



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

## South East NSW Group

### Newsletter 205

March 2024

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#### For your diary:

##### Next meeting,

##### 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.

##### Future meetings

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

**The purple Banksia spinulosa  
Visit to the property at  
Braidwood.** Dylan will be leading  
the day. Further details in next  
newsletter

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

##### July 6<sup>th</sup>

**Wallaga Lake Bermagui  
Cemetery**

##### August 3<sup>rd</sup> TBC

##### August 31<sup>st</sup>

**Garden visit John Elton  
Coolangatta and Shoalhaven  
Native Botanic Garden**

**Hello everyone,**

The weather at our last meeting was a taste of things sure to come, and sure enough since then, the weather has been a bit of a mixed bag, but I'm glad we've finally had some decent rain.

Despite the overcast skies and cool breeze, it was a great day wandering around Lesley and Geoff's place and hearing how much passion they have for their garden and home. It could be easy to see the sloped block as nothing but a challenge, but clearly their combined vision saw plenty of potential, and it's a testament to their dedication and passion for this beautiful home how much has been re-established since the fires wiped the gardens out. Thanks again for having us to your home Lesley and Geoff!

**At our next meeting,** we will conduct a practical, hands on propagation day. **(details are on page 2)**

I would encourage you all to bring some material to practice your propagation skills on.

For any of you die-hard plant fans (I'm sure there's one or two in the group) next month is one of the most exciting dates on the calendar – **The Collectors Plant Fair.**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April at the Hawkesbury Race Club, over 80 nurseries and plant groups converge for a weekend of everything weird and wonderful in the plant world.

Some of the native nurseries featured are Ausplants R Us, Bilby Blooms, Macquarie Native Orchids, Sustainable Natives and the Grafting co. as well as many others.

For a full list of vendors see the website –

[www.collectorsplantfair.com.au](http://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au).

Well worth a weekend trip to Sydney.

Hope you are all well and I will see you soon,

**Dylan**

## Next Meeting:

**Saturday 6th April 2024,  
at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  
meet at the nursery area around 10.00 a.m.**

**(There is parking at the top of the hill in the Nursery carpark.)**

### **PRACTICAL PROPAGATION**

After a social morning tea, the propagation session will begin at 10:30am. Dylan and other and experienced members will assist with the activities. Think of this as a practice run for our plant swap at Christmas – a cutting swap if you will. I know you all have things in your garden you would like more of, and things other people would love some material of, so whether it's in flower or not, if it's something unusual or special or even just something you haven't been able to strike before, bring it along for show and tell and then we can have a crack at propagating it.

It's a great time of year for taking cuttings with the last of the hot weather (hopefully) gone and plenty of time to get roots on things and get them potted up ready for the end of the year. Propagation is a real passion of mine so I'm glad we are making it a regular fixture of our yearly calendar.

- **The aim of the day is to share the skills and knowledge of the group regarding propagation and let members test their skills at the ERBG.**
- **There will be plant material available on the day for cuttings but you are welcome to bring in material from home. Please ensure all material is healthy, pest free, and ideally labelled.**
- **The ERBG has some tools available for use on the day but we recommend you bring your own special, magic pair of secateurs to ensure consistency.**

**ERBG is charging a \$5.00 fee per attending member for the day, to cover our use the pots, propagation mix, labels, gloves and hormones supplied by the gardens. Please bring cash.**

**You may bring your own pots and propagation mix and hormones, and so avoid the cover charge.**

The cuttings you prepare will be going home with you, so please bring something to carry them in, and a way of keeping them cool if you are travelling some distance. A few small pots or containers with drainage to place them in would be useful.

We will demonstrate various techniques for keeping cuttings alive at home and also have a brainstorming session to see what our inventive members are doing.

**There are many different aspects of plant propagation.** If there is something you would really like to learn or see, please let us know before the day and we can prepare.

We will be covering how to assess cutting material, how to select a hormone, choosing the right pot and media. This will be a practical session so you will be taking the cuttings yourself.

We can also look at seed propagation if there is interest in that. This is an opportunity to ask any questions, with experienced propagators on hand.

**Remember.** Our Group is planning a plant swap day for later in the year so this is a perfect opportunity to get some plants growing and share them or swap with our members.

We will also include a show and tell session on this day, and the plants demonstrated can then be propagated if desired.

We will have propagation sessions before and after lunch broken up by the show and tell and a walk if people would like to stretch their legs.

