



**AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY**



COFFS HARBOUR GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 130 – March 2017

Next Outing Monday March 13
North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Herbarium

Alex Floyd will be showing us around the process and workings of the herbarium at the NCRBG. This herbarium is a valuable reference resource for professional and amateur botanists on the north coast and is updated and maintained largely by volunteers. We will meet at the main gate at 10 a.m. It is a short walk up to the herbarium from there. Bring lunch and have a walk in the gardens afterwards. Note the day is a Monday.

Next Night Meeting at NCRBG

7 p.m. Tuesday 4th April Fabaceae-Faboideae

Barry Kemp will be speaking on the native plants of the pea family. As usual bring along any plants of interest for the display table or to be identified if you don't know what they are. Supper will be served and there will be a bring and buy plant table to raise money for the publication of our book "Growing Native Plants on the North Coast of NSW".

Meeting Report 14th February 2017

Pia Dollmann, the regional convenor for Landcare gave an outline of the strategies and workings of the local Landcare organisations. The group is principally made up of volunteers who undertake bushland regeneration via weed control, erosion management, re-vegetation and feral pest (Indian Myna) control on both public and private land. Although they are government funded for management, materials and insurance the free labour which goes into this work amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in this area alone but the value of the work done is priceless.

Pia gave an overview of some of the major weeds in the area and the various methods of control. Landcare also operate their own nurseries, propagating local species for environmental planting. Thanks Pia for a very informative and entertaining presentation.

The plant display table was very well stocked and Gwyn Clarke presided over a very thorough group discussion on all of the specimens presented.

Botanic garden walk January 29, 2017



Barry Kemp led a group of 8 members on a hot Sunday morning through the garden, starting with a short explanation of plant evolution. This was illustrated by various older simple plants like mosses and ferns growing around the entrance. We looked next at the cycads, one of the earliest seed plants with the seeds developing in a cone behind scales, which later fall to free the seeds. Our walk took us past flowering plants such as palms, grass trees and the eucalypts, then through to the rainforest sections. Barry pointed out the old SGAP bed which was planted in the early stages of the garden, but over time the plantings have failed to thrive with too much competition from the nearby trees. (We are currently talking to the Acting Curator, Ric Ackland, about establishing a new area in a more suitable location). In the Rainforest Section, we noted the considerable differences between juvenile and adult leaves in many trees, notably *Stenocarpus davallioides*, and then moved on to the **Rare and Endangered** and the **North Coast Heathland**, where some flannel flowers were still flowering, and the heath geebung, *Persoonia virgata*. The **NSW and Queensland** areas have many interesting shrubs and small trees, including *Banksia dentata* (the tropical Banksia) and a prostrate cultivar form of *Casuarina glauca*. After a quick look at some plants growing naturally along the creek, and a patch of *Alexfloydia repens* (Floyds grass), we walked back to the entrance via the large **Queensland rainforest** area and the **North Coast Rainforest**, which was one of the first parts of the garden to be planted, and which is now largely self-sustaining. A guided walk is a wonderful way to discover the Garden, and we appreciated Barry's sharing his knowledge with us.

Janice Fitzpatrick

Facebook for Coffs Harbour DG

We have started work on a Facebook presence – primarily to promote the 2017 Get Together initially but with the intent we will use it for communicating with our local community, reach new members and post newsletters and events. Jan Whittle (one of our newer members) has volunteered to get the Facebook page/s up and running. For more information, contact Angela Lownie (Publicity Officer).

Janice Fitzpatrick



Licuala ramsayi (Australian Fan Palm)

This palm is from coastal north Queensland from Mission Beach to Cape Tribulation and requires shade and shelter when young. Plants were formerly difficult to obtain but it is now becoming more common in nurseries. It is an emergent palm and one of its very attractive features when older is its large circular leaves up to 2 metres in diameter. It is supposed to be cold tolerant but not frost tolerant. I will see how it goes at Sapphire Beach where I have planted it in gravelly loam in a steep shady site, where another north Queenslander *Archontophoenix purpurea* is thriving.

