



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 150

June 2019

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

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Planned gathering for July Meeting Date of Saturday 6th July

Last year there was no meeting in July as so many people are away and numbers may be limited. We have organised a walk only on that day. This would be more of a social gathering than a meeting. The proposed walk is to be along the Bingi Dreaming Track from the Congo end towards Meringo, a distance of 3.5 km one way. The walk will commence at the car park at the southern end of Congo. Meet at 10.00 am for a cuppa *or* 10.25 am for a 10.30 am departure. There are no toilets here, but they can be found at the Congo Campground, 5 minutes up the road in Congo. There are also a couple of picnic tables at the Congo Campground, so we could have lunch here after the walk. The Campground is in a beautiful position near the river and the coast. I am not sure if I will have reception at the spot, but if you want to contact me before then, my mobile number is 0402 555 330. (Di Clark). This walk is through a National Park so no dogs are allowed. Bring the usual gear you would wear for a walk through the bush. For more information see

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/bingi-dreaming-track>



Other plant events of interest in July:



The Illawarra Grevillea Park

Rear of Bulli Showground, Princes Highway
Bulli – close to Bulli Station

Winter Open Days 2019

Saturday July 6th and 13th; Sunday July 7th and 14th: 10am to 4pm

We invite you to come and spend a few hours or a day in the park! Over the summer hundreds of new plants have been added to the gardens' extensive collection and new paths built through the rainforest. A warm autumn has been excellent for many of our flowering beauties.

Winter is a great time to stroll around the park. Explore the display gardens and discover grevilleas and other plants from all over Australia. Spend some time in the tranquil rainforest, take a bush walk in the vine forest or relax and picnic on the lawn.

Hundreds of natives for sale, including grafted grevilleas, eremophilas and pimeleas. Plenty of books to browse and purchase at low prices.

Tours of the garden each day at 11.00am.

BBQ facilities available and easy access to display gardens, including the rainforest, for wheelchairs and prams.

WANT ADVICE? – bring your questions and we will do our best to help!

COST: \$5.00 adults and children free.

FURTHER INFORMATION : The Illawarra Grevillea Park/Facebook

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June Meeting of APS SE NSW, 1st June 2019 at South Pacific Heathland Reserve, Ulladulla

Fifteen members and visitors gathered at the Dowling St trackhead of the South Pacific Heathland Reserve. After morning tea we started our guided plant walk, led by by Dr Nicholas de Jong, author of the book “Heathlands: Walks and Wildflowers of the Ulladulla Headlands”. Although June is not the optimum month for flowering, there was still much to see in this beautiful reserve, which is maintained almost weed-free by a volunteer committee of land managers that began its activities in 1961.



We started our walk south, on the Old Coast Road track, with our guide pointing out the rare *Grevillea macleayana* (above) under mallee forms of *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Corymbia gummifera*; and the rare *Persoonia mollis caleyae* in sparse flower; it grows only on Wandrawandian Siltstone, one of the Sydney Basin rocks.

Persoonia mollis caleyae
(right) and *Grevillea macleayana* (below)





We then passed a small area of heathland burnt in 2016, where regeneration was apparent, with some trees already flowering, and sedges growing as a ground layer. *Bossaia heterophylla* in flower brightened the track edge, as did occasional bushes of *Acacia ulicifolia* and *A. suaveolens* in flower. At the junction with an abandoned road (Coral Crescent), Nicholas pointed out the tiny Tailed Helmet orchids (*Corybas undulatus*) in flower deep in the shade, and enthusiastic photographers captured some images.

Corybas undulatus photo
by Jenny Vine

Orchid search



We strolled seawards, where tall stands of *Allocasuarina distyla* and *A. littoralis* with male and female plants in flower were pointed out; also groves of the fern *Gleichenia dicarpa*. Normally classed as wet heathland, this whole community is showing the effects of prolonged drought. Onwards to the South Pacific Lookout, where *Myoporum boninense* hung over the cliff, together with *Banksia ericifolia* in its southernmost occurrence. The second ocean lookout at Rennies Beach (below) provided spectacular flowering of *Banksia spinulosa*, *B. integrifolia*, *Westringia fruticosa* (white) and mounds of *Lasiopetalum ferrugineum*.



Along the Chris Humphries Nature Walk between the lookout and the starting point, the best displays had been saved for last. *Hibbertia monogyna* (part of the *H. diffusa* group currently being revised) were just coming into flower.

The rare *Dillwynia glaberrima* was pointed out to us. Abundant *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower) plants were sprouting in a small area recently burned; *Lambertia formosa* flowering in apricots to reds formed a spectacular understorey to banksia and eucalypts. Other understorey plants we saw were *Petrophile pulchella*, *P. pedunculata*, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius* in full flower, with male and female flowers pointed out on the same bush, and one patch of young *Telopea speciosissima* (Waratah) plants.



Lambertia formosa



Xanthosia pilosa



Ricinocarpus pinifolius (below)

Hibbertia monogyna (above)

During lunch we heard a talk about the work of the volunteer trustees from the President, Helen Moody and their work for the past 5 years, applying for funds for track maintenance, weed control, and erection and provision of signs, and printing information pamphlets on flowering plants each season. A school program, called Art meets the Environment, is run by the group. Cards of wildflowers and art are sold at Ulladulla Visitors Centre to promote the Reserve in the community. The Reserve won best volunteer-managed Crown Land Reserve in NSW last year.



Participants agreed that the walk had been most enjoyable and informative. Four people decided to explore the Coomee Nulunga Walk closer to the lighthouse after lunch. This walk under banksia woodland had a seaward margin of *Lomandra longifolia* understorey, but higher towards the road, a number of *Correa reflexa* in flower were spotted along the track.





Actinotus helianthi
in recently burnt
area

Correa reflexa (left) and *Pimelea linifolia*



Eucalypt photo competition

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub is undertaking a nation-wide assessment of the conservation status of Australian eucalypts, which includes the genera Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Angophora. The assessment will help conservation managers to understand which species are at risk and will also underpin a national conservation action plan for Australian eucalypts. To mark this significant milestone in eucalypt conservation the hub is holding a photo competition to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Australia's eucalypts.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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<http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/eucalypt-photo-competition>

Eucalypt photo competition - enter now | TSR Hub

The best photos will be included in the National Action Plan for Australian Eucalypts, an online photo exhibition and in other materials that promote the findings of the assessment and the national action plan.

www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au

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