



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

### AUSTRALIA DAY STALL

We set up our stall early for our third Australia Day involvement. While the weather was fine, it was a hot day and this is believed to have caused a reduction in attendance along perhaps with the slightly different location. The roster set up by Bob enabled a few people to be present at all times and we were never overrun with enquiries re sales or information. The light duties allowed for those present to have a good chat and the occasional joke.

We sold plants to the value of more than two hundred dollars.

We had a number of interesting enquiries, one or two in regard to membership; none of these seem to have come to fruition yet. People joining for the first time can become members through contacting Sydney and paying online - so the Group is not always the first to know about new members. This arrangement is part of the changes that occurred during last year.

Thank you to all those who helped on the day and it was pleasing to see new members in attendance.

### WETLANDS RAFFLE

The raffle for the wetlands painting was drawn on Feb 14. The photo below shows Ray and Ros looking on as Goulburn Citizen of the Year for 2017 Des Rowley draws the winning ticket.



A couple from Winston Hills in Sydney won the painting. Second prize of a print of the painting went locally to Raina and Ian.

### PROPAGATION

Three propagation days have already been held at Jen's this year so far. Planting seeds and doing cuttings have both been on

the agenda. Attendance has been pleasing and the interest from some of our newer members has been very encouraging.

The seeds have mainly been from the pea family with several genera represented - *Hovea*, *Pultenaea*, *Dillwynia*, *Mirbelia* and others. Pea seeds need heat treatment but not as severe as required when doing wattle seed. The hot water treatment is usually kept below 100° and then for a shorter time; for wattle seed, the hot water treatment can last for several hours.

The cuttings have been taken mainly from Jen's garden. Instruction was provided for those who had not done cuttings before or who needed a 'refresher' course. As announced in a previous email, we have offered pots, propagation mix and hormone to those who wish to go further with cuttings, i.e, what you do with them when you have put them in the mix. We have a number of members who are taking up the offer so that they can learn how to deal with the cuttings as roots begin to develop. Again there are two more propagation days coming Mid-March and these will be the last until Spring. The offer to members of the help with getting set up for cuttings who attend any one of the sessions will still be available.

### CROOKWELL PROJECT

We were contacted by a business owner in Crookwell who has a plot of land adjoining their business premises. It's a small block partly flat and has a creek flowing through it. It is largely weed-overgrown and they wish to transform it through planting trees and shrubs that can take the low temperatures and the alternating dryness and water inundation that can be expected there over time. We will be supplying them with a few species that we believe will tolerate the conditions - eucalypts: Manna gum (*E. viminalis*), snowgum (*E. pauciflora*), Black sally (*E. stellulata*) and shrubs river bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*), paperbark (*Melaleuca parvistaminea*). As time goes on, we will be adding to the list as part of the block is much drier and sloping.

### MEMBERS' SURVEY

At the AGM in December, a suggestion was made to have a survey of members - mainly to find out the native plants that are growing successfully in their gardens. Membership officer, Sandra, and myself have been working on this and it is nearly ready to go. Apart from sourcing lists of successful plants, it also seeks members' opinions on a variety of issues related to native plants. The survey form will be tried out initially on a small number of members so that any glaring errors/omissions can be identified. The more respondents we have, the more accurate the profile of the group that will emerge and the list of successful plants will be of great interest and use to all with a garden. So

when the form comes to you (- by email - and it can be returned by email or slow mail), please allot some time for its completion.

## THOSE LATIN NAMES

I think it was at one of the propagation days that one of our newer members said that she had trouble with not knowing the meanings of the Latin words that are in species' names (e.g. *spinulosa* in *Banksia spinulosa*). So I thought I might just do a little on some reasonably common species names - ones that end in *folia* or *phylla*. So we have *Acacia longifolia* and we have *Pultenaea microphylla*. The two parts describe the leaves of the species. Note: Sometimes the species names' ending are *folium* and *phyllum* - that has to do with word gender in Latin and I will ignore it here. So, some examples and their meaning:

*ericifolia* - short narrow leaves (as in the genus *Erica*)

*longifolia* - long leaves

*microphylla* - very small leaves

*ovalifolia* - oval-shaped leaves

*rotundifolium* - round leaves

*heterophylla* - different-shaped leaves

*leptophylla* - narrow leaves

*rhombifolia* - four-sided leaves

*parvifolia* - small leaves

*brevifolia* - short leaves

*latifolia* - broad leaves

*ilicifolia* - holly-leaved (*Ilex* = Holly)

*angustifolia* - very narrow leaved

*ulicifolia* - prickly-leaved (*Ulex* = European gorse)

However, the above is by no means the full story. There are other words used in species' names to describe leaves but do not have the folia or phylla bit. An example is *ellipticum* - for something with elliptical leaves. I would recommend newcomers to just learn them as they crop up and not to worry too much about them

## MARCH WALK

In the previous newsletter's program, the walk destination for March was given as Dingo Dell. This is a spot - in fact a recognised camping area - in the Southern Blue Mtns. Access to it is via a steep track which can be managed by 4wd vehicles provided the weather is dry. In the wet, it is not recommended. Walking would also be a challenge for some. So given this challenge and the possible effects of the recent rains, we have decided to select a different destination which is easy to reach. It will be given in Bob's email tonight or tomorrow.

One of the places under consideration was a place last visited by the group many years ago. Following some exploration, we have located the spot and need to do one more trip to figure the easiest way in. So it will be on next year's recommended list. It's a special place.

## AT LAST

Best news of the last week has to be the rain we had over the weekend, probably more so for the rural dwellers than the town dwellers. The town received 2 inches or more a few weekends

ago which bypassed many rural places. On my own place, some shrubs and eucalypt saplings have died and the larger tree - Blakely's red gum (*E. blakelyi*) had whole branches on which the leaves had shrivelled up. I'm sure I didn't notice anything like this in the drought years of the nineties.

One plant here that I gave assistance to in the form of watering was *Banksia penicillata*. This species can grow to about 4 metres and its main concentration is the area just north of Lithgow. As it is in bud at the moment, I didn't want to see any shrivelling up. The term 'penicillata' refers to the fine hairs on the veins on the undersurface of the leaves.



Isopogon  
anemonifolius -  
leaves like a  
sea anemone

## PROGRAM

Sat Feb 3	Propagation
Thu Feb 15	Propagation
Sat Mar 3	Walk TBA (check Bob's email)
Thu Mar 15	Propagation
Sun Mar 18	Propagation
Wed Mar 28	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
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