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Subject: Save as pdf - APS NSW newsletter – April 2020

Welcome to the April newsletter



Native Plants for NSW – April 2020

The monthly newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW



Ian Cox's garden with wisdom from the past (2018 photo Heather Miles)

In our April issue

- Welcome to the newsletter
- From the President
- Activities for more time at home
- Growing Illawarra Natives website launch
- Buying native plants online
- Annual Report 2019
- Watch Menai Group on Gardening Australia
- Wisdom from the past
- Celebrating 60 years of *Australian Plants*
- Explore Study Group newsletters

- On the APS NSW website.

Welcome to the newsletter

With physical gatherings cancelled, our newsletter features ideas to use more time at home to maintain a sense of native plant community. Your stories, photos, virtual events, feedback and more are welcome. Please email the editor, Rhonda Daniels, at newsletter@austplants.com.au

Our newsletter is emailed to members at the end of the month. 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.

From the President John Aitken

While COVID-19 has changed our activities, it is an opportune time to think outside the square in how we go about our business. It is essential that we continue to keep in touch with each other and enjoy the richness of our flora. We have purchased a subscription to Zoom to enable us to communicate with members and continue to share our passion for Australian plants via videoconferencing. We are planning to trial an online monthly Group meeting by Zoom, where members will be able to see and hear a guest speaker, ask questions and talk about plants. Other communication methods include Facebook, WhatsApp, live streaming, YouTube and Instagram. As modern technology has made communication so much easier, we should explore its use in virtual activities.

Whatever methods you use to keep connecting, please share your experiences with us. I would like to thank those who have already contacted us with suggestions on meeting the needs of our members during these uncertain times. The Board will be discussing suggestions and sharing them with District Groups.

We cannot hold a physical Annual General Meeting but are planning to have an online meeting in May using Zoom. We will advise you by email when details are finalised.

Wishing each of you a safe and productive time and continue to enjoy our beautiful flora.

Activities for more time at home

Less time being out and about and more time at home to protect community health is a chance to do some activities you might not usually have time for. For some ideas for inside and outside activities, for both individual members and APS Groups to consider if you don't want to clean the cupboards or the garage, read [here](#).

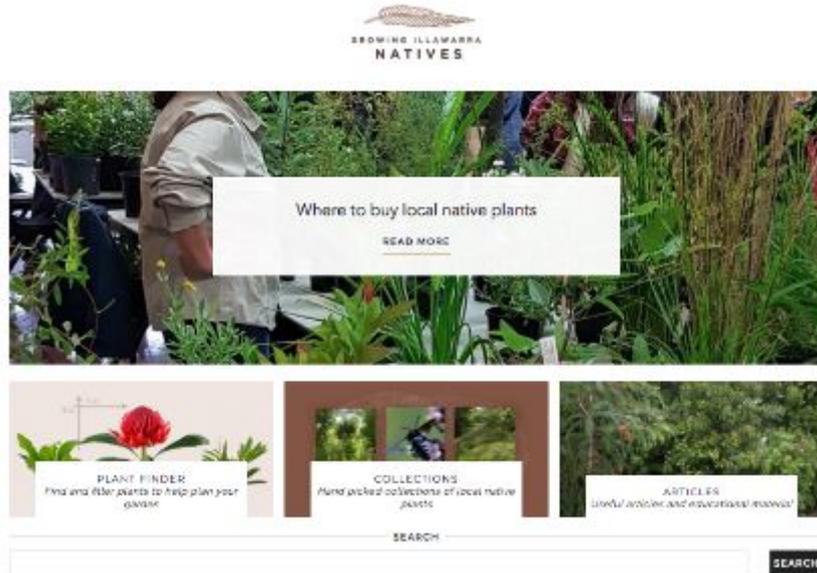
There are also some websites to explore [here](#) including:

- Sir Joseph Banks' papers at the State Library of NSW [website](#)
- [Gardening with Angus](#)
- Plants Online [exhibition](#) with 150 artworks, from the Foundation and Friends of the Gardens to 5 April
- [Citizen science ideas](#), [fungi in bushfire recovery](#) and [gardening ideas for isolation](#) from university researchers at The Conversation website.

Send suggestions or reviews of websites to share to enewsletter@austrplants.com.au

Growing Illawarra Natives website

The new Growing Illawarra Natives [website](#) showcases native plant species local to the Illawarra region and has tips on sourcing and growing them. It features hundreds of species with detailed information and photos. Emma Rooksby and Leon Fuller led the voluntary community project over five years, with a large team of community contributors. Clarence Slockee launched the website at a recent community celebration. Read about the website and see photos from the launch [here](#).



Buying native plants online

We have had inquiries about buying native plants online. Some nurseries that sell online only are listed on our website [here](#). Other nurseries with a physical presence also post or courier orders to customers, where you phone or email an order rather than ordering directly from a website.

Keep in mind that nursery stocks have been affected by both drought and bushfire, and nurseries which are currently open may have to close in the near future under likely "lockdown" policies.

The Collectors' Plant Fair scheduled for 28–29 March has quickly morphed into an online marketplace. The online treasure trove will be open for 12 days only, 2–14 April. When the digital doors close, purchasers will be sent an appointment time to collect plants from designated pick up points from 20 April, in a contactless delivery. Or choose home delivery. Details here: www.collectorsplantmarketplace.com.

Annual report 2019

Our Annual Report 2019 is available [here](#). It presents our activities and our financial position, and also features photos. President John Aitken says "I highly recommend that you read it, especially the District Group highlights. I continue to be impressed by the large number and varied range of activities that our groups offer their members."



Watch Menai Group on Gardening Australia

A highlight for Menai Group in our annual report was filming a segment for ABC TV's Gardening Australia which aired on 27 March 2020. Life member and Menai Group driving force Lloyd Hedges gave host Clarence Slockee a tour of the Illawong Fire Station garden and demonstrated smoke water for germinating flannel flowers while nursery volunteer Pam Forbes highlighted propagating casuarinas for glossy black cockatoos in the Southern Highlands. Watch the episode on iView [here](#).

Read about another native propagator Brian Roach on TV [here](#) and other APS members in the media [here](#).

Below: *Hakea purpurea* at the Fire Station garden



Wisdom from the past

Long-time member and gardener Ian Cox says "one of the valuable benefits I found when I joined the Parramatta Hills Group was that I could mingle with experienced members. From them, I could often pick up gems of wisdom". He shares three examples:

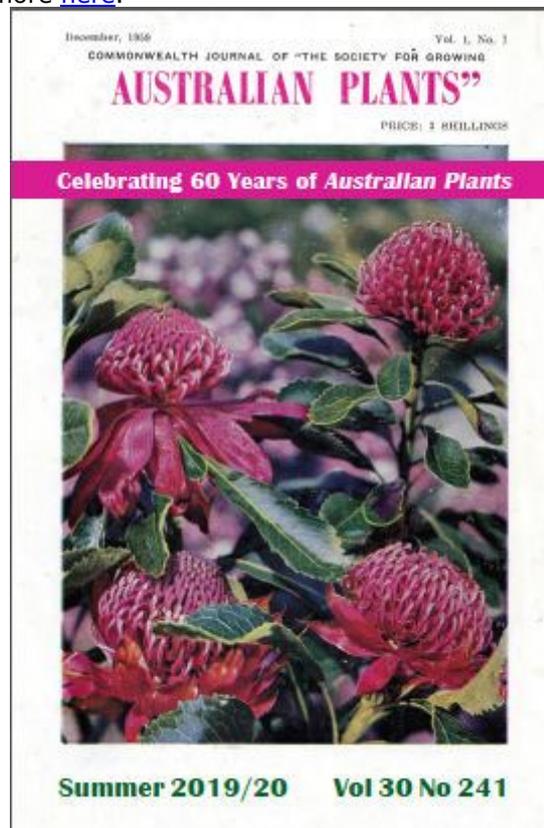
- Be ruthless
- Do all your pre-winter planting before ANZAC day
- Duplicate the plant's natural environment.

Read more [here](#), with photos of Ian's garden by Heather Miles.



Celebrating 60 years of *Australian Plants* journal

The Summer 2019/20 issue of *Australian Plants* is a very special issue celebrating 60 years of the journal. Co-editor Merle Thompson OAM explains the significance: "For an organisation or its publications to survive for 60 years must be regarded as a major achievement. This issue of *Australian Plants* marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of Volume 1, Number 1 in December 1959". Read more [here](#).



Explore Study Group newsletters

This is the time to explore all our [Study Groups](#) and their newsletter archives. There's quite a choice.

Current active Study Groups include Acacia, Australian Plants for Containers, Banksia, Correa, Dryandra, Eremophila, Eucalyptus, Ferns, Food plants, Garden design, Goodeniaceae, Grevillea, Hakea, Isopogon and Petrophile, and Wallum and coastal heathland.

Newsletters are also available from Study Groups which are now inactive including Bonsai, Brachychiton, Callistemon, Daisy, Epacris, Grasses, Hibiscus, Hibbertia, Indigenous orchids, Rainforest, Verticordia, Waratah and Flannel Flowers, and more.

Read how to join a group for free [here](#).

On the APS NSW website

Our [website](#) has our membership benefits, [how to join](#), District Group details, office-bearers and many resources including our Plant Profile database. Members receive an email reminder about membership renewal and can also renew online [here](#). Please do not use the form in *Australian Plants* for membership renewal – it is for subscriptions only.

Photo finish



Banksia arrangement by Sutherland Group at the 2019 Royal Easter Show (photo Jan Douglas)

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

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