



# Australian Plants Society

## South East NSW Group

Newsletter 197

July 2023

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

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the winter newsletter. We are fortunate in this area to usually have sunny winter days and this has been the case for our latest meetings. It is good to see quite a few members turn out for the selected activities and fun to be part of a community of native plant lovers. Many of you have been in the group for numerous years and this is evident in the conversations that I hear and the laughter.

Apart from our activities there have and will be other opportunities to get out and learn. The Fungi Festival of the South Coast took place over the month of July and was a huge celebration of the diversity, the ecology and the curiosities of the Kingdom Fungi.

For National Tree Day on 30<sup>th</sup> July the ERBG are offering rate payers an opportunity to bring in some garden weeds and receive a free plant. The Environment team and ERBG are doing their best to encourage people to learn the difference and remove those nasty weeds before they become a problem. This is also a helpful, positive way of talking to your neighbours about weeds of concern.

The ERBG is also celebrating National Science Week. The week commences on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August with a seminar titled Threatened species and botanic gardens.

The seminar will run from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

Our own Dylan Morrissey will be one of the three speakers on the day discussing his participation in a field trip to Mt Imlay. You will need to book for this event. See page 3 for all the details.

There are other walks and speakers listed for the week so have a look at the events page of the ERBG. Remember to book early for these free events as they are very popular.

If you do visit the ERGB be sure to visit the Proteaceae Bed that our group have been working on. We have regular monthly working bees to establish the garden and it is beginning to take shape. Thanks to the ERBG staff and the local ECO Crew for helping with the landscaping works and the mulching. This has allowed our group to continue with planting, watering, guarding and general maintenance. Unfortunately, the wallabies like new plants but we are working on that problem. If anyone has any suggestions that are legal, we would like to hear from you. It's never too late to join the mailing list for the working bees if you are interested in helping. Please contact me via email, [dianneclark293@gmail.com](mailto:dianneclark293@gmail.com) directly.

That's it for this month.

Di Clark

# Next Meeting

**Saturday 5th August 2023,**

**Meeting at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens**

**Arrive around 10.00 a.m. for morning tea and our meeting will commence at 10.30a.m.**

**Featuring renowned Orchid expert Dylan Morrissey**

**Dylan will discuss the popular *Dendrobium* species, with emphasis on section *Dendrocoryne*.**

*Dendrobium* is one of the largest of the Orchidaceae genera with over 1800 species, spanning from India, through south-east Asia to New Zealand.

With such a diverse range, from hot tropical beaches to cold montane mountain tops, each species is highly adapted and diversified to its own environment.

**Dylan will be talking about a specific section of *Dendrobium*, the *Dendrocoryne*;**

- the habitats they come from,
- reasons for recent taxonomic revision within the genus,
- how to grow them, and
- modern hybridising efforts to improve and explore flowering traits.



*Dendrobium speciosum* at Bodalla

This charismatic and beautiful group of plants has a place in every native garden, or native plant collection, and I look forward to showing you their world.

Following Dylan's presentation and question time, our winter flowers will feature in the Show and Tell session. As the days get longer and warmer, many plants are well on the way to producing a flush of blooms. Autumn's Banksias are still holding on, and now the Grevilleas are coming into their own. All members are asked to bring along some specimens, and so demonstrate that late winter is a time of plenty in native gardens.

After the lunch break, we will take a stroll around the Gardens with Dylan.

Time permitting, Di might be convinced to show off the recent work at the Proteaceae garden, (see note on page 3)

And don't forget to make a stop at the nursery to pick up a plant or two for your garden.

Looking forward to catching up with you then.

## Proteaceae Garden Working Bee

The next Proteaceae Working Bee is scheduled for this Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> July.

As usual we will meet at the Nursery area at 8:30am and those that come later will find us in the garden. We try to schedule a morning tea break around 10am.

This session we will be

- fixing up and adding tree guards,
- preparing planting holes,
- continuing to prune out unwanted vegetation and
- watering if required.

Please bring along your own gloves.

Other tools are available but if you have your own trusty favourites bring them along.

Also be prepared for a cold morning but a lovely day. A few warm up exercises may be required. Thanks everybody, Hope to see you there.

Regards,  
Di Clark



*Grevillea linearifolia* Photo Di Clark

## Happenings at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

The Friends Events committee have arranged some great Science Week events being held at the Gardens during August.

The focus is on threatened plants and animals in our region and the conservation efforts in place.

The events are all free and will fill quickly so to secure your spot go to the gardens website [erbg.org.au](http://erbg.org.au) and make a booking. It's pretty easy.

### Threatened Species and Botanic Gardens Seminar - Saturday, August 12, commencing 2 p.m.

Learn how botanic gardens across Australia play a crucial role in ensuring the survival of threatened species. Discover ERBG's innovative plans for a new threatened species garden.

Hear from experts about the diverse range of threatened plants in our region and gain insights from a recent field trip to Mt Imlay, home to a unique community of several species.