Phil O'Shea

“GROWING NATIVE PLANTS ON THE NORTH COAST OF NSW”

Our Group's Book is now out of print and we are planning a new edition. We would like to give all members an opportunity to have input, especially where the plants we choose are concerned. Over the next four months we will be sending out lists of plants from the first book. It is very easy to provide information on these plants and then add some that have done well for you.

1. Have you grown any of these plants? Just put a tick next to those you have grown
2. Were the plants successful? Add Y or N after the tick
3. Put a cross next to any plant you would not recommend
4. List plants not on the list that have been successful in your garden

Also please tell us what the problems were with plants you would not recommend. I hope there are not too many.

Then the sheets can be forwarded to me at gcl.38500@bigpond.com. If you wish to post them the address is 123 Sandstone Drive Kungala 2460.

I look forward to receiving your input.

You will find the list on **Groundcovers** and the list on **Aquatic Plants** in a separate email. I would like them returned to me by the end of March.

Many thanks,

Gwyn Clarke

PROGRESS REPORT ON APS STRATEGY

1. NSW APS Strategy

In 2016, APS NSW spent a lot of time and consultation developing strategies to guide the future of the organisation, to increase membership, to become more efficient and to ensure our on-going relevance. An ambitious set of actions was prepared and presented at the 2016 Tamworth Get Together. Feedback from that meeting showed members thought the proposed rate of change for the current plan of action was too rapid and as a result, a more realistic plan has been put in place.

We look forward to being part of the improvement projects and will continue to provide updates as they are provided. For more information, contact Janice Fitzpatrick or Alison Moore (away until May 01).

2. APS IT Upgrade

An important part of the 2016 Strategy was improving the use of technology to make the organisation more efficient and able to reach a wider audience. During 2016, APS board members and District Group representatives worked with a consultant to develop an IT plan primarily to streamline membership management, including on-line payments, and to improve the website.

A couple of software products were considered and a choice will be made in the near future. There is a great deal of work still to be done to design the processes, access rights and responsibilities that the software system will support. For more information, contact Janice Fitzpatrick.

Update on APS Strategy Project

APS has asked us for feedback on a Discussion Paper presenting several proposed changes to the organisation. These proposed

Changes are:

- (1) Restricting new concessional memberships to those with current Australian Pension Cards (both members) or Health Care Card holders with grandfathering of current concessional memberships for a period of 3 years.
- (2) Introducing a new student membership category from 1 January 2017 with a highly reduced fee of \$30 for individual students.
- (3) Introducing differential pricing for memberships based on electronic versus printed delivery of *Native Plants for NSW* (NPfNSW) – Australia and overseas.
- (4) Encouraging tax-deductible donations with those donating being able to subscribe to updates on the activities of the Society.
- (5) Encouraging members to make a bequest to APS NSW in their will.

There will be a phone hook-up on Saturday March 11 to talk about member response to these proposals.

If you want to read the whole Discussion Paper and/or join in the discussion on March 11, please contact:

Janice Fitzpatrick (0418 350 937 or jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com) or Phil O'Shea (philip.oshea@bigpond.com)

Janice Fitzpatrick

Upcoming Conferences

ANPSA Hobart Conference January, 2018

The APS NSW has provided information about the bi-annual conference of ANPSA – Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) – that federation of the seven State-based organizations of which APS NSW is one.

It is an extremely busy schedule – from Sunday 14 January, to Thursday, 18 January, with both pre- and post-Conference excursions. It includes a reception at Government House, Hobart, together with Australian Plant Awards and the AJ Swaby Address.

The cost of attending the formal parts of the Conference is \$396 (early bird) or \$440 (standard).

They suggest that because January is such an excellent time to be in Hobart, (it was 22 degrees a few weeks ago when we were 46 degrees), they suggest for people to register early and book accommodation as soon as possible.

Because of its complexity, I would be happy to forward the programme and further details to you if you email me at [<rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au>](mailto:rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au)

Robert Watt

FJC Rogers Seminar October 2018 - Goodeniaceae

On October 20th-21nd 2018, The Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants are combining with APS Grampians Group to hold the 12th Seminar on “Goodeniaceae”.

At this stage we have **three** major aims for the seminar

1. To provide greatly increased knowledge of the Goodeniaceae family
2. To produce a series of photo guides of genera and species of the Goodeniaceae family
3. To produce plants for sale to greatly increase the range of Goodeniaceae plants in members' gardens

A full copy of this flyer is included as a separate email.

From the Editor

The committee has produced the programme for the rest of the year (with a few gaps) and this is enclosed below. Thanks to Jane Fitzpatrick, Rob Watt and Gwyn Clarke for their contributions to this newsletter. The image of *Syzygium australe* on the front cover was supplied by Barry Kemp. A Facebook page for our group is currently being designed and this will improve our group communication and give us a wider audience. The next newsletter will be out in on 1st of May so any interesting articles on growing or discovering native plants will be appreciated (especially new ones). Just a few lines and preferably a picture are sufficient and it doesn't have to be too technical.

Please also note our membership is now due.

Committee

President: Alison Moore E-mail: anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au (away on a Tasmanian lighthouse until May 1)

Vice President: Gwyn Clarke gcl.38500@bigpond.com

Secretary: Rob Watt E-mail: rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au

Treasurer: Janice Fitzpatrick Ph. 0418350937 E-mail: jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com
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Newsletter Editor: Phil O'Shea P.O. Box 6176, Coffs Harbour, 2450. Ph. 66537472;
E-mail: philip.oshea@bigpond.com

Publicity Officer Angela Lownie E-mail angela_lownie@hotmail.com

APS Coffs Harbour Group Programme 2017

Day Meetings	Evening Meetings	Outings
		January Outing: 29 January Botanic Gardens : Barry Kemp
	14 Feb Tue 7pm - 10pm Guest: Pia Dollmann, Landcare.	
14 March Tuesday 10am – 1.00pm Meeting Cancelled		March Outing: Monday, 13 Mar. Herbarium, NCRBG : Alex Floyd 10 am
	4 April Tue 7pm - 10pm Guest: Barry Kemp Peas: Fabaceae- Faboideae	
9 May Tuesday 10am – 1.00pm Guest: Alison Moore: The Flora of Tasmania		May Outing: 14 May Cathedral Rock NP, 60k west of Dorrigo (Leader TBA)
	13 June Tue 7pm – 10pm Guest: Gwyn Clarke: WA flora	
11 July Tuesday 10am – 1.00pm “A Plant for every Situation” Speakers: Members contribution		July Outing: 23 July Fortis Creek NP 20k north of Grafton (Leader TBA)
	8 August Tues 7pm 10pm Guest: John Ross Proteaceae	
12 Sept Tuesday 10am -1.00pm Guest: Get-Together Debrief		September Outing: 24 September Mary Gibson’s garden, Macksville
	10 Oct Tuesday 7pm 10pm Guest: Angela Lownie: to co-ordinate: Economic uses of native plants	October Outing: 22 October Conglomerate SF –Plum Pudding Rd, via Sherwood Rd, off Bucca Rd Leader :Craig Henderson
14 Nov Tuesday 10am – 1.00pm AGM: Guest: TBA		
		Christmas Party Venue , date and time TBA

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Hi,
Your APS Membership is due for renewal again – by March 31, 2017.

Please note that subscriptions have risen this year:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES
Individual Concession	\$48
Individual (No Concession)	\$56
Joint (Concession)	\$58
Joint (No Concession)	\$66

You can pay by online banking (preferred)

BSB: 533 000	ACCOUNT NO: 43682	ACCOUNT NAME: <i>Australian Plants Society</i>
REFERENCE: <i>(Membership Number (if known) OR Family Name/Surname)</i>		

Please email copy of transaction record from your internet banking to Treasurer –
jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com

OR
Pay by CREDIT CARD - complete attached Renewal form and return it to Treasurer

OR
Pay by CHEQUE payable to ‘Australian Plants Society’ and post it with the completed Renewal form to Treasurer

Treasurer:
Email: jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com

Or
PO Box 79
Coramba
2450

You can also pay at meetings or outings.

If you decide, sadly, not to renew, we'd be grateful if you can let us know why by return email.

Regards,
Janice

**Treasurer, Australian Plants Society
Coffs Harbour Group**

Mob: 0418 350 937
<mailto:jfitzpatrick9@bigpond.com>