



## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018

### OCTOBER WALK

The October trip to Nadgigomar West began by following a path heading east. It was not long however before the group ducked away to left and right at the sight of promising clumps of flora. Interestingly, although spring was well advanced, there was not a great number of flowers evident—a result of the drought perhaps.

The most arresting feature of this woodland was the trees. This was no forest of towering giants—there was a wonderful mix of slender trunks—each with its own appeal. There were a number of pale barked species—including the white, smooth bark of the *Eucalyptus pauciflora* (Snow Gum), the beautiful white trunks of the *E. mannifera* (Brittle Gum) and smooth white barked *E. haemastoma* (Scribbly Gum) with its distinctive scribbles. There were also the twisted trunks and variable bark of the *E. melliodora* (Yellow Box), the bark-skirted *E. rubida* (Candlebark), the rough barked *E. dives* (Broad-leaf Peppermint Gum) and *E. viminalis* (Manna Gum) with bark hanging in long ribbons.



The strength and permanence of these beauties was belied by the evidence of a closer look. All around there were signs of the effects of time—past fires and lightning strikes, limbs

broken and trees uprooted by strong winds.

Beside the decay and death there was also renewal and rejuvenation. The strangest evidence of this was something I had never noticed before—though I'm sure I've seen it many times—where new trees were growing up out of the old, not just with new growth shooting up from an old fallen trunk, but a fresh and new tree encircling and replacing a dead trunk. The image presented had echoes of bizarre science fiction monsters from a B-Grade movie.

While I was entranced by the trees, Jen and Tim led the group to the left of the path. Among the few plants in flower were *Hakea sericea* and a very pretty *Hovea*. In fact the focus was so firmly at ground level that it was some time before Bob pointed out that we were walking in an ever-decreasing spiral. Firmly taking command of the direction, Bob led us north, where we lunched overlooking a man-made pond or dam. Following the fence line back, it was possible for the most engrossed plant hunter to maintain a straight path back to



*Hovea linearis* as snapped by Pauline

the cars. One interesting phenomenon spotted by Ashlea and Greg on the return trip was something that at first glance looked like axe marks in the trunk of a tree—the only thing was that the marks were about 6 metres high! We guessed they were probably made by an animal, possibly by cockatoo in search of grubs. Quite extraordinary, and another reminder of how much there is to see and learn about the Australian bush—and the benefits of taking a really close look.

*Thanks again to Pauline for her account of the walk. As she has intimated, we spent a good deal of time going round in circles as Bob tried to restore a sense of direction in the strays. The plant diversity is there but it is not concentrated in one place. (Ed.).*

### CHANCE MEETING

Having to drop into the hospital recently meant that I had to do more walking than I would have liked. As I walked along the footpath adjoining the eastern side of the institution - could be Faithful Street - I noticed a few shrubs in flower close to the walls of the building.



The flower colour suggested a *Prostanthera* and further analysis of a few pieces taken more or less confirmed that it was. Using the *Prostanthera* key from Plantnet led me to a choice between two species; time then to call in the experts: have kept a piece to take to the ANBG herbarium next time I am in Canberra. I had read that *Prostanthera* can hybridise especially in cultivation. It may be then that there are cultivars of *Prostanthera* available. If these shrubs were planted by a landscaping firm, it's likely perhaps that they selected whatever was available from their supplier. So, I'm thinking that these may be cultivars with the labels long gone. They are protected from the worst of the westerly weather. I didn't check if there was much of a roof overhang that would further reduce their water supply. Whatever their history, they have survived recent weather challenges.

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to new member, Andrew Hennell. Andrew lives in the Yass area; we trust that distance does not limit the level of involvement he would like to have with us.

## SENNA BARRONFIELDII

If you have gone through the list of plants available for sale - which Jen sent out a few weeks ago - you may have noticed in the list a *Senna* without the species name which is unknown. The plant had come to the propagation group from the garden of one of the members (also unknown) who has grown it successfully despite the missing species name.



*Senna barronfieldii* - taken from 'GROWING AUSTRALIAN' - Victoria APS. When this species flowers, it is clearly distinguishable from an *Acacia*

During the Bullio Trail walk a few months back, we identified *S. barronfieldii*. *Senna* is closely related to *Acacia* and up to the early budding stage, and some can look like *Acacia*.

