



Crowea exalata ssp magnifolia
image by Maria Hitchcock

Australian Plants Society Armidale & District Group

PO Box 735 Armidale NSW 2350

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

Autumn Edition 2015 - 1



Photo: *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* "New Blood" from the Nevin Garden
photo ed.

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From the newsletter editor : Dear members, this is your newsletter and all articles, snippets and photos are welcome. There is NO DEADLINE for newsletter articles (however issue deadline dates are usually a week before the Business Meeting).

Articles will be included based on a FIRST COME basis. Please send your articles, snippets etc to me.

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 ASCA House, Rusden St Armidale, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except June, July, December and January) from 7.30 ~ 9.30 where an interesting speaker provides a presentation. The speaker is followed by a delicious supper after which members talk about plants in flower from specimens displayed on the flower table and share information about gardening topics. Old and new members, visitors and families, are very welcome at these Forums and on our outings (see the last page for details). Annual General Meeting is held in November. Solstice Function is held in June. 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 2014/15

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| President: | Phil Rose | Phone: 6775 3767 |
| Vice President: | Colin Wilson | |
| Secretary: | Helen Schwarz | Phone: 6772 1584 |
| Treasurer: | Carole Fullalove | |
| Membership officers: | Colin Mulquiney and Ingrid Kalf | |
| Auditor: | TBA | |
| Markets in the Mall in the Mall, Outings and | | |
| Arboretum Coordinator: | Patrick Laher | Phone: 0427327719 |
| Newsletter Editor: | Neil Wilson | Phone: 0434196604 |
| Hospitality: | Glenda Mulquiney | |
| Publicity Officer: | Gillian Traise | |
| Monthly Plant List Coordinator: | Suzanne Robertson | |

OHS and Environmental Officer: Neil Wilson

Our website: <http://www.aps-armidale.org.au/> Webmaster: Neil Wilson

More Blasts from the Past

by Warren Sheather

We read with interest Verna's article about the *Capturing Flora* exhibition at NERAM, in 2013. Mention was made of botanical magazines from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The magic of the internet has fostered our interest in botanical and horticultural history. There are now many early publications on line dealing with things botanical and horticultural.

Our favourite site is the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The Library is a treasure trove of biodiversity literature both old and new with over 70,000 titles available. (<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>)

In the BHL we came across *The Botanical Cabinet* a 20 volume series of books with 2000 hand-coloured, engraved plates of plants from all over world, growing at the Loddiges Nursery in Hackney, London. Each plant is accompanied by a brief description, flowering period and propagation information. The series ran from 1817 to 1853.

We were pleasantly surprised by the number of Australian species appearing in the 20 volumes. Just a few excerpts:

Acacia armata (now *A. paradoxa*) appeared in the first volume and called the Fortified Wattle. An apt name when you encounter the spines on the branches (see image). In 1817 cuttings was the means of propagation.

Persoonia lanceolata, a NSW coastal species, also appeared in Volume 1. It was noted that the species was growing in Kew Gardens in 1791. The nursery successfully raised seedlings in 1805. We wish we could raise *Persoonias* from seed or even cuttings.

A *Stylidium* species (Trigger Plant) was featured in Volume 2. The unique pollination mechanism was unknown in 1818. This mechanism is described thus: "The plants are remarkable for the irritability of the flower column. This is curved and when touched underneath flies over by a sudden spring to the other side and shortly returns to its previous position. This curious property is doubtless intended by the Omnipotent Creator for some wide purpose which we cannot account for."

The 20 volumes are a treasure trove of botanical and horticultural history which we will constantly delve into with great interest.



Australian Native Succulent Plants

About a Year ago, one of our members received this e-mail. I thought some of you may be interested. (Ed.)

"My name is Attila Kapitany, a fellow APS (Victorian) member and January (2014) is an exciting time for me as I have a plan for a new book.

I've just launched a new native succulent plant field guide book project, via KICKSTARTER!

.. and I just want to tell everyone I can about it, including you (every few days I add updates of new plants found. Let me know if you recognise any of these.)

And if you feel so inclined you might like to spread the word to your own plant friends, especially those who like good plant books.

Here's the link!

