

Native Plants for New South Wales



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Native Plants for NSW

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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 handwritten 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 jpg, or prints.

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Front cover: Mass flowering of native paper daisies at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan. Photo: Karlo Taliana

Back cover: Native floral arrangement by Helen Patience of Menai Wildflower Group (see p40 for more information). Photo: Jan Douglas

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Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*

This is my first issue of Native Plants as editor. It has been a steep learning curve and I am still a long way from the top! With a journal such as this, it is a team effort and I must acknowledge a great deal of help from many people within the APS family. I must mention the assistance provided by John Aitken and Rhonda Daniels in particular. However I take responsibility for all the errors and omissions. Please let me know about these as this will help in the improvement process.



I draw your attention to, and welcome the Darvill Nursery to the list of businesses providing a discount to APS members. Please support Bruce and Heather Higgs as they are supporting our society by offering the discount to members.

This issue includes articles about the 2012 Get-together and the Anniversary of the Menai Group. There is also a summary of Dr Holly Parsons' presentation about the Birds in Backyards program from the July meeting at Ermington. A novel method of growing trees in extra-long pots for deep root penetration is also included. On the business side there is the President's column and jottings from the Board meetings. Changes to the Corporation Law mean that the society can reduce costs associated with producing the Annual Report. See the form on page 44 to see how you can assist. Provision now exists for payment of membership by Direct Debit – see page 18.

This issue also contains notices calling for nominations for Life Membership and the Conservation Award. Last year we did not have nominations for life membership so please give active consideration of these matters in your local groups. The website now allows members to read the newsletters of all district groups. There is detailed instruction on how to access this wealth of information on page 34. As usual we have a review of activities in the study groups.

I also wish to apologise to any members who have submitted articles which have not made it to print. The journal normally runs to 48 or 52 pages and I have found that constraint both too large and too small, sometimes on the same day! Hopefully that is an issue that practice and better systems will remedy. The contributions from members are essential to keep the journal lively and relevant so please keep sending them in.

I hope you enjoy this issue and find something of interest.

APS NSW 2012 Get-together, 11–12 August

The weather in Sydney for the event was cold and blustery with constant threat of rain. The Friday before was probably the worst day of the year! Some facts and figures about the event set the scene: a total of 126 people registered for some part of the event, 111 for Saturday, 115 for Sunday and 75 for the dinner on Saturday evening. District Groups represented included Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Central West, Coffs Harbour, East Hills, Macarthur, Menai, North Shore, Northern Beaches, Nowra, Parramatta and The Hills, South East NSW, Southern Tablelands and Sutherland.

Our report on the Saturday's events hosted by North Shore Group was prepared by Liz Aitken of Sutherland Group.

The day started at 9 am when we registered at the beautiful Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and received our bags of goodies. Formal proceedings were started with brief introductions by the Presidents of both host groups, Mark Abell and David Drage. The President of APS NSW, John Aitken, then formally welcomed attendees and congratulated the hosts on the impressive program. The Coordinator of the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and Bushland Education Centre, Valerie Close, then provided some history of the site and its association with APS and the North Shore Group in particular. We then jumped into the flora with gusto as Bill Jones shared his incredible knowledge and love of the 'Sandstone Flora', with wonderful photos by Mark Abell and Wendy Grimm in the accompanying slideshow.



Morning tea and the plant sales a good opportunity for socialising Photo: P Grimm

APS gatherings are well known for their great food, and this was no exception. A beautiful selection of cakes, biscuits and other goodies came out for morning tea and were much appreciated. The plant sales also did some fairly brisk business as people took advantage of the opportunity to buy quality native plants at reasonable prices – one of the many advantages of being an APS member.

Morning tea was followed by a walk in the Knoll Garden, and an enthusiastic talk and demonstration by Peter Abell on plant propagation. He gave us practical tips on the best types of propagation mixes and showed us how to make little origami bags to store seeds and scatter them. I loved the plastic storage box with a lid which he used as a hot-house to kick-start his seedlings. Using coconut fibre under the metal mesh at the base of the box to maintain humidity was another good tip.

After lunch, there was a choice of four walks in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. We chose walk one, which included a magnificent view from West Head Road across Broken Bay, Palm Beach and Pittwater. After taking in the coastal scenery, we headed for the Basin Track and walked through thick clusters of pink *Boronia ledifolia*, *Eriostemon australasius* and the yellow flowering *Dillwynia retorta*. The colours were a photographer's dream. The *Grevillea speciosa* and *Grevillea buxifolia* added highlights of red and grey.



(L) Peter Abell discussing propagation (R) *Grevillea speciosa* Photos: J Aitken

The weather may have been overcast, but that was more than compensated for by the outstanding warmth and hospitality of our hosts. Thank you to the North Shore and Northern Beaches Groups for their planning and selection of walks and activities – they provided something for everyone.

By all reports the fully-subscribed dinner on Saturday evening was a very social opportunity for members to relax and enjoy warming sustenance in the seclusion of the Bushland Education Centre at St Ives – far from any city hassles.

Our report on Sunday's events hosted by Northern Beaches Group was prepared by Harry Loots of that group.

By Sunday the wind had declined slightly with gusts on the harbour down to 50 kilometres per hour and the temperature climbing to 13.2°C

on North Head at 11 am. Numbers at the North Head Sanctuary were down to about 80.

Consideration was given to the first people. When welcoming us to country Uncle Neil Evers, an elder of the local Aboriginal people, the *Guringai*, reminded us that the Aborigines endured this climate without the benefit of warm clothing, which all of us now enjoyed. He spoke of how his people had cared for the land and generously welcomed us to share this caring for the land.

Inside the North Head Sanctuary Visitors Centre, Geoff Lambert from the North Head Sanctuary Foundation described the aboriginal history, military history, geomorphology and botany of the Sanctuary. Like most other locals I learnt about this impressive remnant of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub only recently. This was a military base until 1998 and the public was only admitted in 2007. Now raised iron grid walkways both reveal and protect an ancient Aeolian dune system. Up to about 12,000 years ago, during the Pleistocene ice age, strong winds blew sand and clay particles from the dry continental shelf over the Eastern Suburbs and Manly areas, forming complex dune systems. The Aeolian dunes and associated lakes have largely disappeared from the now densely urbanised Eastern Suburbs, but on North Head dunes up to 30 metres high remain intact. While the army made certain inroads they did not destroy the central dune system or the original heath vegetation.



APS members at a hanging swamp on North Head

Photo: M Abell

After a hearty morning tea of freshly brewed coffee amongst other delicacies, we were off into the bush. Most followed Geoff Lambert to the swamp to view the sedges and flooded area on the sandstone shelf above the North Head escarpment. Geoff's group grew as a following group almost immediately caught up to form a conga line of 55. While slowly descending the dune Geoff did not disappoint those able to hear his descriptions of every plant encountered.

By luck or cunning I formed a group of five for a more extensive survey of the heath. Bouquets of yellow pea flowers, pink box-leaf wax flowers and ubiquitous straggly white-bellied Woollsia easily distracted us. A few ups and downs through the dunes led to a magnificent view of Sydney Harbour stretched over a low heath of Grass Tree spears, stunted Banksia and Brown She-Oak. We were transfixed by the sight of powerful swells crashing onto Dobroyd Head and Grotto Point. The full extent of Sydney Harbour National Park appeared as a green banner from the Dobroyd promontory to Middle Head, Georges Heights, Bradleys Head and yet further up the Harbour.

From the viewing platform it was only a small descent to the most picturesque cemetery in Sydney: the Quarantine Station's Third Cemetery. It looks towards South Head and has a group of pink flowering Woollsia amongst its heath. It was used between 1881 and



Penny Hunstead and Harry Loots (Northern Beaches), Bob Failes (North Shore) and Brodie Fuller (Parramatta & The Hills). Photo: P Grimm

1925 to bury the victims of various epidemic diseases. One poignant headstone reads, 'Fond remembrance of Maggie the beloved wife of Richard Whitehead Borambil Station Condobolin who died in quarantine 3rd May 1900 of Bubonic plague aged 40 years contacted [sic] in Sydney'. Most people probably don't know that Sydneysiders died of the 'black death' at the beginning of the twentieth century.

After walking along the North Fort sandstone wall and passing through a hole at an artillery observation post we were soon down at the swamp where we caught up with Geoff and his entourage. By this time everybody had developed an appetite, which Northern Beaches Group satisfied with a barbecue lunch that was up and running when we arrived at the Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why. Diners could contemplate tall trees and ferns while seated in the rainforest. Later Jake Cassar provided an immensely entertaining presentation of his bush tucker experiences. A few cautiously tasted some of his many recommendations. Jake's amusing talk together with Martyn Robinson's insect walk and Botanic Garden guided walks wound up what was a successful Australian Plants Society Get-together. The small Northern Beaches Group breathed an audible sigh of relief that it had not rained and that their catering had run smoothly.

