

From: Australian Plants Society NSW <APS@wildapricot.org>
To: BRUCE SIMPSON <simtatico99@bigpond.com>
Date: Feb 29, 2020 9:40:08 PM
Subject: APS NSW newsletter – March 2020

Welcome to the March newsletter



Native Plants for NSW – March 2020

The monthly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



On the way to Mount Banks in Blue Mountains National Park (photos Lesley Waite)

In our March issue

- Welcome to the newsletter
- From the President
- Cottage gardens at our quarterly gathering: 21 March
- Activities and Nowra Group relaunch
- Fire-resistant plants?
- More on bushfire recovery
- The legacy of Joseph Banks: 1770–2020
- Margaret Baker – Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Study Group updates: Dryandra, Hakea, Eremophila
- On the APS NSW website: membership made easy.

Welcome to the newsletter

Our newsletter is emailed to members at the end of the month, but how it looks can depend on your own device and settings. Each issue is also saved as a pdf file [here](#). Please encourage fellow members to open the newsletter, and forward it to others who may be interested.

Stories, photos, events, feedback and more are welcome. Please email the editor, Rhonda Daniels, at newsletter@austplants.com.au

From the President John Aitken

It has been wonderful to see so much rain falling, which brought joy to many farmers and quenched the bushfires raging throughout NSW. Let's hope for more follow up rain to bring an end to the drought.

I am very pleased to welcome Sue Fredrickson to our Board, replacing Roger Starling as the North Shore Group representative. Sue is a committed and enthusiastic member and brings a wide range of experiences. We look forward to Sue's contributions.

The Board is developing policies on our response to climate change and bushfires. We welcome any feedback and suggestions on the excellent discussion paper by Heather Miles and Tony Maxwell on both these issues. See the discussion paper [here](#) and email your thoughts to office@austplants.com.au

A reminder that nominations for life membership of APS NSW and our Conservation award are due by 13 March 2020. [Email](#) secretary Heather Miles.

Saturday 21 March: Australian native plants for cottage gardens

Discover Australian natives for cottage gardens at our first quarterly gathering for 2020, hosted by Parramatta-Hills Group at Gumnut Community Centre, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook.

10–12 noon: Garden visit at Boongala Gardens and Rainforest, 76 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst

The magnificent and extensive gardens over 11 acres, including a lush rainforest, have been developed over many years by Mal and Jenny Johnston. Discover a wide range of Australian plants, wildflowers and the birdlife they attract. Admission: \$3 donation to Flying Doctor Service. More information [here](#).

12–1 pm: Lunch. Bring your own and enjoy it in the grounds of Gumnut Community Centre. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own cup.

1–3 pm: Using Australian native plants for small or cottage gardens with Sarah Cains and Kris Gow, Southern Highlands Group

Many Australian native plants are ideal for small gardens, such as the native daisy (*Brachyscome*), fan flower (*Scaevola*), pink paper daisy (*Rhodanthe chlorocephala rosea*), native daffodil (*Calostemma luteum*), everlasting daisy (*Bracteantha bracteata*), kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos*), flannel flower (*Actinotus helianthi*) and *Banksia spinulosa* 'Cherry Candles' to name a few. They are beautiful, drought-hardy, easy to care for (needing little extra watering or feeding once established) and attract plenty of wildlife.

Sarah Cains will talk on design of small gardens and Kris Gow, a former President of Southern Highlands Group, will talk on plant choice for the small garden.

Plants for sale at both Boongala Gardens at Kenthurst and Gumnut Community Centre at Cherrybrook.

Cost \$5. Download a flyer [here](#).



Activities

APS NSW

- Sat 21 March: Quarterly gathering hosted by Parramatta Hills Group at Cherrybrook – details above.
- Sat 16 May: Quarterly gathering hosted by Sutherland Group at Kurnell
- Sat 12 September: Quarterly gathering hosted by Menai Group at Illawong
- 14–15 November: Weekend get-together hosted by Southern Highlands Group at Bowral

Autumn walks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives

North Shore Group has three walks in its autumn program at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives. Meet at 9.45 am at Caley's Pavilion, wear suitable shoes and hat, and bring water. Cost \$5. More information [here](#) or [Facebook](#) or call 9144 5600.

- Mon 2 March – The history of the gardens
- Mon 6 April – Edible native plants
- Mon 4 May – Fungi

Open days and plant sales

- Fri, Sat and Sun 6–29 March – Boongala Native Gardens and Rainforest at 76 Pitt Town Road, Kenthurst. Open days, plant sales and guided walks. Entry fee. Details [here](#).
- Sat–Sun 28–29 March – Collectors Plant Fair at Clarendon. Entry fee. Details [here](#).
- Sat–Sun 28–29 March – Open garden and plant sale at Brian Roach's Westleigh Native Plants. Free entry. Details [here](#).
- 2–3 and 9–10 May – Open days, Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli. Entry fee. Details [here](#). Also 4–5 and 11–12 July, 5–6 and 12–13 September.

Groups can add their regular events directly to the APS website. Please [email](#) Heather Miles for website help and [email](#) any activities for the enewsletter to the editor Rhonda Daniels.

Nowra Group relaunches

APS Nowra Group warmly welcomes members and visitors in the region to join them for their meetings this year, with a new schedule.

- Evening meetings: Second Thursdays in March, May, July, September and November, 7 pm at North Nowra Community Centre, 7 Hood Street, North Nowra
- Day activities: usually second Saturdays in April, June, August, October and December.

Details will be posted on Nowra's new Facebook page [here](#).
Email Janice Hughes at austplantsnowra@gmail.com

Fire-resistant plants?

After the damage in our bushfire season to many properties throughout NSW, homeowners are thinking about restoring their gardens, often while waiting for longer-term building works. The APS NSW office received an inquiry about advice on fire-resistant plants for people buying plants to restore gardens.

Firstly, no plant is fire-resistant in extreme conditions and it takes more than fire-resistant plants to protect a garden. Some are more fire-retardant than others. There are several elements to consider in reducing the fire risk to and from gardens including designing the garden, choosing plants, choosing plants for their recovery ability, choosing other garden materials, and maintaining the garden.

Read more [here](#).



More on bushfire recovery

Building on [Bushfire recovery – what we can do](#) in our last enewsletter, here's more. University researchers have been writing for The Conversation website on a range of bushfire-related topics. There's some practical advice on how to help wildlife, even in urban backyards, while the good news about early recovery is tinged with recognition ecosystems may not fully recover. Read more in these short articles.

Helping wildlife

- [Want to help save wildlife after the fires? You can do it in your own backyard.](#) Some threatened species hit hard by the bushfires this summer have populations in and around urban areas, which are now crucial refuges. Here are some tips to help improve their odds of survival.
- [How you can help – not harm – wild animals recovering from bushfires.](#) We all want to help native animals recover after bushfires, but giving a koala a drink from your water bottle can cause more harm than good. Here are some helpful things you can do.
- [Looks like an ANZAC biscuit, tastes like a protein bar: Bogong Bikkies help mountain pygmy-possums after fire](#)

Effects over time

- [These plants and animals are now flourishing as life creeps back after bushfires.](#) First come the beetles, then the birds: how nature is surviving, and thriving, after a summer of fires.
- [Yes, the Australian bush is recovering from bushfires – but it may never be the same.](#) The current state of our climate shouldn't be dismissed as a 'new normal'. The hard truth is many of our ecosystems will not recover from the damage.

Recognising the legacy of Joseph Banks: 1770–2020

This year marks 250 years since Joseph Banks collected botanical specimens in Australia in 1770 on Cook's Endeavour voyage. Bank's botanical and scientific legacy is immense. He was only 28 years old when he returned to England with his collections, and lived a long life as a patron of the natural sciences. The enewsletter will feature articles on his legacy.

Banks never visited Australia again or owned property here but had a significant impact on our history. One place named after Joseph Banks in 1804 is Mount Banks in the Blue Mountains National Park.

Ian Cox writes about his visit to Mount Banks in November 2019, just three weeks before the bushfires burnt the area, [here](#).



Margaret Baker – Blue Mountains Council Environmental Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to Margaret Baker who was awarded Environmental Citizen of the Year at Blue Mountains Council's Australia Day Awards in January 2020.

Margaret has been a tireless, committed and passionate advocate for protecting the Blue Mountains environment for over four decades. Of her many achievements, she initiated and developed the highly regarded 'Native Plant Identification' course for TAFE to provide formal training in the botany of native flora, at the time the only such course in NSW, and she has published guide books on local native flora and fauna. Read more about Margaret's environmental work [here](#).

Study Group updates

Find out more about our 18 Study Groups, their newsletter archives and how to join a group for free [here](#) so you can read the most recent newsletters in full. Study Group Liaison Officer Nic Maher has the highlights.

[Dryandra Study Group](#), No. 178, February 2020

There's a new Facebook group Dryandra Lovers, joining the popular Banksia lovers. A reminder that APS NSW also has a Facebook page.

[Hakea Study Group](#), No. 72, February 2020

The impact of the recent widespread bushfires on our flora is discussed, with the fear that the endangered *Hakea aenigma* populations on Kangaroo Island may have been completely burnt. It is hoped they will come back from lignotubers and underground roots. Group Leader Paul Kennedy has corresponded with the University of Sydney on which hakeas have the ability to regenerate from lignotubers; it appears about half have this ability, meaning there are many eastern species which have had populations burnt recently and do not have lignotubers. Time will tell how well they are able to regenerate.

The seed of a number of endangered hakeas was propagated to increase the numbers to share with members. Punnets were filled with vermiculite then placed in trays with a shallow amount of water in them. When germination occurred, they were transferred to watering from above. Potting on occurred as soon as the leaves were visibly above the vermiculite surface.

Eremophila Study Group, No. 126, January 2020

Eremophila duttonii is the newsletter's feature species. It is a rounded shrub, named after Francis Dutton, the Premier of South Australia. It can grow up to 4 m high and 4.5 m wide, and can live for 15–20 years. It does best in a sunny site but can tolerate part shade, and can handle medium frosts. The First Cross-Continent Eremophila Conference was held in Melbourne in November 2019, funded by donations from Danish organisations. There were presentations on recent taxonomic developments, with DNA sequencing helping to better understand the evolutionary history of *Eremophila*, the eighth most diverse genus in Australia. The antimicrobial activity of resins and leaf extracts of selected eremophila species is being investigated for potential medical applications. Traditional Aboriginal use of Australian plants was discussed, with a presentation on model ethical guidelines for equitable partnerships between Aboriginal custodians and scientists studying traditional uses of medicinal plants.

Eremophila crassifolia likes warm and dry limestone country (photo below: Mike and Cathy Beamish in the newsletter).



On the APS NSW website

Our [website](#) has our membership benefits, how to join, District Group details and events, office-bearers and many resources including our Plant Profile database, plus recent stories.

- [Mount Banks – inspiring our wonder](#) by Ian Cox
- [Tips for fire-smart gardening](#) by Rhonda Daniels
- [Enrol by 4 March 2020 in free online natural history illustration short course](#)

Membership made easy

Members are encouraged to renew online [here](#) and to use Paypal. This will simplify our accounting procedures and reduce the burden of our membership officer, Merle Thompson, in processing credit cards and banking cheques. President John Aitken says "I have used Paypal for over 15 years and have found it to be a safe and reliable method of paying online rather than divulging my credit card details every time I make a purchase".

Members receive an email reminder about membership renewal. Please do not use the form in *Australian Plants* to renew your membership – it is for subscriptions only.

Photo finish



Xanthorrhoeas can respond quickly after fire (photo: Rhonda Daniels).

This enewsletter is emailed to members of the Australian Plants Society NSW

Australian Plants Society NSW
www.austplants.com.au
enewsletter@austplants.com.au

PO Box 263, Cremorne Junction NSW 2090
FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM • YOUTUBE • UNSUBSCRIBE