



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

AGM

This was held again on the first Saturday in December and preceded the Christmas get-together for the year. Apologies were received from a number of members.

Elections were held and some changes in the committee were necessary due to the conclusion of the 3-year cycle. Secretary Gudrun stood down from any committee role as her family commitments had increased during 2015. Our thanks for Gudrun for her work during her term.

Pauline as Promotions/Publicity officer and assistant newsletter editor came on board. Brian came into the committee and has taken the role of Webmaster; Brian will also set up our website.

New secretary is Bob and Celia is treasurer. Jen will continue as Propagation coordinator and I became the President. We also accepted reports from the President and Treasurer.

After the formalities, it was time to do a tour of Jen's garden and renovations. I had to leave at this stage; my thanks to Pauline for the following report.

Following the AGM, members were very pleased to stretch their legs, strolling around Jen's property.

The tour began with the APS' propagation set-up. The centre-piece is undoubtedly the state-of-the-art unit which automatically maintains a constant temperature and humidity—producing an impressive strike-rate for cuttings and seed germination. Also of interest was the new shade-house with misting system erected by out-going president, Bob Galland, this set-up has saved Jen huge amounts of time and energy and is much appreciated.

On a hot summer's day, the tour of the garden took in the many shady nooks. Some of the many things in flower are captured in the accompanying photographs. It was not only APS members who enjoyed Jen's garden that day. In one bed, close to the house, a brown snake was discovered sunning himself. WIRES members leapt into action to encourage the snake to take up residence rather further from the house—while other members agreed that the prospect in the opposite direction was most appealing.

A convivial lunch was enjoyed in the vaulted expanse that used to form the main body of the church. As members had brought along favourite dishes and in-season offerings from their gardens, the cold collation was delightfully delicious.

There was also great interest in viewing Jen's recently completed renovations, including enjoying the views from upstairs as well as creative innovations such as the internal shutters for the massively arched western windows. While keeping out summer heat and insulating from cold winter nights, they also allow winter sun to stream in, creating a perfect spot for reading or just enjoying the view.

A most pleasant time was had by those able to attend. Members are encouraged to mark the first Saturday in December in their diary now for this year's AGM and Christmas luncheon.



All eyes of the fine fare on offer



Unknown daisy from Jen's garden

AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

The work done at the wetlands under the direction of the garden's working party has been acknowledged by Ray and the Friends of the Goulburn Swamplands. The preparation of an artist's impression and a display board highlighting the group's contribution are being prepared.

Bev McGreevy's monetary offer through her school to assist in the protection of a local endangered plant was welcomed; deciding on the best way to approach is yet to be fully discussed.

Numbers attending the propagation sessions have not been as good as previously and some thought will be put into arranging things so that attendance can improve.

A suggestion to have a stall at the Australia Day activities in Victoria Park was taken up.

Support was expressed for the plant identification instances that have been possible. Tackling the basic features of major plant groups like the pea plants (Fabaceae) and the daisies (Asteraceae) was discussed. I have considered preparing material for the former - whereby the use of a table rather than a key will enable members to identify the species of pea plants that occur in our area and where our walks take place.

It was decided to have a committee meeting in January to discuss matters including the new website and the 2016 calendar.

COMMITTEE MEETING JAN 12

Brian explained how the website could be set up and went through the pros and cons of the two main approaches. Brian is currently setting up and will get back to us for our suggestions.

The calendar for the year was thrashed out and is shown below.

Tue Jan 26	Aust Day stall and plant sale
Sat Feb 6	Potting up and Cuttings
Sat/Sun Mar 5,6	Eurobodalla Bot Gardens and walk near Durras lake
Sat Mar 19	Potting up and Cuttings
Wed Mar 30	Potting up and Cuttings
Sun Apr 3	Morton Nat Park (North-west)
Wed Apr 27	Wetlands Garden maintenance
Sat May 7	Oakdale Nature Reserve
Sat Jun 4	Sassafras banksia walk
Sat Jul 2	Workshop: Plant Frost Resistance and Ecology
Sun Aug 7	Wollondilly River walk

Sat Sep 3	Narrangill NR veg. survey with GFN group
Sat Oct 1	West Goulburn Bushland
Sat Nov 5	Windellama Field Day
Wed Nov 23	Wetlands Garden maintenance
Sat Dec 3	Christmas get-together and walk at Tony and Sandra's property - Backarm

As alluded to earlier, Brian has taken on the task of setting up our website. It will, of course, have a link to NSW APS. The cost of having and using the site will be about \$150 per year.

We will also have email addresses for particular purposes - for committee member roles. When the incumbents on the committee change, the email addresses will remain the same. Bob will also be setting up a PO Box for the Group which will function in the same way.

Propagation will continue with members encouraged to be alert to good sources of propagation material and also to keep an eye out for seed of plants that we might propagate from. These activities need not wait for specific calendar dates set down for propagation. Either Jen or myself could be contacted so that we can take advantage of what has been noticed or collected. We need especially to keep up our propagation of what we term 'garden' plants - the ones that most people would value as garden subjects. The plants more akin to 'landcare' needs are easily obtained.

A specific day - perhaps each month - would be ideal for propagation at Jen's place; much of this time might be allocated to maintenance of the plants in stock - weeding, potting up etc.

A marquee to replace the one that suffered terminal wind damage is to be purchased..

AUST DAY STALL

Thanks to the members who were able to assist for at least some time on the day; their presence was most appreciated and in particular, made setting up and taking down fairly brisk. We sold some plants, gave out some information. We also had a session aimed at children where they put some seed in small pot with potting mix in it; they pressed down the seeds and gave them their first watering. The seeds used were pretreated *Indigofera australis* (Austral indigo). Two to three dozen children availed of the opportunity.

Another unusual request was from a teacher in a local primary school for a tree she could use in her classroom so that the students could measure its growth rate over the coming school year. I have since given her a seedling of the river peppermint (*E. elata*) from stock being propagated for the wetlands.

We did not keep a register of 'interested people' - those who might be tempted to become APS members - on the day. We did this at the Sustainability Day in November; we should be getting one membership out of this but we cannot confirm that yet.

UPCOMING

Details for the potting up session on Saturday have already been sent out along with what to bring if you wish to do some cuttings. There will also be a request for members' intentions re the overnight trip to the Eurobodalla area next month. See you Saturday.