



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

MARCH 2018 WALK-BANGADILLY NP

The first Southern Tablelands Australian Plants Society walk for 2018 was a cracker. A perfect day after decent rain, an interesting walk with wonderful views and a variety of plants beyond what was expected, all contributed to the success.

Heavy rains in the week prior to the walk led to a decision to change the destination from the delightfully alliterative "Dingo Dell" to Mt Penang in the Bangadilly National Park. The rain meant that all the usual delights of the Australian bush were enhanced—the still air was crystal clear and diffused by the scents of many aromatic plants, and the plants themselves seemed to be stretching up after a refreshing shower, filled with health and vigour. Bill noted that the leaves of many of the Eucalypts seemed to shine.

There was a range of gums including *Eucalyptus punctata* (Grey Gum), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringy Bark) and *E. agglomerata* (Blue leaved stringy bark). The *Eucalyptus punctata* were of particular interest as the first of these were noted for the shimmering, salmon coloured trunk, revealed by peeling bark. Further on we spied other specimens which had yet to shed their bark—these had gleaming silver-grey trunks. Later still, one of these was discovered to be in full creamy flower—locals also found it a focal point, as bees and birds busily went about their business in the floral canopy. Throughout the day only two *E. punctata* were discovered to be in flower.

The walk began near the Attunga recreational facilities. Following the trig path on the way out, we climbed steadily towards the highest point at 790 metres. As usual, the morning walk involved a steady exploration of the flora. Some of these were in flower such as *Patersonia glabrata*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and the wonderfully named *Cooperhooia barbata*.

Others not in flower, but which were of great interest were a *Prostanthera* with minuscule leaves, a very prickly plant believed to be a *Kunzea* and *Boronia fraseri*. The range of

plants identified led to suggestions that a return in spring would be worthwhile, when these gems may be seen in all their glory.

It was clear that I was not the only one to value Tim's refresher in last month's newsletter about leaf shapes and the Latin origins of their names. There was interested discussion about the leaf shapes observed throughout the morning, as well as some educated guessing at names—some of which were successful! Of particular note were the two different genera with *ilicifolium* or holly-like leaves—*Podolobium* and *Lomatia*. While it may be a slow process to amass a good understanding of plant names, and to be able to identify them *in situ*, reminding oneself of the meaning of the Latin is a helpful part of the process.

As we climbed higher, the views of the surrounding valleys opened out for a splendid perspective. The rocky outcrop near the trig point was a wonderful vantage point at which to lunch and soak in the magnificence. While some curious little skinks with reddish tails provided interest—the wildlife highlight was spotting a fearless Rufous Rock Warbler. Bob was the sharp-eyed spotter who first identified this chap—and although objections were raised that we were well west of its previously documented range—further sightings confirmed Bob's original observation.

The walk back took a different, less steep path. By this time the day was warm and there was a hint of smoke from fires 30km away. The light shade offered by the forest was a welcome screen against the



Mount Penang - unbeatable spot for lunch

sun's full power.



Patersonia glabrata

Next month's walk is to be to the less happily named Bush Bottom—which will be the Saturday after Easter.

Thanks to Pauline for that enthusiastic account of the walk. Just a few extra comments. As we walked, one of the common wattles we saw I had assumed to be the Sydney wattle, *A. longifolia* -

without looking closely. Later in the walk, We had a closer look at a similar wattle and it turned out to be *A. obtusifolia*. This was evident from the young pods: *A. obtusifolia* is summer-flowering while *A. longifolia* probably flowers here in August and would have long since dropped its seed pods. That, of course, does not rule it out- it may be there.

Also, what initially looked like a prickly *Kunzea* (and there are none), turned out to be *Dillwynia sieberi* when I looked at it with my glasses on: the single fruit that came with the specimen showed clearly that it was not *Kunzea*.

PROPAGATION

The members who attended the March 15 propagation morning worked so diligently that there was nothing left to do on the Sunday which was cancelled. Well done and thanks for coming! Again, a variety of tasks was done. Members who were keen to learn how to do cuttings continued their tuition and subsequently, pots, mix and Purple gel have been given to help them on their way.

I had spoken to Jen earlier about requests we occasionally get for people who need screening plants for their blocks - just for privacy. I will propagate some of these and the group will keep some in stock as a matter of course. If you have a favourite screening plant - would need to grow to no more than 3m with some spread and have fairly dense foliage or be able to be pruned easily - you can let me know. I have a number of species in mind but suggestions are welcome.

