



2019 AGM

The final event for 2019 was held the first Saturday of December at Kaye's home on Range Rd. After the usual meeting and greeting, the meeting commenced with reports from the president, treasurer, Renate (membership/Facebook) and Pauline (Wetlands). These reports were accepted. As is our usual procedure, all key committee roles are declared vacant and these are filled through nominations, seconding etc.

The roles for the coming year are largely the same as for 2019.

The full results are as follows: President - Peter, Treasurer - Jen; Secretary - Kaye (new appointment), Membership Officer - Renate. Also on the committee and taking on particular tasks as needed are Pauline, Bob, Ashlea and Tim.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were raised and some matters were discussed.

Members will be aware that quite frequently Pauline writes an account of the monthly walks we do. Due to increased demands on her time, Pauline will not be able to do this to the same extent and is hoping that another member (or members) would like to assume the role. A list of the plant species seen and identified is made available and any technical matters are sorted out. The report is then emailed to the newsletter editor and the job is done. Pauline's 'replacement' will be most welcome. Other contributions to the newsletter are also much appreciated. It can simply be what you are doing at home in the native plant line - e.g. challenges you are facing, things you are propagating or growing, a new garden section you are planning. It doesn't have to be 'headline news'. Anything in that line is welcome; you can remain anonymous if you wish.

Another matter raised was the continuation of propagation of plants for the wetlands. Seed for a wider range of species will be needed and Jen will be requesting help from members who would like to be involved in seed collection and storage.

The July forum will continue as in the last few years. Angus Wilson had been considered for the presentation but partly due to distance, his attendance seemed not to be feasible. It was mentioned that a section of the forum could be devoted to ideas about gardening in dry conditions as currently prevail.

Pauline who has been closely involved in the wetlands from the

beginning is hoping that a group which might be termed 'Friends of the Wetlands' could be established with suitable protocols. This would provide a pool of extra helpers to assist with maintenance and further developments.

Again a list of possible destinations for our walks in the coming year was put forward for consideration.

Renate spoke of the APS/Wetlands link and recommended members update their Facebook profile if applicable.

The plant sale stall on Australia Day will be discontinued and there will be a need to have an alternative Autumn plant sale.

A very important point made by Bob related to the fact that only a fraction our new members reach the stage of what might be termed an 'active' membership. There can be many reasons for this but we need to look at the ways in which we as a Group interact with new members and even the whole membership. Bob suggested we need a more personalised approach. The practice of emailing everybody does save time but is not designed to promote a sense of belonging. It is notable that APS NSW have expressed similar ideas.

COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 9

The committee met on January 9 to consider the discussions of the December AGM and to make the necessary decisions following the earlier discussions. This meeting led to the formulation of the calendar, reproduced below.

The July forum will possibly involve a speaker from Canberra for the July forum who will address many issues related to wattles - their history in the Australian scene, garden versatility etc.

A welcome letter will be sent to new members as they join and there will be more phone contact with them as they are introduced to the group. To improve the sense of inclusiveness, there will be two special social occasions this year. The first of these is the morning tea at Renate's home in May. Details for the second such event are still to be finalised.

Just before the conclusion of the meeting, Pauline suggested the formulation of a letter to be sent to various 'authorities' emphasising the importance of remediation of the environmental damage resulting from the bushfires using sound scientific and ecological principles. The letter is now close to completion.

CALENDAR

Sat Feb 1	STEP botanic garden at Nat. Arboretum
Sat Mar 7	ANBG Canberra
Sat Mar 14	Plant stall Bungonia
Thu Mar 19	Propagation
Sun Mar 22	Propagation
Sat Apr 4	Plant sale Cooma Cottage Yass
Sat Apr 18	Walk in Penrose Flora Reserve
Sat May 2	Social Morning Tea
Sat May 9	Wetlands Working Bee
Sat June 6	Walk at South's Reserve
Sat July 4	Native Plant Forum
Sat/Sun Aug 1-2	Royal NP overnight trip
Sat Sep 5	Walk in Bango Nature Reserve
Thu Sep 17	Propagation
Sun Sep 20	Propagation
Sat Oct 3	Dalton Reserves
Sat Oct 10	Wetlands Working Bee
Sun Nov 8	Rare plant sale Riversdale tbc
Sat Nov 21	Bundanoon area walk
Sat Dec 5	AGM and end-of-year lunch

CALENDAR NOTES

On this coming Saturday Feb 1, the original plan had been to go to Belanglo State Forest, following a drop in most people's apprehension for reasons known to most.

For the March trip to the botanic gardens in Canberra, we are looking at getting the services of a guide.

On March 14, Jen and Ashlea are organising this stall and would appreciate helpers.

The various propagation sessions are at Peter's place - 331 Run'O'Waters Drive. Members are welcome to attend both sessions (Thu/Sun) if they wish.

The plant sale at Yass is at a property which is managed by the National Trust. We haven't sold plants here before - last year it clashed with one of our walks. For the record, Yass is in the Southern Tablelands Botanical province; however, when you go a kilometre out of Yass (on the other side) you are in the South-west Slopes province.

On May 2, the social morning tea is at Renate's place in Gorman Rd on the northern edge of town - more details later.

For June 6, South's Reserve is on Kooringaroo Rd off the

Bungonia (or Mountain Ash) road; close to the Pomaderris Reserve.

The Native Plant Forum is very likely to be at the Workers' Club as previously.

Pauline is organising the overnight trip to the Royal NP. Bango Reserve (Sep 5) is near Yass.

The Bundanoon area walk will begin at Coalmines Rd just south of Bundanoon.

The location for the AGM etc is not yet known.

DRY TIMES

It is probable that no member can recall a drier period than what we have been experiencing for some time now. Plant life has been affected in several ways. Plants have died - those most at risk may be the ones on shallow soils. An example is the area around Rocky Hill where many mature eucalypts have only dead foliage; a lot of the shrubbery has been affected as well. Some species have not flowered at all; some have flowered but have set little or no seed. Where seed has been set, it is often much smaller than usual; the local green wattle *A. decurrens* is an example. I collected some seed for a *Dillwynia* that I have not collected for some time. Like all peas, the pods open when mature and the seeds in some cases stay in the pod until disturbed. In other cases, the pods open somewhat explosively and the seeds go flying - helping to spread the species.

I collected the *Dillwynia* seed in early Jan and was surprised to get the seed as around that time we had those very strong winds.

One advantage of the recent weather for propagators has been the heat. It has helped seed germination enormously. Peter mentioned the other day that he recently 'put in' seed of the small daisy, *Brachycome ibiderifolia* and they were poking through the seed-growing mix four days later!

I've been happy with my own propagation that was commenced mid-October although I cannot challenge the speed of Peter's seedlings. I use community pots usually with 2 species per pot (derived from plastic milk containers). You save time, space and water doing it this way but you pay for it in time when potting up is to be done. From the photo, it can be seen that there are some things big enough to pot up now.



Seedlings in community propagation pots; the arrow points to seedlings of red box (*E. polyanthemus*) from seed collected on one of last year's walks.