



ACN 002 680 408

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

WE'RE ON IT !

Yes; we are now on Facebook courtesy the involvement of Renate and Ashlea who re-ignited a discussion that occurred first at the AGM in December. Renate has actually set the site up and is hoping for lots of 'likes'.

How do you get onto it? One way is to type 'The Australian Plants Society Southern Tablelands Group' into the internet search bar. Also, for those with a Facebook account, simply type those words into the Facebook search bar.

Obviously, anybody on the internet can access the site. For that reason, we will ensure that the privacy concerns of members are always protected with no personal information revealed. Our Facebook page will be useful for notifying the public of our activities - just giving the broad outline. We may well reach potential members whom we might not encounter through the more traditional media channels.

AGM

This was held on the first Saturday in December at Peter and Vicki's home in Run'O'Waters Estate. Some apologies were acknowledged and the election of committee members took place. The roles of president and secretary had to be relinquished by the holders as they had completed the prescribed three-year term.

Peter was elected president, Jen retained the treasurer role and Tim was elected secretary; Pauline and Bob continued in the committee. Further appointments were also made to the committee including Renate, Ashlea and Kaye. Following Sandra's stepping down from the membership officer role, Renate took on this position. This meeting saw what was probably the biggest intake of relatively new APS members into the committee we have had and this will only boost the injection of new ideas.

Following the formalities, discussion of several matters took place. The program for the year, use of the website and propagation arrangements were given attention. Details for the year's program were finalised at a committee meeting in January.

Lunch followed and this was followed by a tour of Peter's garden. I can remember Peter saying some time ago that he

was just in the process of establishing a garden. This statement belies the true situation; he has a garden that many gardeners would be proud of. The fact that the plants seem to be growing in rubble and broken rock are a further source of interest. Some examples below.



Xerochrysum bracteatum



Pelargonium rodneyanum



Grevillea 'Molonglo'

COMMITTEE MEETING

As stated above, this was held in January principally to work out the year's activities. At this stage there is one short overnight trip. The others are mostly to places we have not been before. These are detailed in the

calendar below. New signage for the wetlands gardens will be developed. Ashlea will be collating photographs; some of these will be on the website. The plant database on the APS NSW website is the most visited part of the Society's website; we hope to achieve something similar.

The decision to have a stall in Victoria Park on Australia Day was taken.

CALENDAR

Sat Jan 26	Aust. Day Plant stall Victoria Park
Thu Feb 14	Propagation 235 Henry Parkes Rd
Sun Feb 17	Propagation 235 Henry Parkes Rd
Sat/Sun Mar 2/3	Little Forest Plateau
Thu Mar 14	Propagation
Wed Mar 27	Wetlands working bee
Sat Apr 6	Walk - Gillindich Reserve
Sat May 25	Mt Annan Facilities
Sat Jun 8	Walk - Dalton Reserves
Sat Jul 6	Presentation/Forum
Sat Aug 3	Walk - Alison Hone Reserve
Sat Sep 7	Walk - Ettrema Gorge area
Sat Sep 19	Propagation
Sun Sep 22	Propagation
Sat Oct 5	Walk - Towrang/Cookbundoon
Wed Oct 16	Wetlands working bee
Sun Nov 3	Riversdale plant stall
Sat Nov 16	Walk - Penrose State Forest
Sat Dec 7	AGM + end of year function

As Bob used to do, a reminder will be sent out before each of the calendar events - giving location and other details..

SUMMER PROPAGATION

Much has been said and written about the high temperatures that have been experienced over recent weeks. I do believe that the unusual heat has had at least one good effect: It has considerably sped up seed germination. I did a batch of various species before Christmas and the response was very good - some of these things are now crying out to be potted up.

One of the more unusual things was a *Senecio* (Daisy Family - Asteraceae). On our walk in the Laggan area last August, Ashlea had picked a piece of a plant and gave it to me just as we got ready to leave. When I have plant specimens for identification after a walk, these are put in jars of water that night. When I looked at the specimens the next morning, the piece from Ashlea

had its seed heads in place with the fluffy seed ready to be picked. I thought 'Why not'? I kept them and put them in a pot in December - not expecting them to germinate. They did germinate however and very well and are now calling out for individual pots.



Senecio diaschides(?) seedlings

In the period since Christmas, I have propagated a number of pea plant species. Again, the seedlings have emerged much more quickly than expected. I suspect the heat and the fairly regular downpours have helped. I have also switched from treatment with hot water to scarification with minor hot water treatment.

BOOK REVIEW

While on a quick trip to Canberra recently, I ducked into the shop at the Botanic Gardens. A book titled *Woodland Flora - a field guide for the Southern Tablelands* caught my eye. The authors are the same people who wrote '*Grassland Flora - a field guide for the Southern Tablelands*' and which I have had for several years. The book follows the style of typical field guides (ring binding etc). It has 286 pages and cost around \$27 which is a good price. I would estimate the number of species dealt with to be a bit under 500. Some species are covered in both books. On the left-hand pages, there are written descriptions of two or three species. On the right hand side, there are photographs. The photos are good quality and would assist with identification of species in the field. The full range of plants is covered - eucalypts down to mistletoes, grasses, etc. It gives a brief statement of the species distribution with the description - although I thought that some of these were a little bit inaccurate. The Windellama occurrence of *Dillwynia glaucula* is described as east of Goulburn - strictly correct - but Windellama- Oallen would be better described as south-east of Goulburn.

In the entry for *Commersonia prostrata* (previously *Rulingia prostrata*), there is no specific mention of the occurrence in Nadgigomar Reserve nor indeed of one near Tallong. The book describes this species locally as being known from two sites near Braidwood and one from near Collector. Some instances of vagueness aside, the book is very good. It does weeds as well; if you want to identify the African olive or the Scotch thistle, this is your book. There are some simple but useful notes at the start on plant identification. If you like wandering around and knowing what plants you see, it would be a worthwhile investment.