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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 emailed, typed or hand written and accompanied by photographs and drawings. If handwritten, please print botanical names and names of people.

Photographs should be submitted as high resolution digital files, such as jpg.

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Front Cover: *Lepidozamia peroffskyana*, (Scaly or Pineapple Zamia) showing the female fruiting cone. Photo: Kevin Stokes.

Back Cover: *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* (Illyarrie, or Red-capped gum) with flower and buds.

Photo: Eastern Park Nursery Collection.

See page 35 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*

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Our next quarterly gathering is in September (p 4). It will be hosted by East Hills Group with Alan Fairley speaking about rare and unusual native plants. Alan is an experienced author and conservationist, best known for *Native Plants of the Sydney District* with Phillip Moore. The morning activity offers a chance to enjoy the delights of Sylvan Grove Native Garden. It will be spring and a great selection of plants will be in flower. Put the date (22 September) in your diary and give yourself a treat.



APS NSW needs members to step up and take on roles to help sustain the Society. This is the case for many volunteer groups and it is especially true for APS NSW at this time. Many district groups do not have delegates on the Board – this increasingly leaves the work to the few (who cannot go on forever) – we all know that many hands make light work. Our President (p 30) and Secretary (p 10) are both making this call. Now I am too! Wendy Grimm is standing down as Study Group Co-ordinator after 3 years doing an excellent job in the role. A replacement is needed – an opportunity for someone to broaden their knowledge of our flora. Please volunteer or if you know someone who would be good for the role – give them a nudge. I believe members get from the Society in proportion to what they give.

What's in this issue? A major article about a pioneering native plant nursery (p 16), a Victorian story, but one relevant to the history of growing and promoting Australian plants to the community. We also have new Life Members – find out about them and their contributions on pages 6 & 8.

Warren Sheather has written about *Grevillea acerata* and John Knight about members of the Pittosporum family that make good garden plants. Bonsai with natives comes courtesy of Coffs Harbour group. Thanks to all who contributed, including Kevin Stokes for his images in this issue. Please consider writing a short article, (ideally with a couple of images). I have said it many times before – if it's of interest to you, it will interest other members.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Alix Goodwin's significant contribution to APS NSW in recent years. Alix has stood down as Vice-President due to her demanding role as CEO of National Parks Association of NSW. We wish her well at a time when the natural environment is under siege on many fronts.

Future event

Spring Quarterly Gathering

Saturday, 22 September 2018

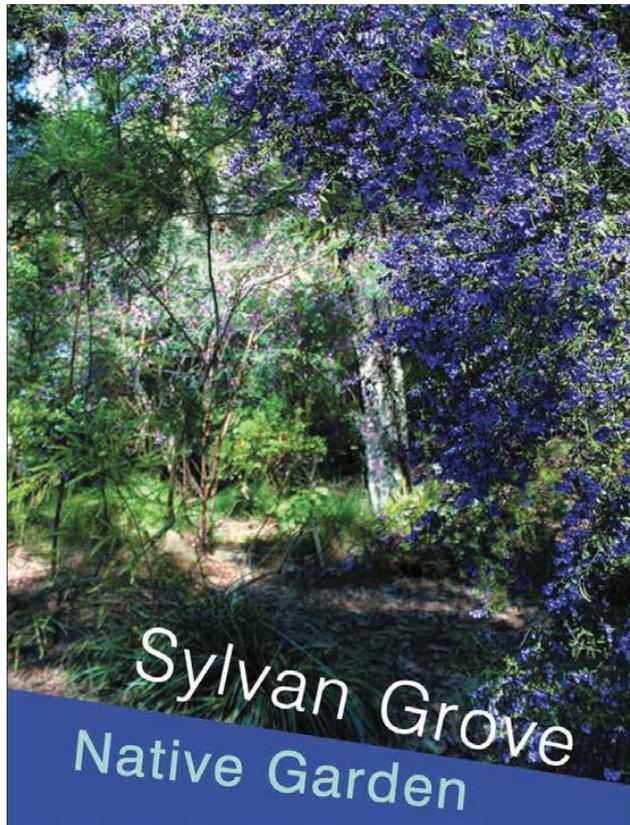
The third quarterly gathering for the year will be held on Saturday, 22 September. It will be hosted by the East Hills Group at the Peakhurst-Lugarno Uniting Church, 909 Forest Rd, Lugarno, NSW 2210 (opposite the Lugarno shopping centre).

Well-known author Alan Fairley will be the guest speaker and in the morning there will be a good opportunity to visit Sylvan Grove Native Gardens in Picnic Point. Afternoon tea and plant sales will be available at the meeting venue.

Program:

10.30 am – 12 noon: Garden visit to Sylvan Grove Native Garden, Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point 2213

The beautiful Sylvan Grove Native Garden is operated by Canterbury-Bankstown City Council. It has over 1500 species of native plants



which have been lovingly gathered and nurtured from all over Australia and planted in a magnificent 1.5 hectare bushland setting overlooking the Georges River. During the spring months, from mid-August to the end of November, you will see a spectacular display of flowers, including a great selection of native orchids.

More information can be found at easthills.austplants.com.au/sylvan.html, or search online for 'Sylvan Grove Garden Drum'.

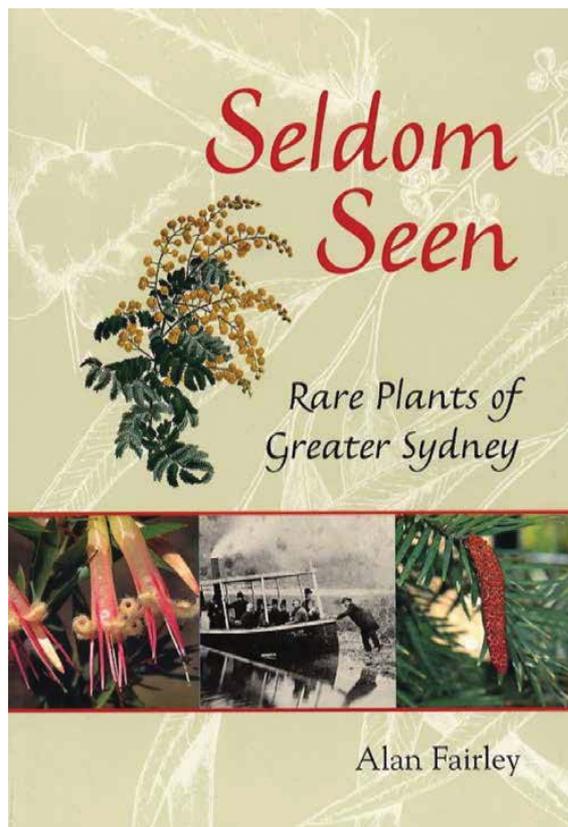
12 – 1 pm: Lunch. Bring your own and enjoy it at Sylvan Grove, or purchase food at the Lugarno shopping centre, opposite the meeting venue.

1 pm – 3 pm: Meeting, afternoon tea, plant sales. Guest Speaker: Alan Fairley, *Rare Plants of Greater Sydney*.

Peakhurst-Lugarno Uniting Church, 909 Forest Rd, Lugarno

\$5 Registration fee applies for this event to help cover costs.

Alan has lived in the Sydney area all his life and has been fascinated by natural history, particularly the local flora. He has been writing about and photographing native plants for three decades. He grew up on the margins of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and an interest in bushwalking and writing combined with a curiosity about natural systems led to his first book in 1972. His 25 books include guides to national parks, bushwalking and natural history topics. Together with Philip Moore he compiled the authoritative *Native plants of the Sydney region*. Alan is also the author of *Seldom Seen: Rare Plants of Greater Sydney*.



Alan is an excellent speaker, who will talk about plants that few people have ever seen, tell some stories about their discovery, look at those classified as 'Endangered' and suggest some species which may have garden potential (if seed is available). This is a talk that should not be missed.

The gathering will conclude with afternoon tea which always presents a good opportunity for members to socialise with plant enthusiasts from across Sydney and further afield. It is anticipated that native tubestock will be available for sale.

APS NSW Life Membership

Angela Speering

Based on the nomination prepared by the Newcastle Group which resulted in Angela receiving life membership of APS NSW at the May 2018 AGM.



Angela and her late husband, Geoff, joined the Society in 1975. They quickly joined the Newcastle Group committee and became involved with propagating and selling plants through a home nursery. Angela has been on committee in various roles continually, including many years as membership officer.

