of Eastern Europe.

As usual we visited the Kew Gardens near London and of course were impressed by their Australian native plants section. John was very interested to watch the gardeners clearing out a glass house so that it can be renovated. This included preparing quite mature trees and shrubs for removal so that they can be replanted later.

Meanwhile I found a very shaded and breezy area that had a water sprinkler nearby so that I could wait for him. It was very hot and I DO NOT DO HEAT!!

We noticed many Australian plants dotted around different towns but were really impressed by the use of scaevolae around shrubs in planter boxes around the foreshore of Helsinki.

Since arriving home we were very disappointed to find that we had had very little rain and there does not seem to be too much on the horizon.

Enough of that – we have some great functions with our group, and recently for our Solstice Day we all descended on the Helen and Werner Schwarz estate on Donald Road, where we had a lovely communal meal and a conducted tour through their holdings. I know that Helen is the native plant expert in their family but a lot is soaking into Werner's skin, as he held his own when showing us their plantings. Hope all your plans come to fruition, Helen and Werner, so that we can make a return trip sometime. Our thanks to you both.

We had a great trip to the Torrington area recently. Fourteen brave/idiotic members braved the weather to have a picnic lunch at Blatherarm and my favourite part was seeing the thick fog coming towards us by surrounding the trees and bushes. One minute just rain and the next completely covered – it looked fantastic.

For Wattle Day fifteen members had a lovely luncheon at the Grand Hotel where Maria had prepared an amusing quiz that we all participated in, won by John N. Thank you, Maria.

Enjoy your gardening

Barbara Nevin

Patrick Laher reports:

Arboretum : During July and August, we removed the weed matting from the eastern end of the Proteaceae bed. We hope that Council will be able to supply mulch for our September working bee and enable us then to mulch and plant out this area at a later date.

Sunday Markets : Interest in our stall continued through June and July with possible new members on the horizon. Plant sales were excellent with 36 and 41 pots sold during this period.

Grafting : Phil Trickett will be our March 2014 guest speaker. At the March 18th forum, Phil will update us on his success and failure with grafted plants in his garden, following some very heavy rain earlier this year. Phil will then lead a grafting hands-on workshop on the weekend after our Forum. Members wishing to graft a special plant will need to obtain a suitable root stock. The Tree Group or Mole Station may be a good source of tube root stocks.

Christmas Bells: Could members interested in buying Blandfordia grandiflora plants [\$5ea.] please contact me with their order by phone or patricklaher@yahoo.com.au and I will bring them to our September Forum.

Forthcoming outings: please refer to notes on the Diary page (p.9)

Excursion to Torrington

(Ed.)

Luck was definitely not on the side of the fourteen keen members who assembled for our excursion to Torrington on Saturday 17th August. Although bracketed by two days of perfect weather, Saturday proved to be a persistently wet day, with rain only lifting briefly to be replaced by fog. The granite landscapes of the Torrington State Recreation Area were brightened by a display of wattles in flower and dense clumps of white-flowering epacrids, notably a number of species of *Leucopogon*. Many comments of regret were heard from members concerning how difficult this genus is in cultivation.

The first stop involved a stroll to Mystery Face rock, which proved elusive at first. In the end a sighting of both Mystery Face, Winchester Rocks, and Boars Head was enjoyed, as well as the diverse woodland flora and the range of plants which cling to crevices of the granite sheets. Several further stops were made for more granite flora strolls, and some uncommon and very localized flora were sighted.



Roadside stop to inspect an outcrop of *Acacia torringtonensis*



Banksia neoanglica



Mirbelia speciosa



Acacia decora

At least a dozen species of wattle were noted by John, many in flower. Small arching plants of *Acacia decora* brightened the understory, and other wattles in flower included *A. brownii*, *A. longifolia*, *A. fimbriata* and *A. latisepala*. John pointed out the rare species *A. betchii* and *A. macnuttiana*, although these were not in flower. The last stop yielded a few more tones of yellow with *Phebalium glandulosum* ssp. *eglandulosum* and *Phebalium rotundifolium*. *Micromyrtus sessilis* provided dainty white/pink sprays.

Yellow and white dominated the floral display although there were subtler notes of purple and blue. *Mirbelia speciosa* flowers were bright purple cerise, and *Hovea purpurea* a more bluey purple. Purple flag (*Patersonia sericea*) was also in flower. Thriving in cracks in the granite sheets, *Prostanthera teretifolia* was abundant. However all the plants observed were the blue-flowered form, with no sign of the elusive pink-flowered form - bad luck Patrick.