Wendy Grimm from North Shore Group was the registration secretary for the 2012 Get-together and summarised the experience of organising the event thus: 'I was very gratified that everyone supported the event by attending despite the weather. This demonstrated that Australian Plants Society members honour their commitments above a little discomfort and are prepared to get out there and enjoy whatever is on offer. This repaid the year's effort put in by the organising committee. Only two people needed to cancel because of ill-health. On a more personal note, the Get-together was a marvellous opportunity for the two organising Groups to work together and get to know each other. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience.'



Pink-tinged flowers of *Woollsia pungens*.
Photo: H Loots

President's report

John Aitken, President APS NSW

APS NSW Annual Get-together

Congratulations to the North Shore and Northern Beaches Groups who jointly hosted the annual get-together. Despite the vagaries of the weather, the weekend was an outstanding success and was a reflection of the excellent organisation and thought that went into the event. There were plenty of activities, plant sales, flowers and food for everyone to enjoy. One indication of the success of the weekend was a person, attending his first get-together, who asked me the date of next year's get-together at Armidale so that he could put it into his calendar now.

The Presidents' dinner, on the Friday night before the get-together, was attended by Presidents or their representatives from 14 Groups. There was much exchange of information about the various Groups' activities and their efforts to retain existing and attract new members. A lot of discussion revolved around the Groups' efforts to actively raise their profile in the local community such as involvement in local flower shows, Clean Up Australia Day activities, community stalls and festivals, maintaining and promoting local wildflower gardens and reserves, sponsoring TAFE horticultural students with scholarships and the advertising of Group meetings and activities in the local media. Rhonda Daniels from Sutherland Group gave a talk on Templates for Success, which challenged the Groups to think about adopting marketing strategies such as using the APS NSW logo in all their promotional materials to promote a consistent and professional image that would be immediately recognised as being associated with the Australian Plants Society by members of the local community.

The 2013 Get-together will be held in Armidale on 12–13 October. See page 14 for details that are already available at this early stage.



The Australian Plants Society - NSW



Visit APS NSW on the web at for the latest updates on membership, District Group activities, Study Groups, conservation issues, discussion forums, articles, fact sheets, special events and much more.

APS NSW Ermington meetings

Over the past few years, the number of members attending the APS NSW meetings at Ermington has been disappointing, despite the excellent speakers. The Board decided to transfer the meetings from a Friday night to a Saturday afternoon in the hope that the change will attract more members. The first APS NSW meeting in 2013 will be hosted by the Menai Wildflower Group at the Illawong Fire Station on 16 February 2013. It is planned that a few local gardens will be open for inspection in the morning. The meeting will begin at 1 pm and our guest speaker will be Maria Hitchcock. Maria is President of the Armidale and District Group and has been an active member of APS NSW for over 40 years; she was made a Life Member 17 years ago. She was leader of the ANPSA Correa Study Group for 16 years from 1991 to 2007 and is considered to be the international authority on the genus. She is currently leader of the Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group. Maria is also the author of *Wattle* (first published in 2001 and republished this year, see page 22) and *Correas, Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens* (published in 2010). I highly recommend this meeting to you.



Members viewing an experimental garden at Illawong RFS



Table decoration at Menai Group's birthday
Photos: D Crawford

2012 annual report – changes to receiving a copy of the report

Amendments to the Corporations Act 2001 mean that small companies limited by guarantee, such as APS NSW, are no longer compelled to send members a copy of their annual report. Members wishing to receive a copy of the annual report may elect to receive it either as a printed copy or an electronic copy. The choice made by a member to either receive a printed copy or an electronic copy stands for subsequent financial years until the member changes their selection. Members do not need to repeat their request for a copy of the report each year.

The cost of printing and posting the annual report to members each year

is over \$2,000. In order to assist the Society's commitment to reduce costs and reduce our use of paper, it is hoped that most members will elect:

- a) to not receive a hard copy of the report but rather view the report on the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au; or
- b) to receive a copy by email.

Depending on the numbers of members electing to receive a printed copy of the report, the report may be printed at the office, which is more cost-effective than having it commercially printed. The election form is found on page 44 of the journal.

Vale

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the deaths of three of our members who have made major contributions to the Society and its aims. On behalf of APS NSW, I extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

May Koellner attended meetings during the Society's first year and was celebrated in *Native Plants* earlier in the year to mark her 100th birthday.

Jean Brian had a long association with East Hills Group and was the wife of life member Harry Brian.

Malcolm Guy was the Secretary of Southern Highlands Group and previously had a long association with East Hills Group.



Next APS NSW Ermington meeting

Friday, 16 November 2012 at 8 pm

**Ermington Community Centre,
River Rd, Ermington**

Grevillea and Hakea: one genus or two?

Our guest speaker will be Peter Olde, who is well known as an author and leader of the Grevillea Study Group. The title is clearly designed to get you thinking and perhaps challenge some long-held views about the differences between Grevilleas and Hakeas. Peter is an entertaining presenter, so come along to what may be the last ordinary meeting at Ermington for quite some time.

Please bring plant samples for the specimen table. Supper will be provided.



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8 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 2nd March 2013

Discover the remarkable bird life that populates this area.

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18 Day Accommodated Tour - Departs 10th March 2013

See the exotic flora, fauna & discover the history of this enchanting island.

Pilbara Reef & Ranges

14 Day Camping Tour - Departs 12th April 2013

Experience Ningaloo Reef, Abrolhos Islands & Karijini National Park.

South Australian Outback

16 Day Camping Tour - Departs 11th May 2013

Visit some of the most spectacular outback locations in the Lake Eyre Basin.

Kimberley Discovery

15 Day Camping/Accommodated Tour - Departs 6th July 2013

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APS NSW Ermington report

17 August 2012

Thanks to Rhonda Daniels, Sutherland Group, for the following summary of Dr Holly Parson's entertaining but challenging talk on the *Birds in Backyards* Program and the sad disappearance of many small birds especially from our urban landscapes.

Birdscaping with Dr Holly Parsons, BirdLife Australia

Our guest speaker Holly Parsons explained how to create a bird-friendly garden so we can share our space with engaging and charismatic birds. In Sydney, there has been significant change in urban bird species with big birds doing well, but smaller birds are missing out. Changing garden styles means our smaller birds are underappreciated, less common, and have nowhere to live.



What do birds need? They need shelter, food, water and a nest – all of which can be provided by suitable vegetation. In creating a garden for birds, consider what birds are around the local area, retain remnant vegetation where possible, and plant local native species where possible. Draw a map or sketch of your garden from a bird perspective showing habitat and food sources.

Elements of planting design to consider include:

- structural complexity, with grasses, logs and vines
- dense plantings of shrubs
- a range of different plant species to provide nectar, insects and fruit
- a group of plants (5–7 of each species), not just one of each.

Different plants are suitable for different birds. For honeyeaters, choose small flowering plants, not hybrids, such as *Grevillea sericea* and *Epacris longiflora*. For insect-eaters, choose *Leptospermum*, *Acacias* and *Kunzea ambigua* (for habitat). For seed-eating birds, choose *Acacias* for the seeds, *Dianella*, and grasses such as *Poa labillardieri*, Wallaby grass and Kangaroo grass. Grass leaves make good nesting material.

Holly had some tips for living with birds. On the question of feeding, if you are not feeding, then don't start. If you are feeding, start weaning yourself and the birds off it and feed infrequently. If you have a smooth or deep bird bath, put pebbles in the base to allow birds to climb out of the water. If you have a nesting box, be responsible and ensure it is not used by feral birds, bees or possums.

More information: Birds in Backyards is a research, education and conservation program of BirdLife Australia, focusing on the birds that live where people live. Learn how to create bird-friendly spaces in your garden and local community, and find out more about Australian birds and their habitats from the website. www.birdsinbackyards.net



Left: Eastern Spinebill
Photo: Wikicommons Richard Taylor

Below: Superb Fairy Wren
Photo: Wikicommons Cas Liber



Invitation to attend the 2013 Annual Get-together

Saturday and Sunday 12–13 October 2013

Hosted by the Armidale and District Group on the Northern Tablelands of NSW in the wonderful New England Region.

Armidale is home to the University of New England, which has an active Botany Department and interesting Herbarium. The town is also home to the New England Regional Art Gallery which owns the important Hinton and Coventry collections. It is a very cosmopolitan regional centre with excellent cafes, restaurants, galleries, bookshops, boutiques and metropolitan-standard shopping centres. The city centre is marked by a number of heritage buildings and some very fine old pubs. There is an excellent range of accommodation options. The region itself abounds with a number of national parks filled with an amazing variety of flora. Ecosystems range from cool temperate rainforests to granite tops, swamplands filled with Christmas Bells, and species-rich woodlands.

More detailed information will be in the coming issues of *Native Plants for NSW*.