Angela joined the APS (Newcastle) Thursday Mob when she retired from full-time work in 2001. The Thursday Mob produce Australian plants for sale to the public from the Hunter

Wetlands Centre and through stalls at various shows. Angela has been instrumental in creating a professional nursery operation and in the process helping to distribute vast numbers of native plants into the community and helping the public to appreciate our wonderful and unique flora. Money raised from the nursery contributes to supporting the Australian Flora Foundation and the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens as well as the running of APS Newcastle Group.

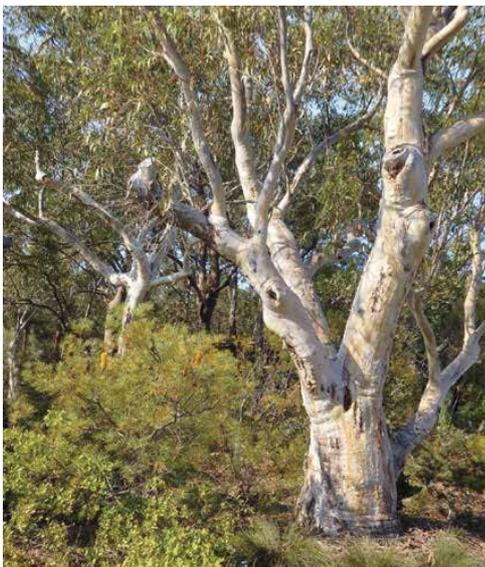
Employing her considerable skills, Angela has taken a major role with propagation workshops, helping to teach APS members and the public over many years.

Another of Angela's contributions to the group was to organise the mid-week outings for a number of years. She also played a part in the ANPSA Biennial Conference held in Newcastle in 2007.

For three years prior to the 2007 Conference, Angela was instrumental in making a 'showcase' of Parry's Place in the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens. This is an area of showy native plants suitable for garden

horticulture that is named for the Parry family who were very active promoters of native plants over many decades.

Newcastle Group of APS is proud to nominate Angela Speering for Life Membership as a fitting acknowledgement for 42 years of dedication to the promotion of the growing and preservation of Australian plants through our local group.



Some of the diversity on show in Ian Cox's garden which was open for inspection before the quarterly gathering in May. Photos: Jan Douglas

APS NSW Life Membership Warren and Gloria Sheather

Based on the nomination prepared by the Armidale and District Group which resulted in Warren and Gloria receiving life membership of APS NSW at the May 2018 AGM.

Gloria's interest in native plants goes back to childhood. Warren's goes back to Gloria. As a married couple they joined the Blue Mountains SGAP group and worked in the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve when it was first established.

They moved to Armidale and were foundation members of the New England Group of SGAP in 1977. From the outset Warren held various committee positions. He also contributed to our book *Australian Plants of the Northern Tablelands of NSW* (1980) and was a speaker at the 1992 State Conference held in Armidale, for which they also opened their garden.

After initially working in electronics, Warren followed his interest in native plants to become a National Parks Ranger, living in Warrumbungle NP and New England NP. With the family growing older they moved to Armidale and Warren took a position as Professional Officer in the Department of Botany at the University of New England where he completed an external Arts degree majoring in Botany.



Gloria and Warren receiving their life membership badges and certificates from John Aitken and Barbara Nevin (President Armidale group) waiting to present bouquets. Photo: Kevin Stokes

At the university Warren ran voluntary lunchtime teaching sessions for staff and students on native plant propagation. He also worked with the university administration to plant out the grounds with native plants, many of which he had grown.

Warren has promoted Australian plants throughout his life. He had a fortnightly column in the local newspaper (*Armidale Express*) for over thirty years. He has also written articles for the *Armidale Independent*, *Walcha News* and *Inverell Times*. He has been a regular contributor for the group newsletter, *Native Plants for NSW* and the Acacia Study Group.

For over twenty years he had a fortnightly half-hour session on ABC Saturday Gardening where he answered questions on air and discussed the propagation and cultivation of native plants.

He has been a regular guest speaker for many groups. Until recently he maintained his own website for over twenty-five years with over 500 items about Australian plants, wildlife and National Parks. (Much of the content of the website has been transferred to APS NSW recently upgraded website – Ed.)

Gloria and Warren developed a five acre block west of Armidale at Invergowrie where a large number of species were planted. This block served as a guide for those seeking to learn about revegetation after the Eucalyptus dieback of the 1970s that devastated the Northern Tablelands.

Twenty years ago they moved to a larger block, 'Yallaroo' (Aboriginal for beautiful flowers), where they continued to propagate and cultivate Australian plants. This garden has been visited by many groups: APS, gardening clubs, bird watching groups, and naturalist groups. It was part of the 2007 New England tour for the ANPSA biennial conference and Warren and Gloria also won the Golden Spade award from *Gardening Australia*, presented by Peter Cundall. It has served as a practical demonstration of what can be achieved with our local flora.

Throughout all this activity Warren and Gloria have worked as a team, with Warren regularly referring to Gloria on his radio program as his 'principal research officer'. They have been most generous in sharing their knowledge and plants with other APS members and the wider community.

They have been 'Australian Plants' for Northern NSW for forty years, increasing awareness and knowledge of the flora, fostering the growing of Australian plants, protecting and conserving Australian plants, at the local, regional, state and national level.

APS NSW Annual General Meeting

Heather Miles APS NSW Secretary

The AGM and gathering were held on 26 May, at the Gumnut Hall, Cherrybrook, generously hosted by Parramatta and Hills. The day was enjoyed by all including as it did a visit to Ian Cox's garden in Kenthurst, the AGM itself, a talk by Peter Olde on the genetics of grevilleas, a delicious afternoon tea and plant sales.

The AGM itself was attended by 72 members and one visitor. The Annual and Financial reports were presented and members unanimously accepted both. The election of three office bearers, being President (John Aitken), Treasurer (Harry Loots) and Non-titled Director (Merle Thompson) did not proceed due to an administrative error. These elections were adjourned to 20 June 2018 at the Sutherland Group's meeting, at Gymea Community Centre. This meeting was attended by 35 members, and their votes, along with 18 proxies, unanimously elected these officers.

Alix Goodwin did not seek re-election to the Board due to work commitments. However, she will continue to assist us in the preparation of the annual report. John Andrews has also stepped down as delegate for Central Coast. The Board would like to thank Alix and John for their valuable contributions during their time on the Board.

Current Board members are:

- John Aitken, President, Delegate Sutherland;
- Harry Loots, Treasurer, Delegate Northern Beaches;
- Heather Miles, Secretary, Delegate Hunter Valley;
- Merle Thompson, Delegate Central West, also appointed as Membership Officer;
- Graham Fry, Delegate East Hills;
- Tony Maxwell, Delegate Parramatta and Hills
- Roger Starling, Delegate North Shore.

Our other major non-board office holders who generously contribute their time to running the Society include:

- Conservation Officer – Dan Clarke
- Coordinator of APS NSW stand at the RAS – Leonie Hogue

- Editor of *Native Plants for NSW* – David Crawford
- Editors of *Australian Plants* – Merle Thompson, John Aitken
- Office support/web – Heather Miles, Glenda Browne
- Study Group Liaison – Wendy Grimm

The Board is keen to hear from members who would like to offer their time, either on the Board or as non-board office-holders, to assist in running the Society at the state level.

Plant profile

Grevillea acerata

Warren Sheather is well-known to many APS members. Until recently he was a member of the Armidale Group and wrote an occasional column about plants of the New England region. He and wife Gloria have decided it is time to down-size and are moving to the lower Blue Mountains to be closer to family. Warren will continue to write for Native Plants for NSW, group newsletters and study groups, but has discontinued the website (www.yallaroo.com.au). Much of the native plant information from that site is available on the upgraded APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au

Gibraltar Range National Park (GRNP) is situated east of Glen Innes, on the Northern Tablelands of NSW. The park is bisected by the Gwydir Highway and shares boundaries with Washpool, Barool and Nymboida national parks. GRNP is home to a varied range of native plants. At last count 32 species were classified as rare and/or threatened. This time we will concentrate on *Grevillea acerata*, one of five rare grevilleas that are protected in the park.

G. acerata is confined to GRNP. Coming from Glen Innes, along the Gwydir Highway, plants are relatively common and are often observed growing in company with *Telopea aspera*, the Gibraltar Range Waratah, another rare species.

Grevillea acerata is a short shrub that is usually about one metre tall. Young growth is light green and mature leaves are linear, green above and whitish below. Each leaf is crowned with a prickly point. Clusters of flowers are carried at the end of branches. They are hairy and an unusual grey-pink and white colour. Flowering is profuse between June and December. Sporadic blooms may appear at other times. Flower colour and shape are similar to *G. buxifolia* (Grey Spider Flower), *G. sphacelata* (also known as Grey Spider Flower) and the well-known hybrid *G. 'Evelyn's Coronet'*.

Initially *G. acerata* was included with *G. sphacelata*. *G. acerata* was named by Donald McGillivray in 1986, based on material collected in GRNP in 1973. The species name means lacking horns and refers to the end of the style.

This colourful small shrub would enhance a cottage garden or rockery. Although it is protected in a national park, this grevillea (like other rare species) should be brought into cultivation to ensure its long-term survival, quite apart from its horticultural interest. In cultivation, *G. acerata* appreciates light pruning to keep it bushy and blooming bounteously. Propagate this rare and colourful species from cuttings.



Close-up of the inflorescence and bud of *Grevillea acerata*. Photo: W Sheather



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W.A. Pilbara Reef & Ranges

▲ (Easy Camping Tour)

15 Day Camping Tour – Departs 16th April 2019

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Rudall River Expedition (NEW ITINERARY)

13 Day Camping Tour – Departs Newman 23rd May 2019

Join us as we head to the very remote, harsh, yet beautiful Rudall River National Park, situated approximately 400km east of Newman in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. This is truly one of the most remote wilderness areas in the world.

Kimberley Encounter (NEW TOUR)

11 Day Camping /Accommodated Tour – Departs Broome 24th May 2019

This new tour provides the opportunity to explore the best of the Gibb River Road including Windjana, Bells and Galvins Gorges, visits to Mt Elizabeth and El Questro Stations. We have also included a visit to Drysdale River Station on the Kalumburu Road where there is an opportunity to undertake an optional flight to or over the Mitchell Falls.



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Botanical Names and Pronunciation

This article is reproduced from the December 2017 issue of *Native Plants Queensland*. It originally appeared in 'The Native Gardener', the newsletter of the SGAP Townsville Branch back in April 1999, proof that some topics are always current and may never be fully resolved.

Not to set too fine a point on it, botanical names were invented so that scientists can communicate with one another even though they do not share a common tongue. However, as there are two different accepted ways of pronouncing these names in English-speaking countries alone, it is my sincere hope that foreign scientists write to one another.

The first system is called Reformed or Restored Academic and is based on what classical scholars consider to be the sounds and stresses of ancient Greek and Latin. In this system **c** and **g** are always hard as in cat and god and **i** is always short as in hip.

With different stresses as well, this leads to Acacia being sounded as akarkia and Cycas as kickas! Easy to see why the preferred system in Australia is the second system namely Traditional English. This system follows the traditional English pronunciation of the classical languages. The use of **c** is much more instinctive and generally sounded as it would be in English, depending on the vowel that follows. Thus in this system Acacia becomes a-KAYsha.

Different from English though is the pronunciation of **ch**. It is always sounded as **k** as in kirk; not **ch** as in church.

The letter **g** can be a little bothersome, although the rule is to soften it to **j** if followed by **e** or **i**. Thus the species name for Cooktown Orchid should be pronounced bi-JIBB-um even though the surname Gibb is sounded with a hard **g**. Even so, bi-GIBB-um is better than biggy-bum – and we've all been guilty of that one!

Which brings us to the stress (or accent) on the word. The following parts of a botanical name usually take the main accent:

-dendron (tree), – thamnus (shrub), -phytum (plant), -anthus (flower), -petalum (petal), -sepalum (sepal), -calyx (calyx), -opsis (with the form of), -glossum (tongue), -carpus (fruit), -spermum (seed), -phyllum (leaf), -loma (fringe), -achne (chaff), -chloa (grass), -podium (foot), -theca (seed-box), -andra (male) and -stylis (style).

Overseas experts also recommend – stemon (stamen) be included in this list. Thus Callistemon should be pronounced callySTEEMon. The Australian pronunciation caLISTamon is however so entrenched here that it will probably never be undone!

Names formed from surnames usually involve the stress being moved to the second syllable. Thus C.F. Greville, an algae expert who introduced and grew rare plants, would have pronounced his name GREV-ille but the genus of plants that commemorates his name is pronounced greVILLLea.

The author of this article intends to remain anonymous to 'protect the guilty' but wishes to pay homage to *Australian Plant Genera* by James A Baines and *Dictionary of Botanical Names* by Don Perrin.

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Reflections and recollections on the Eastern Park Nursery in Geelong Victoria

Elizabeth Jacka is the youngest child of Morton and Mollie Boddy. She is a retired landscape architect and town planner, and has recently moved to Bowral in NSW from the Yarra Valley in Victoria where she and her husband had a small walnut and chestnut orchard. This article is based on a presentation she made to the Southern Highlands group earlier this year.

I plan to tell something of the story of my parents, Morton and Mollie Boddy, who established an Australian plant nursery – the Eastern Park Nursery in Geelong, Victoria – in March 1951.



Morton Boddy circa 1966 seated on a rock in the nursery with a section of the nursery plantation visible behind him

What I have to say in this talk is based on my recollections as a child and on my personal interpretation of events. As a Victorian I will be telling a Victorian story, which I hope will still be of interest in NSW.

So, what prompted a couple in their late 40s to take this radical step, at a time when there was little interest in growing Australian plants, whether in the home garden or in the broader landscape?

After my father returned to Australia at the end of World War II we moved to Nhill in north-western Victoria. Morton had always been a

keen gardener and a great lover of the Australian bush. At Nhill he developed a special affection for the surrounding Mallee Scrub – and in particular, the Lawloit Ranges just out of Nhill.

During our time at Nhill, soldier settler schemes were being established in the nearby fragile desert country with disastrous effects – vast areas of native scrub were cleared and the fragile soils quickly eroded. Morton was incensed and wrote copious letters to politicians and newspapers, expressing concern about the disastrous effects of the scheme.

In 1949 he visited the Natural Resources and Conservation League's nursery at the nearby town of Wail. The Wail nursery was at that time under the management of Alf Gray who, later that year, moved to Glenmorgan in Queensland to help Dave Gordon establish his vast and quite famous Australian plant collection at Myall Park.

The Wail nursery was producing Australian trees for use on farm properties, and was producing them at affordable prices in wood veneer tubes. Morton's visit to the Wail nursery brought together his love of Australian native flora, his concerns about broad scale land clearance that was occurring in the area, and his belief in the need to urgently revegetate the land in order to address this massive land degradation.

After the Wail visit the decision was quickly made to follow Alf Gray's example and to establish a plant nursery producing low cost Australian trees and shrubs for windbreaks and other farm plantations. Copious quantities of seed were gathered from the surrounding area during 1950 – I remember the table tennis table in our play room was covered with boxes of seed vessels.

In March 1951 we moved to Geelong.



(L) Mallee scrub in the Lawloit Ranges with *Eucalyptus viridis* – note the marker stick used to indicate plant height and spread. (R) Weeping *Eucalyptus leucoxydon* on the road to the Lawloit Ranges – on a track in the middle of nowhere and yet a protective fence was erected around the tree prior to 1950 – nice that its significance was recognised way back then. Another marker stick can be seen.

The nursery's development

The nursery began in a very humble way in the back yard of our house and continued for several years as a backyard operation. But the nursery gradually expanded, and by the mid-1950s land had become available across the road, and the main nursery moved to this larger site.

My brother Ralph soon joined my parents in the nursery operation, and 10 years after these first beginnings the nursery was advertising 3000 varieties of plants. In the SGAP magazine dated March 1963, the Eastern Park Nursery was advertising 3000 varieties of plants, when other nurseries were advertising 250 – 300 varieties.

Collection of plant materials

Plant materials were collected from all over the country. My parents and Ralph travelled thousands of miles gathering cuttings and seeds. In those early days there was a dedicated band of plant collectors and



(Top left) Original site of the nursery in the backyard at 32 Denman Street, East Geelong. (Top right) Part of the new site for the nursery across the road in Walter Street. This is the south west corner of the site, and the lack of a plantation along the fence line indicates that this photograph was taken just after the move. In the distance is the glimpse of another part of the nursery on the opposite side of the road. The photo shows tube stock and larger plants in reused fruit tins. (Bottom left) Area adjacent to TR showing the only propagation structures – a small domestic glasshouse and a small shade house. This did not change during the life of the nursery. (Bottom right) More of the nursery on the other side of the brush fence, a little later than other photos as there is now some sign of the fence line plantation and a sprinkler system.

propagators who would share whatever they had, and closer to home a number of early plant collectors shared seed from their plantations – Dr Lang at Titanga and the Dennis brothers at Tarn Warcourt in the Western District, Garnet Hateley near Ararat and the Lindner brothers in north-west Victoria. At one time my brother Ralph hired a light plane and pilot and went exploring through central Australia, putting down where the vegetation looked interesting.

Not only did the plant materials have to be collected, but they had to be properly identified and their growth habit and cultivation requirements researched, and at that time there was limited literature on the Australian flora – books such as Costerman (*Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia*) and the Elliott and Jones' *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants* had not yet been published.

Expansion into garden plants

The main focus of the nursery in the early days was in plants suitable for windbreaks on rural properties and other planting in the broader landscape. These plants – mainly eucalypts – were grown in wood veneer tubes and local school children earned pocket money making up the tubes.

The next major influence in the development of the nursery was a visit to Ben Schubert's nursery in suburban Melbourne. Ben and Dulcie Schubert established their nursery in 1947, growing Australian trees and shrubs for the home garden. Inspired by the Schubert nursery my parents quickly expanded their range of plants.

However, production of plants for the home garden required a change in production technique. They recognised that tube stock would not be acceptable to most home gardeners, and Morton was strongly opposed to the commonly used terracotta pots. And in those days plastic pots were not available. However, my father was a great recycler, and re-used food cans, with holes punched near the bottom, were used for the garden plant range – large fruit tins, and beer cans for smaller plants. The beer cans did cause some amusement – and why not – there was certainly a plentiful supply!

Morton also improvised in other aspects of nursery production – tomato cases were used to hold batches of 50 tubes, venetian blind slats were used for plant labels, and so on.

Soon the nursery was selling plants to all parts of Australia. Plants were generally sent by rail in specially designed cartons. Truckloads of plants were collected by the Victorian Railways two and three times a week.



Cartons of plants being loaded onto a truck – the photo is labelled DCA, Tasmania.



Migrant women weeding in the nursery.

Migrant women were employed to weed and do general work around the nursery.

Thistle Harris, writing of one of her visits to Victoria, commented that she was *'amazed on each visit to this nursery at its growth'*.

Promotion of Australian native plants



(L-R) Mollie Boddy, Morton Boddy, Ralph Boddy, Ivo Hammet, Ernest Lord, Richard Pescott, Gibson Shaw, Ros Garnet, Arthur Swaby.

At the time the plant nursery was established, in 1951, there was virtually no demand for Australian plants. Some interest did start to develop during the 1950s, and in 1957 the inaugural meeting of SGAP was held, with a membership of 600. However, the real interest in use of Australian plants came in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but by that time the Eastern Park Nursery had closed its gates – the nursery closed in 1968.

But during the time the nursery was operating Morton worked tirelessly promoting the use of Australian plants.

At the start, apart from advertising in the Weekly Times and setting up displays at country shows, Morton spent a great deal of time talking to farming groups – advocating planting windbreak trees – eucalypts and other native species in three-row plantations.

Morton also carried out follow up visits to the properties of farmers who had bought trees from the nursery – checking on the success of the planting and advising on tree selection and planting techniques.

Success gradually came to the nursery as a result of these promotion strategies. However, as production increased, more promotional work was required.

In April 1958 a field day held at the nursery was attended by some 300 people (see photo above) – a pretty good turnout for a cold blustery day. Speakers included Richard Pescott, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens; Arthur Swaby, founder of SGAP; Ivo Hammet, inaugural president of SGAP; Ros Garnet, president of the Field Naturalists Club and Ernest Lord, author of 'Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens'.



Phebalium squamulosum subsp. *ozothamnoides*
(Alpine Phebalium).



Beaufortia sparsa (Swamp Bottlebrush)
from coastal south west of WA.

Interestingly, Mr Pescott in his speech referred to a proposal to establish an arboretum of native flora on the Mornington Peninsula, as an annex to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. The Cranbourne Botanic Gardens were finally opened to the public in 2006 – nearly 50 years later!

Morton also contributed articles to gardening magazines – promoting the growing of Australian plants. He wrote regular articles for both the *Australian Garden Lover* and *Your Garden* magazines from 1957 to 1963.

In 1967 a small Planting guide for Australian trees and shrubs was published. The landscape architect Ron Rayment had at one time been in partnership with Ellis Stones, and told me this guide was used as their ONLY reference on Australian plants.

Numerous talks on growing Australian plants were also given by Morton and Mollie to gardening groups. A magnificent collection of slides was put together to illustrate those talks, all carefully organised



Nursery plantation – the label for the pink
flowered plant in the centre is *Isopogon formosus*.



Nursery plantation – front row *Acacia aculeatissima*, *Tetradlea ciliata*, centre row *Helichrysum cinereum*, *Pimelea rosea*, *Leschenaultia biloba*.



Raised nursery plantation, with rocks used to provide protection for *Clianthus speciosus* (old name for Sturt's Desert Pea which is currently *Swainsona formosa*).



Another raised nursery bed with *Grevillea lavandulacea* and other plants mulched with screenings.

in alphabetical order, illustrating many of the plant species they were growing and advocating for use in home gardens See the two images above and the back cover photo.

Perhaps most importantly of all, plantations were established throughout the nursery that not only enhanced the nursery, but also provided useful examples of plants they were producing, plus valuable propagation material. The plantations comprised a mix of trees, shrubs and ground covers, and all plants were carefully labelled so that visitors to the nursery could wander around and select for themselves plants that suited their needs.

The plantations also illustrated planting techniques for the more difficult species – the use of raised beds, use of rocks for protection and mulching, and suitable mulching materials (such as screenings).

The growth of interest in Australian plants

The formation of SGAP in 1957 signalled the beginning of a growing interest in the use of Australian plants in home gardening and the wider landscape. The early nurserymen, such as George Althofer at Dripstone in NSW and Ben Schubert and Morton Boddy in Victoria, filled a large void at a time when there was an awakening awareness of the beauty and suitability of our native flora.

These nurserymen played an important role in both developing an interest in the cultivation of Australian plants and, most importantly, in providing the plant materials. At that time the Eastern Park Nursery was providing a remarkably wide variety of plants – plants that were suitable for a wide range of conditions and uses, and also plants of interest to the growing band of enthusiastic plant collectors.

Alastair Knox in his book 'We are what we stand on' referred to the nursery as the 'most famous Australian plant farm of the early 1950s'. Other early texts on Australian plants, such as Wrigley and Fagg, referred to the important role of Eastern Park Nursery and other pioneering nurseries in promoting the use of Australian plants.

So, in conclusion I would like to echo the sentiment in Glen Wilson's book 'Landscaping with Australian Plants' in which he dedicated his book:

'To the pioneers of cultivating and propagating native Australian plants. Their enthusiasm, foresight and persistence awakened the Australian gardener, first the amateur and then the professional, to the potential of growing and working with our own incredibly adaptable and unique flora'.

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: Barbara Nevin ☎ (02) 6775 2128
Email: barbnevin@gmail.com
Secretary: Penelope Sinclair ☎ (02) 6771 5639
PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Email: apsarmidale@gmail.com

Meetings: ASCA House, 166 Barney Street, Armidale (alternating with excursions) 3rd Saturday of the month at 2.00 pm (excluding December, January, June & July).

Blue Mountains

President: Dick Turner ☎ (02) 4739 5362
Secretary: Alix Goodwin ☎ 0450 430 891
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: Pat Carlton ☎ (02) 4394 0228
Secretary: Joan Harden ☎ (02) 4325 3807
Email: aps.cc.secty@gmail.com

Meetings: Phillipp House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong
Generally 2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 7.30 pm but winter meetings on Saturday afternoons. Check website for details.
Website: www.australianplants.org

Central West

President: Roy Menzies ☎ (02) 6337 7388
Email: rjmenzies@activ8.net.au
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
Email: l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Meetings: Monthly outings to various locations. Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour

President: Alison Moore ☎ 0439 597 118
Email: anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au
Secretary: Robert Watt ☎ (02) 6655 0043
PO Box 241 Bellingen NSW 2454
Email: rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au

Meetings: Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Display Room normally on the 2nd Tuesday of each month alternating between day (10 am) and evening (7 pm). Excluding January.

East Hills

President: Graham Fry ☎ (02) 9580 6621
Email: fryg45@gmail.com
Secretary: Karl Schurr ☎ (02) 9644 8217
Email: kschurr@bigpond.net.au

Meetings: Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm (excluding January).

Hawkesbury

Contact: Arthur Rutter ☎ (02) 4577 3271
99 The Terrace, Windsor NSW 2756
Email: aande42@bigpond.com.au

Meetings: This group was re-launched at the APS NSW gathering in November 2014.

Hunter Valley

President: David Williams ☎ 0439 505 899
Email: davidvacy@gmail.com
Secretary: Andrew Pengelly ☎ 0468 535 234
30 Lindsay Rd North Rothbury NSW 2335
Email: apengelly@muih.edu

Meetings: (Except winter see below) The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm. Winter (Jun-Aug) 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 am in members' gardens.

Illawarra

President: Kath Gadd ☎ 0414 333 475
Email: kath@malleedesign.com.au
Keith Hunter ☎ 0481 599 008
Email: keithjohnhunter@gmail.com

Facebook: type 'APS Illawarra' in the Facebook search bar.

Activities: This group is aiming to have an activity each month – check the Facebook page or contact the leaders.

Australian Plants Society NSW

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Membership application and renewal form

Please select your application type.

New member. I wish to apply for membership of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd and agree to the Memorandum and Articles of Association at www.austplants.com.au

Renewing member: Membership number _ _ _ _ _
Please tick if any details have changed from last renewal

Gift membership. Donor name _____
Include any personal card you wish to accompany the new member's pack.

1. Complete your details

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone () _____

District Group (if relevant) _____

2. Select your membership type

12 months membership. Rates at 1 January 2017. GST inclusive. Joint membership applies to two people 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.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$56 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual – Concession | \$48 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint | \$66 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint – Concession | \$58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas | A\$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 year renewal | 3x\$ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optional donation to APS NSW | \$ _____ | | |

3. Select your payment method

Cheque or money order payable to Australian Plants Society NSW

Visa MasterCard

Card number _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

Expiry date _ _ / _ _

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Cardholder's signature _____

Direct deposit

Bank ANZ

Account name Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

BSB 012 352

Account no. 302 301 693

Please use as the reference your surname and 6-digit membership number which is on your membership card and your journal mailing envelopes. Please email merleaps@bigpond.com to advise of your deposit.

4. Return your form by post or email

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

Membership inquiries

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer
merleaps@bigpond.com
Ph (02) 6352 3805 Fax (02) 6351 2384



Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
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District Group directory continued

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies ☎ (02) 4653 1275
Secretary: Rod Bray ☎ (02) 4647 9928
147 Holdsworth Drive, Mt Annan NSW 2567
Email: yarbdor@westnet.com.au
Meetings: Birriwa Reserve Clubrooms on Waterworth Drive Mt Annan NSW 2567. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.00 pm (Feb-Nov).

Menai

President: Jason Cockayne ☎ (02) 9570 8559
Email: Jay.shaz@hotmail.com
Secretary: Annette Tuckfield ☎ (02) 9543 1490
Email: menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au
PO Box 3104, Bangor NSW 2234
Meetings: Illawong Rural Fire Service. 2nd Saturday of the month at 1 pm (June–Aug) 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.00 pm (others excluding January).

Newcastle

President: Colin Lawrence ☎ (02) 4965 6110
Email: president.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Secretary: Maree McCarthy ☎ (02) 4943 0305
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: Conny Harris ☎ (02) 9451 3231
Email: northernbeaches@austplants.com.au
Joint Secretaries:
Julia Tomkinson ☎ (02) 9949 5179
Penny Hunstead ☎ (02) 9999 1847
PO Box 393 Dee Why NSW 2099
Meetings: Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee Why. 1st Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm (Feb-Nov).

North Shore

President Barry Lees ☎ 9653 3691
Email: president@blandfordia.org.au
Secretary: Sue Bowen ☎ 0478 957 951
PO Box 141 Roseville 2069
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).
Website: www.blandfordia.org.au

Nowra

President: Lesley McKinnon ☎ (02) 4421 3212
Secretary: Gwen Smith ☎ (02) 4443 3497
PO Box 180, Tomerong NSW 2540
Email austplantsnowra@gmail.com
Facebook: australianplantsocietynowra
Meetings: North Nowra Community Centre 7 Hood Close, North Nowra. 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.30 pm.

Parramatta and The Hills District

President: vacant
Secretary: vacant
Email: info@apsparrahills.org.au
Meetings: Bi-monthly meetings 2 pm on 4th Saturday of Feb, April, June, August, Sept and Nov at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook
Website: www.apsparrahills.org.au

South East Region

President: John Knight ☎ 0434 674 347
Email: johnnonvista49@outlook.com
Secretary: Michele Pymble ☎ (02) 4473 8587
Email: secretary.apsse@gmail.com
Meetings: At various locations, generally on 1st Saturday of every month except January. Contact President or Secretary.
Website: southeast.austplants.com.au

Southern Highlands

President: Kristine Gow ☎ (02) 4861 1913
Email: krislloyd2@bigpond.com
Secretary: Kay Fintan ☎ (02) 4861 2594
Email: kaynbrian@bigpond.com
2 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Bowral 2576
Meetings: CWA Room, next to Council building in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale at 2 pm on the first Thursday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug and Nov.

Southern Tablelands

President: Tim Hayes ☎ 0468 472 237
Email: knockaroura@skymesh.com
Secretary: Bob Galland ☎ 0407 248 154
PO Box 1046 Goulburn NSW 2580
Email: rcgalland1@bigpond.com
Meetings: Only when essential – our group is concentrating on walks and other activities.

Sutherland

President: John Aitken ☎ (02) 9589 1363
Email: jeaitken@gmail.com
Secretary: Leonie Hogue ☎ (02) 9528 6083
Email: leoniehogue@gmail.com
Meetings: Gymea Community Centre, Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 pm (February–November).
Website: www.sutherland.austplants.com.au/

Tamworth

President: Matt Cosgrove ☎ (02) 6765 2693
Email: cosgrove72@bigpond.com
Secretary: Martin O'Rourke ☎ 0409 036 668
PO Box 1193, Tamworth NSW 2340
Email: apstamworth@gmail.com
Meetings: Botanic Garden Meeting Room. 9.30 am on 4th Saturday Feb to Nov. Outings and field trips at other times – contact the Secretary.

New members April 2018

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 48 new members (40 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



Christine Aus	Charlestown
Ken & Leontine Barnett	Armidale
Gerard Batt	Brisbane
Trevor Brown	Pennant Hills
Christine Burgess	Cronulla
John Byrnes	Burwood
Raymond & Susan Cantrell	Armidale
Merrie Caruana	Croydon
Malcolm Causley	Morpeth
Glenda Clarke	St Ives
Phil Densem	Gordon
Fiona Dhu	Barrington
Dorothea & Peter Drinkall	Wallerawang
Katharine Duggin	Bardwell Valley
Maryann Ebsworth	Trangie
Sara Edwards	Wahroonga
Bruce & Elizabeth Gardiner	Salisbury Plains
Katherine & Simon Gilmore	Nowra
Matt Goodwin	Glenwood
Mark Green	South Hurstville
Shirley Edith Hardaker	Armidale
Caroline Hood	West Pennant Hills
Jane Jiang	Penshurst
David King	Maroubra
John Knight	World Square
Antoni & Maureen Kunach	Moore Creek
Janelle & Mick Marr	Berowra Heights
Ron Mastus	Normanhurst

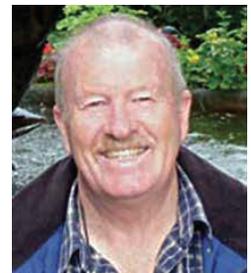
Matt McKenzie	Armidale
Michelle Moon	Denman
Ruth Nielsen	Eugowra
Brent Oughton	Dudley
Margaret Pearson	Eleebana
Martin Steel	Newtown
Margaret Stimpson	Armidale
Adrian Svensson	Dungog
Ian & Sue Twaddle	Glenhaven
Lisa Venables	Kincumber
Dudley Weir	East Branxton
Kim Zegenhagen	Bowral

Vale

It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of Bruce Abell, an early president of Newcastle group and one of the founders of Hunter Valley group. Bruce was the father of life member, Mark and the late member, Peter.

President's Report

Congratulations to the Parramatta-Hills Group for hosting a wonderful quarterly gathering in May and for its wonderful organisation, which ensured the day was a great success. The Parra-Hills Group once again spoiled us with both their friendly hospitality and their sumptuous afternoon tea.



I would also like to thank the Sutherland Group for enabling us to hold the deferred election for office bearers at their recent meeting.

Alix Goodwin (APS NSW Vice President) did not seek re-election to the Board, due to work commitments, and John Andrews is no longer the delegate for Central Coast. I would like to thank both Alix and John for their valuable contributions during their time on the Board and the time they have given to attend meetings. I would like to particularly thank Alix for her enormous energy and the contributions she made to the development and implementation of our strategic plan and for preparing our annual reports. I am very concerned, however, that their loss will result in an increased work load for those us remaining on the Board.

I am very grateful to the following non-board members who generously give up their valuable time to assist the Board.

Dan Clarke, Conservation Officer

Leonie Hogue, APS NSW display coordinator at the Royal Easter Show

David Crawford, editor *Native Plants for NSW*

Glenda Brown, email manager

Wendy Grimm, Study Groups coordinator

Brian Roach, assistant membership officer.

We still need more members to volunteer in either a board or non-board position to lighten the load of the existing Board members. Unless we get more help, some Board members will not be standing for re-election next year, further reducing our effectiveness.

Can I encourage you to read the recent annual report, which can be found in the members' section of our website. The report includes an excellent insight on how our District Groups are progressing. I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the Groups and the wonderful variety of programs they provide for their members.

I had the recent pleasure of visiting the South East and Central West Groups and speaking with Janice Hughes from the Nowra Group. Although these three groups have been unable to form committees, they are determined to continue. Whilst their meetings are still very well attended and the members are full of enthusiasm, it is a matter of finding people who are prepared to take on responsibility. The Nowra Group has come up with an excellent arrangement where each of its members has agreed to take on the responsibility of organising and running a monthly meeting. As a Society, we need to design a new business model which will address the problems faced by the smaller groups so that they can continue to operate.

Sadly, one of our long term members, Bruce Abell, passed away on Saturday, 24 June. Bruce had a passion for Australian native plants that he passed on to his children and many others. He was a past president of the Newcastle Group and was one of the founders of the Hunter Valley Group. Bruce will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all those who knew him. On behalf of APS NSW I send our condolences to Bruce's family.

Finally, congratulations to Maria Hitchcock, Armidale and District Group, for receiving the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her contributions to conservation and the environment.

Bonsai with Australian plants

This article is based on a presentation to the Coffs Harbour Group in April. Their President, Alison Moore, wrote the words and Secretary, Rob Watt, provided the images.

Can you use Australian native plants for bonsai? The short answer is yes, but what native species work best for this Japanese art form and ancient practice of 'tray planting'?

Similar practices exist in other cultures, including the Chinese tradition of *penjing*, from which the art originated. At their April meeting, the Coffs Harbour district group enjoyed an informal presentation by Symon Dworjanyan who has made Bonsai his almost all-consuming passion when he is not doing his day job as a Marine Ecologist.

Symon had brought along three large specimens from his collection;

1. *Eucalyptus grandis* (Flooded Gum), which in nature is a handsome straight tree to 50 m in height with smooth white bark.
2. *Callicoma serratifolia* (Black Wattle – a common name shared by a number of native plants around Australia). This is the species which was used by early settlers in making their wattle and daub houses. It is a tall shrub or sometimes a small tree.
3. *Cryptocarya glaucescens* (Jackwood) is a rainforest tree found from southern NSW up into Queensland and growing to 30 m.

Nothing like taking on a challenge with such tall growing species!



Callicoma serratifolia



Jackwood or *Cryptocarya glaucescens*

An important part of the bonsai process is of course choosing the right container, and Symon described how the colour of the pot is crucial but also its shape whether rectangular, oval, round or square. The pot's dimensions are essential from a practical point of view (the root mass needs careful consideration), and the container should complement the plant's size and positioning and set it off to best artistic advantage.

For the purposes of the demonstration Symon had left some of the leaves on the Black Wattle at their natural size, which meant that people could see how to prune the stems to achieve the desired size and shape which then initiated smaller fresh growth. He explained the importance of choosing a well-drained medium so as not to waterlog the plants with the watering regime that these plants need. Bonsai plants are best suited to an outdoor life: they can of course be brought inside for limited periods to enjoy, but otherwise should be placed outside in the sunshine with reasonable shelter from strong winds which would otherwise dry them out.

Some members were surprised to learn that specialist tools are not essential to engaging in Bonsai gardening. The art form can be seen as requiring expensive items, however Symon's toolkit, apart from a particular type of curved secateur, was simple and found in most gardeners' toolsheds: sharp scissors and a small tool for teasing out the roots when required. The curved secateur ensures a 'hidden' cut when pruning, an important characteristic integral to the philosophy and practice of Bonsai.

Lots of questions were asked, the plants were admired and perhaps, possibly, some new converts made to this ancient art form. Symon's

only warning was that, similar to having pets, when you decide to go away on holiday there is much angst about your darlings and wondering how they will survive your absence.



Symon demonstrating leaf pruning on the *Callicoma serratifolia*. In the background is *Eucalyptus grandis* and in the foreground *Cryptocarya glaucescens*.

Conservation Report

Dan Clarke is the Conservation Officer for APS NSW and can be contacted at conservation@austplants.com.au



I have been extremely busy on the work front of late, but am happy to say that most of my time has been taken up with Saving Our Species (SOS) work for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). I have been undertaking population assessments of plants including *Lasiopetalum joyceae* in Berowra Valley National Park – a beautiful part of the world! This particular species seems to be persisting in substantial numbers in this area, but is threatened by residential development and associated bushland-edge effects. At Sutherland Group recently, we enjoyed an excellent talk from David Bain, an SOS Officer with NSW OEH. David presented to us on efforts to save *Banksia vincentia* – the Jervis Bay Banksia. This plant was discovered on land planned for development in 2007. Luckily, the plants were saved but now there are only four known to be remaining and no other populations have been found! David impressed on us how implementing efforts to save plants can be quite cheap compared to those for fauna. This was a point I had not considered, and whilst our fauna are also under threat and need protection, it is a good argument for us to use when convincing others that genetic lines of threatened flora can be easily and efficiently preserved if the opportunity is given.

In the last quarter, I presented to APS Menai Group (Menai Wildflower Group) regarding biodiversity issues and the SOS program. There are also some plant species we could get involved with in that area, including some very rare hibbertias. Stemming from this, I drafted a submission, in conjunction with fellow member Lloyd Hedges, regarding future plans for what we refer to as the ANSTO Lands: a bushland protection area owned by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation. The ANSTO bushland, located at Lucas Heights, has always been popular with both APS Menai and Sutherland Groups. A series of walking tracks lead to a stunning sandstone gully (Mill Creek) where waratahs and magnificent *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum) can be observed. The area is known to be habitat for several threatened flora species, for which the primary data has been acquired by Lloyd Hedges. We hold concerns about future indicative plans for the area which include more technological facilities which would almost certainly involve the removal of intact sandstone vegetation. The entire area, which forms part of habitat corridors between the Georges River

and Heathcote National Park, is already subject to several different development processes. We hope ANSTO heeds our concerns and continues to consult with us into the future.

I have just returned from Beecroft Peninsula (just north of Jervis Bay) searching for *Prostanthera densa* (Villous Mint Bush). There were a few hundred plants found over a small area – which was very encouraging! A final report summarising all our survey results will soon be produced and placed on the APS website.

Cover images

Front Cover is a cycad, *Lepidozamia peroffskyana*. The photo was taken by Kevin Stokes in Ian Cox's garden which was open for members attending the May gathering and AGM hosted by the Parramatta and Hills District Group. This species occurs naturally in SE Queensland and NE NSW. It is fairly easy to grow but you will need plenty of room. The cones of *Lepidozamia* have no peduncle, in contrast with those of *Macrozamia*. The female cone of *L. peroffskyana* is the largest cone of any cycad native to NSW. Male cones open up in an unusual spiral fashion and distend when about to shed pollen. Pollination is exclusively by host specific *Tranes sp.* weevils. Propagation is solely from seed.

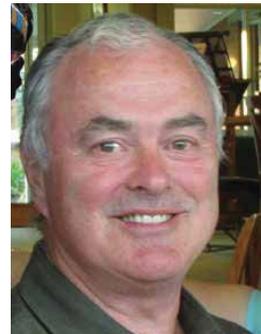


Back Cover: *Eucalyptus erythrocorys* is a mallee type eucalypt from WA. It has stunning yellow flowers which are revealed only after the equally impressive bright red caps are shed from the buds. This image is part of the collection of native plant images assembled by Morton and Mollie Boddy for their Geelong nursery (see article on page 16). It has several common names; Illyarrie, Red-capped Gum or Helmet Nut Gum. One of the obvious characters is that the stamens are in four bundles each at the corner of the squareish flower. It commonly grows on limestone soils and is well adapted to alkaline conditions.



Native plant profile

Pittosporaceae – a confusing and under-appreciated family



John Knight continues his regular series, this time looking at some members of the Pittosporum family that should be considered for our gardens and some of the difficulties botanists have had placing them in the correct genera. The editor apologises to the author for pruning some of the denser nomenclatural sections of the original document and hopes that too much damage has not been done in the process.

In the January 2015 issue I wrote about the genus *Billardiera*, and how Cayzer *et al.* (Ref. 1) had unravelled a tangle of misapplied names. But their work encompassed much more than just *Billardiera*. They tackled the whole of its family, the Pittosporaceae. This is made up of nine genera, including *Auranticarpa*, *Bursaria*, *Hymenosporum* and of course *Pittosporum*.

All genera within the family are endemic to Australia with the exception of *Pittosporum* which extends across Oceania, through East Asia and Africa. *Pittosporum* species from New Zealand are widely cultivated throughout the world. These hardy plants are used as quick growing hedges, and are prized for their tolerance of pruning and generally upright growth. Sadly few Australian representatives of this tough family are cultivated. This is probably because the best-known member, *Pittosporum undulatum* (Native Daphne) is perceived as weedy and is not generally liked.

However, there are some members which deserve a spot in native gardens, although obtaining them from nurseries might prove difficult. Still, most are readily propagated from fresh seed and also from cuttings of firm new growth, so it is up to APS members to promote these plants so their qualities can be demonstrated. With the expectation that we will be looking for plants adaptable to drier conditions in the future, a number of plants fit the bill admirably.

Pittosporum multiflorum

One of these is *Pittosporum multiflorum* (Orange Thorn). This prickly little shrub is ideal for filling in gaps in a shady, dry garden. Growing to about 1.2m high, and with an upright habit, the plant provides a refuge for small birds. Leaves are bright green, rounded, with tiny teeth on the top margin. A sturdy spine, about 8mm long, grows in each leaf



Pittosporum multiflorum. Photo Don Wood

axil, deterring browsing animals. Small white flowers are borne in the leaf axils during spring and summer, followed by orange berries which contain few to numerous seeds. Pruning is usually not necessary, as the plants are slow growing and rarely become unmanageable. I have noted that the spines seems to get stronger on plants which are regularly browsed, possibly to deter such action. Look out wallabies!

Plants occur naturally right along the NSW east coast as far south as the Bega area, in coastal rainforests and adjacent sclerophyll forests, often on slopes near creeks.

They have proved reliable in cultivation, tolerating shade or full sun. I think, though, that they look best in shaded sites, as the leaves lose their gloss in hot sun. Propagation by cuttings taken in late summer is successful, as is germination of fresh seed sown in a well-drained medium with plenty of compost.

Pittosporum revolutum

A larger shrub that can also be recommended is *Pittosporum revolutum* (Rough-fruited Pittosporum) which grows in similar conditions. It is found from Queensland to eastern Victoria, in coastal forests. Of upright habit, this slow growing shrub reaches 2 to 3 m. Although it readily suckers from a rhizome it is easy to keep contained. The leathery leaves are at first cream to tan in colour before turning glossy green. Sweetly fragrant yellow flowers are borne in terminal clusters during spring and summer. These are followed by rough fruits which when ripe split to reveal bright red, sticky seeds, which germinate reliably if somewhat tardily. Cuttings



Pittosporum revolutum, showing the colour contrast between new and older growth.
Photo J. Knight

of firm growth are slow to strike. As a garden plant, *P. revolutum* tolerates full sun provided it doesn't dry out, but is better suited to a shaded garden, where it will grow happily for many years without attention. If it gets too big, a chainsaw prune is acceptable, although this drastic action is not likely to be needed. Plants have survived bushfire, resprouting strongly. Those who enjoy having plants indoors would find this one accommodating in a situation that offers good light.

Pittosporum bicolor

Another larger species that is well worth growing is the attractive spring flowering small tree, *Pittosporum bicolor* (Banyalla), which occurs in protected gullies, often at higher elevations, in far southern NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Plants are upright small trees, growing to about 3 m on drier hillsides, and to 8 m or more in deep, well-watered gullies such as are found in the rainforests of eastern Victoria and the Otway Ranges. They are slow growing and naturally bushy. Flowers are yellow with purple markings (hence the specific name) and sweetly scented. Fruits are greyish, about 10 mm across, opening to reveal bright red seeds. As a garden plant, *P. bicolor* is an ideal small tree for a fern garden. It requires some water whilst establishing, and benefits from additional compost to keep the soil cool. Once established, it seems quite happy to look after itself. Propagation by seed is slow, and sometimes unreliable, hence the plant is not often available from nurseries, but it is worthwhile persisting as this is a very attractive addition to the greenery of your fern garden.

And now a couple of hardy small plants for the rockery.

Rhytidosporum procumbens

Rhytidosporum procumbens, (White Marianth), was included by Bentham (2) in his treatment of the family as *Marianthus procumbens* (hence the common name), but it has also been known as *Billardiera procumbens* and *Pittosporum procumbens* before the studies of 1999 established its true status. The generic name refers to the wrinkled seeds.

It is a delightful, if inconspicuous subshrub, rarely exceeding 30 cm in height, and not much broader. Found from Queensland to Tasmania and on Kangaroo Island, it prefers well drained soils and semi shaded sites with heathy shrubs. It can struggle at the base of large trees and is seen to colonise graded roadsides with success. As a garden plant, it likes to be tucked in with other small plants such as *Tetratheca*, where it can remain inconspicuous until producing starry white flowers from late winter to early summer. Propagation is easy from just-hardened new growth, and everyone should be able to find room for a dozen or so plants even in the smallest garden.



Rhytidosporum procumbens Photo Don Wood

Cheiranthra linearis

Even more appealing as a garden plant is the aptly named Finger Flower, *Cheiranthra linearis*. The genus name is from the Greek *cheir* = a hand, and *anthera* = stamens, alluding to the finger like stamens. This plant has also had its identity problems. Bentham (2) accepted Allan Cunningham's (3) name as *C. linearis*, from a collection near Bathurst but in 1834 A.T. Brongniart (4) proposed *Cheiranthra cyanea*, a name which persisted until 1999, when *C. linearis* was again resurrected.

Regardless, this is still a desirable garden plant, rewarding the grower with a showy display of large deep blue flowers held outside the fine green foliage through spring and early summer. The flowers are up to 40 mm across, and prominent yellow stamens sit within the petals, giving rise to the generic name. This hardy little plant grows to around 50 cm, and might spread up to a metre over time. It prefers the company of other

small plants, where some protection from full sun is available. Growing naturally in drier country, from the inland slopes of NSW, Victoria and S.A. ranges, it will cope with extended dry periods once established. Propagation by cuttings of firm new growth should be successful. Viable seed is rarely set in cultivation, so I have no experience in this. However seed is available from suppliers, and might be worth trying.

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Cheiranthra linearis Photo: NSW Grassy Woodlands (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Aboriginal Australians spread native food plants thousands of years ago

Morton Bay Chestnut or Black Bean

The following article is based on an item on the SBS news website.



A mystery as to why random clumps of an east-coast rainforest tree are found high up in parts of the Great Dividing Range appears to have at last been solved.

A new study has revealed that Australian Aboriginal groups helped the spread of edible plants by hand long before Europeans arrived.

The research on rainforest tree *Castanospermum australe* (Black Bean) reveals through DNA testing that isolated populations of this species, which were found far inland up mountainsides, were brought there by Aboriginal groups who used the seeds for food.

Botanist Maurizio Rosetto from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney said that he was researching the genetic diversity of the disparate populations when he made the discovery that they had unusually low genetic diversity, coming from a single mother seed.

‘Studying the DNA of plants allows us to look back in time to track evolutionary pathways and reveal many exciting and surprising stories from the past. It’s the first time a genetic study has been used to map a non-cultivated species of plant. We still have a lot to learn about how plants and people have influenced each other in Australia over tens of thousands of years,’ said Dr Rosetto.

Black bean trees are common in old growth forests and can grow up to 40 metres high. There is evidence Aboriginal Australians have been using them for at least 2500 years.

The heavy seeds are salt tolerant and float along watercourses before germinating in new locations. Scientist were initially puzzled as to why isolated populations were found growing at high altitudes.

The seeds are toxic to humans if consumed raw, so they require extensive preparation before consumption. The locations of the plant matched those of trade and travel routes of Indigenous people along the east coast who carried and shared the seeds along those routes with other groups.

'Many of our ideas about traditional lifestyles and interactions with nature are being challenged by genetic information,' said Dr Rosetto.

The authors looked at dreamtime stories, songlines (dreaming tracks) and oral histories as part of their research.

The research reveals anthropological evidence for prehistoric Aboriginal-mediated dispersal by verifying that: Aboriginal people used the species; and several sources describe the deliberate movement of this species by Aboriginal people.

Songlines to genomes: Prehistoric assisted migration of a rain forest tree by Australian Aboriginal people by Maurizio Rossetto, Emilie J. Ens, Thijs Honingh, Peter D. Wilson, Jia-Yee S. Yap, Oliver Costello, Erich R. Round, Claire Bownern
Published: November 8, 2017

doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186663



Study Groups notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

Maria Hitchcock, who established the Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group in Australia and was leader of the Correa Study Group for many years, has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for Services to Conservation and the Environment.



Maria has made a great contribution to the appreciation and conservation of our Australian flora, leading many native plant initiatives.

Garden Design Study Group (Apr. 2018, No. 102)

Lawrie Smith's belief in 'the unique quality and value of the Australian environment; and the provision of quality open space facilities for the community' underpins his approach to both large-scale public projects and to the establishment of that place of welcome, seclusion and yet personal participation which is our own garden.

First impressions, the theme of this newsletter, invoked descriptions of several of the gardens visited during the Tasmanian conference, but the real inspiration came from the Tassie landscape and the plants which thrive in its unexpectedly dry climate.

Isopogon & Petrophile Study Group (Apr. 2018, No. 22)

Plant profile zooms-in on the cream flowering *Petrophile sessilis* (Prickly Conesticks) which is endemic to the central coast, central and southern tablelands. Amenable to heavy pruning, this species maintains its divaricate (widely spreading) leaves in a naturally compact habit.

The ready availability of seed of *Isopogon anethifolius* (Narrow-leaf Drumsticks) and *Petrophile pulchella* (Conesticks) might tempt growers to try their luck with starting plants from seed. The germination diary in this issue details the mixed success of one member. A second member has initiated a race to first

The difference in progress of *Petrophile pedunculata* cuttings (left) compared with seedlings (right) seems quite remarkable, especially considering the head start of three months enjoyed by the seedling.

Photo: Mark Noake



flowering between seed versus cutting grown *Petrophile pedunculata* (also known as Conesticks). Watch this space! The study group leaders note that the next ANPSA conference will be held in *Isopogon* and *Petrophile* heartland at Albany WA in September 2019. The link to a member's video adds a new dimension to the newsletter. Past issues of the newsletter are available at anpsa.org.au/iso-pet.html

Dryandra Study Group (Apr. 2018, No. 74)

This issue provides a feast of colourful images which capture the beauty of this group of plants. The surprising fact is that one image was taken in France (*Dryandra fraseri*) and another plant was reported from Holland (*D. quercifolia* – Oak-leaved Dryandra), both far from their home range in Western Australia.

Dryandras hybridise readily, leading to confusion as to the identity of specimens collected from the wild or even purchased as seed or plants from a nursery.

Correa Study Group (Apr. 2018, No. 57)

Experienced *Correa* grower Brendon Stahl lost many plants in the long dry spell following November 2017 but he reports sufficient strong flowering from a variety of species and hybrids to provide a worthwhile show. Other growers suffered similar disappointments but also report success with striking cuttings collected during the 2017 Correa Crawl.

The 2018 Crawl was cancelled but another is planned for June 2019.

Acacia Study Group (Mar. 2018, No. 140)

National Wattle Day is celebrated on 1st September each year (gazetted in 1988, thanks mainly to Maria Hitchcock). A solution of 1% vinegar in water was used effectively by John Boevink to keep acacia flowers freshly displayed during the ANPSA conference in Tasmania. The new \$50 note (due for release in October this year) will feature *Acacia humifusa*, which grows in northern Australia from the Kimberley in WA to Cape York in Queensland.

Warren and Gloria Sheather describe the characteristics of *Acacia buxifolia* (Box-leaf Wattle), a medium shrub that usually reaches 4 metres, although some populations on the Northern Tablelands reach only 1 metre. This species produces flowers on the new growth, so is improved by pruning. Another low-growing wattle, *Acacia veronica* (Veronica's Wattle), was encountered by Victoria Tanner at the base of the Mount Talyuberlup Walk in the Stirling Ranges.

The *Flora of Australia Volume 11A Mimosaceae Acacia Part 1* and *Flora*

of *Australia Volume 11B Mimosaceae Acacia Part 2* are out of print but are available free by download. The link is:

www.environment.gov.au/science/abrs/publications/flora-of-australia/vol11

Eremophila Study Group (May 2018, No. 120)

Featured species *Eremophila subfloccosa* (Dense-felted Eremophila) is a green flowered, drought-hardy aromatic plant from southern areas of South and Western Australia and into Victoria. Three sub-species are in cultivation; they are appreciated for their low, spreading habit but may be relatively short-lived. A potential fourth subspecies was collected in 2000. Notes on their horticulture, propagation and vulnerability to over-use by visiting bees are available in the newsletter.

Post-graduate research into *Eremophila* DNA may lead to revision of the species into different groups (clades) and may add to the understanding of the biogeography of this genus. Sub-branches of the study group have been meeting in Sydney. *Eremophila nivea* (Silky Eremophila) will be featured in the next newsletter.

Garden Design Study Group (Jun. 2018, No. 103)

The theme 'Water in the Garden' addresses an essential element of many resilient gardens and twenty-odd approaches were listed. Contributors are invited to expand these points from their own experience. The water theme can even be represented by a dry creek-bed, with the semblance of water 'imagined', and yet function to divert stormwater in a downpour.

An extensive plant list, map and commentary provide the rationale for selection and positioning of elements within an established garden in south-east Queensland.

Hakea Study Group (Jun. 2018, No. 67)

Victoria has had a long, hot summer and Paul Kennedy's garden at Colac lost established plants including a broad-leafed form of *Hakea multilineata* (Grass-leaf Hakea), *H. sericea* (Needlebush) and *H. lissosperma* (Mountain Needlewood). However, by late March new growth was emerging to turn into flowers and new leaf growth. The really cold weather of early May saw the first seedlings of *H. lissosperma* appear.

The Hakea Study Group will be organising an excursion on 6–8 October 2018 around Albany and Mount Barker in WA to search for some 24 species of Hakea.

Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group (Jun. 2018, No. 15)

It is pleasing to read that more members are mastering the art of growing both species and cultivars of many infamously difficult to maintain waratahs. Propagation tips published previously have proven successful for members in Victoria, and recommendations for maintaining existing waratahs in either pots or in-ground cultivation are provided in this newsletter by members and a commercial grower with 24 years' experience. One gem is that pruning the dominant shoot early in the growing season maximises the yield of well-formed waratah flowers.



Telopea 'Corroboree' flowers ready for market
Photo: Malcolm and Mirella McKinnon.

The group welcomes donations of fresh flannel flower and waratah seed from your garden.

Telopea 'Corroboree' is a hybrid of *T. mungaensis* x *speciosissima*. It was selected in 1974 by Nanette Cuming from seedlings of *Telopea speciosissima* purchased from Breakoday Nursery in Box Hill, Vic. The name reflects the extended styles which resemble a circle of dancing figures.

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group was relaunched at the Hobart ANPSA Conference. For past newsletters from 2002–3 and current membership applications, please contact Lynne Mockridge (the new leader of the study group) via the website: anpsa.org.au/container-plantsSG/index.html

Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

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Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

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Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

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The following study groups are all in recess and require new leaders. If you are interested in a role contact the APS NSW Study Group Liaison Officer, Wendy Grimm at wagrimm@tpg.com.au

Australian plants as Bonsai
Australian plants for containers
Calytrix
Daisy, the Australian
Fabaceae
Hibiscus and Related genera
Orchids, Indigenous
Palm and Cycad
Prostanthera and Westringia
Rainforest
Rhamnaceae
Succulents, Native
Verticordia
Wetlands (and Water Plants)
Wildlife and Native Plants

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

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10% discount on some titles. Please check before purchasing.

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www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au
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www.coolnatives.com.au
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20% for roster participants.

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453 The Entrance Rd,
Erina Heights 2260
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☎ 6379 6202
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Muswellbrook
☎ (02) 6543 2622
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www.muswellbrook
forestnursery.com.au
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Weekends 10am–3pm
10% discount

Nepean Valley

☉ **Darvill Nursery**
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Contact for price list or
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☎ (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,**
1055 Ocean Drive,
Bonny Hills 2445
☎ (02) 6585 5764
10% discount on all plant
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☉ **Greenbourne Nursery**
Oxley Hwy, Wauchope 2446
(opp. 'Timbertown')
☎ (02) 6585 2117
10% discount

Mildura

☉ **Native Nursery, Mildura**
10% discount on the
purchase of any native plants
or other products, including the
Watertube, ordered online at
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☉ **Wildgems Native Nursery**
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Yowrie 2550
☎ 0427 937 398
Wholesale / retail nursery.
Please ring and arrange day
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☉ **Verdigris Fern Nursery**
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Mail order is available through
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Email: verdigrisferns@gmail.com
Wholesale price for APS
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