

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



February 2019

NEXT EHG MEETING:

7.30 pm, Wednesday 6 February 2019

- **Spring in Tasmania**
- **Group planning for 2019**

Graham Fry will give a short presentation on Tasmanian flora in Spring. This will be followed by a planning session, so members are encouraged to reflect on what we might like to do this year: outings, talk subjects, projects, plant propagation, etc.

Please bring specimens for the plant table, something to share for supper and your ideas for the year!

LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH
909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)

VISITORS WELCOME

HAPPY NEW YEAR and WELCOME to the February 2019 edition of the East Hills Group Newsletter.

In this issue we have notes from our December meeting, which of course included a festive dinner and music as well as our AGM. There's also a message from the APS NSW President and Secretary on page 3. Finally, just a reminder that the next APS NSW Quarterly Gathering is being hosted by North Shore Group and will be held in March.

Jan Douglas
Editor

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



FROM OUR DECEMBER MEETING
PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2018

As I get older it seems that each year goes faster than the last. 2018 has been a good year for the East Hills APS group. We have maintained and possibly expanded our membership during the year.

We have had some very good and interesting talks covering such diverse subjects such as:

- Soil organisms and how their health affects our beloved plants
- Review of the book 'Dark Emu' and how it is challenging our traditional views of aboriginal occupation of the land
- A visit to a remarkable native garden on Horse Island on the south coast
- Travels in Colombia
- History of Sir Joseph Banks and his impact on Australian botany and why in 2020 we should be celebrating the 250th anniversary of his trip with Captain Cook
- Brush turkeys and how they are expanding their presence in Sydney
- Sutherland Shire Council's Greenweb.

Significantly, our group hosted the APS Regional meeting in September. The day started off with a very successful visit to Sylvan Grove: the gardens were superb and over 40 people took part and from the comments received they were very impressed. The meeting in the afternoon had the highly regarded author Alan Fairley speaking on 120 rare and endangered plants in the Sydney Region, followed by afternoon tea and plant sales. It was a very successful day and I would like to especially thank our members who worked very hard both at Sylvan Grove and at the meeting hall to ensure our visitors were well looked after.

Earlier in the year some of our members, particularly Jan Douglas and Karlo Taliana submitted entries to the Australian Plant Section of the RAS flower competition, and again some of their entries were successful by winning in a number of categories.

Jan has done a wonderful job as editor of our Newsletter which is our main method of communicating to our members and consequently incredibly important. Editing is not very rewarding but your newsletters are always worth reading and I look forward to receiving them.

We are indebted to Graham Walters who never fails to get good speakers for our monthly meetings.

Karlo managed our plant propagation activities and combined with the Menai WFG allowing us to use their propagation facilities we had adequate numbers of plants for sale at our meetings. The income from these plant sales and the raffle tickets takings ensure that we have enough income to cover the cost of renting the meeting room, so to all our members thank you for supporting our group through your plant purchases and raffle tickets.

Finally I would like to thank Marie O'Connor, Dorothy Taylor and Kate Porritt who prepare the evening supper for our meetings and ensure that we have plenty of time for discussions and debates over a cup of tea.

Best wishes for Christmas.

Graham Fry
President, APS East Hills Group

January 2019

At a recent Presidents' Workshop, the APS NSW Board outlined the challenges it was experiencing in undertaking all the tasks required to keep the Society operating, let alone progressing the strategy.

While financial management has successfully been outsourced to Accounting for Good, there are many jobs still to be done, whether as a Board member or in a non-Board capacity. These include:

- Assisting with managing the website and developing content, including fact sheets and plant profiles
- Developing communications to members as well as online content/journal for members e.g. online journal
- Overseeing organisation of Gatherings and Get togethers (i.e. Program Officer)
- Editing the Australian Plants journal
- Developing promotional and marketing communications and materials for non-members
- Assisting with the Biennial Conference in 2021, including design and organisation of the event, as well as pre- and post-conference tours
- Engaging other stakeholders with similar aims and ambitions to APS NSW
- Being part of the Board of APS NSW. Our board are both board members (governance) as well as doing operations of the organisation. Roles include event coordination, risk management, secretarial responsibilities.

If you are interested in assisting with any of these jobs or a part of any of these jobs, please contact John Aitken (johnstaceaitken@gmail.com) or Heather Miles (heather@heathermiles.com.au) to discuss ideas and what might make sense. Together, we can hopefully keep the Society successfully operating for the next 60 years.