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/117781903/australian-succulent-plants>

Cheers,

Attila Kapitany Australian Succulent Plants

Mob: 041 999 0934

Ph/Fax: 61 3 9738 0431

Australian Bees

During summer, an Australian Blue Banded Bee [*Amegilla sp*] visited my garden. This solitary bee is a 'buzz pollinator' and uses this method to extract pollen from flowers. The 'buzz' generated by this bee is unmistakable and I hear him/her before I see it. The male has 5 iridescent blue bands on a white abdomen, whilst the female has 4 and because it moves around so fast, I have been unable to identify its sex!

This solitary bee can sting, but it's not aggressive and I've not had any issues with it. Current information suggests that this bee prefers the blue, purple and mauve range of flower colour, either native or exotic, and in my garden, it visits *Thysanotus tuberosus* [Fringe Lily], *Dichopogon fimbriatus* [Chocolate Lily], *Caesia parviflora*, *Murdannia graminea* and *Thelionema caespitosum*. These plants have flower colours in the above range, but it also visits the golden flowers of *Senna coronilloides* [Bolivia Hill].



Australia has many other native bee species, either solitary or semi social, and I have seen some very small bees extracting pollen from *Xerochrysum* flowers. One of my projects this year is to build a nest block for our local native bees. Information about native bees, including photos and nest blocks, can be found on Megan Halcrofts site www.beesbusiness.com.au

A native bee visits *Sanantha crassa* flowers.

Patrick Laher

Request to APS members

Arboretum Assistance

There are two major working bees at the Arboretum this year and we ask all able bodied members for their assistance. If you can give us an hour, a full day, or anything inbetween, it would be most appreciated.



Saturday 2nd May

The bulk of the mulch should have been spread by a 'bobcat' on the NSW and other States Flora Bed. We will need to finish off spreading the mulch adjacent to and under existing trees and shrubs.

Time: 10am to 5pm. Bring m/tea, lunch and a/tea.

Tools: gloves, hat, bucket and rake.

If we finish early, there are other jobs that need attention on other beds, such as removing dead shrubs, collecting eucalyptus bark. Does anyone want bark?

I will have a list of jobs that can be done on the day.

Saturday 1st August

The garden bed mulched in March, will now need to be planted out with 500+ tubes of *Lomandra longifolia*. Lomandras planted in other beds in previous years are growing well. We have a system of planting that works well when there are many helpers.

Time: 10am to 5pm. Bring m/tea, lunch and a/tea.

Tools: gloves, hat, rake, bucket, trowel, spade and crowbar.

Patrick Laher

Open Gardens Australia CLOSES DOWN

e-mail from Australian Plants Society - Nsw Region

The Secretary / Convenor,

Like many people, you would have been greatly disappointed at the recent announcement that the Open Gardens Australia organisation will close its doors in June this year. It has been an institution in Australia for 27 years and those who were selected to open their gardens drew respect and admiration from all who visited.

If you have opened your garden to the public you will understand what a rewarding experience it is to share your garden with others. For visitors, these open gardens can be a wonderful source of inspiration and

discovery. Of course these events were also important fund raisers to support the garden, local communities and for charity.

We couldn't sit by and see this important connection between gardeners disappear. That's why we decided to launch My Open Garden, a new online service that acts as a "one-stop-shop" for garden owners and visitors across Australia. It's a free service to visitors and we are publishing as much information as we can about all the Open Gardens and other gardening events. Now community groups, special interest groups and garden clubs have a place to promote their event and importantly everyone can get free and easy access to the information.

.. and that's why I am sending this email to you so you can let your members know about this new website. It's a new way of supporting Open Gardens, and a timely move into the future for all gardening enthusiasts.

I would like to invite you to browse our site www.myopengarden.com.au . You'll find more details about this new scheme and be able to see some of the gardens we are working to present on the site.

If you have any other questions, please contact me directly via email andrew@myopengarden.com.au or on 0419 228 434.

I look forward to welcoming you to the My Open Garden community!

Warm regards,

Andrew Mowat

Armidale Bi-centennial Arboretum Report 2014

We caught up with much of the pruning and mulching by mid year. Additional planting was cancelled due to the lack of rain.

This left the large NSW and other States Flora Bed to be mulched. Ray Dufty [Armidale/Dumaresq Council] arranged for the Council trucks to unload the mulch directly onto this bed. APS Committee has agreed that in 2015, a 'bobcat' would be employed to spread the bulk of this mulch.

Thanks to our members, Colin Wilson, John Nevin, Phil and Julia Rose for their assistance at the working bees.