I happened to be browsing a copy of the Victoria APS regions magazine (corresponds to the NSW *Native Plants* mag) and the cover had a photo of this species in flower. (We get a number of these magazines every now and again - to borrow them get in touch with Bob or myself).

The magazine article threw some light on the origin of the species name. A gentleman by the name of Mr Barronfield was a member of the NSW judiciary in the late 1880's; the article did not explain how the surname was allocated to the species. Irrespective of the name, the species would be a welcome addition to many gardens. If you wish to get one, get in touch with Jen.

## CALENDAR

Nov 10	APS Group presidents/ reps meeting - Loftus
Sun - Fri Nov 11 - 16	Walks - Nature Reserves near Mudgee
Nov date TBA	Plant propagation workshop for Community Gardens members
Sat Dec 1	End-of-year function + AGM

We wish the travellers a safe and enjoyable trip as they head off towards next Sunday. The venue for the end-of-year get-together and AGM should be known fairly soon.

Some members of the Garden Community group have asked for information on native plant propagation. I understand that I have been 'dobb'd in' for this activity. It will occur later this month and importantly, may encourage some new memberships.

## SIGNS OF SPRING

We have seen a delay in flowering and for some species a distinct lack of flowers. There are some surprising exceptions to this. In what passes for my garden, there a *Leptospermum macrocarpum* - grown from seed collected in the Lithgow area many years ago. Oddly, this season has seen its best flowering - taking the number of flowers as the criterion. This species is mostly confined to the Blue Mountains area with considerable variation in the petal colour - ranging from white to various shades of red.



*L macrocarpum* flower and 'visitor'

## SPECIES LIST FOR NADGIGOMAR NR OCT 2018

Acacia gunnii - Ploughshare wattle  
Acacia parramattensis - Sydney Green wattle  
Acacia terminalis – Sunshine wattle  
Acacia ulicifolia - Prickly Moses  
Allocasuarina littoralis - Black she-oak  
Aotus ericoides  
Astroloma humifusum – Cranberry heath  
Banksia marginata – Silver banksia  
Banksia paludosa – Swamp banksia  
Banksia spinulosa - Hairpin Banksia  
Brachyloma daphnoides - Daphne heath  
Calytrix tetragona - Common fringe myrtle  
Cheilanthes sieberi - Mulga fern  
Dianella revoluta - Black anther Flax-lily  
Dillwynia sericea - Showy parrot pea  
Eucalyptus bridgesiana – Apple box  
Eucalyptus dives - Broad-leaved peppermint  
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha - Red stringybark  
Eucalyptus mannifera - Brittle Gum  
Eucalyptus melliodora – Yellow box  
Eucalyptus rossii - Scribbly Gum  
Eucalyptus rubida - Candlebark  
Eucalyptus viminalis - Manna gum  
Exocarpos strictus - Pale ballart  
Glycine tabacina - Love creeper  
Goodenia hederacea - Ivy-leaf Goodenia  
Hakea dactyloides – Finger Hakea  
Hakea laevipes  
Hakea sericea - Silky Hakea  
Hovea linearis - Narrow-leaved pea  
Hydrocotyle laxiflora - Stinking pennywort  
Isopogon prostratus – Prostrate drumsticks  
Isotoma fluviatilis – Swamp isotome  
Leptospermum multicaule - Hill tea tree  
Leptospermum myrtifolium - Grey tea-tree  
Leptospermum trinervium - Flaky-bark tea-tree  
Leucopogon virgatus  
Lissanthe strigosa - Peach heath  
Lomandra filiformis - Wattle mat rush  
Lomandra longifolia - Spiny-headed matrush  
Lomatia ilicifolia - Holly-leaf Lomatia  
Melaleuca parvistaminea – Swamp paperbark  
Melichrus urceolatus - Urn heath  
Omphacomeria acerba - Leafless Sourbush  
Oxalis perennans  
Patersonia glabrata - Leafy purple flag  
Persoonia linearis - Narrow-leaved geebung  
Persoonia mollis ssp livens – Soft geebung  
Petrophile canescens - Conesticks  
Philothea salsolifolia  
Pteridium esculentum - Bracken fern  
Pultenaea subspicata - Bush pea  
Styphelia adscendens – Five corners