Nominations for APS NSW life membership 2013

Life Membership is the highest accolade the Australian Plants Society NSW can bestow upon any member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Society, their Group and their community. The nominated person must be a financial member of the Society who has made a major and significant contribution to promoting both the Society and their Group.



Merle Thompson
Life Member, 2011

APS NSW invites Groups to submit written nominations for Life Membership, which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May 2013. The Board must endorse all nominations prior to consideration by the AGM.

No more than two Life Members may be appointed in each calendar year except where a nomination includes both a husband and wife. In the latter case, such a double nomination must be first approved at the AGM before submission to the Annual General Meeting.

The resume supporting the nomination for Life Membership must include the nominee's name, Group, length of membership of the Society, any community awards and an outline of their contributions to promote the aims and objectives of APS NSW.

Each nomination must be supported by at least two other persons who are financial members of the Society, one of whom must be the President of a Group. The two nominators must include their names, addresses and contact details.

Nominations must be received in writing at the Society's office no later than 28 February 2013.

Postal Address:
PO Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Email Address: office@austplants.com.au

For further information or any enquiries, please contact Kyrill Taylor, Projects Committee Coordinator.



John Nevin
Life Member, 2011

Nominations for APS NSW Conservation Award 2013

Each year, the Australian Plants Society NSW strives to recognise the tireless contribution made by a member of the Society or a District Group to the conservation of native plants. The Board invites members to nominate a member or a District Group for the 2013 APS NSW Conservation Award.

The basis for nomination is to be a significant contribution to any aspect of the conservation of Australia's native plants, in particular, to those of NSW. This may include the conserving of a population, a species or a community of plants.

The nomination, in writing, must include the supporting reasons in no less than 500 words. It must also include the name of the nominee or District Group and, in the case of individuals, the Group to which they belong and their length of membership of the Society. Any papers, articles, submissions or projects presented by the nominee or Group should be attached.

A nominee for the Award and at least one of the nominators must be a financial member of APS NSW.

A nominee or District Group must have at least two nominators who must include their names, addresses and contact details.

Nominations are to be forwarded to the Society office by no later than 28 February 2013.

Postal Address:
PO Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Email Address: office@austplants.com.au

For further information or any enquiries, please contact Kyrill Taylor, Projects Committee Coordinator.



Lloyd Hedges from Menai Group, the 2012 Conservation Award recipient.

Photo: John Aitken

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The Gardens are open from 7.00am-3.00pm on weekdays all year, plus weekends from 11 August – 25 November from 9.00am-4.30pm.

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

ADMISSION FREE !!



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

Membership payments – direct deposit option

Membership renewals may now (commencing 1 October 2012) be made by direct deposit either directly at a bank or via the internet.

This direct deposit arrangement is particularly meant for members who **DO NOT** belong to a District Group. A number of District Groups already offer direct deposit facilities. Direct deposit reduces the costs for APS compared to paying by credit card.

Bank details for direct deposit are as follows

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)	
Account Name: Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd	
BSB:	062 217
Account No:	0090 7163

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NUMBER AND SURNAME AS A REFERENCE WHEN PAYING BY
DIRECT DEPOSIT.**

It is essential that the depositor be identified. If we cannot identify you then you will still be listed as not having paid.

Your membership number is the six-digit number which can be found on your membership card and also above your name on your journal mailing envelopes.

You do **NOT** need to submit a membership renewal form unless there are changes, such as name, address, email address and type of membership. If notifying changes, please write on your form 'paid by direct deposit on ... (date)'. Notifications of any changes can also be made by email to merleaps@bigpond.com.

If you do not receive your new membership card within a month please contact Merle Thompson, Membership Officer.

For those members who belong to a District Group and pay by direct deposit to APS NSW, your Group may not be notified for up to a month. Consequently you may receive a reminder from your Group during this time.



The members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Queensland Region are waiting to enthusiastically welcome you to the ANPSA 2013

Conference to be held in late winter on Queensland's Sunshine Coast from 9–16 August 2013.

We want to share with you the diversity of Queensland's flora and this is reflected in the Conference theme 'Diversity is in our Nature'. To reinforce this theme, five pre- and post-Conference tours have been organised to diverse regional environments.

PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS: 4–9 August 2013

- Bunya Mountains and Darling Downs
- Mangroves to Mountains
- Sandstone and Brigalow

POST-CONFERENCE TOURS: 17–22 August 2013

- Scenic Rim and Beyond
- Rainforest meets the Barrier Reef

We encourage you to plan to attend the ANPSA 2013 Conference/ Seminar and enjoy the hospitality for which Queensland is renowned.

Registration opens on 1 October 2012 with details published in the SGAP (Qld) website and the ANPSA website. Contact the Conference Committee on anpsa2013@sgapqld.org.au.

Menai Group's Birthday Bash

Pam Pitkeathly, Menai Wildflower Group

What a difference a day makes! We were all hoping the wild winds and generally grumpy weather pattern would lift for Saturday 25 August, as well as the Sutherland Group's annual Spring Walks on the next day. Sure enough, the sun shone brightly and all went as we hoped.

The best part was seeing old friends from the last 25 years and making some new acquaintances from other APS groups. Many people travelled a long way to attend our celebrations, viewing the Illawong gardens of the Rural Fire Service which we plant out and maintain, listening to advice on planting, propagating and pruning native plants from *Gardening Australia*'s Angus Stewart, viewing the hobbies of some of our members, and looking at the entries in the photo competition.

It would not be our group if we didn't have lots of spectacular native flowers and home baked goodies on display. We had tents full of cut flowers and potted plants for sale at very reasonable prices, sourced from several growers who gave us their support in bringing Australian flora to the attention of the local community. Our members provided an admirable spread of cakes and sweets of all descriptions to be consumed by guests after they sampled the barbecued treats cooked for us by the Illawong 'furies', as a nice change from putting out fires.

We toasted the pioneers of our group before heading for the gardens or the barbecue, depending on priorities. Lloyd Hedges and Jason Cockayne, our vice presidents, led tours of the gardens where some innovative experiments are underway. Later in the afternoon we had Menai's first president, the oldest member in attendance on the day



Plant and cut flower sales area. Photo: Karlo Taliana



Pam Pitkeathly with a bouquet presented to her by Lloyd Hedges
Photo: D Crawford



Above: MWG birthday cake Photo: D Crawford
Left: BBQ lunch being prepared Photo: E Sizgek

and our 2012 scholarship holder cut the magnificent 25th birthday cake made by Cris Breitenbach, our former horticulturalist at the Tip Nursery.

In between times, visitors looked at the photographs on display, admired the floral arrangements and tried to win various raffle prizes. The help of our friends from Sutherland Group was greatly appreciated and made it possible for our relatively small group to circulate among guests.

A few brave adults tried to identify the plants in the school children's photo competition. It was fascinating to see the different approaches: the loners began early and made a good fist of it, while some eminent plant people got together to try to identify the subject of all 29 photos. No one succeeded in naming all 29 subjects, so that's a tick for the student photographers, whose ages ranged from kindergarten class to year 11. The plants that the gurus found difficult to identify were *Grevillea* 'Elegance' and *Acacia genistifolia* while absolutely no one got *Pteridium esculentum* (bracken fern) correct! Top marks to those who put their plant know-how on the line in a good cause. All the young entrants who were present at the awards were given a plant to take home.

We had a dual purpose in planning this event. Obviously we wanted to pay tribute to the pioneers of the Menai Wildflower Group, but we also saw the need to involve a younger generation in growing and loving Australian native plants. Hopefully, we have managed to promote involvement by more people in the community whilst we continue to do something that we all enjoy.

Thanks again to our sponsors, and all those who quietly did what had to be done to ensure an excellent experience for all who came to our area.

Book Review – *A Celebration of Wattle*

This review of Maria Hitchcock's updated book is by Bill Aitchison, who is the leader of the Acacia study group. Your editor would welcome other book reviews from members of the society.

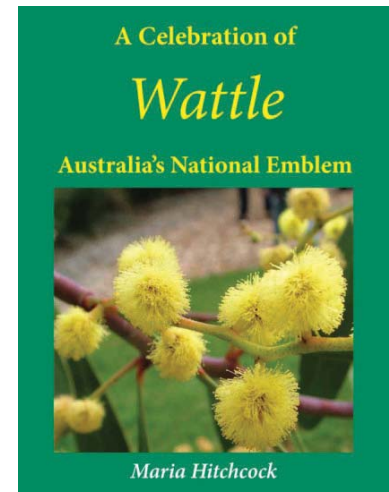
Wattle Day was first celebrated in Australia in 1910, and in the period since then its popularity and observance has been subject to a number of highs and lows. In this book, which is a substantially revised edition of her earlier book *Wattle* (published in 1991), Maria Hitchcock argues very convincingly that 'the time is right for a general and official revival of Wattle Day'.