## Last Meeting

### 453 The Ridge Road Surf Beach Lesley Vincent and Geoff Lovie's Garden

Members had the pleasure of visiting this property in April 2019, and were delighted by the wonderful gardens of well grown Australian plants. Before the year was out, the terrible bushfires of December 2019 had decimated the plantings, although thankfully the house was saved.

Geoff opened with comments about the effects of the fires, and how they have responded to mitigate any future disaster. The house and gardens are set within an Asset Protection Zone (APZ), consisting of the adjacent road, aggregate and concrete driveway on the western boundary, extensive, well maintained lawns to the north and east, and utility gardens to the south.

Said Geoff, "the hard or built elements on the property fared well with the fire, apart from minor scarring and fence damage." The revised Fire Plan developed since the fires has needed minor modification, incorporating improved sealing around the double glazed windows, ember seals to the doors and under roofing and fire resistant silicone to all gaps. These simple steps are ones that each of us who live within a bushy environment should consider as part of our own fire plans.

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. Very little has changed in the landscaping plans, as Lesley and Geoff loved the original garden and will risk having it again. In the broader area, regular clearing around bases of major trees to reduce crowning, and ensuring the taller native grasses are trimmed, are the only additional measures planned. As Geoff said, a rain of embers and heat from a significant bushfire would give little chance for native plantings set in mulched garden beds, no matter the APZ.



This abundant native garden offers a lot of pleasure with aesthetic values of form and colour, multitude of attracted birds and other wildlife, including lizards, snakes, echidna, kangaroo, wallaby, along with micro-climate cooling effects and maybe even positive ions..!

Outside of the APZ, new trees are allowed to grow. A potential trade off to existing water views, these will offer erosion protection, conceal the view of new residential development on blocks below extensively cleared after the fires, and of course offer all the benefits of beautiful trees, which is the very "Essence" of where they live.

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.

**Well-spaced Ironbark and Spotted Gum dot the garden, away from the house but complementing the forest north of the garden. Clearing of the understory along the fence line, both within the property boundary and with assistance and approval of Forests NSW will help with fire control should another such event occur.**





Generous block walls, low planting and non-organic mulches should help protect the house from damage.

Lesley discussed ideas she has implemented since the fire. In the main, ensuring plants in beds close to the house are generally low, and introducing some fire retarding species as well. No gardens are against the house, these beds replaced with gravel mulch, with some herbaceous plants like *Brachyscome* allowed to wander.

There has been some compromise with mulches, with the preferred organic material only used where there is an adjacent hard surface to prevent flames running. There are plans also for new large water tank supplying a dedicated sprinkler system, and with an assured power supply.

Avoiding the rush to remove and replant, Lesley allowed generous time for existing plants to decide whether or not they would recover, regenerate or die. Beds were initially lightly mulched to assist with erosion control, then came wait and see. Thankfully, many plants did regrow, and remain as the bones of the original garden design. Those that did not survive were ruthlessly removed, and a revised design incorporating smaller plants evolved to where we are today. Geoff lamented that despite his earnest pleadings, he cannot prevent Lesley bringing even more baby potted plants that “needed a home”.

Like most gardeners, Lesley just loves plants, and can't wait to see her new babies in the ground, to “see how they go”. Variable weather over the past few years has presented challenges, and not all babies survive, let alone thrive. So Lesley decides to get some more. Eventually, enough do decide it is not so bad here at Surf Beach, and grow happily. The result is a very attractive, healthy garden of smaller Australian plants, providing joy to the owners, and a safe haven for native wildlife. Win Win!



A delightful lunch setting above the steep eastern slope, showing the effective use of low growing plants and well-spaced larger plants designed to reduce possible fire spread.



In the natural areas of the garden, Lesley has been troubled by a couple of plants. One is *Imperata cylindrica*, Blady Grass, which runs rampant in cultivated areas and is difficult to remove. It was suggested that the plant will become less of a problem as the upper story develops and offers denser shade. Also Blady Grass does not cope with regular mowing, so will become less of an issue over time.