New England Flora Beds

Pruned, mulched and planted with 80 Hikos of *L.longifolia*.

WA and Eremophila Bed

Planted out 28 species of *Eremophila*.

Victorian Bed

No work done on this bed

Tasmanian and Proteacea Bed

Pruned, mulched and minor plantings

NSW and other States Flora Bed

Pruned and some mulching

Summary

| Item | <u>2014</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total labour hours | 55.5 | 101 | 126 | 120.25 |
| Number of working bees | 5 | 8 | 10 | 13 |
| Number of volunteers | 20 | 10 | 14 | 6 |
| Number of shrubs planted | 32 | 377 | 573 | 53 |
| Plants at cost | \$204.30 | \$488.78 | \$760.70 | \$284.00 |

Patrick Laher

Arboretum Co-ordinator, Armidale & District Australian Plants Society

Armidale Sunday Markets in the Mall Annual Report 2014

Comparison Table

| Month | <u>2014</u> | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | Month | <u>2014</u> | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------|------|------|
| February | 44 | 48 | 21 | 20 | August | 40 | 47 | 32 | 26 |
| March | 42 | 22 | 31 | 15 | September | 38 | 47 | 64 | 15 |
| April | 42 | 57 | 34 | 47 | October | 37 | 41 | - | 33 |
| May | 37 | 52 | 15 | 13 | November | 27 | - | 65 | 28 |
| June | 26 | 36 | 33 | 25 | December | 29 | - | 25 | 29 |
| July | 20 | 41 | 34 | 34 | | | | | |
| Totals | <u>382</u> | <u>391</u> | <u>354</u> | <u>285</u> | | | | | |

St.Peters

Plant Sales 249 281 346 300

Plant sales at the Markets in the Mall have continued to be positive. Our prices at \$8 for the public were competitive, being more than \$2 cheaper than any other sources. Our plant display drew attention from the passing traffic and contact with the public can only increase the profile of APS and membership.

Thanks to the following members for their help at the Markets in the Mall : Colin Wilson, Phil & Julia Rose, Barbara & John Nevin. John also supplied specimens from his garden for the display stand. Special thanks to Colin Wilson who looked after the Markets in the Mall and St.Peters plants during November and December.

Patrick Laher, Markets in the Mall Co-ordinator

A Tale of Two Grevilleas

by Warren Sheather

New South Wales is home to about 80 *Grevillea* species of these nearly half are native to the Sydney region encompassing the Central Coast and Central Tablelands botanical subdivisions.

Two Sydney region species are of particular interest. One is *Grevillea evansiana* and the other *G. oldei*.

We first heard of the *G. evansiana* many decades ago when we used to visit Sid Cadwell's Boongala Nursery near Windsor. This was one of many interesting natives Sid grew in his garden. *G. evansiana* grows in the Dunn's Swamp area near Rylstone. There is no longer a swamp but a beautiful body of water created by a dam that supplied water to the extinct Kandos cement works.

Grevillea evansiana has limited distribution but populations are protected within Wollemi National Park. In the Dunn's Swamp area the species is a dominant understorey shrub.

Grevillea evansiana is a dense, spreading shrub reaching a height of one metre. Leaves are elliptical and up to six centimetres long. Flower clusters are held on short, terminal branches. Blooms are dark red, almost black with burgundy styles. The flowering season extends from August to December.

We collected cutting material in early February 2014. The cuttings produced roots very enthusiastically and we finished up with a number of plants. Some were large enough to plant last December. These plants are large enough to provide cutting material so in the near future we will have a second generation of *G. evansiana* to plant.

The species is named after Obed Evans the co-author of *The Flora of the Sydney Region* together with the late Professor N.C.W. Beadle.



Grevillea oldei is the second Sydney region species of interest. This species is also rare with limited distribution. A stronghold of *Grevillea oldei* is Strickland State Forest near Gosford.

Grevillea oldei is a small spreading shrub with arching branches. Leaves are small, dark green, egg-shaped and only ten centimetres long. The dark red flowers are pendulous and held in globular heads on long stalks. The long flowering period extends from June to February.

Grevillea oldei also grows along the road to Strickland State Forest and we made two collections from this roadside population. The first was made in June last year. Because we were away longer than anticipated the cuttings spent four

weeks in a plastic bag. Even so a few cuttings produced roots and are doing well. The second collection was made in late November last year and only spent a short time enclosed in plastic. Many of these cuttings are producing healthy roots.