The book provides a detailed history of the Wattle Day movement and many individual memories of Wattle Day. It also includes a section on the Wattle Day Association which was only founded in 1998. A very extensive anthology of wattle poetry, wattle stories and wattle songs is included.

There are also several very practical sections within the book. For example, in a chapter headed Let's Celebrate Wattle Day, there are many suggestions for activities that can be undertaken by schools, companies and local businesses and community groups (including groups running wildflower shows). Another chapter includes practical advice on how to create a garden or nature area featuring wattles (including advice on the planning and design stage, construction, planting out and maintenance). A further chapter covers the propagation of Acacias from seed.

The book includes brief descriptions and notes on about 130 species of Acacia, these all being illustrated with either colour photographs or marvellous watercolour paintings by botanical artist Kath Alcock. (Kath also extensively painted correas, some of which appear in Maria Hitchcock's previous book *Correas, Australian Plants for Waterwise Gardens*.) The descriptions and illustrations of the various Acacia species are interspersed throughout the book, but an index enables each species to be easily accessed.

In his foreword to the book, Peter Garrett remarks on the history of the wattle and the place it occupies in our national consciousness – and notes that 'this and more are to be found in this definitive account'.



Certainly, more than history is covered – for example some more recent matters that get a mention in the book are the Acacia name change debate, Cadel Evans' win in the Tour de France, deep-stem planting and even myrtle rust.

Whilst our level of celebration of Wattle Day has had its ups and downs over the last hundred years, one thing that has been a constant over the last 30 years or so has been Maria Hitchcock's commitment to promotion of this special day and of our association with this genus. Hopefully this book will ensure that the Wattle continues to hold a special place in the heart of all Australians and our history.

The book is published by Rosenberg Publishing Pty Ltd, 2012, it is 304 pages, paperback and sells for RRP \$29.95.



Acacia cognata



Acacia pubescens

Photos: J Douglas

Australian native plants that I grow

– *Acacia myrtifolia*

By Jeff Howes

Acacia myrtifolia, common name Myrtle Wattle, is named from:
Acacia – from Greek *acis*, a thorn, a reference to the thorny stems of the original type species
myrtifolia – having foliage similar to the genus *Myrtus*, the European myrtle.



Acacia myrtifolia
Photos: (L) Jeff Howes
and (R) Wikicommons
Cas Liber

Acacia myrtifolia is a widespread shrub that occurs along the coastal fringe and inland in open forest and woodlands of all States except the Northern Territory. It is a dense bushy shrub growing to 1.8m high by the same width, with creamy white or pale yellow ball flowers in winter and spring, followed by 4–7 cm long curved seed pods.

My plant has been growing in my northern Sydney suburban garden in clay soils for over 10 years and in this time has only grown to a height of 1.5 metres. In winter 2012, it flowered at its best for a long time, probably due to the good rainfall Sydney has received.

Acacia myrtifolia requires little or no maintenance as it has no real pests or diseases (an ideal plant). After flowering the plant should be given a light prune to keep it compact and prevent it getting 'leggy'.

Propagation is relatively easy by normal seed raising methods following pre-treatment by soaking in boiling water or by scarification. Propagation from cuttings has also been successful. I am going to raise a few more of these plants as they are an attractive winter-flowering plant that I would like a few more of.

Interestingly, *Acacia myrtifolia* was one of the first plants from the colony to be described, having been illustrated by James Sowerby (English naturalist and illustrator, 1757–1822). It was also one of the first Australian plants brought into cultivation in Europe.

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.

Armidale and District

President: Maria Hitchcock ☎ (02) 6775 1139
Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com
Secretary: Dr Barry Tolchard ☎ (02) 6772 7512
71 Lynland Drive, Armidale NSW 2350
Email secretary@anps-armidale.org.au

Meetings: Native Plant Forum, TAFE Library Seminar Room, Beardy Street, Armidale
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (excluding December, January, June, July).

Blue Mountains

President: Jim Ward ☎ (02) 4735 1965
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 8 pm (Sep-May) and
1st Sunday of the month at 10 am (Jun-Aug).
No meeting when there is an outing in the month.

Central Coast

President: John Andrews ☎ (02) 9985 9073
Secretary: Liz Hoese ☎ (02) 4339 1274
Email: elizabeth44@optusnet.com.au

Meetings: Phillip House
21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariang
2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 7.30 pm.

Central West

President: Gillian Baldwin ☎ (02) 6332 1583
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
Email: burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Meetings: Monthly at alternating centres.
Contact the secretary for details.

City – St George

President: Dorothy Luther ☎ (02) 9564 6513
Secretary: Chris King
Email: chrisk58@gmail.com
Meetings: Bexley Community Centre,
405 Bexley Rd. Bexley
2nd Friday of the months of Feb, Mar, May, Jul,
Sep, Nov and Dec at 6.30 pm.

Coffs Harbour

President: Gwyn Clarke
Email: gcl.38500@bigpond.com
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 2nd Wednesday
of alternate months at 7.30 pm (excluding Jan).

Website: www.coffs.australianplants.info/

East Hills

President: Kyrill Taylor ☎ (02) 9644 5531
Secretary: Kathy Manning ☎ (02) 9792 4552
16 Elizabeth Cres, Yagoona NSW 2199
Email: kathymanning@optusnet.com.au

Meetings: Peakhurst South Primary School
Library, Monterra Ave, Peakhurst.
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm
(excluding January).

Hawkesbury

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

Hunter Valley

President: Ross Carlton ☎ (02) 4988 6026
Secretary: Kevin Mantle ☎ (02) 4937 3200
29 Wallaroo Road, Seaham NSW 2324

Meetings: The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old
Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45 pm.

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 Library, 15 Short Street
Corrimal. Ring Edna on 4229 1836.
1st Monday of the month at 7.30 pm (excluding
December, January, October and Public Hols).

Continued page 28

Membership application and renewal form

Those members associated with a Group should renew directly with their Group Office Bearer.

Please print clearly and include all person/s covered by this membership.

Date: _____ Application ☐ Renewal ☐

Surname/s: _____

Given name/s: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

If renewing, is this a change of address? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, previous Postcode: _____

Telephone (____) _____ Business (____) _____

Fax (____) _____

Email _____

Renewing members: We/I belong to a District Group Yes ☐ No ☐

Group Name: _____

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

New members:

Age: Under 16 ☐ 17-21 ☐ 22-39 ☐ 40-59 ☐ 60-79 ☐ 80+ ☐

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.

Type of Membership: (Please select)

Rates as at 1 January 2011 (All prices are in AUD and include GST)

Individual \$50 ☐ Concession \$42 ☐

Joint Members \$58 ☐ Joint Concession \$50 ☐

Other overseas AU\$60 ☐

Note: Joint membership applies to two persons at the same address.
Each receives a membership card.

A concession is available to Seniors, people on a limited fixed income and full-time students. This also applies to joint memberships where one person is entitled to a concession.

Type of concession: _____

Donation to APS NSW ☐ Amount: _____

Payment method (please ☒ selected method)

Cheque ☐ **Money order** ☐ payable to Australian Plants Society
NSW Ltd

Or charge my **MasterCard** ☐ **Visa Card** ☐

Card Number:

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Card holder's name: _____

Expiry date: _____ Card holder's signature: _____

CVV/CSC: _____ (The last three digits printed on the signature panel on your card)

APS Membership Card No: _____ (renewing members)

POST TO:

Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
Membership Officer
PO Box 3066
BOWENFELS NSW 2790

OR

FAX TO:

Membership Officer
(02) 6351 2384

Please direct all membership inquiries to:

Phone: (02) 6352 3805 Email: merleaps@bigpond.com

Receipts/statements for tax purposes will be supplied only if a stamped self-addressed DL-size envelope is provided.

District group directory continued

Macarthur

President: Shirley Henderson ☎ 0447 234 373
Secretary: Rod Bray ☎ (02) 4647 9928
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 7.30 pm (Feb-Nov).

Menai

Vice presidents: Lloyd Hedges ☎ (02) 9543 1216
Jason Cockayne
Email: menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au
Secretary: Margaret Olde
PO Box 3104, Bangor NSW 2234
Email: margolde@aapt.net.au

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

Newcastle

President: Leanne Pattinson ☎ (02) 4977 2773
Email: president.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Secretary: Maree McCarthy
Email: secretary.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Meetings: The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd,
Shortland

1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm
(excluding January).

Northern Beaches

President: David Drage ☎ (02) 9949 5179
Joint Secretaries:
Jan Krone ☎ (02) 9451 9609
Julia Thomkinson ☎ (02) 9949 5179

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

North Shore

President: Mark Abell ☎ (02) 9477 4231
Secretary: Wendy Grimm ☎ (02) 9144 5600
PO Box 344, St Ives NSW 2075
Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au

Meetings: Willow Park Community Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.
2nd Friday of the month at 8 pm (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 7.30 pm sharp.
Business meeting 6.30 pm.