A bigger concern is the Burrawangs, *Macrozamia communis*. Cycads have a specialised pollination process, commonly by beetles. These might appear to be a cause of the problems noted in poorly growing plants. However the likely cause of the problem is a small, attractive blue-grey butterfly, the Cycad Moth. These lay eggs within the newly emerging crown of cycad plants. Eggs hatch within 2 or 3 days, and hungry little caterpillars munch on the unfolding fronds, leaving them yellowing and with edges which are white or straw coloured. These fronds turn brown as they continue to unfurl. Cycad moth larvae can only feed on the young growth for a couple of weeks before the growth becomes too tough. However the butterfly will continue to find plenty of plants to lay eggs on throughout the growing season, and subsequent new growth will likely be affected. Over time, the damaged fronds just collapse, or are easily removed without effort. Once plants reach this stage there seems little chance they will recover. **A factsheet on controlling this pest** is available from Agri-science Queensland, Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries, PDF (NY11001) Plant Health biosecurity and offers detailed advice.

Not all Blue-Grey Butterflies are pests though, so be aware that many, including a range of Copper Butterflies are important pollinators of summer flowering shrubs and grasses.



A variety of ferns including *Oceaniopteris cartilaginea* (syn. *Blechnum cartilagineum*) Gristle Fern, and *Doodia aspera*, Prickly Rasp Fern, Lomandras and Dianellas provide height to a steep bank covered with *Grevillea* 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'.



*Leptospermum brachyandrum* 'Silver Weeping Tea-tree' is a lovely addition for small gardens. When allowed to develop its multi-trunked form, the pink and copper trunks remind one of Crepe Myrtle. This is a small tree to 5m or so, with an open canopy. Although it grows naturally along creeks, it is quite at home in a well-drained garden.



*Grevillea paradoxa* growing close by, comes from Western Australia's wheatbelt district, growing to about 2m on deep yellow sand. Brilliant pink bottlebrush flowers are borne through the warmer months. Collected by James Drummond, specimens were named by von Mueller in 1868. He thought the plant looked more like a Hakea, thus the paradox.



## The ever popular **Members Show and Tell**

A varied assortment of plants featured this month, including a range of Banksias from **Phil and Catriona**. From Tasmania came a small flowered *B. marginata*, from Green Cape SE NSW a low spreading form of *B. paludosa* with rusty terminal flowers, a very robust *B. robur* of unknown provenance and yellow flowered *B. aquilonia* with interesting foliage a feature. This one is from Northern Queensland.



*Banksia aquilonia*, Northern Banksia, showing reverse of the foliage, contrasting markedly from the upper surface.

Other contributions included an unusual Grevillea, *G. intricata*, a WA plant with tangled foliage and scented flowers at first green, turning white. This can get to be quite large in the garden.

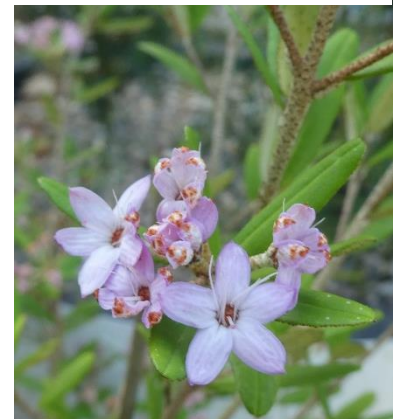
*Eremophila glabra*, a yellow flowered prostrate form probably referable to 'Kalbarri Carpet'.

**Jan Douglas** displayed a specimen of Grevillea which was sold as *G. barklyana*. It was confirmed with Grevillea guru Peter Olde that the plant is a hybrid, known as *Grevillea* 'Barkly's Daughter' possibly with *G. longifolia* as the male contributor.

**Anne Kearney** presented a lovely *Thomasia macrocarpa* with mauve pink flowers. This delightful softly foliaged grey leaved shrub grows to about 1.5m, and flowers for many months. It was noted that Thomasias are ideal plants for semi-shaded sites, and tolerate dry conditions. Anne stated that hers has survived heavy frosts in her Braidwood garden, and is now 4 years old.

**Don Beattie** brought along a tray of *Scaevola aemula* plants for distribution. Don collected a cutting from Burrewarra Point some time back, and over recent times the plant has proliferated in his Broulee garden. Another very pretty shrub, *Phebalium woombye*, pink flowered form is performing very well. This plant comes from Northern NSW and Southern Q'land, and grows to around 1m. in heathy country. There is also a prostrate, white flowered form in cultivation, although rarely seen these days.