### Citizen Science Matters Seminar - Saturday, August 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Delve into the significance of citizen science in filling crucial data gaps on some of our most threatened wildlife.

Expert speakers will highlight the latest research on Gang-gang Cockatoo nest-hollows and diet, species conservation management, and filling the gaps in insect knowledge.

Hosted by the Budawang Coast Atlas of Life.

### iNaturalist Introduction & Training - Saturday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Join experienced trainer Jen Connolly for hands-on training on navigating the app, uploading observations, and contributing to citizen science projects.

Organized by the Budawang Coast Atlas of Life.

## **Orchid Walk - A Nature Adventure - Saturday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Dylan Morrissey**, our local orchid expert, will lead you through the native forest, sharing fascinating insights about the unique orchid species found in this region.

**Organized by the Budawang Coast Atlas of Life.**

**Join us at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden during National Science Week** and delve into the captivating world of threatened species and the vital conservation efforts taking place to protect them.

## **National Tree Day July 30**

Also a reminder about a free guided walk at 11 a.m., with the very knowledgeable Anna Jarrett for National Tree Day. This walk requires booking, as it is likely to be a very popular event for National Tree Day activities. Don't miss out - secure your bookings now at [erbg.org.au](http://erbg.org.au)

**and a weed swap** from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. on July 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate National Tree Day, no booking needed for that one just bring along some environmental weeds from your garden to swap for some local Australian plants. Members from Council's Environment team will be on hand to advise you about plants suitable for your garden, and how to control those pesky weeds that just seem to pop up everywhere. Eurobodalla Shire Council's weeds web page is a good source of information

**Organized by Council's Environment Team, contact is Courtney Fink-Downes**

**There is more info on both Council's and the Garden's website for all of these activities.**

**ERBG Manager Michael Anlezark** advises that the Gardens committee is considering running a 2-day workshop on grant writing and would like to know if you would be interested in attending.

## **How would you like to learn how to write successful grant applications?**

The workshop would be run by Gail Stevens and held at the Botanic Garden.

Gail has a proven track record in this field, securing millions of dollars in funding for a diverse range of projects including many at the Botanic Garden.

You will learn the practical skills of identifying suitable funding sources, researching to support your application and how to write the application that gives you the best possible chance of success.

Gail has generously agreed to provide this course for free however there may be a small charge to cover the use of facilities.

If you are interested in learning the skills that can turn your project dreams into reality please let us know and we will contact you with more details as soon as we can.

Please contact Michael Anlezark, Garden Manager ([Michael.anlezark@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.anlezark@esc.nsw.gov.au)) to express your interest.

## **Last Meeting , Kianga Rainforest Walk**



**Di addresses the group before our walk, warning of possible hazards. It's like herding cats, half the group already on the way before she finishes. Mustn't waste bush time.**



Returning to an area not visited since 2015, 26 members took advantage of a fine sunny day to explore the Box Cutting (Kianga) rainforest walk.

It was a delightful stroll in the cool damp forest, under magnificent and much discussed towering sassafras *Doryphora sassafras*, thickets of Grey Myrtle *Backhousia myrtifolia*, impossibly tall pencil cedar *Polyscias murrayi* and lilly pilly *Syzygium smithii* with bird's nest ferns *Asplenium australasicum* perched high in their branches. Both soft treefern *Dicksonia antarctica* and Rough treefern *Cyathea australis* filled the space between the canopy and ground flora, with a variety of ferns, including Rainbow Fern *Calochlaena dubia*, Spreading Shield Fern *Sticherus lobatus* and Rough Maidenhair *Adiantum hispidulum* covering the forest floor. Scrambling up trunks were Kangaroo Fern *Zealandia pustulata* (*Microsorium diversifolium*) and tiny filmy ferns, unidentified. Crab apple *Schizomeria ovata* and hairy clerodendrum, *Clerodendrum tomentosum* were identified in the understory. All emerged from the forest leech free and agreeing we are truly fortunate to have such a treasure to enjoy.

A list of the plants observed is available, via email from the editor.

Many members submitted photos from the walk, a selection of which are included.

**Thanks to Daniel Bateman, Di Clark, Amanda Marsh and Sue Nelson**



Perched high in the canopy of *Syzygium smithii*, the Birds Nest Fern *Asplenium australasicum* takes advantage of the available light



Paul Hattersley took an interest in the tiny ferns and fern allies. Here he is recording details of *Selaginella gracillima*, a fern ally in the Lycopodium group, which evolved before the true ferns, in the early Devonian period, c.390 mya. Ferns first appeared in the fossil records c 340 mya. (thanks Paul for the information)



