

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



June 2019

NEXT EHG MEETING:

7.30 pm, Wednesday 5 June 2019

Restoration of Colonial Heritage in The Rocks

Miriam Stacy

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 June 2019 edition of the APS East Hills Group Newsletter.

Oh dear! Another late newsletter! Still, I hope you find something in it that's of interest.

In this issue you will find minutes from both the April and May meetings, and notes from Graham Fry's presentation at our April meeting. We also have the plant list from the May meeting and some dates for your diary.

Our Group meeting is only a few days away – I hope to see you there!

Jan Douglas
Editor

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



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was great to see a good number of people for Karlo Taliana's Kosciuszko talk. I have had many trips in summer to view the wonderful alpine wildflower display in this area and thought I had a fair understanding of the vegetation. However, Karlo discussed some aspects of the alpine ecosystems that were new to me – it's great to learn something new at our meetings.

We are indebted to Jan and Marie and others for again promoting native plants at the Royal Easter Show. Congratulations to Jan who won a number of awards, and thanks for the considerable time and effort she went to in preparing the entries to the show.

You should have received your first Plants of NSW e-newsletter by now. If you haven't, then perhaps your email address has changed or you haven't registered on the APS website. I suggest you do, also there is always lots of information available on the website including many of the Study Groups' newsletters. The first e-newsletter was very informative and is up to date. The final paper edition of Native Plants for NSW (the "collector's edition") is expected to be mailed in the near future.

Liz and I are off to Scotland and Ireland in mid-May for a month and so will miss the AGM and our next meeting. Karlo will be the leader of our Group while we are away - see you all again in July.

Graham Fry
President, East Hills Group

FROM THE APS NSW AGM AND TALK ON CARNIVOROUS PLANTS, MAY 2019



The meeting was hosted by Blue Mountains Group and was a great success. The AGM included bestowal of Life Membership on Barry Lees and Lloyd Hedges. (Photo at top left by John Arney, others by Jan Douglas.) At the AGM, John Aitken was re-elected *in absentia* as President, Harry Loots was re-elected as Treasurer and Merle Thompson was re-elected as a general committee member. The lively and fascinating presentation on carnivorous plants was given by Greg Bourke.

FROM OUR MAY MEETING

Karlo Taliana: Kosciuszko National Park – Landscape, walks and wildflowers

We all enjoyed Karlo Taliana's presentation on Kosciuszko National Park at our May meeting. Unfortunately, partly as a result of living in two places at once, your Editor misplaced Karlo's talk, so it will appear in the July newsletter. My apologies for the delay. In the meantime, here are some photos of taken in the Park by your Editor about ten years ago.



FROM OUR MAY MEETING

PLANT TABLE – MAY 2019

David Crawford provided the following list of plants from our May plant table.

<i>Hakea nodosa</i>	Yellow Hakea. Pods and seeds from Jason Cockayne.
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra Flame Tree. Pods.
<i>Eucalyptus longifolia</i>	Woollybutt
<i>Isopogon anethifolius</i>	Narrow-leaf Drumsticks. Has terete leaf segments (diagnostic feature to distinguish from <i>I. anemonifolius</i>)
<i>Callistemon</i> sp.	
<i>Correa pulchella</i>	
<i>Westringia</i> sp.	
<i>Grevillea acropogon</i>	From south-west WA. Endangered.
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Peaches and Cream'	This hybrid arose in Brisbane garden of SGAP members in 1997.
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Elegance'	<i>G. longistyla</i> x <i>G. johnsonii</i>
<i>Syzygium</i> 'Cascade'	Lilly Pilly Cascade. It is a cross between <i>Syzygium leuhmannii</i> and <i>S. wilsonii</i>
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i> var <i>spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia

FROM OUR MAY MEETING
APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING – WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2019

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno
Notes recorded by Jan Douglas

The meeting was opened by President Graham Fry at 7.55 pm with 18 in attendance including four guests. There were apologies from Liz Cameron and Graham Walters.

Graham Fry mentioned various activities coming up shortly, including the Illawarra Grevillea Park open days, the APS NSW Annual General Meeting and talk by Greg Bourke on carnivorous plants. Lloyd Hedges spoke about the coming meeting of Menai Wildflower Group about regeneration work on Big Island off Port Kembla and invited everyone to attend.

Karlo Taliana then presented on Kosciuszko National Park, based on his visit there in December 2018, talking about vegetation types, plants he saw on various walks, and showing some of his photos.

This was followed by the plant table and raffle. Plant sales raised \$55 and the raffle \$42, and there was a donation of \$0.20, giving a total of \$97.20

FROM OUR APRIL MEETING
***Toona ciliata* (Australian Red Cedar) – Graham Fry**

Our April meeting included presentations from six members on a variety of topics. Five of these were included in our May newsletter. Here is a little about the remaining presentation: Graham Fry's remarks about Australian Red Cedar.

Graham gave us a brief account of the classification, distribution and commercial uses of Red Cedar and put our Australian Red Cedar in context with other species. Graham also spoke about his own experience of growing Australian Red Cedar at home – photo at right. Graham's tree was planted in 1983 in an area with shallow, very sandy soil with rock about 60cm below. Despite attack by Cedar Tip Moth and suffering in the dry of 2018, Graham's tree is now about 10m tall with a 30cm trunk diameter.



APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2019

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno
Minutes recorded by Secretary Liz Cameron

The meeting was opened by President Graham Fry at 7.45 pm with 14 in attendance including new member for East Hills Group, Ashlie Stevenson. Apologies from Tony and Kate Porritt who were in Tasmania.

Jan Douglas told the meeting that she had received an email from Patrick Ovens, an APS member who had known Hugh Stacy for many years and wished to share some of his memories of Hugh. Jan read the email which included memories of Hugh in the Plants Society and in business, and of Hugh's and Patrick's families growing up together.

Graham thanked Jan for producing a very informative issue of the EHG newsletter for April. Members then gave a series of presentations on fascinating and varied topics.

Boyd Webster – Cushion Bush or Cushion Plant *Leucophyta brownii* in the wild.

After being familiar with it as a garden plant, Boyd encountered Cushion Bush in the wild on King Island while on a pre-ANPSA conference tour in January 2018. The group stayed at the settlement of Grassy, which has a deep water harbour, and were taken on a 4WD tour of the east coast of King Island. The island is about 60 x 20 km in extent and has a population of approximately 1,580.

Cushion Bush is a member of the Asteraceae; *Leucophyta* is a monotypic genus. The species name honours the early botanical collector, Robert Brown. Cushion Bush occurs along the southern coast of Australia, including northern Tasmania and Flinders and King Island. On King Island it was growing in a broad zone from the rocky shore up to the dunes.

Cushion Bush has spherical flower heads that change from silver to yellow; they are insect pollinated. Cushion Bush can be propagated by cuttings or from seed and cultivars are available. It does not like humidity or overwatering and grows best in full sun in a well-drained soil.

Carol Drew – Artwork incorporating leaves. Carol presented a series of photographic compositions, many of them featuring burnt leaves and utilising a variety of techniques.

Jan Douglas – is the *Brunoniella australis* in our gardens actually an introduced plant from Mexico – *Ruellia squarrosa*?

Kyrill Taylor – the complexity of propagation in *Eremophila*. At the latest meeting of the Eremophila Study Group, Kyrill was impressed but challenged by the technical terminology used by four erudite speakers including Ian Tranter, in discussing propagation in Eremophilas. Kyrill has enjoyed growing an *Eremophila* 'Kalbarri Gold' that Karlo propagated.

Graham Walters - *Bindibu Country* (1975) – a book by anthropologist Donald Thomson about the Pintupi people living on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. Thomson described their use of arid plants, among them spinifex (*Triodia* and *Plechtrachne* spp.) to insulate shelters and Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) which provides wood for tools and weapons and food in the form of seeds and "mulga apples" (galls).

Mulga is the most variable of the *Acacia* species and there are three different growth forms in the Great Sandy Desert; young Mulgas often have a pseudo-conifer growth form. Mulga shrublands are very resilient and can survive drought, fire and flood; they tolerate the very wide range of temperatures characteristic of the western deserts. However Mulga, including its seeds, is killed by high intensity fires. These have become more common since Aboriginal methods of low intensity fires were largely abandoned and Europeans practiced overstocking with domestic animals.

Karlo Taliana – "Delayed Greening" in the immature leaves of Banksias. This is a phosphorus-saving mechanism. In *Banksia grandis* the new growth is pink and this is more pronounced in plants growing on the west coast of Australia where soils are more deficient in minerals. The young leaves have very low levels of chlorophyll and their colour is due to presence of anthocyanin. It takes 3-4 weeks for the leaves of *Banksia aemula* to mature and lose anthocyanin.

Graham Fry – Red Cedar *Toona ciliata* (family Meliaceae). Graham planted a Red Cedar in his back yard in December 1983 and it is still growing, despite being subject to attack by Cedar tip moth which eats the pith of new shoots, causing premature branching.

The genus *Toona* has a widespread distribution, extending from China and Afghanistan through to India, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Five species are recognised:

<i>T. ciliata</i>	Australian Red Cedar a.k.a. Indian Mahogany
<i>T. sinensis</i>	Chinese Mahogany or Chinese Toon; a cultivar 'Flamingo' has bright pink leaves in spring and in autumn the leaves turn orange; growing and for sale at Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens, Mt Tomah

<i>T. sureni</i>	Surian or Suran Toon
<i>T. calantas</i>	Philippine Mahogany or Cedar
<i>T. fargesii</i>	

The talks were followed by examination of the plant table; specimens included *Acacia cognata*, *Westringia sp*, *Corymbia gummifera*, *Angophora hispida* (noted that a good example was growing in Samuel Street, Peakhurst) and *Grevillea* 'Winpara Gem'.

Plant sales raised \$61 and the raffle draw, \$33, giving a total of \$94.

COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

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

Wednesday 5 June 2019 From 7.15 for 7.30 pm	East Hills Group meeting – Miriam Stacy will speak on 'Restoration of Colonial Heritage in The Rocks'.
Saturday 8 June 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group – Narelle Happ on garden design. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong.
Wednesday 19 June From 7.45pm for 8pm	Sutherland Group meeting - Gondwana connections with Peter Weston. Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 August 2019	APS NSW Get together in Newcastle Please register and pay by 15 July 2019. Registration for the weekend is \$40 and includes lunch and morning tea on both Saturday and Sunday. See https://austplants.com.au/event-3175542?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=8%2F19%2F2019 for details.

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