Parramatta and The Hills District

President: Tony Maxwell ☎ (02) 9651 6682
Secretary: Wendy Goonan ☎ (02) 9686 3149

Meetings: Bi-monthly meetings 4th Friday of
April, June, August, September and November
at 8 pm Barton Hall, Hopetoun Village, Anglican
Retirement Villages, David Road, Castle Hill.
Website: www.apsparrahills.org.au

South East Region

President: Bob Ross ☎ (02) 6495 0306
Email: wenbobr@bigpond.net.au
Secretary: Jill Gutteridge ☎ (02) 4471 7053
Email: jillgutteridge@dodo.com.au

Meetings: Alternating locations, contact
President or Secretary. 1st Saturday of odd
numbered months. Field trips and other
functions at other times.

Southern Highlands

President: Jane Pye ☎ (02) 4862 3750
Secretary:
Email:

Meetings: CWA Room, next to council building
in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale. Bimonthly at 2 pm on
the 1st Thursday of February, April, June, August
and November.

Southern Tablelands

President: Tim Hayes ☎ (02) 4822 4949
Secretary: Jenny Ashwell ☎ (02) 4829 2101
10 Perneroy Mill Ford Road, Mummel NSW 2580
Email: jashwell@activ8.net.au

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

Sutherland

President: Simon Bastin ☎ (02) 9545 5959
Secretary: Rhonda Daniels ☎ (02) 9521 8381
Email: rhdaniels@bigpond.com

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

Website: <http://sutherland.austplants.com.au/>

Tamworth

President: Greg Carr ☎ (02) 6760 8331
Secretary: Lee Esdaile ☎ (02) 6760 8525
PO Box 1193, Tamworth NSW 2340
Email: pjltesdaile@bigpond.com

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

A novel method for growing and planting trees

Many members will be familiar with long-stem planting, here John Sadleir introduces his technique for 'long-root planting', a novel approach for developing young plants for dry and harsh conditions. However if the ground is hard you will probably need a motorised post-hole digger!

I have always been interested in growing plants, especially vegies and fruit trees, so it is not surprising that in the early seventies my wife and I bought a farm at Wombeyan Caves in the Southern Tablelands near Taralga. We planted many different types of trees – fruit trees for our orchard, radiata pines for wind breaks and ornamentals around the house. Some grew well and some didn't survive the hot dry summers. As we didn't live at the farm it was impossible to provide enough water during the dry times.

In recent years my interest has taken a new direction. It started during a long dry spell when I read the book *Back from the Brink* by Peter Andrews about sustainable farming. I looked at the state of our property and realised I had to make some changes.

I started by fencing the cattle out of the areas of soil erosion and then started building loose stone weirs across all watercourses. I tried planting trees along the creeks and in the eroded areas but the soil was too poor and very few survived. It was at this time that I noticed reeds and rushes growing around the stone weirs. This was because water was slowing down at the weirs and depositing soil and silt as well as sticks and leaves which provided a source of moisture and nutrients for the reeds to establish.

Over the next few years the eroded creek beds revegetated themselves with little help from me. It was now time to look at areas higher up in the landscape. I started by fencing an area on a ridge top with poor soil, which had been cleared of all trees by an earlier owner. The cleared trees had been pushed up into a row and burnt. This only made the soil worse by killing off all the soil insects and micro-organisms, which keep the soil healthy. The only plants which grew well in this area were weeds such as serrated tussock and thistles, so I started planting trees again, everything from natives to introduced plants. As before, the hot dry summers killed most of them, however a couple of acacias managed to grow in this dry location.



On examination of the soil I found it to be full of small stones with fine sandy soil, which would not hold any water so I started growing my own trees in deeper pots. This improved the success rate but only slightly. It seemed that I would have to get the roots down deeper at planting time, so I made some pots out of 90 mm plastic downpipe cut into 500 mm lengths, cut along the length and a cap with drainage holes drilled in it fitted to the bottom with stainless steel screws.

It was about March and I wanted to try the new pots out. I found an English Oak growing at Goulburn and there were acorns all over the ground. I put the acorns into a bucket of water and discarded the ones that floated (I am told this is how you find out which acorns will grow). I planted the acorns in some seed raising mix and nine of them were sprouting in a few weeks. I filled my 500 mm deep pots with potting mix with a little slow release fertiliser mixed in and planted the sprouting acorns into the top of the pots. They were kept in a warm spot till spring and roots were starting to escape at the bottom. Time to plant them out!

I used a 150 mm diameter auger on a motorised posthole digger to drill the holes to a depth of 600 mm. This allowed me to put a little slow release fertiliser and some Gypsum mixed into the soil at the bottom of the hole. It was then easy to remove the cap from the bottom of the pot and put the pot into the hole, then prise open the downpipe and slide the pipe off the plant and out of the hole. I then only had to use the soil from the hole to pack around the plant and water it in with some Seasol (seaweed solution) to help it get established.

A year has passed since those plants went into their final location and all nine have survived. I was so pleased with the result that I looked for ways to improve the method of making the pot. The main change I wanted to make was the cap on the base of the pot. This was the most expensive part to buy and sometimes out of stock. I tried using polystyrene discs cut from old fruit boxes but they were inclined to fall out the bottom of the pipe when picked up. I decided to use another skill I had as a potter and made 90 mm clay discs with a few holes for drainage. These were fired in a kiln to 1000°C. After they cooled they had shrunk to 82 mm diameter



and about 10 mm thick. Then I cut some short rings from the 90 mm downpipe (about 20 mm high) and slid one of these over the pot and

down to the bottom, where it became tight. This held the fired clay disc in position, and another ring at the top (placed after the potting mix was added) stopped the pot from opening up.

When it comes to planting out, it is easy to slide the rings off the pot and remove the clay disc before putting the pot into the hole and sliding the pipe off the plant. It is a good idea to plant it a little deeper to allow you to make a dish at the top to hold water. Fill in around the plant a little bit at a time and water each layer of soil in to ensure all air gaps are filled. Add some Seasol to the watering can and fill the dish to help the plant get over any transplant shock.

If the idea of making your own discs is a little daunting you can buy plastic end caps for 90 mm pipe, or you could make them from plywood by scribing a 82 mm circle and cutting it out with a jigsaw and drilling some holes (about 6 to 12 mm diameter) for good drainage. The clay discs and plastic caps can be reused many times but wood or plywood could be painted to extend their life.

APS NSW Seed Bank

An updated list was published in the April 2012 issue of *Native Plants for NSW*. This list can also be found on the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au by selecting **Seed Bank** in the **Resources** pane on the Home page.

Requests for seed can be sent by mail to:

John Randall
8 Coachmans Place,
Mardi NSW 2259

Please enclose a stamped (\$1.20) self-addressed envelope (110 x 220 mm) for return of the seeds. There is a limit of six seed packets per request. Inquiries can be made to John at johnannette@dodo.com.au or by telephone on (02) 4353 9390.

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

Deletions: *Swainsona sejuncta* (yellow).

Additions: *Alpina caerulea*.

Recent Donors: E Bartlett, E Smith and APS Central Coast Group.

The seed bank is in need of donations of any suitable east coast species.

Open Gardens Australia – Native Gardens

Maria Hitchcock, APS NSW Open Gardens Representative

Have you ever visited an Open Garden? If not, there's a treat in store. There are many passionate gardeners out there who love nothing better than showing off their green thumbs to all and sundry. The gardens range from large to small, country to suburban, purist native to a bit of everything. The following gardens in NSW and the ACT will be open to the public this year.

All gardens are open 10 am – 4.30 pm (unless noted) and entry is \$7.

October 6–7

A Native Dream come true, 65 Gouger St, Torrens ACT

Australian native water-wise garden featuring many trees, shrubs and a beautiful meadow of grasses. Recently introduced collection of WA natives.

Adams Garden, 72 Malton Rd, Beecroft NSW

Informal tropical garden sheltered by tall Angophoras. Steps and paths built into bold rock platforms border a wide variety of species.

Woodburn Garden, 20 Mulga St, O'Connor ACT

Australian natives around a passive solar house. Subtle grassland on the nature strip, Banksias, Correas. Small creek trickles through the back garden.

Yaraan, 21 Cove Lane, Ringlands Estate, Narooma NSW (South Coast)

Australian native garden blending into a bush setting. Gravelled paths wind past a diverse range of plants including rainforest species.

Somersby Gardens (Sunday only), 380 Somersby Falls Rd, Somersby, NSW (Central Coast)

Local native species in an expansive garden featuring sandstone boulders, steps and walls. Kangaroo paws, Gynea lilies, waratahs, flowering gums.