Above: Flowers at Kamay National Park, November 2018 APS Gathering. Photos by Jan Douglas.

FROM OUR DECEMBER MEETING
MINUTES OF AGM AND ACCOUNT OF
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

APS East Hills Group meeting, 5 December 2018

Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno

Notes by Liz Cameron

Attendance of 32, including eight from Menai Group, two from Sutherland Group, and members of the singing group that entertained us.

The program began at 6.30 pm with a delicious meal co-ordinated by Marie O'Connor assisted by Dorothy Taylor, Kate Porritt and Jan Douglas. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of salads, cold meats, vegetarian options and bread rolls, washed down with punch. Colourful tablecloths, sparkling Christmas decorations and vases of native flowers and foliage decorated the hall; the latter included *Acacia cognata*, *Goodenia ovata* and coral-flowered *Corymbia ficifolia*, all provided from members' gardens.

The Annual General Meeting opened at 7.45 pm with 14 East Hills Group members in attendance and apologies from Karl Schurr, Tony Porritt, Boyd Webster, Chris King and Dorothy Luther.

Graham Fry presented the President's Report and noted with satisfaction that the Group had maintained its membership numbers during the year. He particularly thanked Graham Walters for organising a very interesting series of speakers that included Doug Rickard's introduction to the amazing creatures that live in our soil, Karl Schurr's review of Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe, Jan Douglas's description of a grand garden on the South Coast, Rob Walter's travels in Colombia, Rhonda Daniels' tribute to the legacy of Sir Joseph Banks, Matt Hall's talk on the urban ecology of Brush Turkeys and Geoff Doret's explanation of the Greenweb in Sutherland Shire.

The regional meeting in September was a great success and Graham thanked all members of East Hills Group for helping to host it. More than 40 attended the morning in Sylvan Grove, where first-time visitors expressed great admiration for the site, and a large audience listened attentively to Alan Fairley's talk on rare plants of the Sydney region in the afternoon.

After a gap of some years, in 2018 East Hills Group was again represented in the native flora competition at the Royal Easter Show; Karlo Taliana and Jan Douglas prepared 15 entries from their own and other members' gardens, and received eight awards. Graham also paid tribute to Jan Douglas for her excellent production of the EHG Newsletter; it is such an important form of communication with our members. But later in the meeting Karlo highlighted the need for someone to start helping Jan with the Newsletter, with the aim of taking over from her in 2020.

The Treasurer did not present an annual report on the Group's finances as the financial year does not end until 31 December, but the President reported the Group's finances were in a similar position to the previous year. The sale of plants that Karlo has propagated is a very valuable contribution to the Group's income; along with raffle sales, it pays for the hire of the Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church premises for our meetings.

At 7.50 pm Graham Fry vacated the chair and invited John Aitken, President of APS NSW, to conduct the election of office-bearers. On behalf of APS NSW, John expressed thanks to the group for hosting the Quarterly Gathering in September, pointing out that social aspects of the

Society are very important to its success. He then declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations from the floor. The following office-bearers were appointed unopposed:

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Graham Fry	Graham Walters	Jan Douglas
Vice-President (1)	Graham Walters	Marie O'Connor	Dorothy Taylor
Vice-President (2)	Karlo Taliana	Jan Douglas	Graham Walters
Secretary	Liz Cameron	Dorothy Taylor	David Crawford
Treasurer	Tony Porritt	Liz Cameron	Graham Fry
Newsletter Editor	Jan Douglas	Graham Walters	Liz Cameron
Delegate to APS NSW	Graham Fry	Jan Douglas	Graham Walters

Following the elections, the audience was treated to a selection of songs sung *a capella* by four members of The Fossickers folk music group – Ruth, Ruby, Halcy and Sophie.



Winners of the raffle for two Christmas hampers were Dave Crawford and Dorothy Taylor; Marion Whatman (Menai) and Marie O'Connor won plants donated by Karlo Taliana. The meeting concluded with a yummy supper contributed by members and guests. Many thanks to all those who helped with cleaning and washing up afterwards.

Income at meeting:

\$5 entry + raffle tickets	\$196
Plant sales	\$91
Sale of four flannel flower plants	<u>\$16</u>
Total	<u>\$303</u>

EAST HILLS GROUP CONTACTS

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