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Welcome to our December newsletter



Native Plants for NSW – December 2019

The monthly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



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Welcome to the newsletter

Our final newsletter for the year features books just in time for Christmas reading and giving. Thanks to the members who sent suggestions. If you don't have space for more books, consider donating to new members, your local group or the community. There are plenty of digital resources available too.

And thanks to everyone who has supported our newly launched newsletter this year, including contributors of text, photos, events, feedback and more. Special thanks to Ian Cox who helps check the links work each issue. To catch up on back issues, the pdf files are [here](#), including the November issue corrected to identify the flower at the top as *Verticordia plumosa*.

Look out for the combined January/February e-newsletter in late January. If you have any feedback or ideas for next year, please email the editor, Rhonda Daniels, at enewsletter@austplants.com.au

From the President John Aitken

APS NSW finished the year with an excellent gathering hosted by Northern Beaches Group at Warriewood in November. Thank you to all those members of Northern Beaches Group who were responsible for the excellent organisation, their very warm welcome, the excellent morning and afternoon teas and the enjoyable morning walks. Thanks also to our guest speaker Liz Benson, who gave an excellent presentation on the history of the Wollemi pine.

Roger Starling, who has been the APS Board representative of both Northern Beaches and North Shore Groups for many years, has retired from the Board after years of service in various roles. On behalf of APS NSW, I would like to thank Roger for his tireless efforts and valuable contributions to our meetings. We will miss Roger and wish him well for the future.

At this time of year, I also recognise and thank all the contributions from District Groups who keep APS strong with local activities. Wishing you and your families every happiness over the Christmas period and that many of your presents may be green ones. Our thoughts are particularly with members affected by drought and/or fire.

Brian Roach on Gardening Australia – again

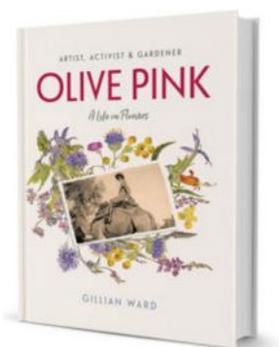
Brian Roach of Westleigh Nursery has featured on *Gardening Australia* TV not once, but twice, with his second appearance in November with Costa Georgiadis. Brian shares his filming experiences [here](#).



Olive Pink: Artist, Activist and Gardener

Jennifer Farrer from APS Parramatta Hills Group reviews a book on the life of Olive Pink who created a garden of Central Australian flora which is now Olive Pink Botanic Gardens in Alice Springs. This is a beautifully produced book by Gillian Ward with Olive Pink's paintings and illustrated with photos of her life and times.

Read more [here](#).

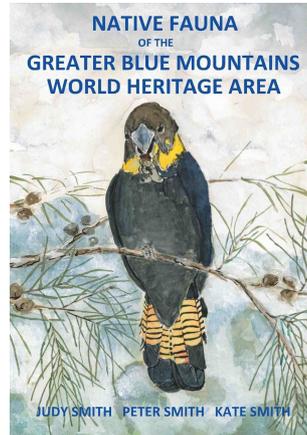


Native Fauna of the Greater Blue Mountains

Ecological consultants Dr Judy and Dr Peter Smith, from APS Blue Mountains Group, have produced a book to celebrate the diversity, scientific value and conservation importance of the fauna of the World Heritage Area – very timely as the 20th anniversary of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Listing approaches in 2020.

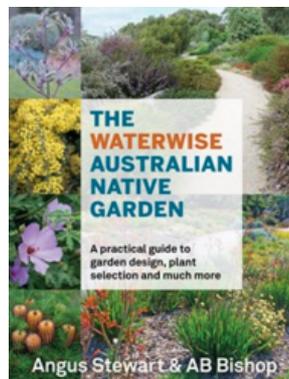
It features over 400 native vertebrate fauna species, with 200 colour photographs by Peter, 20 illustrations by Kate Smith and two locality maps.

Read more [here](#).



The Waterwise Australian Native Garden

Angus Stewart has reissued his book co authored with A.B. Bishop, *The Australian Native Garden*. He explains why in his Gardening with Angus newsletter: "It is being released under a new title and a new paperback cover – it is now *The Waterwise Australian Native Garden*. For people who already have the original hardcover book, the reissue is essentially the same inside. But the new title will hopefully entice new readers who wish to garden more sustainably, and to use more native plants when they garden. Australian native plants have adapted to the often harsh Australian climate conditions and over time, plant breeders continually breed and select from these for good looks as well, so our hope is that people will look to our own plants first before exotic ones. The book also has sections on planning gardens to cope with water shortages and also fire."



On the bookshelf

Catch up again on some of the books mentioned in the enewsletter through the year:

- *Dictionary of Botanical Names* by Don Perrin [here](#)
- *Flora of the Hunter Region* by Stephen Bell, Christine Rockley and Anne Llewellyn [here](#)
- *Native Terrestrial Orchids of Hunter Region Botanic Garden* by Lynda McPherson [here](#)
- *Mistletoes of Southern Australia* by David Watson [here](#)
- *A Celebration of Wattle* by Maria Hitchcock [here](#).

Just in time for the 250th anniversary in 2020 of Banks in Australia:

- *Joseph Banks' Florilegium Compact Edition* by Joe Studholme.

Don't forget the older treasures for identification which deserve a place on every shelf:

- *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney* by Les Robinson
- *Native Plants of the Sydney Region* by Alan Fairley and Philip Moore.

Go digital

- Download the free app *Plants of South Eastern NSW* by Betty Wood with over 2,900 species.

DICTIONARY OF BOTANICAL NAMES



compiled & illustrated by Don Perrin

A Celebration of

Wattle

Australia's National Emblem



Maria Hitchcock

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Introduction
About this identification guide



How to guide
Tips on using this identification key



Identify
Launch the Lucid identification tool



Fact sheets
Access in-depth information



Glossary
Technical terms and meanings

Study Group news

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.

[Grevillea Study Group, No. 114, November 2019](#)

A fascinating account of Colvill's Grevilleas provides insight into both the history of the Colvill family's nursery in London, established in 1786, and the intriguing and uncertain taxonomy of seven grevilleas in Colvill's catalogues. Reports from members who have found healthy populations of various *Grevillea* species in the wild provide a positive counter to the all too common examples of populations being destroyed by illegal dumping, feral animals and weeds. A helpful tip for collecting seed using seed sleeves is provided by now-retired Kings Park plant specialist Bob Dixon, who presented at the recent ANPSA conference.

[Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group, No. 35, November 2019](#)

Isopogon uncinatus has the unfortunate distinction of being in the Threatened Species Recovery Hub's recently released list of the 100 Australian plants at greatest risk of extinction. It is particularly under threat from the introduced *Phytophthora* (dieback fungus). Climate change represents another key threat to many plant species, with lower rainfall and increased fire frequency both posing a particular threat to isopogons and petrophiles, especially those without a lignotuber.

The interest and perseverance of Study Group leaders Catriona and Phil has led to the successful description of a new naturally occurring hybrid, *Isopogon* 'Coaldale Cracker', a hardy, attractive and frost-resistant garden plant. The interstock method of grafting is described, a useful technique to overcome compatibility issues between a scion and a stock. The people associated with certain *Isopogon* and *Petrophile* species names are described, with almost all being botanists or collectors, and only one woman on the list – Emily Shirley.



New 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. Members receive an email reminder about membership renewal and can also renew [here](#).

Articles to read:

- [A Blue Mountains adventure](#) by Ian Cox
- [Growing hoyas in pots](#) by Ian Cox
- [Spring 2019 issue of Australian Plants now available](#) featuring mini-myrtles.

Activities to do:

- [Visit a wholesale nursery plant sale at Somersby – limited dates](#)
- [Enrol in free online natural history illustration short course](#)
- [Volunteer at IndigiGrow Nursery at La Perouse](#)
- [Volunteer to digitise herbarium specimens.](#)



Photo finish



Corymbia 'Summer Beauty' by Brian Walters from the [ANPSA photo gallery](#).

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

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