Although conditions had proved so unfavourable for both bush-walking and photography, members were entranced by the wildflower value of the area. As John and Patrick know the area well and were able to assure us of many more wildflowers to be admired later in the season, a return visit is assured, hopefully in more favourable conditions.

Excursion to Torrington (cont'd)



Prostanthera teretifolia



Leucopogon melaleucoides



Hovea purpurea

2013 NSW APS Get-Together 12th/13th October 2013

The Organising Committee reports:

This event has already exceeded all expectations and we are overjoyed by the level of interest around the State. We have people coming from every APS group, including some from ACT and Victoria which is just fabulous. Registrations have now closed, however there is no limit to the number of people visiting the three gardens or going to Dangars Falls.

Program:

Friday 11th	6.30pm	Presidents Dinner - Mun Hing (Beardy St Armidale)
Saturday 12th	9.00am-10.30am	Hitchcock garden —Cool Natives Plant sale, registration, welcome, morning tea
	10.30am-	Garden tour with Maria
	11.30am-	Nevin garden —Garden tour with John
	11.30am-1.30pm	Lunch, APS plant stall
	12.30-	Garden tour with John
	2.00pm	Visitors Centre : Bus leaves for Dangars Falls
	2.30pm	Tour groups begin walks
	4.00pm	Champagne/juice and nibblies after walks
	5.00pm	Bus departs for Visitors Centre
	6.30pm	Bus departs Visitors Centre for McCrossin's Mill for dinner (dinner booked out)
Sunday 13th	10.00am-1.00pm	Yallaroo (Sheather garden) Morning tea available all morning. Wander around garden Garden tours

<p><u>To get to Hitchcock Garden:</u> Take Old Inverell road west from Armidale for approx. 5km. Turn right into Hitchcock Lane.</p>	<p><u>To get to Nevin Garden:</u> Take Bundarra Road west for approx. 10km from Armidale. Turn left at Barbatos corner onto Pinegrove Road. Tulong Road is the second road on the left. No. 23 is on the left.</p>	<p><u>To get to Yallaroo:</u> Take Bundarra Road west from Armidale for 20 km. Look for Yallaroo signpost on the right hand side.</p>
--	--	---

Some gems from “Yallaroo”

Contributed by Warren and Gloria Sheather

Acacia calamifolia and Acacia subulata

Not all wattles flower in spring. Species that flower “out of season” bring a spring feel to the garden at other times of the year.

Acacia calamifolia and Acacia subulata are two wattles that we rely on to bring spring colour to our garden for many months.

We first encountered Acacia calamifolia in Kel and Fay Hardingham’s garden many years ago and were impressed by the bounteous blooming of this wattle.

Acacia calamifolia, the Reed-leaf Wattle, is a bushy, tall shrub reaching a height of four metres. The long, narrow phyllodes have a reed-like appearance (in fact the species name means reed-like leaves) and may reach a length of 20 centimetres with a hooked apex. The flowers are held in globular heads that are profuse, conspicuous and golden yellow in colour. Our specimen carries some flowers for most of the year.

Acacia calamifolia is found in western Victoria, central west NSW and South Australia. The seed, from this species, forms part of the diet of the rare Mallee Fowl.



