

# APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



## March 2021

**NEXT EHG MEETING:**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Guest speaker Shauna Chadlowe**

Chief Development Officer from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy

**Rewilding the wild: restoring Australia's lost biodiversity**

**LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH**

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

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

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME**

**WELCOME** to the February 2021 edition of the APS East Hills Group Newsletter.

**PLEASE NOTE the meeting is in the afternoon**

**Due to COVID restrictions, please pre-register if possible by contacting Liz Cameron. Also please bring your own coffee/ tea cup if possible.**

I have taken over from Jan Douglas as the newsletter editor. I will be trying to keep up to Jan's high standard of content & format. Contributions from members are always welcome.

Dorothy Luther

Editor

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In the spirit of reconciliation, the APS East Hills group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am the newly elected president of the East Hills group. My husband & I have been members of APS for over 30yrs. Over the last 22 years, we have developed our garden into a Bird attracting Australian native one. I enjoy picking & arranging flowers and foliage for the house. I am looking forward, as President, to fulfilling the role & working with you all in the happy & supportive group East Hills is known to be.

Our plans for the coming year are evolving, with a planning meeting held on 24th February. Continuing use of the Church hall is still to be resolved, and the COVID safe requirements are constantly changing.

We will continue with our plant table as it is a very popular & unique part of our meetings and the propagation & plant sales are an important source of revenue.

We have a list of potential speakers for the year & are planning some site visits in spring.

We are also looking at ways to interact with other groups to gain a broader audience for speakers, and at using technology to expand our audience. So this will be an interesting year.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next Wednesday 3/3/21 at 2 pm for our first meeting back at Lugarno.

Marie O'Connor.

President, East Hills Group

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Boongala Native Gardens & Rainforest Open Days**

### **Plant Sales, Open Gardens & Rainforest Walk [www.boongalagardens.com](http://www.boongalagardens.com)**

You are invited to our Autumn open garden and plant sales!

Enjoy a walk around 'Boongala Native Gardens' which displays a diverse collection of native flora from around Australia.

We will have a large range of native plants in gro-tubes & larger sizes available for sale.

A guided rainforest tour is available at 11am and 1.30pm daily.

Entry to gardens - Adults \$3.00, Children Free

Rainforest and Bush Tucker Tour - Adults \$5.00, Children Free

**We will be open:**

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday**

**10am to 4pm from the 5th to the 28th of March, 2021**

Our address is 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst

We look forward to seeing you,

Mal & Jenny Johnston

(Formerly Annangrove Grevilleas)

## LOCAL NEWS

### Menai Wildflower Group Gatherings

The regular monthly meetings are held at Illawong Fire Station. We swap from Wednesday night to Saturday afternoon in the winter. Coming meetings:

**10 Mar** Last Wednesday evening meeting for summer. From 7pm Peter Olde will introduce some of the new native hybrids we can enjoy.

**10 Apr** First Saturday meeting of 2021 starts at 1pm. Bruce Howell will explore the deep history of Illawong and tell us a little of the Indigenous uses of plants.

**8 May** Saturday, 1pm. Justin Collette will talk on germinating difficult Australian native plants, focusing on the interactions between season and fire.

We also hold a propagation workshop and garden working bee at the fire station every Tuesday from 9-12. East Hills members are most welcome to come. They can bring their own material or there are cuttings available in the garden. We have a propagation bed etc and members who are happy to share their expertise.

### What's Flowering Now at the Georges River NP

Karlo Taliana bushwalks through the Georges River National Park time 3-4 each week and has undertaken to keep us posted on what is flowering there. The following words & pictures are from him.



At Picnic Point, Georges River



close up



*Crowea exalata* At Alfords Point

***Epacris pulchella*** (Coral Heath) – a common species and one of the first members of the Ericaceae family to flower each year in our local bushland. It grows as a slender shrub to 1.5 metres branching from the base. Long stems bearing prickly foliage become decorated with attractive sprays of white flowers through Summer and Autumn – the flowers tend to occur more terminally.

***Crowea exalata*** – this native waxflower is quite uncommon in most parts of the Georges River National Park, so it is a delight to see when it does flower, usually around late Summer. There are no known records of it occurring north of the River with the National Park. South of the Georges River, there are small populations of this species occurring at Alfords Point (east of Mill Creek) but greater numbers exist much further south along Bardens Creek and in the Woronora area.



