

Native Plants for New South Wales



Journal of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd Vol 45 No 4 October 2010

Native Plants for NSW

Published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd. ACN 002 680 408

Editor: John Aitken
Proof Reading: Pam Pitkeathly
Rhonda Daniels
Layout: Lachlan McLaine

The Journal is a forum for the exchange of views of members and others and their experiences of propagating, conserving and gardening with Australian plants.

Contributions are warmly welcomed. They may be typed or hand written and accompanied by photographs and drawings. If handwritten, please print botanical names and names of people.

Photographs may be submitted as either high resolution digital files, such as JPGs, or prints.

APS NSW Office

Mail: PO Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146
Phone: (02) 9631 4085
Fax: (02) 9631 4293
Email: ednp@austplants-nsw.org.au or
ausplants@gmail.com

Deadline for January 2011 issue is 30 November 2010

All original text may be reprinted, unless otherwise indicated, provided the source is acknowledged. Permission to reprint non-original material, all drawings and images must be obtained from the copyright holder.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and may not necessarily represent the official policy of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd.

Number of Copies: 1600

Printed: Elect Printing, Fyshwick ACT.

Print Post Approved: PP 2265253/00018

© 2010 ISSN 1323 – 7314

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Objects of APS NSW.....	3
APS NSW region meeting 4 November 2010	
The Lisle Pearse Garden, Oberon... 5	
Lisle Pearse a generous..... 8 benefactor	
<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> 9 a naming paradox	
Hunter Wetlands Centre 10 a long way in 25 years	
A giant lily 15	
Box Vale tramway..... 19	
District Group directory..... 23	
Membership form..... 24	
District Group directory cont..... 26	
<i>Native Plants of the Sydney</i> 27 <i>Region – a book review</i>	
Fish in frog ponds..... 28	
APS NSW council jottings 29	
Study Group notes..... 31	
Study Group directory..... 33	
Seed bank details..... 36	
New members 37	
District Group diary..... 39	
Membership discounts..... 44	
Advertisements..... 45	
APS NSW contacts..... 47	
Committees and services 47	

Front and back covers:

Doryanthes excelsa, GyMEA Lily
Photos: Margaret Bradhurst

Editorial

John Aitken and Rhonda Daniels, APS NSW

There is no report for the August APS NSW region meeting at Ermington. Unfortunately the meeting had to be cancelled as the hall, in which we meet, was required for the Federal elections on the following day.

This issue contains two articles on community reserves that have been established and/or are maintained by District Groups of the Australian Plants Society NSW. This is a small representation of the many such projects throughout NSW in which District Groups are involved. Reserves such as these are a tribute to the enthusiasm, dedication and determination of many members of APS NSW to ensure the conservation of native plants and animals and to bring them to the attention of the local communities.

Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg's article on Lisle Pearse describes the life of one of the Society's major benefactors. As a result of Lisle's generous legacy to the Society, the Lisle Pearse Award fund was established to provide funds to assist worthwhile activities that were consistent with the objects of APS NSW. One such project was the Lisle Pearse Garden at Oberon which was established in a joint venture between the Central West Group and the Oberon City Council. This was assisted by a \$10,000 grant from the Lisle Pearse Award as it was then known. As a result of the generosity of other benefactors, the name of the fund was changed to the Bequest Trust.

Objects of APS NSW

- To foster and promote appreciation, study and participation in growing and propagating Australian native plants.
- To foster support and promote the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants.
- To encourage the use of Australian native plants in home gardens and public places.
- To improve Australian native plants as garden subjects.
- To interest people in the nursery industry in propagating and supplying Australian native plants to the public.
- To increase and disseminate general knowledge of Australian native plants.



APS NSW Region meeting, Ermington

**Friday, 19 November 2010 8pm
Ermington Community Centre
10 River Rd, Ermington**

Angus Stewart, a presenter of the ABC's Gardening Australia program, will be our guest speaker.

Angus is a very entertaining speaker and will be talking about creating an Australian garden and his new book, which is soon to be published.



This is a must attend opportunity for all APS members and other Australian native plant enthusiasts to hear one of Australia's favourite gardening presenters talk about his passion – cultivating Australian native plants. Copies of Angus's new book will also be available for sale at \$55 during the evening and you will have the opportunity to have it signed by him.

There will also be a great selection of plants for sale.

Please bring plant specimens for the specimen table.

Why not join us on Friday 19 November for the opportunity to listen to and meet a great personality and to meet members from other Groups?

Supper is provided.

APS NSW Region meeting, 18 February 2011

Our guest speaker at our first Region meeting in 2011 will be Dr Tim Entwisle. Tim is Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust in Sydney and is responsible for the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Domain, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and Mount Annan Botanic Garden. He is a very entertaining speaker and is a regular contributor to the ABC Sydney radio and a frequent guest on many other Sydney media. In addition, he writes for a variety of science, nature and garden magazines.

Don't miss out on this one – mark it in your diary.

The Lisle Pearse Garden, Oberon

Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg, Central West Group

Photos: Hans Hoegh-Guldberg



In 1999 Oberon Council wanted to get the community involved in caring about the town gardens and the General Manager, Bruce Fitzpatrick, came to a Garden Club meeting and asked if the club would like to help establish a garden in cooperation with Council. The Garden Club did not feel they could undertake the project. The Central West Group of the Australian Plants Society took it on and, with a \$10,000 grant from the Australian Plants Society NSW Lisle Pearse Award, set about creating the native garden.

It has been a long and hard effort but the garden will be officially opened on Saturday 30 October 2010. It is found at the top of a hill on the right side of the main road when you enter Oberon from the Sydney side. The area is fringed by some very large old Radiata pines and, most significantly, features some beautiful large basalt outcrops.

The garden was to have been opened during the Spring Garden Festival in 2009 but the Society had not followed the correct protocol of putting the matter of naming before the whole of Council. This was corrected and the garden is now officially called the Lisle Pearse Garden.

The Oberon Council provided mulch and a number of eucalypts for shelter. The first plantings drew the attention of some of the local children. Those of us who grew up in the bush and knew the fun of building cubbies of ferns and branches can understand the attraction it is for children who grow up in limited and well groomed back yards. The activity was rather destructive of tree guards and branches. After an appeal by the school principals for students to show respect for plantings, the garden moved on, slowly. The debate was tree guards or no tree guards. Tree guards won. They provided protection from wind and frost and indicated to council workers what was a weed and what was a small native plant.

Then the drought struck. The idea of planting native plants was to preserve their biodiversity for the future and to grow a garden using little water, though there is that need in the initial planting phase. The council came to the rescue with piped water. A class of primary school students got involved in the project as a water brigade in the lunch hour.

There is a disadvantage in a group like the Central West Group, which extends its area from Gilgandra in the west to the Blue Mountains in

the east. At the time of the start of the garden there were six Oberon members, but members move on to other pursuits. Remaining members of the group overseeing the project travel demanding distances to working bees. We are aware of the need to enlist more Oberonites.

Meanwhile my husband and I are the anchor members in Oberon. A neighbour near the park keeps an eye on happenings up there. Not so long ago his dog 'Bruiser' died. Bruiser lies at rest beneath a tree contributed by his owner. It is a community garden.

Last year the Group decided to find a suitable way to indicate that the project was a cooperation of Council and the Central West Group of APS. Instead of the usual plaque, Colin Fenn, a well known Bathurst sculptor, designed a distinctive upright spire of local sandstone, bearing the appropriate inscription. Colin was also asked to design a table cum bench in sandstone. The table is inscribed with a Kashmiri proverb – 'We do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children' – all carved in beautiful free flowing script and a fitting mark of acknowledgement of Lisle Pearse as a pioneering member and benefactor of the Australian Plants Society.

Oberon's climate is harsh with heavy frosts and snow in winter. Many times I have people stand gazing out over the native garden on our property and declare 'Ah, but, native plants won't grow in this climate.' One might ask what grew there before Europeans came.

The snow may weigh them down but they spring back. Choose the right plants, particularly choosing local species and there is no problem with frost. Should they be sensitive to frost, come spring they mostly grow back. The aim with the Lisle Pearse Garden would be to plant local indigenous plants. The trouble is, these plants are often not available in nurseries and have to be researched and home grown. This makes for a long and ongoing commitment but a commitment to a worthwhile pursuit: the preservation of these unique plants for the future.



The sculpture in a maturing Lisle Pearse Garden, March 2010



Battling the blackberry, 2003



The bucket brigade from Oberon Public School, 2006

Lisle Pearse – a generous benefactor (1891–1976)

Isobel Hoegh-Guldberg, Central West Group

Lisle Dudley Pearse was born in Darlinghurst, Sydney in 1891 and died in 1976 in West Ryde. He was one of four siblings and does not appear to have married. Lisle joined the Australian Imperial Forces abroad in 1915. His occupation was listed as 'farmer'. From the regular army training camp in Egypt he was transferred to the battlefields of France. He fought with the First Division Machine Gunners AIF. During his service he was severely gassed and wounded twice. He also suffered from influenza and was hospitalised in Bristol. He returned to Australia in 1919. On return from army service he took up land under the soldier settlement scheme in Bellingen in 1920, where he farmed until around 1927. He then returned to Sydney.

Lisle was a professional musician and is listed in Tom Lord's jazz discography 1926. From 1927 he played in the 2FC Dance Band, conducted by his older brother Eric. In 1929 he played on 2GB with the *Celeste Trio* and as a xylophone soloist.

Lisle also played on the Manly ferries, from the late 1920s. The bands were not employed by the ferry company but depended on a collection box passed around the audience. There were two pianos on the upper deck and the pianist was generally accompanied by instrumentalists: saxophone, clarinet, trumpet. The bands still played in 1946. In 1937 Lisle Pearse was listed as living in Chippendale.

Around 1954 he moved onto land he had purchased at Sandy Point on the Georges River in the Sutherland Shire. The Pearse family had a long association with the



Lisle Pearse, 1928 (photo: National Film and Sound Archive)

St George district. His grandparents, Amos and Eliza Pearse, owned property round Bexley. Amos was a farmer and tailor while Eliza, listed as a ladies maid, ran the main store there for over 20 years.

Lisle joined the Harbourside and East Hills Branches of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. He kept to himself but attended meetings intermittently, taking cuttings of native plants to share around with other members. On these occasions he rowed across the Georges River from his property at Sandy Point and then travelled by bicycle to other destinations and to shop.

There is no knowledge of Lisle cultivating native plants in a garden. Most likely he just lived among them in their natural setting. They captured his enthusiasm and he certainly recognised them as something special.

On his death in 1976 the land at Sandy Point was willed to the Australian Plants Society and the proceeds of its sale formed the basis of the Lisle Pearse Memorial Fund.

Ceratopetalum apetalum: a naming paradox

Jennifer Liney, South East Group

Reprinted from the South East Group newsletter, February 2010, with the author's permission.

The scientific name for the majestic Coachwood is apparently contradictory, as *Ceratopetalum* obviously refers to petals, but *apetalum* means without petals! However, this anomaly can easily be explained. *Cerato* is from the Greek 'ceraton', a horn or antler, referring to the branched, antler-like petals of the first Australian species named in the genus. This was the NSW Christmas bush, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*.



Photo: Margaret Bradhurst



Paddy Lightfoot, Newcastle Group

The Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia (HWCA) celebrated its 25th anniversary on 5 June this year. This event was highlighted by the planting of the 100,000th Australian native plant by myself and Professor Max Maddock, who was instrumental in founding the Centre, and the turning of the first sod for the construction of the new Education Centre. The tree chosen to mark this auspicious occasion was a *Melaleuca quinquenervia*. This was a most appropriate choice of tree as the existence of the Centre was founded as a result of the discovery, by Max, of the four species of Australian Egrets (Great, Intermediate, Little and Cattle egrets) nesting in the remnant Melaleuca swamp on the site.



The HWCA was originally the property of the Hamilton Marist Brothers Rugby Club which, in 1981, was forced to close, owing to financial problems. In 1983, the site was subsequently earmarked for an extension of the Newcastle City Council Astra Street dump as well as being the preferred location for Motorway 23 from Jesmond through to Hexham. Max and a small, committed group of individuals, formed as the Hunter Wetlands Group, successfully lobbied and persuaded the



Paddy Lightfoot and Max Maddock planting the 100,000th tree at the 25th anniversary celebrations in June 2010
Photo: Caryl Lightfoot



Newly constructed bridge across Butcher Bird Gully
Photo: Paddy Lightfoot



The old Rugby Club, which is now the Visitors Centre. The excavation in the foreground is the site of the new Education Building. Photo: Paddy Lightfoot

NSW Government to purchase the site for an Environmental Education Centre. In 1985, a Landscape Committee was introduced to oversee the revegetation of the Shortland Wetlands. Since those early days this has morphed into the Site Management Committee (SMC) of the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia (HWCA). I have been on both committees since their inception. The current committee consists of Australian Plants Society (APS) members, Hunter Bird Observers Club (HBOC) members as well as staff and interested volunteers from HWCA. Carolyn Gillard and myself represent the Newcastle APS on the SMC.

In 2002, HWCA was gazetted as a Ramsar site. This means that our wetlands are listed as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the protection and wise use of wetlands. The Wetlands exist as a complete ecosystem for the passive and active education of people who visit the area as well being a refuge for Australian plants and animals.

As a Ramsar site we, as managers, are obliged to remove weeds, including those which are declared noxious by Local Government regulations. Weed removal has been underway for 23 years. We have never clear felled. We have left adequate uncleared areas adjacent to areas of weeding to provide refuges for the small birds, bandicoots and reptiles. Where, for example, Lantana is cleared, the dead material is mounded so that the piles form a good sanctuary for the small birds, such as wrens, which always make use of these mounds. Blackberry is now sprayed and the dead plants are left in situ as refuge habitats for the smaller creatures.

Only Australian plants are planted in site regeneration. Tree planting has, for practical purposes, been completed and our focus is now on



Volunteers planting native grasses and shrubs to replace exotic grasses.
Photos: Paddy Lightfoot

replanting understorey shrubs, reeds and grasses for small animal habitats. By the end of 2008 we had planted over 70,000 Australian natives.

The HWCA site is broadly divided into three sections for revegetation. Around the buildings we use plants from anywhere in Australia for aesthetics, bird attraction and to demonstrate which natives can be



Above: Shade house with APS propagated plants tended by APS member Angela Speering



Left: Longstem planting of rainforest species following APS NSW life member Bill Hick's success with this method

Photos: Paddy Lightfoot

grown in Newcastle. Here we consider the APS members' knowledge is vital. Around the man-made ponds we plant local Hunter plants and out in the 'wilds' we plant vegetation that we assume grew there originally. An exception is along Ironbark Creek where we have planted a demonstration rainforest of east coast plants adjacent to the outdoors classroom for educational purposes. We have not planted many trees immediately around the man-made ponds as we are cognisant of the need for flight paths for avian jumbos – the Swans and Pelicans.

Tracks were constructed for visitors to experience the interface between fauna and themselves, for their passive education and relaxation. These tracks along the perimeters were slashed to a width suitable for use by maintenance vehicles as well as emergency vehicles. The tracks were designed to be negotiable in all weather conditions and road base is used to maintain them. Walking tracks have been designed to be accessible by disabled visitors, which means overhanging branches are pruned regularly. Tracks also need to be wide enough to accommodate a group of school children safely – not necessarily in single file. The only track still to be constructed is part of the bush food garden which will enhance, not compromise, fauna habitat.

The perimeter predator restraining fence, designed to keep feral animals out of the wetlands, is mowed on both sides as a fire break and to enable easy maintenance. Clearing along the fence allows easy checking for fox and dog holes which have been dug under the fence apron.

There are many locations on site which form wildlife refuges, especially for birds and small mammals, where visitors cannot easily walk.

It is very easy to see at least 50 species of birds on a walk around the 45 hectare site. I record birds on the site once a month and twitch quantities of smaller species such as Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrub-wren, Yellow Thornbill, Silvereyes, Red-browed Finches and many different Honeyeaters. Recently I spotted two Southern Emu-wrens and two Eastern Yellow Robins. There are, of course, numbers of water birds including a recent count of 600 Grey Teal on Reed Marsh Swamp.

Visitation to the Wetlands needs to be increased to help HWCA become financially self sustaining. To this end, the staff and volunteers are contributing to site improvement. Volunteers feel they are making this effort for the future of the City of Newcastle and its citizens. Their volunteering gives a sense of personal achievement and a feeling of enjoyment in performing community service alongside others who hold similar environmental interests.

A giant lily

Article and Photos by Bob Ross, South East NSW Group

Ten years ago in 2000 we planted a Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) seedling that we bought at the APS spring plant sale at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. We planted it on a bank in front of our new house at Tura Beach, on the far south coast of NSW.

Gymea Lilies – A Description

Doryanthes excelsa was first named in 1802. The name *Doryanthes* is derived from the Greek words 'doratos' meaning spear, and 'anthos' meaning flower. 'excelsa' is Latin for 'high' or 'exceptional'.

Gymea Lilies used to be included in the Agavaceae family which includes Agave and Yucca species native to the arid areas of North and Central America and they do resemble these big spiny leafed succulents.

However, following phylogenetic studies they have now been moved into their own endemic family Doryanthaceae. This contains only one genus *Doryanthes*, with the two species *D. palmeri* (the Giant Spear Lily, native to Queensland and the northern border of NSW) and *D. excelsa* (found in open Eucalypt forests on the NSW central and north coasts). They are monocotyledons which means the seedlings have one cotyledon, or seed-leaf.

Gymea Lilies are planted throughout Australia for their attractive lance-shaped leaves over a metre in length. The red flower head on top of a 3 to 5 metre long flower spike is a spectacular added attraction but the flower head can take 10 years to appear. Our Gymea Lily waited 9 years before it produced its first flower spike.

Growing Gymea Lilies on Sand

The *Doryanthes excelsa* plants that we see when we take the train from Sydney to Newcastle are often growing on sandstone outcrops beside the train tracks in Eucalypt woodland. They are also a feature of the bushland in Sutherland Shire and again we have noticed that they seem to like partial shade under Eucalypts, so we planted our new Gymea Lily seedling on the south side of a large bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*). Our house is about 500 metres from the ocean and faces east so there is no frost and this seems to be typical of the areas where it is found growing in the bush.

Annual rainfall is about 900 mm and is more or less distributed throughout the year but it is very variable – and becoming more variable

as climate change advances. For example, we had 400 mm of rain in the last 2 weeks, which is about the same as the total 480 mm we received last year.

We ticked all the boxes for a correct Gymea Lily environment except one. The one big difference between our planting site and the natural home of Gymea Lilies is the soil – or more correctly, the lack of soil.

Our house is built on what geologists describe as Aeolian Sands (aeolian means deposited by the wind). Our Gymea Lily is growing in fine white quartz sand about 4 metres deep with a pH of about 5.5. The area is on a ridge about 50 metres above sea level and the sand is thought by geologists to have been deposited about 10,000 years ago during the sea level rise following the last ice age.

This fine white sand makes great concrete when it is used with cement and aggregate, and the local Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*) are thriving in it. The local Bloodwood trees are huge, and we assume they have their roots deep in the sandy red clay underneath the surface layer of sand.

All the perennial natives that we plant in our sand seem to sit for a year or two before they start to grow and the Gymea Lily was no exception. When it did start to get bigger, after the first two years, it grew slowly but steadily. We didn't water it after the first year but we did occasionally spread some chook pellets. Recently we tried putting a pebble in the recess at the centre of the plant – we had heard this would encourage it to send up a flower spike. However it didn't work – there was already a small frog living there.

So it was a thrill when a flower spike appeared about a year ago, in March 2009.

The following series of photos shows the sequence of flower head development starting with the flower spike growing 3.6 metres high by April. By July (3 months later) the bright red flower head started to open and by September the flowers were producing nectar and attracting the local Little Wattlebirds.



Fully developed flower, 16 September 2009



8 April 2009



3 July 2009



6 August 2009



11 Feb 2010

Progression of Gynea Lily flower development at Tura Beach, NSW



2009 was dry, with less than 60% of the average annual rainfall, but this didn't appear to affect the development of the flower. Total rainfall during July and August was only 15 mm, but the flower head had fully opened by September.

The process from first appearance of the flower spike to the final drying of the seed pods has lasted about 12 months. 16 seed pods have what appears to be viable seed.

Little Wattlebird feeding on the last of the Gymea Lily flowers, 19 October

References

Clifford, H.T. et al. (1992) Australian Lilies, *Australian Plants* 16: 376.

Perry, D.D. (2000) The distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of *Doryanthes palmeri* (Doryanthaceae) in New South Wales, *Cunninghamia* 7: 183-193,

Smith, J. (2000) Micro-propagation of the Gymea Lily, RIRDC Publication No. 00/36: 1.



Thysanotus tuberosus Photo: Bruce Cooper

Box Vale Tramway

Article and photos by John Carter

This article first appeared in Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region journal, September 2009, and is reprinted with the author's permission.

In recent years a series of walks have been developed in the Southern Highlands centring on Mount Alexander and the Nattai River. The Box Vale Tramway (4.5 km one-way) is one of those walks.

The walk originates a kilometre from the southern Mittagong exit from the Hume Highway and travels west towards the Nattai Gorge. It follows a 19th Century tramway which operated from 1888 to 1896 carrying high grade coal mined from the side of the Nattai Gorge. The track is basically flat apart from a few stretches, firstly to access the tramway and then to traverse small gullies which originally were spanned by wooden bridges. The track passes through several cuttings and an 84 m tunnel. It ends at a platform with a spectacular view overlooking the Nattai Gorge towards the Blue Mountains.

The walk also contains departure points for the 40 Foot Falls walk and a walk along the Nattai River to Lake Alexander in Mittagong. The latter walk needs serious preparation as it is long and includes a very steep descent at the end of the Box Vale Tramway into the Nattai Gorge. The ruggedness of descent is demonstrated by a steel cable laid on the ground to assist the walker in the descent and ascent. It took me, when I was very fit and in a great hurry, 20 minutes to ascend from the bottom.



The spectacular view from the lookout at the end of the track



The track passes through an 84 m long tunnel

I often undertake a shortened version of the walk accessing the track about halfway along its length. To reach this access point, take the Wombeyan Caves Road from the Old Hume Highway; take the first right into Kells Creek Road; then first right into Morris Lane and proceed until the Stone Ridge sign – either proceed 200 m to the track (you access before the casuarina cutting) or turn left and travel 400 m down a moderate sloping dirt road to the small parking spot at the end.

Normally the Box Vale Tramway is an 'out and back walk', 4.5 km each way. But you can make it a round trip if, when you reach the Loading Area (150 m before the lookout), you turn left up the ridge and access a fire trail which returns you to the Stone Ridge access point.

The Box Vale Tramway is in the Sydney Sandstone floral region and runs through dry sclerophyll eucalyptus forest with patches of allocasuarinas and banksias. Besides the casuarina cutting there is a tree fern cutting – unfortunately the tree ferns have declined over the years I have been walking the track. If you take the fire trail variation, you will pass through areas of *Banksia serrata*, *Allocasuarina torulosa* with *Boronia ledifolia* and flannel flowers. On the main track, highlights include *Banksia spinulosa*, *Grevillea arenaria*, *Stypandra glauca*, waratahs, dianellas, and various wattles. The casuarina cutting has greenhood orchids. The feature of the walk is that the dominant understorey species vary along its length.



The casuarina cutting

The best time to walk the track is the afternoon because there are active wombat burrows and there will be kangaroos in the adjoining paddocks and also the occasional wallaby. Invariably you will hear lyrebirds (especially beyond the tunnel) and if you're lucky you will see them. In all the time I have walked the track (over 20 years), I have yet to see a snake.



Pterostylis nutans, Greenhood orchid



Actinotus helianthi, Flannel flower



Telopea speciosissima, NSW waratah



Banksia spinulosa



Clematis glycinoides



Cassinia aureonitens

District Group directory

District Groups are located in many areas throughout New South Wales and range in size from fewer than 20 to over 100 members. Group members are able to take part in many activities including bushwalks, bush regeneration and conservation projects. Regular meetings enable members to keep in touch with people of similar interests and to hear expert guest speakers. Contact the Secretary of a specific group for further information.

Email: office@austplants-nsw.org.au.

Armidale and District

President: Maria Hitchcock ☎ (02) 6775 1139
Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com
Secretary: Liisa Atherton ☎ (02) 6779 1968
Email: liisaa@bigpond.com
PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Meetings: Tree Group Woodland Centre, Armidale.
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm (excluding December, January, June, July).

Blue Mountains

President: Jim Ward
Co-Secs. Alix Goodwin ☎ (02) 4739 1571
Jane Toxward ☎ (02) 4739 1905
PO Box 23, Glenbrook NSW 2773
Website www.apsbluemtnsgroup.org
Meetings: Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Hwy, Glenbrook
1st Friday of the month at 8pm (Sep-May) and
1st Sunday of the month at 10am (Jun-Aug). No meeting when there is an outing in the month.

Central Coast

President: Andrew Melville ☎ (02) 4328 1005
Secretary: John Andrews ☎ (02) 9985 9073
PO Box 1604, Gosford NSW 2250
Meetings: Phillip House
21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong
2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 8pm.

Central West

President: Marcia Bonham ☎ (02) 6337 1117
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
1307 Ophir Rd, Rock Forest NSW 2795
Meetings: Bimonthly at alternating centres.
Contact the secretary for details.

City – St George

President: Vince Churchill ☎ (02) 9642 1968
Secretary: Vacant
Meetings: Committee Room, Rockdale Town Hall, Cnr Bryant Street & Princes Hwy Rockdale
2nd Friday of the months of Feb, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov & Dec at 6.30pm

Coffs Harbour

President: Phil O'Shea ☎ (02) 6653 7472
Secretary: Wayne Jeffery ☎ (02) 6655 1610
72 Scotchman Rd, Bellingen NSW 2454
Email: jefferyunited@bigpond.com
Meetings: Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Display Room normally on the 3rd Wednesday of alternate months at 7.30pm (excluding Jan).

East Hills

President: Karlo Taliana ☎ (02) 9709 6135
Secretary: Kyrill Taylor ☎ (02) 9644 5531
16 Elizabeth Cres, Yagoona NSW 2199
Meetings: Peakhurst South Primary School Library, Monterra Ave, Peakhurst.
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm (excluding January).

Hawkesbury

Contact Rick Jamieson ☎ (02) 4572 1321
Meetings: Council Nursery, McGrath's Hill.
2nd Thursday of the month.

Hunter Valley

President: Mike Newman ☎ (02) 4930 5564
Secretary: Ross Carlton ☎ (02) 4988 6026
29 Wallaroo Road, Seaham NSW 2324
Meetings: The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45pm.

Illawarra

President: Peter Parker ☎ (02) 4229 4485
Email: pekaypar@gmail.com
Secretary: Barry Winter ☎ (02) 4274 1489
57 Bland St, Port Kembla NSW 2505
Meetings: Corrimal Community Hall, 15 Ahort Street Corrimal. Ring Edna on 4229 1836.
1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm (excluding December, January, October and Public Holidays).

Continued page 26

Membership renewal

Existing members who do not subscribe through a District Group should renew with this form.

Group members should renew directly with their Group Office Bearer. Applications for membership should be made on the appropriate form. Please include all person/s covered by this membership.

Please print clearly

Date: _____

Surname/s: _____

Given name/s: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Is this a change of address? Yes No

If Yes, previous Postcode: _____

Telephone (____) _____ Business (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ Email _____

We/I belong to a District Group Yes No

If Yes, Group Name: _____

We/I belong to the following Study Group/s: _____

Interests/Skills: _____

Are you able to volunteer assistance in the Society's activities in an area convenient to you? Yes No

Gift membership: If you wish to give a subscription to a family member or friend, use this form or write out the full particulars. Include any personal card you wish to accompany the new member's pack.

District group directory (continued)

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies ☎ (02) 4653 1275
Secretary: Rod Bray
147 Holdsworth Drive, Mt Annan NSW 2567
Email yarbdor@westnet.com.au

Meetings: Birriwa Community Hall, Fitzpatrick St. Mount Annan NSW 2567. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (Feb-Nov).

Menai

President: Pam Pitkeathly ☎ (02) 9543 0243
Secretary: Margaret Olde
PO Box 3104, Bangor NSW 2234

Meetings: Illawong Rural Fire Brigade
Headquarters. 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (excluding January).

Newcastle

President: Julia Brougham ☎ (02) 4968 0567
Secretary: Allan Woollett ☎ (02) 4959 4788
PO Box 76, Adamstown NSW 2289

Meetings: The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland. 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Northern Beaches

President: David Drage ☎ (02) 9949 5179
Sec. Peter Spiers ☎ (02) 9456 1897
PO Box 393, Dee Why NSW 2099

Meetings: Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why. 1st Thursday of the month at 7.30pm (February-November).

North Shore

President: Mark Abell ☎ (02) 9477 4231
Secretary: Wendy Grimm ☎ (02) 9144 5600
PO Box 344, St Ives NSW 2075

Meetings: Willow Park Community Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. 2nd Friday of the month at 8pm (Feb-Nov).

Nowra

President: Lesley McKinnon ☎ (02) 4443 4004
Secretary: Gwen Smith ☎ (02) 4443 3497
PO Box 140, Sanctuary Point NSW 2540

Meetings: Nowra Town Band Hall, 174 Kinghorne St, Nowra. 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.30pm sharp. Business meeting 6.30pm.

Parramatta and The Hills

President: Vacant
Secretary: Christine Coe
37 Battlement Crescent, Castle Hill NSW 2154
Email: christinecoe@inet.net.au

Meetings: Bi-monthly meetings 4th Friday of March, May, July, September and November at 8pm Barton Hall, Hopetoun Village, Anglican Retirement Villages, Castle Hill.

Website: apsparrahills.org.au

South East Region

President: Jan Robilliard ☎ (02) 6494 1049
Secretary: Juliet Waldron ☎ (02) 4473 7440
4 Casey Crescent, Mystery Bay NSW 2546

Meetings: Alternating locations, contact President or Secretary. 1st Saturday of odd numbered months.

Southern Highlands

President: Jane Pye
Secretary: Margaret Wilson ☎ (02) 4872 2373
7 Fitzroy Street, Mittagong NSW 2576

Meetings: CWA Room, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale. Bimonthly at 7.30pm and alternate between first Sundays and first Thursday of the month.

Southern Tablelands

President: Tim Hayes ☎ (02) 4822 4949
Secretary: Jenny Ashwell ☎ (02) 4829 2101
10 Perneroy Mill Ford Road, Mummel NSW 2580

Meetings: Alternating locations. 1st Friday of February, May, August and December.

Sutherland

President: Simon Bastin ☎ (02) 9545 5959
Secretary: Ruchir Sodhani ☎ (02) 9522 2935
18a The Esplanade, Sylvania Heights NSW 2224

Meetings: Gymea Community Centre, Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8pm (February-November).

Website: www.ozemail.com.au/~ssgap

Tamworth

President: Matt Cosgrove ☎ (02) 6765 2693
Secretary: Dr Lyn Allen ☎ (02) 6766 5958
PO Box 1193, Tamworth NSW 2340

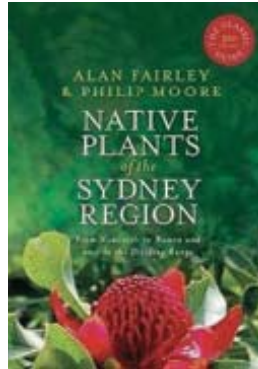
Meetings: Botanic Garden Meeting Room. 4th Friday of the month. 8pm summer, 7.30pm standard time.

***Native Plants of the Sydney Region* – book review**

Lloyd Hedges, Menai Wildflower Group

Native Plants of the Sydney Region 3rd Edition by Alan Fairley and Philip Moore. Published by Allen and Unwin under the Jacana imprint. RRP \$60

Fairley and Moore's first and second editions of *Native Plants of the Sydney District* are considered classics by many native plant enthusiasts. The 1,400 species covered include most of the species the average person is likely to notice. Now they have produced a third and smaller edition A5 size, instead of A4. Still not exactly pocket-sized and at over 600 pages and 1.15kg – more daypack sized. Strictly speaking, so much has changed that it is more a new book than a new edition. Have a close look at the title.



There are still about 1,400 species described but some of the more remote and rarer plants have been replaced by more recently named species. Sharp implements have been taken to the classic volume's text and any word not required for ID purposes: background info and ID tables have been chain-sawed off at the base, family characteristics have received a boy prune, and species features trimmed to the essentials.

What has not changed is the quality. With botanical guides that rely on photos for ID work, size matters. Many small format guides have pictures too small for the eye to pick out the minute detail required. I was expecting that the smaller format would reduce this book's usefulness but most images are of a similar size to the previous editions and, surprisingly, in some cases are larger, with many of the photos having been replaced by new images of better quality.

While the overall structure remains the same, there are slight differences: closely related genera are no longer together but put in alphabetically. I prefer the previous style as it is handy to have, for instance, *Petrophile* next to *Isopogon* when looking at a specimen, but others may find it easier to use this way around.

Fairley and Moore have embraced all the latest name changes including *Ericaceae* replacing *Epacridaceae*. They have also adopted the more controversial changes in *Orchidaceae* but personally I am not going there until things settle down.

Over all at \$60, this edition deserves a place in the back pack or on the shelves of any amateur botanist in the greater Sydney region.

Fish in frog ponds

Barry Lees, North Shore Group

Most articles on ponds advise putting native fish in ponds to control mosquitos. To keep the fish healthy, aeration, pumps, filters and regular cleaning and feeding are advised.

I have four frog ponds – a half barrel, a bathtub buried in the ground, a 1.5 metre pond below a large overhanging rock and a 7 metre pond.



I have no fish, or any of the other paraphernalia, in any of them. I found that for the first 3 or 4 weeks, there were wrigglers in the water. But very quickly all sorts of aquatic wildlife arrived and the wrigglers disappeared. I assume the other things ate them. I have searched for wrigglers but cannot find them and I have never changed the water. I clean out dead leaves and algae when it gets too thick. They are all part of the ecosystem.



All my ponds have native vegetation in pots, although the plants in the big pond have escaped and a third of the pond is completely feral! Plants like *Eleocharis sphacelata*, *Schoenoplectus mucronatus* and *Chordifex fastigiata* help keep the water oxygenated and the frogs love hiding in them. Have lots of groundcovers around the pond to provide cover for frogs and insects to eat.

I am told that all fish eat some frog's eggs, so why have the fish? There are lots of wildlife in the water for you to enjoy. My ponds have many tadpoles. If you go near the ponds on a rainy night, take your earmuffs to protect your hearing from the frogs' glorious chorus!

APS NSW council jottings

Graeme Ingall, President APS NSW

Region Council Meeting 21 June 2010



1. The meeting discussed the retention and increase of membership.

The committee found:

- the overall membership is decreasing, but the costs of APS NSW are not, and
- the website needed to be updated.

What District Groups can do for one another:

- network
- forward newsletters to other District Groups
- share activities, including bush walks
- provide guest speakers
- support each other by visitations
- inform Jan Carnes (by email) of their Group's activities for *Native Plants for NSW*.

What APS NSW currently provides includes:

- *Australian Plants* and *Native Plants for NSW* journals to members
- display material, including spare copies of *Native Plants for NSW* and *Australian Plants* for promotion
- membership package for new members on joining
- insurance for all its members and visitors
- study group funding
- office support
- administration of the Bequest Fund
- APS NSW website.

Council decided that:

- by the end of 2010, back issues of *Australian Plants* to be completed
- development of a new website, which on completion, will provide:
 - ❖ sub-domains for each District Group
 - ❖ District Group and Region Calendar

- ❖ have two sections: a section for the general public with information, and a section for members only. The members section will contain a list guest speakers, Certificate of Currency, etc.
 - new methods of obtaining membership using our web page, with the possibility of payment on line
 - promotion of the Society through activities such as RAS, Gardening Australia, District Get Togethers, Ermington meetings and involvement in schools.
2. Over the past three years, an average of 20-25 members join each quarter, but an average of 66 members resign each quarter.
 3. Roger Starling and Merle Thompson have made donations to the office in the form of furniture. It was much appreciated.
 4. Mark Abell and Jim Ward have continued to develop the website. It is currently operational with all Presidents and Secretaries being asked to ensure that their District Group's details are correct. Mark and Jim will give a further report at the next Council Meeting and outline the next stage of development. The address for the new website is www.austplants.com.au
 5. Lloyd Hedges and I have developed a plan with the RAS regarding exhibits in the show. This will be presented to the next Council Meeting.
 6. We will sell our remaining copies of the Grevillea Books to Gil Teague of Florilegium.
 7. The insurance company has advised that Junior members are covered by insurance providing that the leader or supervisor of that activity is of the opinion that the Junior member is capable and proficient in that activity.

On 23 and 24 July, I visited the Tamworth and Armidale District Groups. At those meetings, I was privileged to present Life Memberships to Sonya and Bill Hardin from Tamworth and Jean Mott from Glen Innes.

On 6 August, I visited the Southern Tablelands District Group at Goulburn and gave a talk on Long Stem Planting.

I would like to thank all those involved for the hospitality and friendliness given to Margaret and myself.

Study Group notes

Rhonda Daniels, Study Group Liaison Officer

Following Charles Farrugia's story last issue, I'm keen to hear from other members of Study Groups. How did you become involved? What have you learnt? How do you contribute to the Study Group?



Study Groups offer many opportunities for sharing interests. For instance, many Study Groups maintain seed banks, with lists of available seeds usually printed in the newsletter, at very reasonable costs. And a reminder: you must be a member of the Australian Plants Society before you can join a Study Group.

Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group – July 2010 (Newsletter 28)

Some Study Groups focus on just one genus (or related genera). But there are also Study Groups that are based on an ecological community or place. This issue of the Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group newsletter reports on Acacias, Boronias, Hibbertias, and more. The Hibbertia interest section notes that “The Hibbertia genus is most strongly represented over in Western Australia, but here in south east Queensland, we have a few quite lovely species brightening up the Wallum and adjacent bushland when they come into flower”.

Home location is no barrier to Study Group membership. The Canberra Study Group Liaison Officer is a member of this group, even though he lives quite a distance from any coastal heathland.

Acacia Study Group – June 2010 (Newsletter 109)

An important role of Study Groups is sharing and disseminating information. This issue of the Acacia Study Group newsletter reports that the Group is nearing completion of an edition of *Australian Plants* on Acacias, with an excellent range of articles from all states of Australia. This year is a particularly special one for Wattle Day on 1 September as it is the 100th anniversary of the first Wattle Day celebrations in 1910. Back in 1910, a debate was taking place, especially in NSW, as to whether the wattle or the waratah should be Australia's national floral emblem.

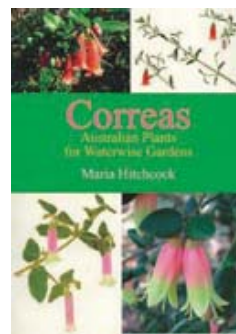
The newsletter includes a contribution from a member in Chile who lived in Australia for many years, but now has a cut flower farm of

Australian and South African plants. An *Acacia glaucoptera* growing at the entrance to her nursery is much admired by all visitors who have never seen it before.

Correa Study Group – May 2010 (Newsletter 42)

Many Study Groups have group outings to look for plants, such as the poetically named Correa Crawl. The newsletter reminds members that Correa Crawls are just to take photos, GPS locations, and to admire the correas. These days it is likely all correas that still exist in the wild have been collected at some stage and exist in someone's garden or are available in nurseries. The newsletter warns we must not be seen still as the Society for Grabbing Plants (SGAP), our pre-Australian Plants Society name.

Correas: Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens by Maria Hitchcock, Leader of the Correa Study Group 1991-2007, is expected to be available in September 2010 for \$35. Details at www.rosenbergpub.com.au



Grevillea Study Group – June 2010 (Newsletter 86)

This issue notes that unfortunately the Grevillea cultivar book will not be on the market at the Grevillea seminar in August in Victoria. A release in December is now the most likely as the editing task is quite formidable and will require several more months.

The issue also has an obituary for Owen Brown (1923–2009), a Grevillea breeder in Queensland, by Peter Olde. Owen became obsessed with grevilleas, to the exclusion of almost everything else. He began growing grevilleas from seed. One of the first plants he produced was *Grevillea* 'Caloundra Gem' which is still sold today. Although Owen did actually cross-pollinate a number of plants, his main technique was to germinate seed off known cultivars growing in his garden and once remarked "The birds did all the work". Owen had a very romantic attachment to his flowers, taking great care in capturing their beauty in an appropriate name.

Study Group directory

Wish to be involved in the study of a particular aspect of Australian plants? Why not join one or more of the many study groups, either as an active member or as an interested bystander?

Each group consists of a leader (who collates and publishes the material), active members (who make observations and collect information) and (sometimes) passive members (who simply receive newsletters). Information may include any aspect of cultivation, propagation and natural occurrence of the plants under study. If you are interested in starting a new group or taking over a vacant leadership contact:

ANPSA Study Group Co-ordinator:

Geoff Lay
2 Kerry Parade
Mont Albert North VIC 3129
☎ 03 9898 4816 Email: gjmk.lays@bigpond.com

To join a study group: Write to the leader of the study group of your interest, enclosing the relevant subscription fee and a stamped SAE. You may join as many groups as you wish.

Fees listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

Acacia (\$10/\$20/\$7)

Leader: Esther Brueggemeier
28 Staton Cres
Westlake VIC 3337
☎ 0411 148 874
Email: wildaboutwattle@iprimus.com.au

Australian food plants (\$5)

Leader: Lenore Lindsay
323 Philip Avenue
Frenchville QLD 4701
☎ (07) 4928 2862
Email: lenorelindsay@hotmail.com

Australian plants as bonsai (\$14/\$19)

Leader: Roger Hnatiuk
PO Box 450, Jamieson Post Office
Macquarie ACT 2614
☎ (02) 6251 2228
Email: rjhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

Australian plants for containers

(\$8/\$10)
Leader: Gill Muller
7 Railway Terrace
Blackwood SA 5051
☎ (08) 8278 4614
Email: gilly@lomandra.id.au

Banksia (\$10/\$20/\$7)

Leader: Cas Liber
PO Box 83, St Pauls NSW 2031
☎ (02) 9559 2656
Email: casliber@ozemail.com.au

Boronia & allied genera

In Recess – New Leader required

Brachychiton and allied genera (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Kerry Rathie
5 Salston Rd, Greenbank QLD 4124
☎ (07) 3200 0268
Email: krathie6@bigpond.com

Study group directory continued

Calytrix

In Recess – New Leader required

Correa (\$10/\$10/\$6)

Leader: Cherree Densley
9 Koroit Port Fairy Rd
Killarney VIC 3283
Email: cherree@hotmail.net.au

☎ (03) 5568 7226

Admin – David and Barbara Pye
1220 Bacchus Marsh Road
Bullengarook VIC 3437

Email: pye@ssc.net.au

☎ (03) 5428 9369

Daisy, the Australian

In Recess – New Leader required

Dryandra (\$8/\$10)

Leader: Margaret Pieroni
22 Ravenhill Heights
Denmark WA 6333
Email: mpieroni@bigpond.com

☎ (08) 9848 3331

Epacris (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Gwen Elliot
PO Box 655, Heathmont VIC 3135
Email: rgelliot@optusnet.com.au

☎ (03) 9879 1472

Eremophila (\$5)

Leader: Colin Jennings
4 Kinnaird Cres, Highbury SA 5089
Email: cje97694@bigpond.net.au

☎ (08) 8264 6490

Eucalyptus (\$10)

Leader: Warwick Varley
PO Box 456, Wollongong NSW 2520
Email: tallowwood@hotmail.com

☎ 0402 763 414

Fabaceae (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Jenny West
38 Gleeson Court
Gordon VIC 3345
Email: jawest@iinet.net.au

Fern (\$5)

Peter Bostock
PO Box 402, Kenmore QLD 4069
Email: pbostock@ozemail.com.au

☎ (07) 3202 6983

Garden design (\$15/\$20/\$6)

Leader: Jo Hambrett
'Yanderra' 7 Davey Rd
Dural NSW 2158

Email: tudortalisman@optusnet.com.au

☎ (02) 9651 1827

Grevillea (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Peter Olde
140 Russell Lane, Oakdale NSW 2570
Email: peter.olde@exemail.com.au

☎ (02) 4659 6598

Hakea (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Paul Kennedy
PO Box 220, Strathmerton VIC 3641
Email: hakeaholic@gmail.com

☎ (03) 5874 5239

Hibiscus and related genera

(\$10/\$20/\$5)

Leader: Geoff Harvey
PO Box 46, Buderim QLD 4556
Email: bannh@bigpond.net.au

☎ (07) 5445 1828

Isopogon and Petrophile

(\$5/\$10/\$2.50)

David Lightfoot
36 Arundel Cres
Surrey Hills VIC 3127
Email: isopogons@iprimus.com.au

☎ (03) 9836 0601

Orchids, indigenous (\$5/\$12)

Leader: Don & Pauline Lawie
PO Box 230, Babinda QLD 4861
☎ (07) 4067 1577

Palm and Cycad (\$5/\$12)

Leader: Kerry Rathie (refer to
Brachychiton & allied genera above)

Prostanthera & Westringia (\$10)

Leader: Robert Miller
13 Park Rd, Bulli NSW 2516
Email: janrob@fishinternet.com.au

Rainforest (\$5/\$10)

Leader: Kris Kupsch
28 Plumtree Pocket
Burringbar NSW 2483
Email: tropicalbotanics@hotmail.com
☎ (07) 4096 5090

Rhamnaceae

In Recess – New leader required

Succulents, Native

In Recess – New Leader required

Verticordia

In Recess – New Leader required

Wallum & coastal heathland (\$5)

Leader: Barbara Henderson
11 Railway Terrace
Moore QLD 4306
☎ (07) 3289 9272

Wetlands (and water plants)

In Recess – New Leader required

Wildlife and native plants (\$10/\$20)

Leader: Christine Jones
PO Box 131, Strathalbyn SA 5255
Email: austbush@internode.on.net
☎ (08) 9834 4124



Angophora hispida Photo: Bruce Cooper

Seed bank details

John Randal, Seed Bank Curator

Seed is available free to members. The seed list is published annually in the April issue of *Native Plants for New South Wales* with additions and deletions being published in the other three issues.



Copies of the full list can be obtained by forwarding a stamped (60c) SAE to the curator.

- Maximum number of seed packets per request is six (6).
- Requests for seed must be accompanied by a *stamped self-addressed envelope* (\$1.10; 110mm x 220mm).
- Please address seed requests in alphabetical order and include a list of alternate selections.
- Address requests to: John Randall
8 Coachmans Place, Mardi NSW 2259

Seed donations are welcome and are vital if the seed bank is to remain viable. Please state the source of seed, whether from natural or cultivated material. Please do not send seeds from hybrid plants.

Changes to the seed list – October 2010

Deletions: *Corymbia gummifera*, *Eucalyptus intermedia*, *E. macarthuri*, *E. parramattensis*, *E. pulverulenta* and *E. urnigera*.

Additions: *Acacia deanei*, *Acacia melanoxylon*, *Eucalyptus nicholii* and *Isopogon anethifolius*.

Recent donors: Roger Starling

New members, October 2010

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following new members and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



New members – October 2010

Jan-Erik and Margaret Anderberg
Rae Druitt
Tim Fitzpatrick and Andonella Fauceglia
Donald Gover
Wendy Marston
Ronda Dale McGregor
Vanessa McTyre
Helen Barbara Patience
Manager, Randwick Community Nursery
Norm Short
Margot Turner
Peter Tutt

Glenbrook
Wentworth Falls
Narrabeen
Little Bay
Sandy Beach
Bullaburra
Avalon
Alfords Point
Randwick
Windsor
Katoomba
Medowie

Why it pays to read the District Group diary

Jan Carnes



I collate the District Group Diary. To do this, I receive by email all the different District Groups' newsletters, so I get to snoop on what everyone else is doing around the State. Even better, I get to find out what events are happening and then read articles about those events after they have happened. These events go in the Diary so you too can see if there's anything of interest to you happening nearby.

Recently I noticed that the Central West Group was having a talk on grasses by a member of Stipa Native Grasses Association. I just love grasses, so as I live in the Blue Mountains going west wasn't too far. After an early start with fantastic misty views down from Victoria Pass, I found the scenery so beautiful, with it's rolling hills and yellowing winter grasses and such big big skies, that I castigated myself for not going west more often.

Val and Colin Fenn's property was very interesting, the talk on *Microlaena stipoides* by Christine McRae was fascinating and informative and the morning tea was to die for! The talk was well-supported by the Central Westonians and I bumped into a friend that I didn't know was a member there. We walked around the property learning more about native grasses and ate our picnic lunches in front of a cosy fire. It was good to talk to people who had acreage and farms and so have a different viewpoint from most of the suburban gardeners of my own Group. It was so friendly that I found it hard to leave.

So you see, if you read the District Group Diary, you may come across something that is happening that interests you and you may just be able to make it to the event and have just as good a time as I have had.

District Group diary

Compiled by Jan Carnes, Blue Mountains Group

All members are welcome to attend group meetings.

If your group has an activity that you would like advertised here, email details to the APS NSW office.

October 2010

2	Sat	Southern Tablelands	Walk - Bush Bottoms
2	Sat	Nowra	Heritage Day at Lady Denman
2	Sat	Tamworth	Garden Walks – Sheather’s
2-3	Sat-Sun	Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli	Open day. Cost \$5. For information email info@grevilleapark.org
3	Sun	Blue Mountains	Meet 10am at the Conservation Hut for a walk along the Nature Trail at Wentworth Falls. The emphasis of the walk will be hanging swamps
5	Tues	Armidale	Arboretum Working Bee 1pm. Contact Patrick Laher.
6	Wed	Newcastle	Meeting 7.30pm at The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
6	Wed	East Hills	Meeting 7.30pm at Peakhurst Sth Public School Library, Monterra Ave, Peakhurst
7	Thu	Northern Beaches	Meeting 7.30pm at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why
8	Fri	Central Coast	Meeting 7.15pm @ Phillip House, 21 Old Mt Penang Rd, Kariong. Speaker: Alan Morris on ‘Birds necessary for plants’
8	Fri	North Shore	Meeting 8pm @ Willow Pk Comm Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. Speaker: Anthony O’Halloran on ‘Plants of Gundabooka and Lednapper’
9	Sat	Central West	Mt Rankin bushwalk. Contact Secretary for details.
9	Sat	Tamworth	Garden Walk - Baidis McIntyre ‘Hakea Heaven’
9-10	Sat-Sun	Sutherland	Mittagong Weekend (Box Vale; Mt Alexander)
10	Sun	Central Coast	Bush walk TBA. Contact Andrew Melville 4328 1005
13	Wed	Menai	Meeting 7.30pm @ Illawong RFS. Speaker: Mathew Mo on ‘Geckos’

October 2010 continued

13	Wed	Coffs Harbour	Meeting 7.30pm at Botanic Gardens Display Room, Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour. Speaker: Paul Kennedy on 'Hakeas'
14	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGrath's Hill
14	Thu	Nowra	Meeting 7.30pm at Nowra Town Hall, 174 Kinghorne St, Nowra. Speaker TBA
14-17	Thu-Sun	Nowra	Berry Garden Festival
18	Mon	North Shore	Walks and talks: Eucalypts, Angophoras and Corymbias (Myrtaceae)
19	Tue	Newcastle	Belmont Lagoon Landcare. Contact Allan Woollett 4959 4788
19	Tue	Armidale	Meeting 7.30pm at Tree Group Woodland Centre, Armidale. Speaker: Liisa Atherton on 'A native rose by any other name: Plant names'
20	Wed	Sutherland	Meeting 8pm at Gymea Community Centre, Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea
20	Wed	Hunter Valley	Meeting 7.45pm at Polish Hall, cnr Grant and Old Rose Sts, Maitland
20	Wed	Macarthur	Meeting 7.30pm at Birriwa Community Hall Fitzpatrick St, Mt Annan
22	Fri	Tamworth	Meeting 8pm at Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden Meeting Room. Speaker: Tony Cook on 'Native grasses and nasty grasses'
23-24	Sat-Sun	Armidale	Mole Station Weekend
23-24	Sat-Sun	Tamworth	Lightning Ridge Weekend
24	Sun	Central Coast	Introduction to Bushcare, Erina Library. Bookings are essential. Contact Bushcare Officers on 4304 4557 or 4304 4564
24	Sun	Blue Mountains	10am at Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve. Official opening of the Evan Weatherhead Gates
25	Mon	North Shore	Walks & Talks: Hibbertias (Dilleniaceae)
30	Sat	Central West	Opening of the Lisle Pearse Garden, Oberon
30	Sat	Tamworth	Bush walk – Sheeba dam
30-31	Sat-Sun	Nowra	Weekend visit to Canberra including the National Botanic Gardens and the Canberra Arboretum. Enquiries to Pauline Murray 4443 3885
30-31	Sat-Sun	Armidale	Mole Station weekend or SLEX - Sustainable Living EXPO, Armidale
31	Sun	Armidale	8am to 12.30pm Markets in the Mall

November 2010

1	Mon	Illawarra	Meeting at 7.30pm. Corrimal Community Hall 15 Short St Corrimal
1	Mon	North Shore	Walks and talks: Bird Walk (8.30 am start)
1-5	Mon-Fri	Sutherland	North Coast trip (details TBA)
3	Wed	East Hills	Meeting 7.30pm at Peakhurst Sth Public School Library, Monterra Ave, Peakhurst
3	Wed	Newcastle	Meeting 7.30pm at The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
4	Thu	Northern Beaches	Meeting 7.30pm at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why
4	Thu	Southern Highlands	Meeting & AGM at CWA Room, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale. Speaker: Wendy Johnston on 'Propagation'. Plant Sales.
6	Sat	Southern Tablelands	Walk - Keeverstone State Forest
6	Sat	Blue Mountains	10am Walk at Hassans Walls near Lithgow; led by Jill Dark. We will be particularly looking at the orchids.
6	Sat	South East Region	Meeting Bermagui Community Centre. Olearias. Talk and pictures (also AGM). Contact Jan on 6494 1049 or Juliet on 4473 7440
6	Sat	Central West	Wambool Nature Reserve bush walk. Contact Secretary for details
6-7	Sat-Sun	Armidale	St Peter's Garden Weekend
8	Mon	North Shore	Walks and talks: Grasses (Poaceae)
10	Wed	Menai	AGM followed by Lloyd Hedges on 'Bushwalks around Illawong'
11	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGrath's Hill
11	Thu	Nowra	Meeting 7.30pm at Nowra Town Hall, 174 Kinghorne St, Nowra
12	Fri	City - St George	Meeting 6.30pm at Committee Room, Rockdale Town Hall, cnr Bryant St & Princes Hwy, Rockdale
12	Fri	North Shore	Meeting 8pm @ Willow Pk Comm Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. Speakers TBA on 'The 50 years of the North Shore Group'
12	Fri	City - St George	Meeting 6.30pm at Committee Room, Rockdale Town Hall, cnr Bryant St & Princes Hwy, Rockdale
12	Fri	North Shore	Meeting 8pm @ Willow Pk Comm Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. Speakers TBA on 'The 50 years of the North Shore Group'

12	Fri	Central Coast	Meeting 7.15pm at Phillip House, 21 Old Mt Penang Rd, Kariong
13	Sat	Southern Highlands	Hands on propagation day
14	Sun	Tamworth	Bush walk – Warrabah National Park
14	Sun	Central Coast	Picnic, venue TBA
15	Mon	North Shore	Walks and talks: Callistemons, Kunzeas, and Melaleucas (Myrtaceae)
16	Tue	Newcastle	Visit John and Leila Maher at Stockrington Contact Cath Tickle 49521812
16	Tue	Armidale	Meeting 7.30pm at Tree Group Woodland Centre, Armidale
17	Wed	Hunter Valley	Meeting 7.45pm at Polish Hall, cnr Grant and Old Rose Sts, Maitland
17	Wed	Sutherland	Meeting 8pm at Gynea Community Centre, Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea
17	Wed	Macarthur	Meeting 7.30pm at Birriwa Community Hall Fitzpatrick St. Mount Annan
21	Sun	Coffs Harbour	Outing: Rosewood Creek walk in Dorrigo NP
22	Mon	North Shore	Walks & Talks: Leptospermums and Baeckeas (Myrtaceae)
26	Fri	Parramatta & The Hills	Meeting 8pm at Barton Hall, Hopetoun Village, Anglican Retirement Villages, Castle Hill
26	Fri	Tamworth	Meeting 8pm at Tamworth Regional BG Meeting Room. Photos from 2010 APS activities
27	Sat	Central West	AGM and Christmas party at Fiona Johnson's home
28	Sun	Armidale	8am to 12.30pm Markets in the Mall

December 2010

1	Wed	East Hills	Meeting 7.30pm at Peakhurst Sth Public School Library, Monterra Ave, Peakhurst
1	Wed	Newcastle	Meeting 7.30pm @ The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
3	Fri	Blue Mountains	Christmas Party 6pm at the Reserve
3	Fri	Tamworth	6.30pm - Xmas Party - Pub in Tamworth (likely to be Calala Tavern) - TBC
4	Sat	Central Coast	End-of-year dinner and AGM 5pm at Phillip House, 21 Old Mt Penang Rd, Kariong
4	Sat	Southern Tablelands	End-of-year function
4	Sat	Nowra	Christmas Party

5	Sun	Northern Beaches	Ocean Care Day on the Manly Beachfront
5	Sun	Southern Highlands	Christmas outing
6	Mon	Illawarra	Christmas Party at the Grevillea Park, Bulli 6-6.30pm
8	Wed	Menai	Christmas social evening
9	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGrath's Hill
10	Fri	North Shore	Christmas Party
10	Fri	City - St George	7.30pm Christmas Get-together at a member's home. TBA
12	Sun	Sutherland	Christmas party at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Kareela
14	Tue	Newcastle	Christmas Party at Mt Sugarloaf. Contact Cath Tickle 4952 1812
15	Wed	Coffs Harbour	Meeting 7.30pm at Botanic Gardens Display Room, Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour. Speaker: Charmaine Lane on Plants of The Pinnacles
24	Fri	Tamworth	Meeting 8pm at Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden Meeting Room. Speaker TBA



Glossodia major Photo: Bruce Cooper

Membership discounts

Discounts on plants are available from the following organisations to those Society members who present their current membership card.

Sydney

- 🌿 **All GreenGold Nurseries**
5% discount, except on landscape materials, garden design services or discounted merchandise.
- 🌿 **Florilegium**
The Garden Bookstore
65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037
PO Box 644, Rozelle 2039
☎ (02) 9571 8222.
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm.
10% discount
- 🌿 **Forests NSW Nurseries**
10% discount on all potted lines. West Pennant Hills, Muswellbrook, Gunnedah, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Dubbo, and Forbes. For locality details
☎ 1800 000 123 or www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forests/business-services/nurseries
- 🌿 **Sydney Wildflower Nursery**
9 Veno St, Heathcote 2233
www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au
10% discount

Blue Mountains

- 🌿 **Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve Nursery**, Great Western Highway, Glenbrook 2773
☎ (02) 4739 4465
Sat, Sun, Wed. 12 noon-4pm.
10% discount to Society members, 20% for those who participate in the roster.

Central Coast

- 🌿 **The Wildflower Place**
453 The Entrance Rd, Erina Heights 2260
☎ (02) 436 55510
5% discount

Central West

- 🌿 **Wombat Gully Native Nursery**
1729 Coxs Creek Road, Rylstone
☎ 6379 6202
10% discount

Newcastle

- 🌿 **Leearne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery**
260 Lake Road, Glendale 2285
☎ (02) 4954 5584
Open 7 Days 9am-5pm.
10% discount

North Coast

- 🌿 **Bonny Hills Garden Centre, 10% discount** on all plant purchases
1055 Ocean Drive, Bonny Hills 2445
☎ (02) 6585 5764
- 🌿 **Greenbourne Nursery**
Oxley Hwy, Wauchope 2446 (opp. 'Timbertown')
☎ (02) 6585 2117
10% discount

- 🌿 **A.R. Native Plant Nursery**
177 Terania Ck Rd, The Channon 2480. Open Fri/Sat/Sun 9am - 5pm; other times by appointment.
☎ (02) 6688 6365
10% discount

Mildura

- 🌿 **Native Nursery, Mildura**
10% discount on the purchase of any native plants or other products, including the Watertube ordered online at www.nativenursery.com.au

SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS

Spring Spectacular



Experience the delights of spring in a 1.5 hectare floral oasis.

Great range of flowering plants from all states of Australia, including Acacias, Anigozanthos, Banksias, Chamelauciums, Epacris, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Orchids, Prostantheras, Thomasias and many rainforest species.

The Gardens are open from 7.00am - 3.00pm on weekdays all year, plus weekends from 14 August - 28 November from 9.00am - 4.30pm.

They are located at 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, Sydney.

ADMISSION FREE !!



For enquiries or to arrange a guided group tour, call (02) 9707 9699.



Correas from Fangorn Nursery, Armidale

Rare and unusual varieties from the registered collection.
Water wise, easy care shrubs
Nectar for birds in autumn and winter
Frost and drought hardy
Other hardy Australian native plants

Mail Order tubes \$4.00 each
Online catalogue www.wattleday.com/nursery.htm

Fangorn Nursery
16 Hitchcock Lane,
Armidale NSW 2350
Ph. 02 6775 1139



ANPSA biennial conference and seminar

Adelaide, 2011

"Australian plants in a wondrous web"

2-7 October 2011

The Australian Plants Society, South Australia Region is pleased to host the 26th Biennial Conference and Seminar of ANPSA. We are looking forward to welcoming you in October 2011.

The Conference theme is *Australian Plants in a Wondrous Web*.

Venue: Westminister School, Marion

Accommodation: Westminister School has 2 types of accommodation: hostel type for 1-2 people, or cottages for 3-4 people.

Events:

- Talks by knowledgeable and entertaining speakers
- Tours, possibly to the Flinders Ranges, SE region via the Coorong, Kangaroo Island (before and after the conference).

The program and registration form can be obtained from www.australianplantssa.asn.au/

Advertising in *Native Plants for NSW*

Members and non-members are invited to place advertisements in *Native Plants for NSW*. All advertisements are available in colour, however advertisers are required to supply the relevant wording, art work and colour layout.

Anyone wishing to do so, should contact the office for details of rates etc. There are concessional rates for members and yearly advertisements (four consecutive issues) attract a discount rate.

APS NSW contacts

Office: Shop 1, 33 Emma Crescent, Wentworthville

Administration Officer: Sharlene Cormack

Office hours: Wednesday 9 am to 2.30 pm

Phone: (02) 9631 4085 **Fax:** (02) 9631 4293

Email: office@austplants-nsw.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 5026, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

President

Graeme Ingall

Vice Presidents

Harry Loots and Kyrill Taylor

Honorary Secretary

John Aitken

NSW Membership Officer

Merle Thompson

☎ (02) 6352 3805

Fax: (02) 6351 2384

Email: merleaps@bigpond.com

Editor of *Native Plants for NSW*

John Aitken

Editors of *Australian Plants*

John Aitken and Merle Thompson

Publicity Officer

Mark Abell

Programme Officer

Roger Starling

Committees and services

If you are able to contribute and join a committee, please contact the Convenor.

Management committee and finance committee

Graeme Ingall

Projects committee

Kyrill Taylor

Publishing committee

APS NSW

Email: office@austplants-nsw.org.au

Appointments to external committees

ANPSA Council

Jonathan Steeds ☎ (02) 4372 2015

Email: snative@bigpond.com

Australian Cultivar Registration Authority

David Murray ☎ (02) 4229 2171

Australian Flora Foundation

Ross Smyth-Kirk ☎ (02) 9909 3052

Burrendong Arboretum

Carmel Spark ☎ (02) 6379 6202

Native Flower Growers and Promoters

Jonathan Steeds

☎ (02) 4372 2015

Email: snative@bigpond.com

Study group liaison officer

Rhonda Daniels

☎ (02) 9521 8381

Email: rhdaniels@bigpond.com

Seed bank curator

John Randall

8 Coachmans Pl, Mardi NSW 2259

☎ (02) 4353 9390

Email: johnannette@dodo.com.au

Other services

Book service

Florilegium, The Garden Bookstore

65 Derwent St, Glebe NSW 2037

☎ (02) 9571 8222

Fax (02) 9571 8333

Email: sales@florilegium.com.au