Acacia calamifolia

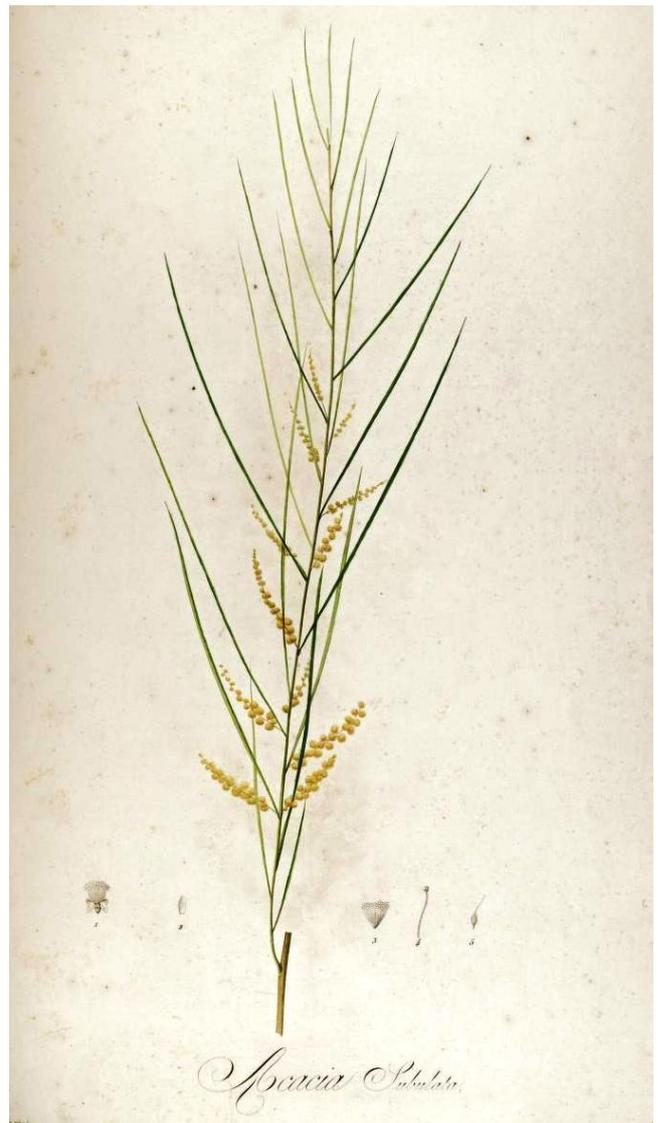
Acacia subulata is known as the Awn Wattle and is very similar in appearance to A. calamifolia. Acacia subulata reaches a height of three metres and is an open shrub. The phyllodes are narrow linear, thick and up to 15 centimetres long. Globular flower heads are yellow. Our plants carry blooms throughout the year.

Acacia subulata occurs from Wollemi National Park northwest to the Pilliga Scrub and Inverell. The species is common in the sandstone country around Warialda.

Both these wattles have interesting botanical and horticultural histories.

Acacia calamifolia was described and illustrated in a United Kingdom nursery publication in 1824. At this time the species was described as: “a NSW native that flowers during most of the year. Plants are elegant in appearance. Propagation is difficult from cuttings. In winter plants need to be protected in greenhouses.”

The type specimen, of Acacia subulata, came from Malmaison, the garden of Napoleon and Josephine, near Paris. This wattle was described and illustrated (see image below) in an 1813 book describing the rare plants growing at Malmaison. The original seed was probably collected by a French scientific expedition to Australia.



Some gems from “Yallaroo” (cont’d)

Acacia cardiophylla

We regard *Acacia cardiophylla* as a “double-barrelled” plant. Not only does the species have bright yellow spring flowers but the “ferny foliage” is an attractive feature when blooms are absent.

Acacia cardiophylla is widely known as the Wyalong Wattle. This attractive wattle develops into a dense shrub that reaches a height of about two metres in our garden. The bipinnate foliage gives plants their “ferny” appearance and is greyish-green. The species name refers to the heart-shaped leaflets.

The globular flower heads are golden yellow and held in terminal and axillary racemes. During the spring flowering period blooms are both conspicuous and profuse. The flowers and foliage complement each other.

Acacia cardiophylla is found on the western slopes of NSW from near Dubbo to the West Wyalong area. We find that the Wyalong Wattle survives and thrives on our well-drained hill. Frosts are not a problem and once established the species has low water requirements.

Once the flowers fade plants appreciate a light pruning.

Acacia cardiophylla is a handsome shrub. Propagate from seed that should be soaked in hot water before sowing.

There is also a prostrate cultivar known as *Acacia cardiophylla* “Gold Lace”.



Acacia cardiophylla

Eucalyptus caesia

Eucalyptus caesia is commonly known as Gungurru. This Western Australian native is a small tree that may reach a height of nine metres if a single trunk develops. If the tree develops a mallee growth habit with multiple trunks then the height may be restricted to six metres. Our tree has a single trunk and is close to nine metres tall.

Gungurru has a slender growth habit with pendulous branches and an open crown. The bark is initially smooth red-brown and when shed exposes the new bark that is greenish or yellow-brown.

Leaves are narrow lanceolate, leathery, up to 12 centimetres long and grey-green. Stems have a frosted appearance.

The large, stunning flowers are about three centimetres across, carried in groups of three and are red with yellow anthers. Flowering occurs between June and September and at this time attracts honeyeaters. Our plant (see cover image) flowered for the first time in July 2013. Blooms are followed by urn-shaped gum nuts that are 3 centimetres long by 2.5 centimetres wide. Both flowers and fruits are so heavy that they weigh down the branches. This accentuates the pendulous growth habit.