October 20–21

Guyong, 71 Brush Rd, Wamberal, NSW (Central coast)

Wide variety of Australian plants with many rare and unusual rainforest species, including Dorriga waratah, native caper and corduroy tamarind.

Caza's Garden, 194 Denley Dr, Wamboin (near Canberra)

Meandering paths link Australian native gardens leading down to a large dam. The garden features six ponds and waterfalls along a dry creek bed.

November 17–18

Richard and Alison's Garden, 52 Yarragee Rd, Moruya NSW (South Coast)

Young native garden developed from propagated seed and cuttings. Deep mulching, dry creek bed, spectacular Kangaroo Paws.

November 24–25

Roogulli Garden, 45 Glendale Lane, Bywong (near Canberra)

Talks on permaculture gardening, sustainable garden design. Tours of farm and creek rehabilitation. Award-winning landscape architect's contemporary garden featuring salvaged and recycled materials. Mudbrick courtyard. Frost-hardy grasses, dianellas, daisies.

For further details, check the website www.opengarden.org.au or the Open Gardens booklet, available at many newsagents.

APS Out and About

This is a new feature in *Native plants for NSW*. The intention is to display a group activity from anywhere in the state with a photo and a brief paragraph of explanation. I'd like to feature as many different groups as possible in coming issues – so all you have to do is send a photo with a brief description and there's a chance your group will feature.



Following the excellent presentation at APS NSW Ermington meeting in May by Richard Johnstone from the NSW Seedbank, East Hills Group decided to do a tour of the facility. In this photo, Richard Johnstone is showing APS members the current state of the new PlantBank which is under construction. Photo: Jan Douglas

APS NSW Website update

Mark Abell, APS NSW Publicity Officer and Web Master

Members can now access the various District Group newsletters on the APS NSW website.

To access the newsletters, you will first need to log in to the website as a valid APS member.

The login screen is at the right side of the APS NSW web page at www.austplants.com.au.

You can log in one of two ways:

1. For immediate access you can log in using the shared members only username **member2012** with password **boronia#**
2. You can register your own user account by clicking on the 'Register' link.

The answer to the passphrase is **waratah**



You will need to allow up to a day (often less) for your details to be confirmed and for you to be added to the 'APS Member' group.

You must open your own account if you wish to post on the forum.

If you tick (✓) the 'Remember me' checkbox, you will be automatically logged in on subsequent visits to the website.

Once logged in, the Newsletters can be accessed on the 'User Menu' (lower left of the page) under 'District Group Newsletters'.

This will take you to the page on the forum with the newsletters. This is arranged so that the most recent newsletters are at the top of the list.



Under each topic will be all of the newsletters for that district group.

New newsletters are being added each week as they are sent to the office, so it is worth checking the website regularly to keep up to date.

APS NSW Board jottings

John Aitken, President APS NSW

A summary of major decisions made at Board meetings.



4 June 2012

- Merle Thompson presented a copyright agreement form to be completed by authors who have written articles for *Native Plants for NSW* and *Australian Plants*. This will allow the author to either assign the copyright to APS NSW or nominate the circumstance/s under which the Society may publish the article.
- The sale of *Australian Plants* through Botanic Garden shops is to be investigated.
- Ten new members were accepted.
- Approval was given to the purchase of a Wi-Fi modem for the office to enable use of computers without cable connection, reducing WHS issues.
- The 2013 issues of *Australian Plants* have been organised and the 2014 issues are currently being investigated.
- District Group newsletters are being placed on the Society's website and are only accessible to members due to privacy issues. Group newsletter editors will be encouraged to select and submit specific articles for general access on the website.
- Minutes of the ANPSA teleconference held on 27 March were tabled.
- A request from the Burrendong Arboretum Trust for a \$5000 grant from the Bequest Fund was approved subject to conditions. The grant will be used to upgrade a 40 m x 8 m garden bed for the propagation of mother stock of rare and endangered plants and to trial an underground irrigation system against a drip irrigation system.
- Graeme Ingall was appointed as the Society's Honorary Secretary.
- Maria Hitchcock was welcomed as the Armidale and District Group delegate and will 'attend' the meetings via Skype.

13 August 2012

- The Public and Product Liability, Business Pack and Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance policies were renewed at a total cost of \$6,666, which is a \$381 increase on the previous year.
- Two Bequest Fund term deposits matured.
 - (a) \$47,000 + 20% of the interest earned was reinvested at 4.5% for 11 months. The remaining 80% of the interest was transferred to the Bequest cheque account.
 - (b) \$413,761.47 + 20% of the interest earned was reinvested for 12 months at 4.5% interest. The remaining 80% was transferred to the Bequest cheque account.
- 24 members (19 memberships) were accepted.

- Under the Corporation Law, the Society is no longer compelled to send a copy of the annual report to a member unless the member informs the Society, in writing, that he or she wishes to receive one. An election form is included in this issue of *Native Plants for NSW*.
- Merle Thompson presented a discussion paper on methods of paying membership fees. It was agreed that the Society's BSB and account details be made available to members who wished to pay membership fees by direct transfer into the Society's bank account. District Groups will be encouraged to provide similar information for their Group members to pay their fees into the Group's bank account.
- Sharlene Cormack, the Office Administrator, renegotiated the office phone account with Telstra, which will provide a free Wi-Fi modem for the office and lower phone costs.
- The North Shore and Northern Beaches Groups were congratulated on the wonderful organisation and success of the annual get-together, which was held on 11 – 12 August. 125 members had registered for the weekend activities.
- Four members of APS NSW were nominated as stewards for the 2013 Sydney Royal Flower and Garden Show at the Royal Easter Show.

Gardening with Angus

Angus Stewart is the well-known NSW-based presenter on ABC Television's *Gardening Australia* program. Angus is a great supporter of native plants and of the Australian Plants Society. He has recently assisted APS with activities hosted by Menai, Sutherland and Parramatta and The Hills Groups.

Angus now has his own website www.gardeningwithangus.com.au which we expect APS members will find informative and interesting. It includes information about recent releases of native plants and an extensive collection of articles on Australian plants.



Photo: D Crawford

Study Group notes

Rhonda Daniels, Study Group Liaison Officer

Many Study Groups would like to see more of the plants they are interested in grown in cultivation. Study Group members contribute by sharing information about what works and what does not, and posing possible explanations for the plant behaviour they observe. You don't have to be an expert to belong to a Study Group, just someone who is interested in learning more, is observant and keen to share information. Have a look at the wide range of Study Groups available and sign up to one.



Acacia Study Group (June 2012, No. 117)

This newsletter observes that there are many small beautiful Acacias that are not grown as much as they should be. A query from Costa Rica led to discussion about non-flowering of Acacias. The most likely explanation for the non-flowering of some of the Costa Rica Acacias, despite the formation of buds, is that the temperatures in Costa Rica are too high. There are two studies suggesting that temperature is an important factor in flower development with *Acacia pycnantha* and *Acacia baileyana*.

Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group (June 2012, No. 3)

This issue features an article and photographs of *Actinotus forsythii* (Pink Flannel Flower) which only seems to flower after two events – fire and then a lot of rain. It has been seen in the Blue Mountains, but there are also records of sightings in the Southern Tablelands and Victoria. Very striking and worth looking out for.

Banksia Study Group (Autumn 2012, No. 19)

This issue features a detailed profile of *Banksia marginata*, a highly variable species, usually ranging from a small shrub around a metre tall to a 12 m high tree, found from northern NSW, southwards into Victoria and South Australia, as well as across Tasmania. The species was first introduced into cultivation in England in 1802. There is also a report of a *B. marginata* stronghold in Bottle Forest at East Heathcote in Royal National Park.

Dryandra Study Group (July 2012, No. 63)

The natural home of Dryandras is Western Australia, but this issue reports on people having varying degrees of success growing them beyond their natural location. There is also an interesting discussion on the difficulties of establishing new plants among mature ones, which

is especially relevant for anyone wanting to replace a dead plant with another of the same species.

Eucalyptus Study Group (June 2012, No. 55)

This issue reports on eucalypts around Australia: from the Great Victorian Desert, box gum grassy woodlands in eastern Australia, a dry-land Eucalyptus arboretum at Melton in Victoria, and eucalypts at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group (July 2012, No. 22)

Member Megumi Bennett reports on her experience of using the Wollemi Pine as a bonsai. The tree has a single trunk with no branching and large frond-like leaves, but it does have a very ancient look. Observations over six years include that the trees adapt to many different environments, however they grow very well with sun in the morning, as strong afternoon sun tends to burn off the leaves at the ends. The mature frond-like foliage develops an unusual arrangement for the leaflets. The leaflets are arranged so that every second one points up and the next one points down.