*Phebalium woombye*, pink



A little whimsy in Lesley's garden, artwork is the remains of a shrub which was killed during the fire. The busy frog lodge offers musical entertainment on misty evenings





In the afternoon, members wandered with Lesley along the recently developed 'Mogo Trails' in Mogo State Forest looking at the diversity of the flora. Lesley and Geoff have joined with other volunteers to develop and maintain these tracks as part of the Mogo Bike Trails, and despite the prominent Government signage, the trail fairies actually do the work.

A range of easily negotiated trails loop through the bushland, which comprises Ironbark, *Eucalyptus paniculata*, Stringybark, *Eucalyptus globoidea*, and Spotted Gum, *Corymbia maculata*. Understory contains a range of Acacia species, with other peas including *Podolobium ilicifolium*, *Daviesia ulicifolia* and *Pultenaea villosa*. In wetter sections a range of rainforest plants was found, including *Psychotria loniceroides* and *Zieria smithii*.



With Dylan at the lead, we found some orchids, including *Acianthus fornicatus*, Pixie caps and *Pterostylis revoluta*, Autumn Greenhood.

Phil conducted a quick iNaturalist identification and learning session, and David Hall quickly became a convert, photographing many new (to him) plants, and receiving quick and accurate results as to the name of these plants.

Returning to our starting point, Dylan thanked Geoff and Lesley on behalf of the group, and we headed home, some with ideas for their own gardens, others to put the feet up after a big day out.

## Committee News

With great sadness news was received recently that long time member Mark Noake had passed away following a lengthy illness. Those who knew Mark well will recall how he fought bravely for some years, never complaining, doing his best to enjoy life with his best mate and partner Carolyn.

The Noake garden contained hundreds of species of Australian plants, with the established trees now approaching 50 years old. Within this framework, Mark and Carolyn developed extensive shrub beds, many with Mark's favourite, Grevillea, which became almost an obsession.

Mark developed quite deep knowledge of this Genus, and was recognised by Grevillea Study Group leader Peter Olde for his work on *Grevillea arenaria*, *G. macleayana*, and *G. gilmourii*, with Mark's intricate photographic work featuring in scientific papers Peter published.

At his request, Mark was farewelled at an intimate gathering of close friends and family, and toasted often at a following celebration at the Noake home in Glenduart.

APS was represented by some of Mark's closest friends. Carolyn was a pillar of strength on the day, as she has been through these last few years, and we can but express our heartfelt sympathy to her and her family at this difficult time.

Photos of Mark at various stages of life were projected during the service but Carolyn suggested that this one showed a typical day at home. Vale Mark.



Just what *are* you doing on the roof Mark? Getting a picture of a Grevillea, why?

President Dylan advises Members that an important botanical event is scheduled for September

**2024 LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW NATURAL HISTORY FIELD SYMPOSIUM**

**Natural History of the NSW South Coast**  
Tuesday September 17, 2024 (oral presentations at Batemans Bay),  
Wednesday September 18 & Thursday September 19 (field trips)

Over the past 13 years the Linnean Society of New South Wales has been active in organising a series of field symposia highlighting aspects of natural history in the Port Macquarie area (2010), Royal National Park (2012), Jenolan Caves (2013), Belubula Valley (2015), Snowy Mountains National Park (2017), Warrumbungles National Park (2018), Blue Mountains National Park (2019), and the Northeastern Sydney Basin encompassing Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (2022).

**Focus of the 2024 field symposium** will be on the South Coast of NSW and NE Victoria (Wollongong to Mallacoota) and the adjacent hinterland.

Spectacular coastal outcrops in this region include some of the oldest rocks (upper Cambrian to Middle Ordovician) known in southeastern Australia, Early Devonian granitic intrusions, sedimentary rocks of Late Devonian age, and the basal strata (Lower Permian) of the southern Sydney Basin.

The botanical diversity is considerable, with a wide spectrum of communities ranging from coastal heathlands to eucalypt forest with some of the largest known spotted gums. Bird and insect life is prolific.

An initial day of scientific and general interest talks and presentations on current research into the geology and geodiversity, flora and fauna, and other aspects of the natural history of the entire South Coast region, will be held in Batemans Bay, to be followed by two day-long field trips extending south to Narooma and north to Ulladulla.

**Full details of the Symposium are included as a separate attachment to this newsletter.**

**The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden presents:**

# From the Forest



**13-28 April  
2024**

**Details of the extensive program of events is included as a separate attachment to this newsletter**



## More 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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Subscribe now and you will be all set to get the very first edition of The Garden Path straight to your inbox as soon as its ready. Please help spread the news and forward this email to anyone you think would enjoy knowing more about our Botanic Garden.

Regards

Michael Anlezark Manager

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden

## PROTEACEAE REPORT March 2024

The working bee at ERBG proceeded as planned, and although not well attended, we did manage to achieve some worthwhile improvements. Earlier plantings have grown vigorously, the wallaby problem has been partially solved with guards around most small plants, and there are not too many weed issues to overcome.

There will another working bee scheduled for April, and members on the Proteaceae distribution list will be notified in due course. Thanks to all who have assisted in this project.

Di Clark

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

The following is part of the abstract from this research article, which sets out relationships within Eucalypts, and argues for some *Corymbia* to be moved to *Blakella*

## JSE Journal of Systematics and Evolution

doi: 10.1111/jse.13047

### Research Article (Crisp et al)

### Perianth evolution and implications for generic delimitation in the eucalypts (Myrtaceae), including the description of the new genus, *Blakella*

Eucalypts (Myrtaceae tribe Eucalypteae) are currently placed in seven genera. Traditionally, Eucalyptus was defined by its operculum, but when **phylogenies** placed Angophora, with free sepals and petals, as sister to the operculate bloodwood eucalypts, the latter were segregated into a new genus, Corymbia. Yet, generic delimitation in the tribe Eucalypteae remains uncertain.

Using phylogenetic analysis we tested alternative relationships among *Arillastrum*, *Angophora*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Corymbia*. Phylogenetic mapping was used to explore the evolution of perianth traits.

Monophyly of *Corymbia* relative to *Angophora* was decisively rejected.

All alternative relationships among the seven currently recognized Eucalypteae genera imply homoplasy in the evolutionary origins of the operculum. Inferred evolutionary transitions in perianth traits are congruent with divergences between major clades, except that the expression of separate sepals and petals in *Angophora*, which is nested within the operculate genus *Corymbia*, appears to be a reversal to the plesiomorphic perianth structure.

### Here, we formally raise *Corymbia* subg. *Blakella* to genus rank

and make the relevant new combinations. We also define and name three sections within *Blakella* (*Blakella* sect. *Blakella*, *Blakella* sect. *Naviculares*, and *Blakella* sect. *Maculatae*), and two series within *Blakella* sect. *Maculatae* (*Blakella* ser. *Maculatae* and *Blakella* ser. *Torellianae*). *Corymbia* is reduced to the red bloodwoods.

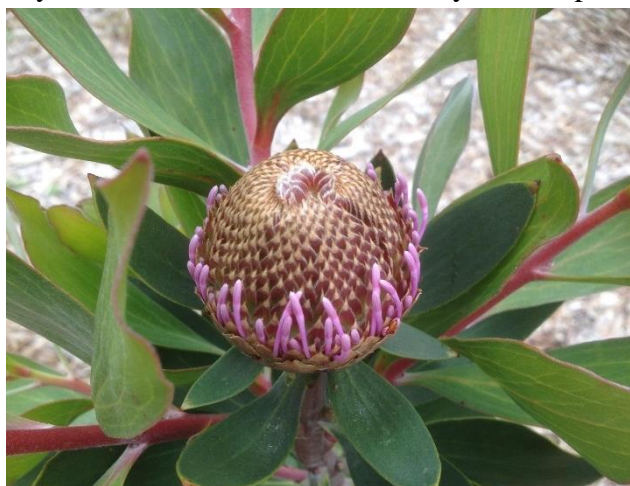
The Research Article, over 21 pages sets out the argument for formal taxonomic changes recognising *Blakella*, and within the *Blakella* sect. *Maculatae* (*Blakella* series *Maculatae*) places the previously known *Corymbia*, (*C. citriodora*, *C. henryi* and *C. maculata*), as ***Blakella citriodora***, ***B. henryi*** and ***B. maculata***.

You might recall the noise surrounding the change to *Corymbia* from *Eucalyptus*, although very valid morphological characters were clear. This change might be an even bigger ask, although future naming of plants is very likely to be based on phylogenies rather than phenetics.

Members interested in reading the full article can download it from the JSE website.

## In my Garden

If your head hurts after all that, maybe a couple of plant photos might relieve the tension.



*Isopogon latifolius*, a bit confused as to when to flower



*Grevillea macleayana* inflorescence (Mark Noake)

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