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Welcome to our November enewsletter



Native Plants for NSW – November 2019

The monthly enewsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



Verticordia plumosa in full flower at Discovery Bay, Western Australia (photo: Heather Miles)

In our November issue



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Welcome to the enewsletter

Our next enewsletter, the final one for the year, will feature books just in time for Christmas reading and giving. Please send any recommendations – either the title or a review – to the editor, Rhonda Daniels, at newsletter@austplants.com.au

From the President John Aitken

It was great to see so many NSW members at the recent ANPSA Biennial Conference in WA. The conference was a great success with a varied range of excellent speakers and excursions. Congratulations to the Western Australian organising committee and to the volunteers for an excellent conference and for making it so enjoyable and rewarding.

I congratulate Heather Miles and Ralph Cartwright on their excellent promotion of the 2021 conference which APS NSW is hosting. The two videos they produced and showed were excellent and were very favourably received, with a number of attendees commenting on their professional presentation. Unfortunately many of us succumbed to a flu like infection which knocked a number out of the conference for one or more days.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our final gathering for the year hosted by Northern Beaches Group at Warriewood on Saturday 16 November. Details below.





Most of the 74 NSW attendees at the biennial conference in Western Australia

NSW hosting the next conference in September 2021



We are very pleased to be hosting the 2021 ANPSA Biennial Conference at the Kiama Pavilion on Sunday 12 September to Friday 17 September. The theme is Australian flora – past, present, future. Along with the conference sessions and field trips around the Illawarra, we are planning pre- and post-tours to areas such as Lord Howe Island,

Blue Mountains, Sydney, South Coast, Southern Highlands and the Pilliga and Warrumbungles.

As planning progresses, we will add more information to our website. For updates, please register your 'Expression of interest' [here](#). Watch our conference video [here](#).

Quarterly gathering – Saturday 16 November 2019

Enjoy a talk by Liz Benson on My life with the Wollemi Pine at our final APS NSW event of the year hosted by Northern Beaches Group at:

Angophora Room, Nelson Heather Community Centre
5 Jacksons Rd, Warriewood

10 am Meet at the Community Centre for tea and coffee. **Please BYO plate and cup.**

10.30 am Meet in the car park of the Community Centre for a choice of two guided walks through the Warriewood Wetlands.



Warriewood Wetlands is the largest remaining sandplain wetland in the northern Sydney

area. It provides a variety of habitats for native animals and also plays a vital role in flood mitigation, nutrient recycling and filtering sediments. The wetlands contain several Endangered Ecological Communities.

12–1 pm Bring your lunch to enjoy at the Community Centre. Tea and coffee available.

12 noon Plants for sale from 12 noon.

1–3 pm Guest speaker Liz Benson on My Life with the Wollemi Pine



Liz Benson will trace the discovery of the Wollemi Pine and discuss current and fossil relatives. She will also explain causes of Australia's past and present forest types. In her role as an Education Officer with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Liz talked about the Wollemi Pine all the time including as part of the syllabus on the evolution of the Australian biota, prompted by the interest in our Gondwanan history after the discovery of the Wollemi Pine in 1994.

Cost \$5. Print a one page flyer [here](#).

Activities

November Walks and Talks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden



The summer term of North Shore Group's Monday Walks and Talks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives is underway. Meet 9.45 am at Caley's Pavilion for 10 am to 12.30 pm. Wear suitable shoes and hat, and bring water. Cost \$5 (includes notes). More information [here](#).

Monday 4 November – Grasses

Monday 11 November – Orchids

More activities

Many District Group events are on our website [here](#).

- 7–9 November – Symposium on the Blue Mountains by the Linnean Society of NSW. Details of field day, scientific sessions and public lectures [here](#).
- Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Manooka Place, Kareela is open until 7 pm, seven days a week, during daylight saving. Enjoy a stroll, picnic or electric BBQ.
- Sydney Group Native Garden at Dippie Point is open on weekends throughout

- Sylvan Grove Native Garden at Picnic Point is open on weekends throughout spring until the end of November, as well as weekdays as usual. Details [here](#).

Harry Loots' award-winning garden



Harry Loots' garden at Cremorne has won awards in North Sydney Council's garden competition over several years including this year. The garden, which features plants indigenous to Sydney, is an environmentally friendly haven in a dense urban area.

Read more [here](#).

Creating a roadside verge garden



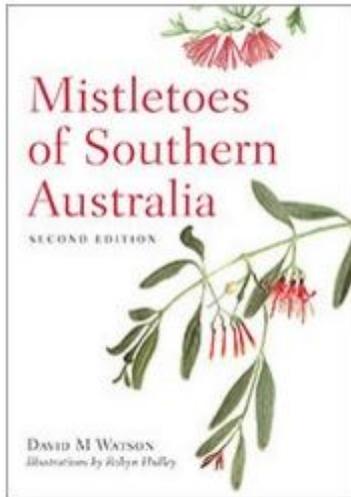
Dan Clarke from APS Sutherland Group has recently created a roadside verge garden with indigenous plant species. He explains the 5 Ps – pedestrians, prams, powerlines, postpeople and parking – to consider when planning a verge garden.

Read more [here](#).

Medicinal uses of native plants

Jennifer Farrer from APS Parramatta Hills Group shares some medicinal uses of native plants in early colonial days and commercial uses. Aboriginal people knew many plants which were useful in curbing infections, but the early settlers often preferred to try plants which reminded them of those they had known in Britain and other countries such as India and China. The kino from angophoras, eucalypts and corymbias and tannins from barks were used to check diarrhoea, with one known as Botany Bay kino. Read more [here](#).

Of all the Australian plants with medicinal properties, only 30 have been exploited commercially, with 20 of these various species of *Eucalyptus*. Others include *Melaleuca* species for oil, *Callitris* for pill-coating resins and *Duboisia* (corkwood) leaves for the drug Buscopan. Read more [here](#).



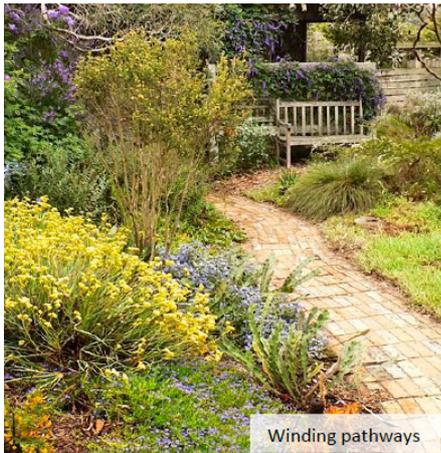
Book review: Mistletoes of Southern Australia

Mistletoes are parasitic but are not weeds and are not toxic. They are part of our Australian flora, with almost 100 species. Dick Turner from APS Blue Mountains Group reviews a new book by David Watson on the 47 species of southern Australia.

Read more [here](#).

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.



[Garden Design Study Group](#), No. 109, November 2019

This issue includes a vivid description of the Snape garden in Melbourne developed over 39 years, in memory of Study Group founder Diana Snape, and considers how to prepare another source of native garden design principles and ideas following on from Diana's first book. The issue's theme is framework trees and shrubs including 'transparent' hedges that offer partial screening and enticing glimpses to encourage garden discovery.

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](#). Recent articles include:

- Just in time for [Australian Pollinator Week](#) on 10–17 November, [Bees enjoying tiny Gonocarpus flowers](#) by Ralph Cartwright
 - [Prostanthera scutellarioides, stunning in flower](#) by Ian Cox
 - [Volunteer to digitise herbarium specimens](#).
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Photo finish



Xanthosia rotundifolia, known as Southern Cross flower derived from the constellation Crux, is only found in the south west of Western Australia. Photographed at Cheyne Beach during the biennial conference by Ralph Cartwright.

Photos: Narelle Barden, Ralph Cartwright, Dan Clarke, Heather Miles, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, Diana Snape.

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

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