Grevillea Study Group (August 2012, No. 92)

Grevillea Study Group members are concerned that the grafted grevilleas available in nurseries do not specify the species used for the grafting stock. This is frustrating as grafted plants are usually purchased because the scion will not grow on its own roots in the area where the purchaser intends to grow the plant, but neither will some of the stocks used in grafting. The Study Group suggests that wherever possible the nurseries ensure that the plant labels identify the grafting stock used; or where the 'grafter' prefers not to identify the species used as the grafting stock, then the plant label should give explicit details of the growing environment required by that stock.

Hibiscus and Related Genera Study Group (May/Jun 2012, No. 25)

This issue discusses cleistogamy, which is a breeding system in which permanently closed, self-pollinated flowers produce fertile seed. Study Group Leader Geoff Harvey feels that early season low temperatures, inadequate sunlight and slow development of the plants may trigger self-pollination through the appearance of cleistogamous flowers in Hibiscus and Gossypiums.

Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group (July 2012, No. 33)

The Study Group was asked by Sunshine Coast Regional Council to visit an area of approximately 100 hectares recently acquired by the Council to compile a list of plants. The area has been untouched for 20 years, with no fires through it, and is in reasonable condition. The

Study Group Leader laments that there are not many Wallum plants in cultivation, as it needs dedication, patience and persistence to discover the secrets of some of these plants and the time to devote to the work. The group welcomes members in NSW to share their knowledge of disappearing coastal habitats.

Correa Study Group

The Correa Study Group has produced a 45 minute PowerPoint presentation with audio narration to run on a computer with Microsoft PowerPoint installed. The presentation discusses all the Correa species and most of the varieties. The CD is ideal for individual use or to show at a Group meeting. It is available from the Correa Study Group c/o Russell Dahms, 13 Everest Av, Athelstone SA 5076. Email rdahms@internode.on.net. The cost is \$5 which includes postage within Australia.

Fern Study Group (August 2012, No. 126)

This Study Group is a very active group with regular activities in NSW to help members learn more about ferns.

Study Group activities in NSW

A list of Study Group activities held in NSW is included in *Native Plants for NSW* to make it easier for members to find out what activities are being planned in NSW.

Could NSW members of Study Groups please inform Rhonda Daniels, our Study Group Liaison Officer, at rhodaniels@bigpond.com, about any activities that are occurring in NSW for inclusion in the list?

Fern Study Group

Sat 20 Oct 2012 10.30 am, Fernery at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Sat 17 Nov 2012 11 am, Silky Oaks at 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale

Study Groups

If you are interested in studying, expanding your understanding or sharing your experiences in a particular aspect of Australian plants, why not join one or more of the many study groups that can be found in the Study Group directory on pages 41 and 42. You can join as 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: Contact 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.



Back cover:

This striking native floral arrangement was created by Helen Patience of the Menai Wildflower Group. Helen says 'High teas are in vogue. I got inspiration for this theme from the Queen's Jubilee arrangement at the Chelsea Flower Show, which I attended this year. I am very pleased I have been able to re-create this arrangement using Australian native flowers and foliage for the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Menai Wildflower Group'.



Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)

Visit ANPSA on the web at <http://anpsa.org.au>

Cultivation and propagation information, extensive photo gallery, ANPSA events, online magazine and much more.

Study group directory

Fees listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

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

Leader: Bill Aitchison

13 Conos Court, Donvale, VIC 3111

☎ (03) 9872 3583

Email: acaciastudygroup@gmail.com

Australian Food Plants (\$5)

In Recess – New Leader required

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@bigpond.com.au

Boronia & Allied Genera

In Recess – New Leader required

Brachychiton and Allied Genera

(\$5/\$10)

Leader: Kerry Rathie

6 Bright St, Toowoomba South QLD 4350

☎ (07) 4638 4305

Email: krathie6@bigpond.com

Calytrix

In Recess – New Leader required

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

Leader: Cherree Densley

9 Koroit Port Fairy Rd

Killarney VIC 3283

Email: correastudygroup@gmail.com

☎ (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: gwenelliott@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: Lachlan Garland

15 Duff St, Sandringham VIC, 3191

Email: lachlangarland@bigpond.com

☎ (03) 9598 4963

Study group directory continued

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 Allied 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)
Leader: David Lightfoot
36 Arundel Cres
Surrey Hills VIC 3127
Email: isopogons@gmail.com
☎ (03) 9836 0601

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

In Recess – New Leader required

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

Leader: Kerry Rathie (refer to
Brachychiton and 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
36 Railway Terrace
Moore QLD 4306
☎ (07) 3289 9272

Waratah and Flannel Flower (\$5)

Leader: Maria Hitchcock
16 Hitchcock Lane
Armidale NSW 2350
☎ (02) 6775 1139, 0421 961 007
Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

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

New members, October 2012

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 30 new members (25 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



Deborah Alderton	Boronia Park
P John Birks	Bonnells Bay
David Crestani	Bullaburra
Cameron Crofts	Bundanoon
Bill De Belin	Winston Hills
Symony Douglas	Bega
Grahame Forrest	Carlingford
Manuela and Giuseppe Giovenco	Bathurst
Garry Hayes	Raymond Terrace
Petra Holland	Hornsby Heights
Karen Hudson	Gymea
Liam Isaksen	Glenbrook
Peter Johnston	Dural
Enrico Macchi and Nicola Carter	Faulconbridge
James Middleton	Bronte
Robyn Murphy	Goulburn
Aidan Nyhan	Surry Hills
Bernadette O'Leary and Richard Bomford	Bega
Holly Parsons	Dapto
Mike Perabo	Helensburgh
Ling Lingn Qiu	Milsons Point
Ian and Sue Rogan	Millthorpe
Jason and Michelle Trenwith	Bowral
Leigh Tuck	Bowral
Ben Turco	Carlingford

Receiving the Annual Report – your options

In accordance with the *Corporations Law*, the Society is no longer obliged to send each member a copy of the annual report. Members may, however, elect to receive the APS NSW annual report either as a printed copy or an electronic copy. Members do not need to repeat their request for a copy of the report each year.

If you take no action, you will still be able to access the annual report online at the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au.

If you wish to receive a copy of the annual report please complete the following form, indicating your choice by placing a tick (✓) in the appropriate box. The form may be returned either by:

Mail: APS NSW
PO Box 5026
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146
Email as an attachment: office@austplants.com.au

Membership number: _____

Surname/s: _____

Given Name/s: _____

Street: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode _____

Country: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Email address: _____

Option 1: Receive the annual report by email ☐

Option 2: Receive a printed copy of the annual report ☐

District Groups' diary

Compiled by Jan Carnes, Blue Mountains Group

All members are welcome to attend Group meetings. For further details on another Group's activity that you may be interested in attending, contact that Group's secretary.



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

You can also view the current Group diaries and any recent updates or changes on-line at the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au.

October 2012

Date	Day	District Group	Event
3	Wed	Armidale and District	1 – 3 pm Arboretum working bee
		Newcastle	Meeting 7.30 pm at The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
		East Hills	Meeting 7.30 pm at Peakhurst South Primary School Library, Monterra Av, Peakhurst. Speaker: Noel Summerell on Bonsai with Australian native plants
4	Thu	Northern Beaches	Meeting 7.30 pm at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why
6	Sat	Tamworth	Garden Walk – gardens of Jan Freemantle and Pauline Bower
7	Sun	Blue Mountains	Visit to Phil Bendall's garden
		Southern Highlands	Bundanoon outing to see Judy Davis' garden
8	Mon	North Shore	Walks and Talks: Waratahs and other Proteaceae
10	Wed	Coffs Harbour	Meeting 7.30 pm at Botanic Gardens Display Room, Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour. Speaker: Morris Duggan on Volcanic and botanic hotspots – the Cainozoic volcanoes of Eastern Australia and their flora
		Menai	Meeting 7.30 pm at Illawong Rural Fire Service, Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong. Speaker: Wendy Kinsella on Native rats
		Parramatta and Hills District	Propagation: 10 am at Bidjiwong Community Nursery

October 2012 (continued)

Date	Day	District Group	Event
11	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGraths Hill. Contact Rick Jamieson on 4572 1321
		Nowra	Meeting 8 pm at Nowra Town Band Hall, 174 Kinghorne St, Nowra
12	Fri	Central Coast	Meeting 7.30 pm at Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Rd, Kariong. Speaker: Barry Dean on Early Port Jackson plants
		North Shore	Meeting 8 pm at Willow Park Community Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Av, Hornsby. Speaker: Mark Abell on Flora of the northern sand-plains of WA
13 – 14	Sat–Sun	Southern Tablelands	Trip to the Woodford area in the Blue Mountains
14	Sun	Central Coast	Walk to Box Head, Bouddi National Park
		Armidale and District	10 am to 4 pm Visit from Tamworth Group
15	Mon	North Shore	Walks and Talks: The beauty of mosses
16	Tue	Armidale and District	Forum 7.30 pm in TAFE Library Seminar Room, Beady St, Armidale. Speaker: Maria Hitchcock on Waratahs
		Newcastle	Midweekers: Garden visit
17	Wed	Sutherland	Meeting 8 pm at Gympie Community Centre, Gympie Bay Rd, Gympie. Speaker: Samantha Travers on How native mammals boost landscape health.
		Macarthur	Meeting 7.30 pm at Birriwa Community Hall, Fitzpatrick St, Mount Annan
		Hunter Valley	Meeting 7.45 pm in Polish Hall, corner of Grant and Old Rose Streets, Maitland
20	Sat	City-St George	9 am Binnamittalong working bee
		Sutherland	Home garden visit and Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point
		Parramatta and Hills District	Bushwalk Bidgigal Reserve
		Central West	Walk in Badgers Ground at Rylstone
22	Mon	North Shore	Walks and Talks: Bird Walk – 9 am start
26	Fri	Tamworth	Meeting 8 pm at Botanic Garden Meeting Room. Speaker: John Hosking on Watsons Creek