*Banksia oblongifolia* (in bud) displaying blue pistils



*Banksia oblongifolia* (from above) with flowers fully open

***Banksia oblongifolia*** (Rusty Banksia) – one of six *Banksia* species that exist within the Georges River NP and the first of the Autumn-flowering *Banksias* to flower. Quite common in most areas, it provides a valuable source of nectar to many bird species although quite often the flowerheads can be seen covered with insects such as bees and ants. *Banksia oblongifolia* has two means of regenerating following bushfires – it possesses a lignotuber so it will reshoot from the base after fire but it can also regenerate from seed.

## PLANT TABLE – February 2021

We didn't have a plant table at the February meeting as it was the AGM. Graham Fry brought some plants for sale & provided the following notes & photo of one of his favourites.

### *Goodenia ovata*

In 2016 I discovered *Goodenia ovata* when I purchased a plant during a visit to the Hawkesbury City Council community nursery. Since then I have planted another 31 *G.ovata* plants of which 9 are in our garden while the remainder are planted in a verge along a council reserve, which our block adjoins.

This is a good plant for a garden for the following reasons:

- It produces lots of yellow flowers for most of the year
- It seems to be relatively hardy it probably needs a little water during excessive dry periods as most of mine that have died are in the park next door which doesn't get any supplementary watering.
- It is very easy to propagate; I am not the best propagator but can easily produce good cuttings in a few months.
- It doesn't grow too large with our oldest plant having a 1m circumference and a height of around 1m.



*G.ovata* tends to grow quickly and can become open and untidy. However, it responds well to hard pruning and is a good plant to use as a quick-growing "filler". All forms are hardy in most soils and in a sunny or semi-shaded position. There is also a prostrate form which might be more suitable for some gardens.

I strongly recommend it as for much of the year it is one of the few plants in flower and as well as being attractive it is a good food source for small flies and bees.

**FROM OUR February 2021 MEETING**  
**APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING – WED 2 FEBRUARY**

The Castle, Oatley Park

Notes by Liz Cameron

**This was the Annual General Meeting**

Graham read the President's Address, which included a summary of the Group's activities in 2020 and announced he would be retiring as President at this meeting.

Graham then read a report from Treasurer, Tony Porritt on the Group's financial position. The Group experienced a net loss for the year of \$361, leaving a bank balance of \$4,777. Donations of \$600 were made to six organisations listed in minutes of meeting held 2 December 2020.

Tony noted the loss was due largely to a drop in revenue from the sale of plants and raffle tickets because most 2020 meetings were cancelled.

The following committee members were elected:

President	Marie O'Connor
Vice-President	Graham Fry
Vice-President	Karlo Taliana
Secretary	Liz Cameron
Treasurer	Tony Porritt

Following members accepted appointment to the non-executive positions for 2021:

Council Delegate	Graham Fry
Propagation Officer	Karlo Taliana
Speaker Co-ordinator	Graham Walters
Hospitality	Liz Cameron
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Luther
Plant Table Recorders	Dave Crawford and Jan Douglas; Karlo Taliana

**Correspondence Received:**

1. **Gumleaves Newsletter - Feb 2021**, the Hunter Valley APS Newsletter. They have a pattern of alternate weekend & weeknight meetings
2. **APS Sutherland newsletter for February 2021**
3. **Menai Wildflower Group newsletter** This is a quarterly publication
4. The Australian Plants Society SA is holding a plants sale 10th and 11th of April 2021 in the Goyder Pavilion in the Adelaide Showgrounds. Please spread the word to anyone who may be in Adelaide at the time.
5. Boongala Native Gardens and Rainforest Autumn open garden and plant sales

## COMING EVENTS

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak, face-to-face meetings are still restricted. Some APS meetings are being held on-line, using Zoom. For details of coming events, please see the APS NSW e-newsletter (which members should be receiving by email at the end of each month).

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

Wednesday 3 March 2021 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	East Hills Group meeting, Shauna Chadlowe from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Face to face
Weekends 5 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Boongala Native Gardens and Rainforest Autumn open garden and plant sales (See announcement above)
Saturday 13 March	Sutherland Council Community Nursery open day 345 The Boulevard, Gymea
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong For a map: <a href="https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities">https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities</a>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March, 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea <a href="https://austplants.com.au/resources/Pictures/Sutherland%20District%20Group/Gymea%20Community%20Centre.png">https://austplants.com.au/resources/Pictures/Sutherland%20District%20Group/Gymea%20Community%20Centre.png</a>
Saturday 20 March from 3 pm by Zoom	APS NSW quarterly gathering - New grevillea hybrids with Peter Olde. Details next e-newsletter
Weekends 1–2 May and 8–9 May	Open days and plant sales at Illawarra Grevillea Park at Bulli
Saturday 15 May	APS NSW quarterly gathering at Kurnell - physical meeting hosted by Sutherland Group.

### EAST HILLS GROUP CONTACTS

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