Grevillea oldei is named after Peter Olde, the leader of the Grevillea Study Group and co-author of the three *Grevillea Books*.

Melaleuca diosmatifolia



One of the shrubs that brighten our garden, in summer and autumn, is *Melaleuca diosmatifolia* (previously known as *M. erubescens*) and is commonly known as the Rosy Honey-myrtle.

Melaleuca diosmatifolia is a tall, upright shrub reaching a height of five metres in our garden. Leaves are small, linear, light green and aromatic. In summer plants become covered with mauve, cylindrical flower spikes up to four centimetres long. Spikes age to white. The Rosy Honey-myrtle has a flowering period that extends for many weeks. Sporadic flowering occurs at other times. A wide range of insects are attracted to the flowers including blue flower wasps and

native beetles.

Tip pruning, of juvenile plants, will help to establish dense foliage.

The Rosy Honey-myrtle grows in open forest and areas subject to flooding. The species has wide distribution and is found in coastal regions, tablelands, slopes and western plains in New South Wales and southern Queensland. Although occurring in moist areas we have found that *M. diosmatifolia* survives and thrives in our extremely well drained garden. Some of our specimens are at least 15 years old.

Melaleuca diosmatifolia, because of its upright growth habit, would be an ideal shrub for a narrow garden bed. The species may be propagated from seed but we prefer cuttings. They produce roots rapidly and flower years before seed grown plants.

Melaleuca diosmatifolia was the original name of this species and was named by a French botanist in 1811 from cultivated plants growing in France.

A GARDEN INVADER

by Verna Aslin.

A recently planted section at the front of my garden has been taking on a "rumpled" appearance on occasion, with some quite significant holes being dug in the fresh mulch.

Thus far the small plants have escaped although some excavations have been perilously near.

During daylight, I have observed magpies scraping and flinging mulch freely, obviously relishing the way a thick

layer of council mulch brings worms near the surface. But no other suspects were observable during the daytime. And the holes that appeared seemed to be a bit ambitious for magpies.

So I put my thinking cap on and started thinking nocturnal. Closer observation showed that some of the excavations had a distinctively triangular appearance. A fit to the profile is an echidna - so although I have not yet seen it, believe I have an echidna neighbour who occasionally calls by. He or she clearly prefers fresh moist mulch to the drier crustier areas.



Armidale must be a good town for echidnas as there turned out to be an echidna resident in the garden of my previous rented house. If the front door was incautiously left open, the echidna would wamble into the hallway and eat from my cat's food dishes.

Both houses are right in the town. Do other members have any urban wildlife?

FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| February | 10 | Business meeting |
| | 11 | Newsletter Sent OUT. |
| | 17 | Forum: - Tim Collins speaker on Alice Springs Botanic Gardens |
| | 22 | Markets in the Mall |
| | 27/28 | Armidale Show – Flower and potted plant displays Can you provide any entries? Think about supporting the event. |
| March | 10 | Business meeting |
| | 17 | Forum: - speaker Andrew Robson on Remote Sensing . |
| | 29 | Markets in the Mall. |
| April | 3/5 | Easter. |
| | 14 | Business meeting |
| | 21 | Forum:- WORKSHOP/Presentation led by Neil Wilson on Frost Damage - causes and prevention. <i>Part 1</i> in Garden Design for the N.E. region. |
| | 26 | Markets in the Mall. |
| May | 2 | Arboretum (10am-5pm) ; picnic lunch; Mulching . |
| | 5 | <i>Articles for inclusion in next newsletter due.</i> |
| | 12 | Business meeting |
| | 13 | Newsletter Sent OUT. |
| | 19 | Forum; WORKSHOP led by Phil Rose on Garden Design (part 2) |
| | 23 | Local garden visits (hopefully - Neil Wilson, Carole Fullalove, Verna Aslin) |
| | 31 | Markets in the Mall. |

A full list of events can be found on our website at <http://www.aps-armidale.org.au/calendar1a.html>

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 8597 10% .

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 Bonny 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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

for Australian Plant Society (ABN 87 002 680 408)

| MEMBERSHIP TYPE: (please tick appropriate box) | Annual Fee | Concession |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Single | \$53 | \$45 |
| Joint (two adults at the same address) | \$61 | \$53 |
| 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: