



*Corymbia maculata* Spotted Gum and  
*Macrozamia communis* Burrawang



## South East NSW Group

### Newsletter 204

February 2024

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#### For your diary:

##### Next meeting,

**March 2nd 2024**

**Lesley Vincent garden recovery,  
and Mogo State Forest  
Details on page 2.**

##### Future meetings

##### April 6<sup>th</sup>

Propagation day at ERBG.

In preparation for another massive plant swap, everyone is invited to improve their propagation skills at this hands on event.

Dylan will be leading the day, and will provide assistance to members as needed. Further details in next newsletter

##### May 4<sup>th</sup>

##### June 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Hello all,

The Annual General Meeting is over for another year, and I thank members for supporting my nomination for President. The results of the elections, and reports of the AGM are included in this newsletter.

Thank you also to everyone that came to the AGM and to hear Lyndal's talk on **Eremophila** – a fascinating group of plants – and great to hear about all the work that the Eremophila study group is doing. It's a real privilege to have study group leaders come and talk to us and share their knowledge and passion.

A reminder that for anyone thinking about joining the committee it isn't too late to put your hand up. It's a great way to help us decide and organise activities for meetings throughout the year and doesn't involve too much work.

If anyone has anything in particular they would like the committee to organise, or has anyone they know of that would be a good speaker or be happy to host us at their garden, don't hesitate to let us know.

I would like to re-iterate my words from the last meeting too; a huge thanks to Di as outgoing president for all the work she has done for the group, and continues to do, and by extension the last committee as well.

So far, we have a good (tentative) line-up for meetings for the rest of the year, and I look forward to seeing you all there and learning more about our wonderful native flora.

**Dylan**

## Next Meeting:

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024,**  
visit to Lesley Vincent and Geoff Lovie's Garden  
453 The Ridge Road Surf Beach.  
arrive 10.00 a.m. for social morning tea,  
meeting starts at 10.30 a.m.

From this



to this



Members had the pleasure of visiting this property in April 2019, and were delighted by the wonderful gardens of well grown Australian plants.

Set high on the Ridge Road, with wonderful sea views, this extensive garden was just maturing, fulfilling the dreams Lesley had envisaged as she set about landscaping. Before the year was out, the terrible bushfires of December 2019 had decimated the plantings, although thankfully the house was saved.

Now we have been invited to again visit, to see the marvellous recovery work Lesley and Geoff have undertaken over the past few years. The gardens have been re-established and with the mild weather are flourishing. No doubt some lessons have been learned, and changes made to the landscape. Here we will have an ideal opportunity to discuss with Lesley and Geoff what measures are in place to lessen the chances of a similar event in the future. On page 13, there is a couple of recent photos supplied by Dylan.

In the afternoon, we will spend some time in Mogo State Forest looking at the diversity of the flora.

**As always, members are advised to bring morning tea and lunch, and a seat.  
Wear sensible clothing and shoes suitable for the planned outdoor activities.**

### **Instructions to get to Lesley and Geoff's Place**

The house is on the western side of Surf Beach up on The Ridge Road. There are a few ways to get there.

One being from George Bass Drive turning onto Tall Gums Way. At the intersection of Tall Gums Way and The Ridge Road turn right. Follow this winding road till you get to 453 on the right, in a cleared area.

If you come in from Princes Highway, you turn onto Tomakin Road at Mogo (near the bridge). Take the turn off at Dunns Creek Road and travel along until you reach the intersection of Dunns Creek Road and The Ridge Road. Turn left onto The Ridge Road Follow this winding road till you get to 453 on the right, in a cleared area.

The third way is to turn onto The Ridge Road at Malua Bay. This part of The Ridge Road does a funny turn at Burri Road. Basically turn right and you will still be on The Ridge Road. Follow this along past the intersection with Dunn's Creek Road and continue up the winding road till you get to 453 on the right, in a cleared area.

**Or ask Google Maps for directions**

## Last Meeting

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

President Di welcomed all, including visitors Jenny Vine, Garth Hay.

She noted the following apologies, Geoff Gosling, Annie Hood, Norm and Leslie Hulands, John and Sue Knight, Denise and Graeme Krake, Sally MacDonald and Mark and Carolyn Noake,

and then presented her report on activities for the past year. The brief report forwarded to NSW Region is recorded below, to remind us just how varied our meetings were.

#### OPENING OF MEETING:

Meeting declared open at 10.40. Leonie moved that the minutes of last year's AGM be accepted. All in favour and seconded by Mary Harrison.

Di thanked everybody for coming. Acknowledgement of country and general outline of the proceedings of the morning were given by Di. She encouraged more people to become involved in the committee suggesting that there be a timeframe of perhaps 3 years for positions held with the option to resign at any time during that period.

#### President's Report for 2023, Di Clark, presented to AGM February 2024

Wet, wet, dry, wet. That is the weather we have experienced this past year. It is quite an achievement that our group managed to conduct eleven monthly meetings and to provide such a varied and interesting selection of activities.

We ended the year knowing more about ferns in our district courtesy of a talk by **Dr. Kevin Mills**, more about orchids thanks to **Dylan Morrissey**, more about Isopogon sp. and Petrophile sp. with a talk by **Catriona Bate** and **Phil Trickett** and more about plant recovery after fire thanks to **Roger Farrow**.

We were encouraged to use our skills to propagate native plants and able to share our produce at an end of year plant swap.

Our meetings included garden visits to **Cliff Wallis** and **Sayaka Mihara's** garden in Bournda, to the Horse Island garden of **Christina Kennedy**, to **Joan Lynch's** property on the edge of Wagonga Inlet and to **Norm and Lesley Huland's** Garden in Moruya. Each of these gardens revealed an insight into how a native plant garden can work using general principles of sustainability and nurturing of the existing bushland.

The South East Region is a beautiful coastal area and we learnt more about the estuarine eco systems at **Cullendulla Creek Walk**. We are also surrounded by various types of rainforests and had the joy of seeing **Kianga Rainforest** after rain and looking like a magical area with large rainforest trees and tiny tree hugging orchids. For those of you who like to head for the hills we finally got to walk the **Mt Bushwalker** track and observe the remains of the wildflower season after little rain. I imagine this area has also recovered after the more recent rain.

I consider this to be a very interesting year of activities and educational meetings and we will endeavour to repeat this in the coming year.

Thank you for your support during the year. As I stated in the newsletter, I will be vacating the role of President. Thanks to the committee's support and the shared passion we all have for native plants, it has been an enjoyable, rewarding, experience.

Di also made mention of the Proteaceae garden and the hope of setting dates for working bees into the future.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT – 2023 Geoff Gosling:**

Being absent from this AGM, **Treasurer Geoff Gosling** detailed our financial transactions for the year, with his report appearing in the January newsletter, so members had an opportunity to digest it prior to the AGM.

## **Membership Report for AGM Feb 2024**

Membership is down a little this year on last even though we have welcomed 8 new members. Our South East Group has 86 members in total. Of those 86, 53 are individual members, 30 are in a joint membership and 3 are student members.

Our very welcome new members are:-

Bronwyn Deane from Malua Bay	Thomas Jordan from Greenleigh
Joshua Leitner from Waverley	Marion Muldrew from Depot Beach
Melanie Murray from Catalina	Stephen Poucher from Sunshine Bay
Frances Southon from Guerilla Bay and	Luke Sweedman from Dalmeny

We also have 21 associate members whose main group is further away but who also have an interest in our group and this local area .

I have a collection of potential badges so if anybody here needs a badge please come and see me.

**Jenny John, Membership Officer**

Each report was moved by the presenter, and seconded from the floor. Details are recorded in the minutes. There were no questions from the floor.

## **ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMEBERS:**

At the completion of the reports, Di called for our **returning officer Mary Harrison** to conduct elections for committee positions for the upcoming year. Mary declared all positions on the committee vacant, and called for nominations for each position.

### **The following were elected:**

**President** Dylan Morrissey nominated by Di Clark Seconded by Daniel Bateman.

**Vice President** vacant

**Secretary** Leonie Kestel nominated by Dylan Morrissey, Seconded by Lesley Vincent.

**Treasurer** vacant No nominations.

**Membership** Jenny John nominated by Dylan Morrissey, seconded by Sharon Pearson.

**General Committee** Di Clark, nominated by Dylan Morrissey, seconded by Barry Hart,  
Norm Hulands, nominated by Di Clark, seconded by Phil Trickett,  
John Knight, nominated by Geoff Gosling, seconded by Sharon Pearson,  
Sally Power nominated by Jenny John, seconded by Di Clark.

Thus concluded the AGM, and Elected President Dylan resumed our meeting, introducing our guest speaker Lyndal.



## A Plant for all Climates: *Dr. Lyndal Thorburn*

***The Eremophila genus, its Study Group, and how you can have years of fun growing Emu Bush*** The floral heading is made by Lyndal, entirely with eremophila flowers, proving you can have fun with eremophilas.

**Lyndal is a life member of ANPS Canberra, a member of APS NSW South East Region group, and has led the Eremophila Study Group since 2015.**

A scientist by training but not by profession, she has kept her interest in biology alive through long term involvement with the APS Canberra propagation group, membership of APS Study Groups, and participation in many Citizen Science groups including iNaturalist, NatureMapr and Frog ID.

Lyndal's interest in Eremophila (Emu Bush) was kindled in 1985 when first purchasing a pink *Eremophila maculata* 'Wendy' - a plant which is still alive in their Queanbeyan garden! She and Tom have since grown over 100 varieties in their rather shady garden, and have been delighted to discover that many in the genus are frost hardy and don't need sun all day.

As leader of the Eremophila Study Group, Lyndal has instigated State-based sub-groups which have become active contributors to general knowledge about the genus and to the Study Group's research program, which now comprises three significant projects.



*Eremophila georgei*

The Group's website ([www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au)) contains an image database of almost every species and many hybrids and cultivars. Study Group members are now contributing to the living collection at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and other botanic gardens in Victoria and South Australia through wild collections (under appropriate permits).

The subject of her presentation was also delivered at the Paramatta and Hills APS Group on 25 November and this account of her talk is from Lyndal's PowerPoint file and from Calgaroo, February 2024, the Parramatta and Hills newsletter



**Purple flowered  
*Eremophila  
hygrophana*, on the  
right,  
and *Eremophila  
bignoniiflora* x *E.  
alternifolia* 'Meringur  
Pink'**



Her talk had four broad headings:

- The Genus
- The Study Group
- Growing Eremophila
- How you can get involved

### The Genus

There are 240 described Eremophila species, at least 60 undescribed, and up to 900 when counting varieties and hybrids. Lyndal spoke about the vast range of Eremophila flowers and foliage, and showed on the screen photos of many flower variations, fruit capsules and leaf types.

Photos on this page by Study Group member  
Phil Hempel

*Eremophila christophorii*



*Eremophila abietina*



*Eremophila duttoni*



*Eremophila glabra*



*Eremophila glandulifera*

**Range of leaf types. Leaves are often grey due to the surface hairs.**



### **The Study Group**

The Eremophila Study Group was established in 1972, and Lyndal gave an outline of the vast amount of knowledge generated about the genus by the study group's activities and its members.

**Range of leaf types, Grey, green, glossy and differing shapes**

**From the left, *E. maculata x racemosa*, *E. chaemaephila*, *E. eriocalyx*, *E. glabra* 'Bev Rice', *E. nivea x drummondii*, *E. serrulata*, *E. glabra* 'Murchison Magic'**

### **Typical Study Group activities are:**

- newsletters – all downloadable from the ANPSA website – cover propagation/cultivation experiences, collecting and naming. For 35 years ESG newsletters were the only source of information for gardeners apart from academic articles (and for Eremophila, there has only been a handful).
- local groups (Qld, SA, Vic) have meetings, cutting swaps, garden visits, small plant sales, speakers, training e.g. on grafting,
- field trips - e.g. to wild locations
- censuses – records of what is grown, what is not grown, single collections
- flower shows (regional)
- propagation supplies (grafting)

### **Research**

The study group has initiated and is involved in three scientific research projects through the University of Queensland:

- to compare seed fill in fruit from garden-grown and wild Eremophila and examine pollen viability as an explanation for low seed fill in garden specimens,
- to understand seed germination triggers using molecular biology, DNA sequencing and proteomics,
- to study the impact of ploidy (the number of chromosomes in each cell) on germination.

## Growing Eremophila

### Planting tips:

- Dig a hole larger than the root ball of the plant and do not cover the stock-scion join if grafted
- Fertilise – blood and bone, or native plant fertiliser (low P)
- Water in and look after until established, and for grafted plants, water as you would a Myoporum.
- Prune as necessary to prevent leggedness, noting that some, but not all species can survive a hard prune. Best to start with around one third removal, and await results. Some of the hardier species can accept shaping as you might with Westringia.
- If frost tender, plant in a container or near a wall
- Watch out for possums and rabbits !
- Be aware of “natural life span” and be prepared to replace as necessary

### Myth 1: They don't like shade

**Solution:** Choose species that can cope with dappled shade  
Ensure good airflow regardless.

### Myth 2: Eremophilas are desert plants and can't take frost

**Solution:** At least half the species are frost resistant, many to minus 7 degrees

See <https://plantdatabase.nativeplantscbr.com.au/>

And you can always use tubs!

### Myth 3: Eremophilas don't like wet feet

**Solution:** Raised beds! Or grafted specimens

And many occur naturally in clay pans and can take occasional downpours. Despite being a dryland species, they do well in wetter areas, particularly if actively fertilised, pruned and planted in an open, breezy area. In really wet areas, prune to enhance air flow, prune out any dieback, and use non-grey leaved species.

### What can you do?

- Try Eremophila in your garden
- See our website for a list of nurseries that sell them
- Join the Study Group
- Propagate plants for your garden. Members report good success using firm young growth, and hormones no stronger than 3000ppm (e.g. Clonex green)
- Phil Trickett has great success with grafting, using Myoporum as rootstock, and is always keen to show others his method.
- Buy some of the Study Group merchandise!
- Lobby your local council to plant natives and/or Eremophila (or engage in a bit of guerrilla gardening) ??
- Spread the word through local groups, gardening shows and government advice/pamphlets
- Go bush and hunt your own Eremophilas on your next holiday!

**Thanks Lyndal !**



**A garden of Eremophilas in Sydney !**



## The ever popular **Members Show and Tell** segment notes by Di. Clark.

Members had responded to the call, and a fine selection of plants were on display.

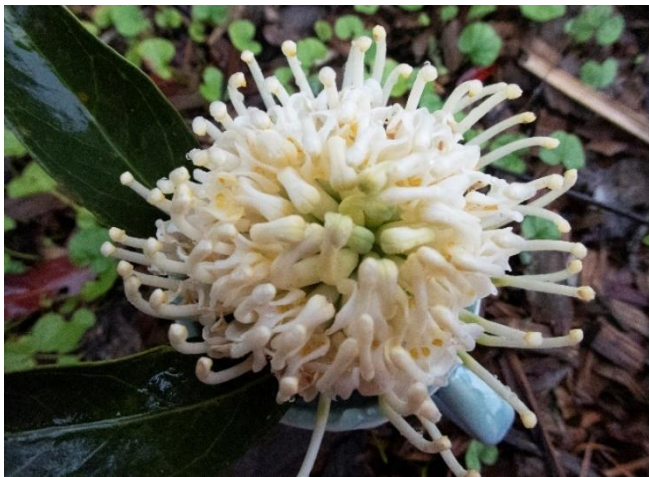
As we were all totally in love with eremophila plants after Lyndal's talk, it was decided that Lyndal should open the Show and Tell session. Her contributions were *Eremophila* '**Yana Road**' (*E. gilesii* x *E. latrobei*). This is a pink flowering eremophila that will grow to 0.8m high by 1.25m wide. Lyndal grows the plant in Queanbeyan and finds they tolerate frost. Unfortunately, they do not strike well but will graft readily onto myoporum stock.



*Eremophila* 'Yana Road'

*Eremophila calorhabdos* '**Beryl's Gem**'. This is a hybrid between *E. splendens* and *E. calorhabdos*. It is an upright open shrub to 1.5m high x 1.5m wide. Another frost tolerant species that propagates well from cuttings, and a hybrid *Eremophila subfloccosa* x *E. glabra*. This plant grows 0.5m high x 0.5m wide and has green flowers.

The eremophila theme was then added to by Phil Trickett. We were shown *Eremophila* '**Meringur Isaac**'. A hybrid between *E. bignoniiflora* (pink) and *E. polyclada* (white). This is a plant that has coped very well in a wet part of Phil and Catriona's garden.



Other plants that Phil presented were *Telopea* '**Shady Lady White**', *Grevillea* '**Orange Wow**' and *Persoonia pinifolia*.

Another one was *Grevillea acanthifolia*. The well-known naturally occurring grevillea hybrid, *Grevillea* x *gaudichaudii* came from the parents *Grevillea acanthifolia* subsp. *acanthifolia* and *Grevillea laurifolia* originating in the Blue Mountains of NSW.



Jo Benyon bought along a specimen of *Calostemma purpurea*.

This is a lovely little clumping native lily with bright pink/purple flowers which Jo has been growing for decades. It is easy to propagate from seed. The plants die down after flowering, and leaves reappear in spring with reddish/purple flowers during summer.

Plants produce bulbils when the flowers fade, and these can be collected fresh and sown in a well-drained mix, where they will germinate readily.

Marjorie showed a few specimens in the Myrtaceae family.

A beautiful Western Australian *Beaufortia squarrosa*, with bright orange flowers.

There was also a specimen of an unknown *Baeckea* sp., *Thryptomene denticulata* and the endangered summer



flowering small shrub, *Spyridium coactilifolium* (Butterfly Spyridium) from near Encounter Bay South Australia. The specific epithet refers to the foliage being felt like (softly hairy all over) from Latin Kohaktil (feeling like felt)

Anne Kearney also had a waratah for display. This time it was one of our local specimens, *Telopea mongaensis*. Her specimen of *Veronica* 'Monty's Blue' had beautiful bright blue flowers. This small perennial grows 1m x 1m.



## Propagation for 2024 Plant Swap

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the committee wishes to see more members involved in the satisfying, although sometimes frustrating activity of **propagating plants**.

The next couple of months are an ideal time for propagating by cuttings, as the soft spring growth firms to ideal cutting material. Please keep it in mind when you are out gardening or visiting friends with interesting native plants.

Seeds too can be germinated over the warmer months, with young plants kept sheltered until cooler weather of autumn. We would love to see everyone trying to propagate some native plants and bring along some spares to share with the group at a planned Plant Swap later this year.

**Time to get growing ! Mark in your diary now to attend our April meeting, where all the best ideas for successful propagation will be revealed.**

## PROTEACEAE REPORT Feb 2024

Dear Members,

The weather has been kind to us in many ways and the plants in the Proteaceae bed have continued to grow while we have had a break.

The plants shown here, the rare Diamond Creek *Grevillea gilmourii*, and the compact form of *Grevillea rhyolitica*, with the cultivar name 'Deua Flame' demonstrate just how well the garden is progressing.

It is now time to gather again and continue our work on this project. I would like to organise a **working bee for March 8<sup>th</sup>**. I will send out more details to those on the list, so if you would like to join us, and have not come along before please contact me and I will include you. It is a requirement that you undertake a short induction process before attending a working bee at the ERBG. If you are unable to attend a working bee, but would like to be involved in record keeping, mapping or a signage discussion we would love to hear from you.

Initially some of our plants were chewed by the wildlife, but these have made a remarkable comeback with the addition of tree guards and some careful pruning. We will need to check the guards and give some of the plants more room because they are doing so well. It is one of the interesting features of this remarkable family that they will reshoot after fire and other damage.

I look forward to seeing you again at one of our get togethers.

**Di Clark**

### In my Garden

**Well, not exactly, but this piece from Dylan describes the North Durras Discovery Trail**

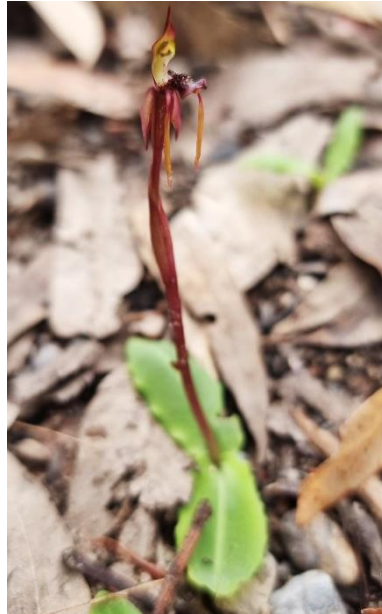
If you aren't afraid of leeches or humidity, I can highly recommend the discovery trail at Durras, especially if you haven't done the walk before.

The short loop only takes about half an hour (if you aren't stopping for photos, about 2 hours if you are) and is an excellent display of mature *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palms), large Eucalypts and a wonderful diversity of ferns.



**Enjoying a day out with dad, young Everley Morrissey is dwarfed by a fallen Spotted Gum on the Discovery Trail**

There is also currently a couple of species of terrestrial orchid flowering (*Cryptostylis erecta* and *Chiloglottis diphylla*).



After a summer of good rainfall, the area is particularly lush and everything is looking at its best. Especially good to see so many seedlings of *Polyscias murrayi* (Pencil Cedar) starting to put on growth spurts and shoot towards the canopy; the area was burnt and very few mature plants still remain. The walk is fairly easy, although does involve some stairs.

Wet and humid conditions favour rapid growth of plants, but might also encourage pests to visit. Vigorous growth on *Corymbia citriodora* has attracted these exquisitely designed lerps in large numbers.

To the rescue, yellow winged honeyeaters, in small flocks of up to 12 birds, seem to delight in the sweet residue the lerps create.

Not so sure about the waxy coating, but the birds are managing to keep the animals in check.



Although rarely grown by members, *Bursaria spinosa ssp lasiophylla* is an important plant for attracting summer feeding insects, bees and butterflies, including the endangered Copper Butterflies, as this plant is their only source of food. Locally, plants flower before Christmas through February, and the sweetly scented flowers attract butterflies, myriad flies, bees and beetles, and is worth growing to benefit these. Yes it's a bit prickly, but !

The newsletter is an opportunity for members to boast about some of their garden successes. Please put pen to paper, (fingertips to keyboard) and let others know what is happening in your garden.

**Did you hear that *Corymbia maculata* might be in line for another name change? More next month**

**ERBG News**

To complement the great Friends newsletter ‘Correa’ we are just about to launch the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens first ever enews letter called ‘**the Garden Path**’.

This will come out every 2 months and give you the latest up to date news on what’s happening at the Garden. You’ll be first to know about special events, special offers, new products from the shop, what our team is up to, what great projects are in the pipeline, gardening tips and fascinating info about our wildlife.

**To receive The Garden Path it’s really easy, just click on the link below to subscribe, its free and you can unsubscribe at any time.**

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Regards  
Michael Anlezark Manager  
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden



Dylan supplied these couple of photos to show just how quickly Lesley Vincent’s garden has recovered.

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