Eucalyptus caesia is classified as rare and endangered. The species is found on or near isolated granite rocks in southern Western Australia.

There is also a naturally occurring form, also rare, that has larger flowers and fruits with pendulous branches may reach the ground. This form is known as “Silver Princess” and is widely cultivated. Our plant appears to be the usual form.

Regardless of which form you grow this is a spectacular eucalypt with attractive trunk, stems, flowers and fruits.

Because both forms are widely cultivated there is no chance that the species faces extinction.

In our harsh climate Gungurru could be damaged by frost. Our plant has survived and thrived because it is sheltered in one of our dense shrubberies.

The species name means light grey and refers to the whitish bloom on stems, buds and fruits.

Propagate from seed.

IN FLOWER NOW... GREVILLEA LANIGERA

(botanical info from anpsa.org)

Grevillea lanigera (Family : Proteaceae) is a showy flowering plant with a variety of forms, some of which have become popular in gardens.

The distribution of *Grevillea lanigera* in nature is from Wilsons Promontory in Victoria north to the south coast of New South Wales and in adjacent ranges. Its common name is woolly grevillea.

The derivation of the name is as follows:

Grevillea...after Charles Francis Greville, co-founder of the Royal Horticultural Society

lanigera... From Latin *lana*, wool and *ger*, to bear or to carry, a reference to the hairy branches and foliage.

Grevillea lanigera is a very variable species due, no doubt, to the fact that it occupies a range of habitats throughout its range. The best known form in cultivation is completely prostrate (usually called the 'Mt Tamboritha' form although this form apparently does not occur in that location!). Other forms tend to be shrubby from about 30 cm to about 1.5 metres high. The leaves are hairy, narrow-oblong in shape to about 25-30 mm long. The flowers occur in clusters from the ends of the branches and are mainly red or pink with tones of white or yellow. Flowering occurs mainly in winter and spring but flowers may also occur spasmodically at other times of year.



Grevillea lanigera "Mount Tamboritha" (Wikimedia CC)

The prostrate form *G. l.* Mt Tamboritha is popular in cultivation and has proven to be hardy in a range of climates provided the soils are well drained. It prefers sunny or semi-shaded situations and withstands extended dry periods once established. It is hardy to at least moderate frost. It spreads to up to 1.5m across, with grey-green foliage and cream/pink flowers.

Other forms also seem to be reliable garden plants.

Grevillea lanigera miniature is a delightful low growing shrub with very small leaves. The red and pink flowers form an attractive contrast to the bright green foliage.

Grevillea lanigera "Lutea" is a shrub to about 1.2m tall. It has mid-green foliage and pale yellow flowers.



Grevillea lanigera "Lutea" (Wikimedia CC)

Most of the forms of *Grevillea lanigera* in cultivation are free-flowering and make quite a show in early spring. The species has been crossed with others to produce some excellent hybrids, eg *Grevillea* "Winter Delight" (*G. lanigera* x *G. lavandulacea*).



Grevillea "Winter Delight" (Wikimedia CC)

FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2013:

Tuesday 17th September	7.30 - 9.30	Native Plants Forum in the TAFE Library Seminar Room. Speaker: Patrick Laher: Christmas Bells
Saturday 21st September		Trip to McKinlay property near Inverell

The property is about 40kms west of Glen Innes. We will car pool at the Visitor Centre at 8.30am. The McKinlays have only recently purchased this property and are anxious to identify and protect the plants. The property has granite outcrops with flannel flowers and numerous other wildflowers, including a rare eucalypt.

Sunday 29th September	8.00 - 1.00pm	Markets in the Mall
-----------------------	---------------	---------------------

October 2013:

Saturday 5th October	1.00 - 3.00	Arboretum working bee
Tuesday 8th October	5.00 - 6.30pm	Business Meeting at the Mulquineys' place
Friday/Saturday/Sunday 11-13th October		STATE GET-TOGETHER (see program on p. 5)
Tuesday 15th October	7.30 - 9.30	Native Plants Forum in the TAFE Library Seminar Room. Speaker: Neil Wilson: Native plants as Bonsai - slideshow and demonstration
Sat/Sun 19th-20th October		Mole Station Weekend

MOLE STATION WEEKEND - Change of plans: as it has been a very dry season at Inglewood, we will not go there this year. Modified plan is to meet at the Rotary Park in Tenterfield at 10.15am on Saturday, for morning tea. Then we will head out to the Timbarra area 3/4 hour drive east of Tenterfield. This is an old mining area, from the late 1800s. Mining ceased 10 years ago and the flora is well worth a visit.