October 2012 (continued)

Date	Day	District Group	Event
27–28	Sat–Sun	Armidale and District	Mole Station weekend
28	Sun	Armidale and District	8 am – 12.30 pm Markets in the Mall
29	Mon	North Shore	Walks and Talks: Leptospermums and Baeckeas (Myrtaceae)

November 2012

Date	Day	District Group	Event
1	Thu	Northern Beaches	Meeting 7.30 pm at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why
		Southern Highlands	Meeting 2 pm at CWA Hall, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale, next to Council building. Speaker: Karlo Taliana on Growing WA native plants in the eastern states
3	Sat	Southern Tablelands	Trip to new local reserves
		South East Region	Meeting at alternating locations. Contact President or Secretary
3 – 4	Sat – Sun	Armidale and District	St Peter's open garden weekend – Bea Bleile
4	Sun	Blue Mountains	Walk in Florabella Pass. Meet Blaxland Community Centre 9.45 am
		Tamworth	Bushwalk to Watsons Creek led by John Hosking
5	Mon	Illawarra	Meeting 7.30 pm at Corrimal Library, Short St, Corrimal
		North Shore	Walks and Talks: Callistemons, Kunzeas, and Melaleucas (Myrtaceae)
7	Wed	Armidale and District	1 – 3 pm Arboretum working bee
		East Hills	Meeting 7.30 pm at Peakhurst South Primary School Library, Monterra Av, Peakhurst
		Newcastle	Meeting 7.30 pm at The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
8	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGraths Hill. Contact Rick Jamieson on 4572 1321
		Nowra	Meeting 8pm at Nowra Town Band Hall, 174 Kinghorne St, Nowra

November 2012 (continued)

Date	Day	District Group	Event
9	Fri	City-St George	Meeting 6.30 pm in Bexley Community Centre, 405 Bexley Rd, Bexley
		Central Coast	Meeting 7.30 pm at Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Rd, Kariong. Trivia night with Andrew Melville
		North Shore	Meeting 8 pm at Willow Park Community Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Av, Hornsby. Speaker: Shauna Chadlowe on Fighting back: Restoring Australia's biodiversity
11	Sun	North Shore	Garden visit or bushwalk
		Central Coast	Trip to Dangar Island
12	Mon	North Shore	Walks and Talks: Grasses (Poaceae)
14	Wed	Menai	Meeting 7.30 pm at Illawong Rural Fire Service, Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong. Speaker: Phil Keane on Native plants
		Parramatta and Hills District	Propagation: 10 am at Bidjivong Community Nursery
16	Fri	APS NSW State	Meeting at Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington. Speaker: Peter Olde on Grevilleas and Hakeas – One genus or two?
17	Sat	Central West	End-of-year function and AGM
		City-St George	9 am Binnamittalong working bee
18	Sun	Coffs Harbour	Walk in Coaldale Road Flora Reserve led by John Wrigley
20	Tue	Newcastle	Midweekers: Strickland Forest
		Armidale & District	Forum 7.30 pm in TAFE Library Seminar Room, Beardy St. Speaker: Angus Stewart
21	Wed	Sutherland	Meeting 8 pm at GyMEA Community Centre, GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA. Speaker: Sharon Ryall on Ants and plants
		Macarthur	Meeting 7.30 pm at Birriwa Community Hall, Fitzpatrick St, Mount Annan
		Hunter Valley	Meeting 7.45 pm in Polish Hall, corner of Grant and Old Rose Streets, Maitland
23	Fri	Parramatta and Hills District	Meeting and AGM 8 pm at Alix Scott Pavillion, Anglican Retirement Villages, Castle Hill
		Tamworth	Meeting 8 pm at Botanic Gdn Meeting Room. Speaker: Doreen Goddard on Native bonsai
25	Sun	Armidale & District	8 am – 12.30 pm Markets in the Mall

December 2012

Date	Day	District Group	Event
1	Sat	Southern Tablelands	AGM and end-of-year get-together
		Central Coast	AGM and end-of-year dinner combined with garden visit
2	Sun	Armidale & District	Christmas function
		Southern Highlands	Christmas outing
3	Mon	Illawarra	Meeting at Grevillea Park, Bulli
5	Wed	Newcastle	Christmas gathering 7.30 pm at The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd, Shortland
		East Hills	Meeting 7.30 pm at Peakhurst South Primary School Library, Monterra Av, Peakhurst. AGM and Christmas function
		Coffs Harbour	Meeting 7.30 pm at Botanic Gardens Display Room, Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour. Speaker: Gwyn Clarke on Alpine plants
7	Fri	Tamworth	Christmas party at Hardin's – catered for by Firey Cook
		Southern Tablelands	Meeting at alternating locations. Contact President or Secretary
		Blue Mountains	Christmas celebration 6 pm, Native Plant Reserve, GWH, Glenbrook
9	Sun	Coffs Harbour	Christmas Party at Elaine and Grahame Reid's place
11	Tue	Newcastle	Midweekers: Christmas lunch at Sugarloaf
12	Wed	Coffs Harbour	Meeting 7.30 pm at Botanic Gardens Display Room, Hardacre St, Coffs Harbour.
		Menai	Meeting and Christmas social evening 7.30 pm at Illawong Rural Fire Service, Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong
		Parramatta and Hills District	Propagation: 10 am at Bidjiwong Community Nursery
13	Thu	Hawkesbury	Meeting at Council Nursery, McGraths Hill. Contact Rick Jamieson on 4572 1321
14	Fri	North Shore	Christmas Party
		City-St George	6.30 pm Christmas Get-together
15	Sat	City-St George	9 am Binnamittalong working bee
28	Fri	Tamworth	Meeting 8 pm at Botanic Garden Meeting Room
30	Sun	Armidale and District	8 am – 12.30 pm Markets in the Mall

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 on some titles. Please check before purchasing.
- ✿ **Forests NSW Nurseries**
10% discount on all potted lines. West Pennant Hills, Muswellbrook, Gunnedah, Narrandera and Dubbo.
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.sydneywildflowernursery.com.au
10% discount

Armidale

- ✿ **Cool Natives. Retail & mail order**
16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale 2350
Open by appointment only
☎ 02 6775 1139 0421 961 007
Email: maria@coolnatives.com.au
Website: coolnatives.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 roster participants.

Central Coast

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

Central West

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

Nepean Valley

- ✿ **Darvill Nursery**
Darvill Rd, Orchard Hills 2748
Contact for price list or arrange to visit beforehand
☎ (02) 4736 5004
www.darvillnursery.com.au
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

South Coast

- ✿ **Wildgems Native Nursery**
Illawambra Valley Road, Yowrie 2550
☎ 0427 937 398
Wholesale / retail nursery. Please ring and arrange day before arriving.
10% discount

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.com.au

Postal address: PO Box 5026, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

President

John Aitken

Vice Presidents

Graeme Ingall and Harry Loots

Honorary Secretary

Graeme Ingall

NSW Membership Officer

Merle Thompson

☎ (02) 6352 3805 Fax: (02) 6351 2384

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Bob Ross ☎ (02) 6495 0306

Email: wenbobr@bigpond.net.au

Editor of *Native Plants for NSW*

David Crawford

Editors of *Australian Plants*

John Aitken and Merle Thompson

Publicity Officer

Mark Abell

Program Officer

Harry Loots

Property Officer

Roger Starling

**Nature Conservation Council
Representative**

Margery Street

Committees and services

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

**Management committee and
finance committee**

John Aitken and Graeme Ingall

Projects committee

Kyrill Taylor and Harry Loots

Publishing committee

APS NSW

Email: office@austplants.com.au

Appointments to external committees

ANPSA Council

Graeme Ingall ☎ (02) 4322 8296

John Aitken ☎ (02) 9589 1363

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: rhodaniels@bigpond.com

Seed bank curator

John Randall

8 Coachmans Pl, Mardi NSW 2259

☎ (02) 4353 9390

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Other services

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