WETLANDS MAINTENANCE

This took place on a pleasant day. Some weeding was done; a number of *E. pulverulenta* were trimmed to allow more space close to the trunks so that they did not dominate the limited space available. A small number of plantings also were done. Despite the generally dry conditions, the wetlands look good.

PROGRAM

Sat Apr 7	Walk - Bush Bottom
Thu Apr 19	Propagation
Fri - Sun May 4 - 6	Walks - Nature Reserves near Griffith
Sat Jun 2	McCormack property (Crookwell) and Laggan Nature Reserve
Sat July 7	Forum/presentation: Soil Improvement/ Plant Selection - speakers tba
Sat Aug 4	Walk - Little Forest Road
Sat Sept 1	Walk - Nattai National Park
Thu Sept 13	Propagation
Sun Sept 16	Propagation
Sat Oct 6	Walk - Nadgigomar West Nature Reserve
Wed Oct 24	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sun - Tue Nov 11 - 13	Walks - Nature Reserves near Mudgee

CROOKWELL PROJECT

I mentioned this in the last newsletter with a couple revegetating a plot of near-creek ground in the town. They have already started with around 150 plants in the ground - most purchased from us. The appearance of those pink-tinted plant protectors is apparently generating some interest. Some plants were also purchased from Wariapendi Nursery near Mittagong (*Juncus usitatus*) and Wongadee Nursery at Laggan (*Acacia dealbata* - silver wattle).

OTHER MATTERS

Have you returned your survey form to Sandra - check your email. While you are slightly late - the old saying still applies.

Following the last newsletter there was some appreciation expressed regarding the list of plant species names which relate to their leaf type. When space permits, I will add another bunch of such names.

In the program above, the destination for the August walk has been 'oranged'. Bob and Celia who are organising this trip consider it too far for a one-day event as it is close to Milton on the South Coast. Possibilities much closer to home are being considered.

An interest group within the Goulburn Group (TGG) is aiming to start a project with the objective of increasing backyard diversity in the town. The activities proposed would range from nestbox-building to planting suitable habitat plant species. We have indicated our support for the project with the supply of suitable plants most likely to be our main contribution.

On the next page is the list of plant species identified at Bangadilly NP.

Acacia buxifolia - Box leaf wattle
Acacia decurrens - green/black wattle
Acacia falciformis - Broad-leaf hickory
Acacia obtusata - Blunt leaf wattle
Acacia obtusifolia -
Acacia terminalis - Sunshine wattle
Acacia ulicifolia - Prickly Moses
Banksia serrata - Old-man banksia
Banksia spinulosa - Hairpin banksia
Boronia fraseri -
Bossiaea rhombifolia -
Bursaria spinosa - native blackthorn
Cassinia aculeata - Dolly bush
Cassinia longifolia - Shiny-leaf Cassinia
Cassinia quinquefaria - Cough bush
Cooperhooikia barbata -
Dampiera purpurea - Purple Dampiera
Daviesia corymbosa -
Daviesia ulicifolia -
Dianella longifolia - Flax lily
Dillwynia sieberi -
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha - Red stringybark
Eucalyptus punctata - Pink gum
Eucalyptus sieberi - Silvertop ash
Eucalyptus agglomerata - Blue-leaved stringybark
Goodenia hederacea - Ivy-leaf Goodenia
Hakea laevipes -
Hardenbergia violacea - Purple twining pea
Hibbertia diffusa - Guinea flower
Hibbertia obtusifolia - Guinea flower
Hovea purpurea - Violet Hovea
Hybanthus monopetalus - Slender violet
Leptospermum trinervium - Tea tree
Leucopogon lanceolatus - lance-leaf beard heath
Lomatia ilicifolia - Holly-leaf Lomatia
Lomatia silaifolia - Crinkle bush
Melichrus urceolatus - Urn heath
Olearia viscidula - Sticky daisy bush
Patersonia glabrata - Leafy purple flag
Persoonia laurina ssp. leiogyna -
Persoonia linearis - Narrow-leaf geebung
Phebalium squamulosum ssp. squamulosum - Scaly phebalium
Platysace lanceolata -
Podolobium ilicifolium - Prickly shaggy pea
Pomax umbellata -
Prostanthera rugosa - a Mint bush
Pteridium esculentum - Bracken fern
Stypantra glauca - Nodding blue lily
Zieria pilosa - hairy Zieria