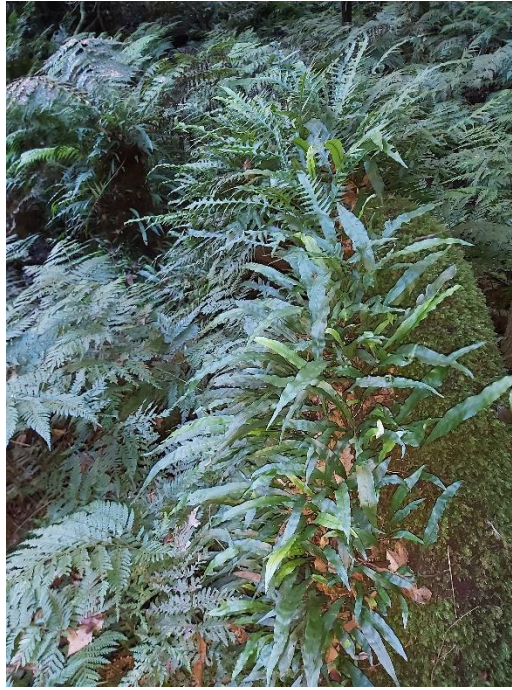
*Selaginella gracillima*, Tiny Selaginella



The most photographed plant on the day, *Bulbophyllum exiguum*, the Tiny Strand Orchid, here growing on a moss and lichen encrusted branch, and on the right, a fruiting plant of *Sarcochilus falcatus* Orange Blossom Orchid

Seed capsule





Many uses of logs and trunks, home for mosses and ferns, and recycling of nutrients



Dianne and Sue are keen to assist Phil with his iNaturalist observations. This app proved very handy in identifying many plants, and with just leaves for a guide was quite accurate. So handy in fact that your editor also lodged a few observations direct to the iNaturalist under Phil's guidance, and was quite surprised that within a short time, suggestions were offered by moderators of the iNaturalist site. So next time, rather than random and poor quality photos, I intend to take some care and attention to detail to ensure the observations are of value. As others said, any observation is valuable as it provides a location as to where plants grow, and add to the Citizen Science data



*Parsonsia straminea* Common Silkpod, seedling begins life as an apparently innocuous climber, with tiny leaves (with lovely purple reverse) moving relentlessly to the sunlight, where it develops into a densely crowned plant with large leathery leaves up to 25cm x 8cm.



A damp log filled with life, moss, lichen, fungi



Dylan holds court, discussing the relationships between an orchid and its host plant.



The tall and slender tree fern pictured at right caused a bit of discussion between members. Lyndal Thorburn lodged the photo with NatureMapr, a Canberra based platform similar to iNaturalist. Its listing caused a bit of a stir, with moderators divided as to its species. Some suggested *Cyathea australis*, although the trunk was considered too slender, so a suggestion that it might be *C. leichhardtiana*, which has a similar habit and also has a prickly trunk. In the end it was decided that it was *C. australis* which might have grown up through a much more dense understory which has since been cleared of under growth. Lyndal asks that if any member is again in the area, a closer inspection of the trunk of this plant with photos, might clear up the confusion. In my experience, *C. leichhardtiana* trunk generally bend towards the head under the weight of the fronds. Any member comments would be appreciated.



Lunch break before the afternoon walk around Mummaga Lake



Whilst having a break for lunch, Lyndal held court with an impromptu Show and Tell session. She apologised for missing the last meeting and wanted to make up. Members appreciated her commitment and were treated to a discourse on many favoured Australian plants, including a range of **Eremophila** which Lyndal assured us would make fine garden plants in our area, especially as the rainy times seems to have passed.

We also viewed species of **Correa, Hakea, Grevillea, Brachysema** and **Adenophora**.

It is also worth noting that Tom brought along some plants from the Canberra APS plant sale, and these were quickly snapped up by members before we started the morning work. We appreciate the commitment of both Lyndal and Tom to further promote the value of Australian plants. Our gardens will be beneficiaries, with some plants not readily available from commercial sources.

The plants recorded on the 2km Mummaga Lake walking track demonstrate the huge diversity of the surrounding forests. The walk headed along the north shore of Mummaga Lake through stands of **Corymbia maculata** and Macrozamia forest, with a scattering of grasses, dianella and lomandra. The dry forest gave way to damper conditions closer to Mummaga Lake and casuarinas lined the lake's edge where epiphytic orchids **Dockrillia teretifolium**, Bridal Veil Orchid were spied and photographed.

Thickets of Notelea (mock olive) and Bursaria often dominated the understorey, with the aroma of the mint bush Prostanthera lasianthos and spicy Cassinia evident as the plants were brushed past. Vines were common, with Parsonsia, Pandorea, Clematis and Cissus regular components.

We appreciated the time taken by Dylan to point out the variety of ground orchids, with Caladenia, Pterostylis and Acianthus flowering, and slowing the group as photos were gathered.

There was lots to see and talk about which slowed the pace further, often the case when observing plant life. Again a plant list is available via email from the editor for those interested.

We continued on up to the dry forest to complete the loop back to the picnic area to complete another successful APS outing on a lovely sunny winters day.

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