Sunday 27th October	8.00 - 1.00pm	Markets in the Mall
---------------------	---------------	---------------------

November 2013:

Saturday/Sunday 2nd-3rd November		St Peter's Open Garden weekend
Tuesday 12th November	5.00 - 6.30pm	Business meeting at the Mulquineys' place
Tuesday 19th November	7.30 - 9.30	AGM & Native Plants Forum in the TAFE Library Seminar Room
Sunday 24th November	8.00 - 1.00pm	Markets in the Mall

December 2013

Sunday 1st December	tba	Christmas Outing to Patrick Laher's new place in Uralla, 1b McGregor Street, Uralla (located near the football oval on the eastern side of Uralla). Bring a plant to donate to Patrick for his new garden.
---------------------	-----	---

Become a member and save!

Did you know that there are a range of discounts available to members? Tell your friends and urge them to join our group.

Armidale & District members only

All Mole Station plants at the **APS stall** at the Mall Markets and our annual plant sale. At \$2.00 per plant discount, you can easily save your annual subscription each year. (25% discount)

All members of APS-NSW

Cool Natives, 16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale 2350 Ph. 6775 1139. (10% discount) Specialist in Frost hardy plants, Correas, New England Flora Online catalogue coolnatives.com.au Open by appointment. Selling at Farmers Market/Mall Market/Mail Order Free delivery in Armidale.

Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook 2773 Ph (02) 4739 4465. Sat, Sun, Wed. 12noon-4pm. 10% discount to members Web: www.apsbluemtngroup.org

The Wildflower Place, 453 The Entrance Rd, Erina Heights 2260. Ph (02) 4365 5510. 5% discount - tell staff before purchase.

Wombat Gully Native Nursery, 1729 Coxs Creek Rd, Rylstone 2849 Ph (02) 6379 6202. 5% discount

Mildura Native Nursery 10% discount on the purchase of any native plants or other products including the Watertube ordered online at www.nativenursery.com.au

Leearne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery, 260 Lake Rd, Glendale 2285 Ph (02) 6379 6202. 10% discount

A.R. Native Plant Nursery, 177 Terania Ck Rd, The Channon NSW 2480 (far north coast) Ph (02) 6688 6365 10% discount Fri/Sat/Sun 9am-5pm other times by appointment

Bonney Hills Garden Centre, 1055 Ocean Drive, Bonney Hills 2445 Ph (02) 6585 5764 10% discount on all plant purchases

All Greengold Nurseries (except landscape materials or discounted stock) see www.greengold.com.au for location details etc.

Florilegium: The Garden Bookstore 65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037 PO Box 644 Rozelle 2039. Ph (02) 9555 8589. 7 days 9am-5pm. 10% discount

Forests NSW Nurseries 10% discount on all potted lines. West Pennant Hills, Muswellbrook, Gunnedah, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Dubbo & Forbes For details see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/business-services/nurseries>

Sydney Wildflower Nursery, 9 Veno St Heathcote NSW 2233. Ph (02) 4739 4465. Sat, Sun, Wed. 12noon-4pm. 10% discount. Web: www.sydneywildflowernursery.com.au

Meeting Venue : Armidale TAFE Library Seminar Room.

The **Seminar Room** is in the Library Building and is within easy walking distance from on-street parking or from one of the TAFE car parks. There are **three car parks** in the TAFE grounds with entry from Beardy St, Rusden St or Allingham St.

The Library is situated **in the middle of the campus** behind the main building fronting Beardy St. You can walk through the main building to get to the Library. The **nearest car park** is immediately behind the Library building with **entry from Rusden St.** beside the Automotive Building. The Seminar Room has **gas heating, accessible toilets and comfortable seating.** It has up to date electronic equipment for presentations and a small kitchen with jug and microwave.

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 (two 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:

Please return form with payment to: **Membership Officer, APS Armidale Branch, PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350**

PAYMENT:

\$..... is enclosed by:

- Cash
- Cheque, payable to APS Armidale Branch
- Money Order, payable to APS Armidale Branch
- EFT is available, please email the membership officer if you are paying by this method

Name of Account: APS Armidale and District

BSB: 932000

Account No: 642450

Include your surname as a reference to allow payments to be allotted to you.

IF APPLICABLE:

I do *NOT* wish my contact details to be made available to other members.

Signature: