

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



September 2019

NEXT EHG MEETING:

7.30 pm, Wednesday 4 September 2019

Georges River National Park

Karlo Taliana

APS East Hills Group

Please bring specimens for the plant table and something to share for supper.

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH

909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

WELCOME to the September 2019 edition of the APS East Hills Group Newsletter.

In this issue there are details from our August meeting, including the plant table list and some notes and photos. We also have members' contributions about the Newcastle Get-together in August which make interesting reading. This month's Note from the President also relates to the Get-together. The usual diary dates are included too, and there is a message from Menai Wildflower Group, letting you know that Pink Flannel Flowers will be released in limited numbers at the Illawarra Grevillea Park open days on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th September. The Grevillea Park is always worth a visit – if you haven't been (or haven't been there recently), maybe it's time to go!

At our next meeting, Karlo will be talking about his exploration and discoveries in Georges River National Park. I am sorry to have to miss it – I hope you will be able to go along as I believe there are some surprises in store!

Jan Douglas
Editor

<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the Friday night before the Newcastle Get-together I attended the annual President's dinner. All District Group Presidents are invited to this event, so that they or their representatives can discuss issues affecting their operations.

A common issue across most of the groups was the ageing membership and the difficulty of attracting younger members. However, one group had said they were getting around this problem by being more active on-line, particularly through the use of Facebook.

The Southern Highlands Group, centred in the Bowral/Mittagong area, said that in their local area there are a number of very large garden clubs whose focus is exotic plants, so they have now started referring to themselves as a garden club and as a result they are attracting more people to their meetings and outings. Interestingly, whenever they have a function or attend a garden fair they have no problem in selling their own propagated native plants, whereas the other groups with their daffodils, tulips, etc often have trouble getting rid of their stock.

I raised the issue of attracting speakers to our meetings and how we should have a way of notifying other groups of good speakers who may be happy to give a talk to a number of different groups. John Aitken said they will look at setting up a register of speakers. I also asked a number of groups about payment to speakers. One of the country groups said they pay the fuel costs using a Coles fuel voucher and generally give speakers a bottle of wine as well. Perhaps we might need to discuss this at a future meeting, although I don't think lack of payment has ever caused a speaker to decline to visit our group.

Overall, I found it was a good experience discussing our issues and how we all have to adapt to change.

Graham Fry
President, East Hills Group



L to R : *Doryanthes palmeri* – Jan Douglas; *Grevillea* 'Ninderry Sunrise' – Karlo Taliana; Paper Daisies - Jan Douglas



L to R above: Pigface - Jan Douglas; Mistletoe flowers – Graham Fry; *Banksia cunninghamii* – Graham Fry

FROM OUR AUGUST MEETING PLANT TABLE – AUGUST 2019

List: Liz Cameron Notes: Graham Walters and Vida Riepon via Liz Cameron.

Thanks to everyone who brought specimens.

<i>Acacia cultriformis</i>	Knife-leaf Wattle
<i>Acacia fimbriata</i>	Fringed Wattle
<i>Acacia macradenia</i>	Zigzag Wattle
<i>Eremophila glabra</i> 'Steep Point'	
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Bulli Beauty'	
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Orange Marmalade'	
<i>Grevillea beardiana</i> (orange-flowered variety)	
<i>Grevillea buxifolia</i>	Grey Spider Flower
<i>Grevillea crithmifolia</i>	
<i>Grevillea lanigera</i>	Woolly Grevillea
<i>Grevillea lanigera</i> 'Mt Tamboritha'	
<i>Grevillea lavandulacea</i> 'Black Range'	Lavender Grevillea
<i>Grevillea pimeleoides</i>	
<i>Hakea neurophylla</i>	Pink-flowered Hakea
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	
<i>Hovea linearis</i>	Common Hovea, Narrow-leafed Hovea
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Native Indigo
<i>Leptospermum</i> sp.	
<i>Melaleuca fulgens</i>	Scarlet Honey Myrtle
<i>Phebalium stenophyllum</i>	Narrow-leafed <i>Phebalium</i>
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Coastal Rosemary
<i>Wollemia nobilis</i>	Wollemi Pine
<i>Zieria baeuerlenii</i>	Bomaderry Zieria
<i>Zieria cytisoides</i>	Downy Zieria
<i>Zieria smithii</i>	Sandfly Zieria

***Acacia cultriformis* (Knife-leaf Wattle)**

Phyllodes are glabrous, roughly triangular, bluish green and with a gland. Tall glabrous shrub, phyllodes rather crowded. A prominent gland usually situated on the top angle of the phyllode. Peduncles medium length and sturdy. Flower heads small-medium, brilliant yellow with 10 to 20 flowers per head. Racemes extend well beyond the foliage. Spring flowering. Occurs naturally on the western slopes of NSW extending into southern Queensland. Widely cultivated.



Photo: Warren and Gloria Sheather <https://austplants.com.au/Acacia-cultriformis-the-Knife-leaf-Wattle>



***Hovea linearis* (Narrow-leaf Hovea)**

A small procumbent to erect shrub to about 1 m tall. The stems are sparse and more or less covered in dense, long upward-pointing hairs. Leaves are narrow and linear, 5 to 7 cm long about 3 mm wide, dark green above and lighter green below with a conspicuous mid-vein. Unlike the leaves of other *Hovea* species, the leaves on this plant do not have brown or grey closely matted hairs on the leaf under-

surface, but are hairless or only sparsely hairy. Mauve flowers are clustered in the leaf axils. The calyx is brown and densely hairy and the pods are globular, swollen, and usually without hairs. Found in heath and open forest on sandy soils. It is widespread from coast to mountains throughout NSW except western plains; and also occurs in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

Photo on previous page: John Tann [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hovea_linearis_\(9416616184\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hovea_linearis_(9416616184).jpg)

***Hakea neurophylla* (Pink-flowered Hakea)** Beautiful slender upright shrub to 1.5 m high and 1.2 m across. Leaves are similar to *Hakea laurina*. Deep pink flowers occur along the stems in Winter-Spring. Great for semi-arid and drought tolerant gardens. Excellent along narrow drive ways and small spaces with reflected heat. Full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant once established. Moderately frost tolerant. Well-drained soil preferred.



***Grevillea lavandulacea* (Lavender Grevillea)**

Small spreading shrub up to 1 m high with attractive grey foliage, bearing bright pinkish-red flowers from Winter through to early Summer. It grows best in a sunny position but will tolerate some light shade; tolerates at least moderate frosts; bird-attracting; drought-resistant once established.

Photo at left: Jim Ratabago
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11942641>

***Grevillea lanigera* 'Mt Tamboritha'** Spreading evergreen shrub with foliage crowded along the stems; masses of pinkish-red and cream spider-like flowers appear year round but mainly in late winter and early Spring. Ideal for native garden rockeries and as a ground-cover on embankments and spilling over retaining walls. Height 40cm x 1-2 m wide; thrives in a sunny position in moist well-drained soil; tolerates part shade, coastal conditions, light frost and also extended dry periods once established.

Photo at right: Jeff Howes <https://austplants.com.au/Grevillea-lanigera-Mt-Tamboritha-Spider-Flower/>



Phebalium stenophyllum
photos by Karlo Taliana
(top row) and Hugh Stacy

***Phebalium stenophyllum* (Narrow-leafed Phebalium)**

Shrub from 1 to 1.5 m in height. Branchlets ferruginous-scaly, petioles less than 1mm long. It produces umbel-like clusters of starry yellow flowers in spring. Styles are as long as stamens and stigmas are minute. Endemic to south-eastern Victoria and NSW. Has some frost tolerance and does best in well-drained partly shaded positions. Established plants tolerate dry periods.

(Photo montage reproduced from EHG newsletter September 2016.)

FROM OUR AUGUST MEETING
APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST 2019

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno
Notes by Liz Cameron

Meeting opened at 7.50 pm with an attendance of 14 – 11 EHG members and three members of other APS groups. Apologies from Karl Schurr, Marie and Des O'Connor and Jan Douglas and Dave Crawford.

Graham Fry thanked all the members who had helped in many ways with the business of the Group while he and Liz were away. He remarked that he and Liz had missed two very good talks during that time.

Announcements:

1. Menai Wildflower Group meeting next Saturday 10 August, 1 pm. Rhonda Daniels will be speaking about the Wonderful World of Wattles; Tony noted she had given an excellent and very well researched talk on the topic to the Sutherland Group in July.
2. APS NSW Quarterly Get-together hosted by the Newcastle Group, week-end of 17-18 August.
3. ANPSA Biennial Conference 'Blooming Biodiversity' in Albany, Western Australia, 29 September – 4 October. Registrations still open.
4. Donations to conservation organisations. In 2018 EHG made donations of \$75 each to four organisations – Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), Bush Heritage Australia, Total Environment Centre (TEC) and Environmental Defender's Office NSW (EDO). Treasurer Tony Porritt noted there was about \$5,500 in the EHG bank account and the meeting agreed to increase each donation in 2019 to \$100. Carol Drew said the Royal Botanic Gardens is scanning all its herbarium specimens and inviting donations towards that project; she suggested it would be another worthy recipient of an EHG donation.

THAT East Hills Group donate \$100 each to the following organisations – Royal Botanic Gardens, EDO, TEC, AWC and Bush Heritage Australia.

Moved: G Fry Seconded: D Taylor CARRIED

Looking to the following year, Graham Fry mentioned that Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (OFF) has started making donations to postgraduate student projects instead of to conservation organisations; one of the conditions of the grants is that the students present a talk to OFF. He suggested EHG might like to think of donations to student projects in 2020. Tony Porritt suggested other suitable recipients of EHG donations would be the ANPSA Study Groups.

5. July speaker Dr Lyndal Thorburn donated a number of potted eremophilas for sale at the July meeting and Tony suggested it would be appropriate to make a donation to the Eremophila Study Group that Lyndal leads.

THAT \$100 be donated to the Eremophila Study Group in appreciation of Lyndal Thorburn's presentation and the donation of plants for sale.

Moved: D Taylor Seconded: T Porritt CARRIED

6. EHG gathering at Sylvan Grove on Sunday 8th September 10 am. Jim Mackay will be leading a guided walk. Liz to invite members of Menai Wildflower Group, Sutherland Group and Macarthur Group of APS NSW, Oatley Flora and Fauna and Bankstown

Bushland Society.

7. Tony gave Liz the names of members who wanted copies of the APS Alice Springs flora brochures. She will order them.

Graham Fry and Liz Cameron then gave a presentation on the Flora in Scotland and Ireland – with a touch of archaeology. Graham used the Oatley Flora and Fauna Society's slide projector. Karlo will bring his own projector and computer for his presentation in September.

Raffle and plant sales followed by plant table and supper.

ANPSA AUSTRALIAN PLANTS AWARDS 2019

The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) has announced the 2019 winners of the ANPSA Australian Plants Awards which recognise outstanding achievements in the field of Australian native plants. They are **Professor Kingsley Dixon from Western Australia** (professional category) and **Glenn Leiper from Queensland** (amateur category). The medals will be presented later this year at the ANPSA conference in Albany.

For more information about the winners' achievements, look on the APS NSW website or follow the link in the APS NSW newsletter which will be coming around the end of August.

MENAI WILDFLOWER GROUP

2019 Release of the Pink Flannel Flower *Actinotus forsythii*

at the Illawarra Grevillea Park open days on two weekends:
7, 8, 14 and 15 September.



Limited numbers of
plants available.



The Illawarra Grevillea Park is at the rear of Bulli Showground, Princes Highway, Bulli, close to Bulli Train Station. Entry is \$5 for adults, no charge for children. The gardens are extensive and there are places to picnic.

ACCOUNTS OF THE 2019 APS GET-TOGETHER – NEWCASTLE AREA 17-18 AUGUST

Three members of East Hills Group attended the recent APS NSW Get-together in Newcastle. A big thank you to them all for sharing of their experiences and photos – see below. The text in blue and the first photo come from publicity provided before the Get-together by Newcastle Group.

Saturday morning – Hunter Region Botanic Gardens

The weekend began at the award-winning Hunter Region Botanic Gardens which cover 133 hectares of Eucalypt forest on the Tomago sand beds. There are many themed gardens amongst the forest that show our flora, both local to the Hunter Valley and the rest of Australia.



Graham Fry wrote: The APS Get-together was well attended, with over 80 attending on the Saturday and 100 registered for the Sunday.

Boyd Webster wrote: The Newcastle APS group arranged a busy program of excursions over the two days of the weekend meeting.

Ashlie Stevenson wrote: The most amazing thing about the weekend was seeing how much of the local flora was related to Sydney's but quite different.

Graham continued: The meeting started with a short talk by the former president of the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens welcoming us to the Gardens and briefly talking about their history. The Gardens are located on Hunter Water property for which they pay a peppercorn rent. The Gardens do not receive any funding from Government or council and rely on gate receipts, café income, functions and volunteers to keep them going. It is a large area and it is a credit to their members that they can maintain the gardens in such good condition, particularly now during the drought when they are not allowed to water.

Ashlie noted: The Gardens are divided into 'rooms' and are entirely cared for by volunteers. The Grevillea bed was most interesting for me. Several of the plants were self-sown hybrids. Unfortunately, the volunteers available have not been able to keep the weeds under control.

The morning featured a talk by Dr Stephen Bell on the 'Endemic Flora of the Hunter Region', before guided walks around the Gardens.

Graham wrote: We then had a presentation from Stephen Bell who is a conjoint fellow at the University of Newcastle and is very knowledgeable about the flora of the Hunter region. He is the joint author of a book, 'Flora of the Hunter Region', which documents the endemic trees and shrubs of the area. (A second volume covering the small plants and orchids will be published shortly.) The book is very interesting as all the images have been produced by graduates from the University of Newcastle's Batchelor of Natural History Illustration program. Stephen's presentation described a number of the rare and endangered species mentioned in the book. He had some fascinating stories about the discovery of some of these specimens and, in some cases, why they weren't discovered earlier.

The morning finished with a delightful exploration of the gardens. After lunch the group visited another reserve, but I had another commitment and had to come home so missed the afternoon walks and the Sunday walks

Overall, it was a good meeting in a delightful setting. When Liz and I travel up the coast we often stop at the gardens for a coffee break and now, knowing how critical funds from the café are to the gardens, we might be more generous about our food choices in the future.

Saturday afternoon – Walks in Port Stephens area guided by local members. These feature a range of different plant communities and the coastal flora as well as some spectacular coastal scenery.

Boyd wrote: Following lunch on Saturday 17th August, participants met for the afternoon Morna Point walk in the Tomaree National Park. This was through a heath covered headland on the Port Stephens peninsula facing south and overlooking the township of Boat Harbour.

Ashlie wrote: The walk in Tomaree National Park went from medium forest to headland heath with a fantastic view to the north. We spotted two different pink Caladenia orchid species and also some extremely thick, post-fire regrowth of a species of Casuarina that no-one could identify.

Sunday morning – Two walks: Glenrock Scout Camp and Awabakal Reserve

Boyd wrote: On Sunday morning there was another wildflower walk in the Awabakal Nature Reserve at the south end of Dudley Beach.

The Awabakal Nature Reserve walk was led by Maree McCarthy, secretary of the Newcastle APS group. We were provided with a comprehensive list of plants visible from the paths. On entering in a woodland area, maidenhair ferns provided a carpet underneath the tall trees, with *Clematis glycinoides* vine in flower. As we approached the shrubby heath area there was a tall casuarina (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) with a large growth of mistletoe (*Amyema congener*). The mistletoe was in full flower and enticing nectar-feeding birds.



(Photos above: Casuarina by Ellie Smith; Mistletoe flower by Boyd Webster)



As well as acacias, shrubs in flower along the track included Pink Wax Flower (*Eriostemon australasius*), Beard Heath (*Leucopogon ericoides*), Slender Rice Flower (*Pimelea linifolia*) (Photo at left by Boyd Webster), Heath Parrot Pea (*Dillwynia retorta*) and Coastal Tea-Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). Vines of hibbertia species and *Hardenbergia violacea* were common, and on the ground we saw several examples of the Running Postman, (*Kennedia prostrata*). (Photo at left by Boyd Webster.)

On a branch track Maree showed us a small grove of Blunt Greenhood ground orchids (*Pterostylis curta*). At the tip of the windswept headland there were good views looking back north towards Newcastle. Here shrubs such as banksias were low to the ground and admixed with grasses there were a few *Xanthorrhoea australis* specimens with very thick trunks and sparse leaves.

Boyd continued: At the Glenrock Scout Centre we had morning tea and John Le Messurier, (ABC 2018 Gardener of the Year) showed us around the beds of native plants established by volunteers over the last 40 years beside a lagoon at the exit of an old coal mine.

Sunday afternoon – Hunter Wetlands Centre. Catered lunch at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, the home base for APS Newcastle Group, followed by guided walks around the wetlands and a visit to the Newcastle Group's nursery.

Ashlie wrote: The Hunter Wetlands are on a rehabilitated industrial site. Birds on the lake included Spoonbills and several duck species. At the wetlands they had a green and gold bell frog. They are native to Bankstown amongst other places and are rare and endangered. I have worked in the past to save their habitat without ever having seen one.

Boyd wrote: The series of ponds and canals of this wetland was created out of a disused rugby ground and is now an environmental educational centre as well as being home for the Newcastle Group's nursery and propagation centre.

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Wednesday 4 September 2019 From 7.15 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Karlo Taliana: Georges River National Park.
Sunday 8 September 10 am but helpers please arrive early	EHG hosting visit to Sylvan Grove Native Garden – morning tea and guided walk.
Sat 7 and Sun 8 September From 10 am to 4 pm	Illawarra Grevillea Park Open Days Rear of Bulli Showground, Princes Highway, Bulli. Close to Bulli Train Station. \$5 entry for adults, children free. The gardens are extensive and there are places to picnic. <i>Launch of Pink Flannel Flowers – see page 6.</i>
Saturday 14 September 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group – Beth Mott on Powerful Owls Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong. For a map: https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities
Sat 14 and Sun 15 Sep From 10 am to 4 pm	Illawarra Grevillea Park Open Days - see entry above
Wednesday 21 September From 7.45pm for 8pm	Sutherland Group meeting – Spring flower spectacular Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea For a map: https://austplants.com.au/resources/Pictures/Sutherland%20District%20Group/Gymea%20Community%20Centre.png
September – October 2019	ANPSA Biennial National Conference: Blooming Biodiversity. See your journal <i>Australian Plants</i> and https://meetingmasters.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/bloomingbiodiversity/eventinfo

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<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>

