



# Australian Plants Society

## South East NSW Group

Newsletter 183

May 2022

*Corymbia maculata* Spotted Gum and  
*Macrozamia communis* Burrawang

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### Dear Members,

The last monthly meeting has prompted me to think about people and their passions and how that relates to this group. We were lucky to have two presenters on the day, each discussing vastly different topics but related. Both speakers were passionate and skilled in their subjects and it was good to be able to learn from their experiences.

The banner of the Australian Plant Society NSW states,

**Our aim is to inspire all Australians to love, grow and conserve our native plants**

I hope that the monthly meetings and newsletter keeps you inspired and also encourage you to share your interests and passions with the group.

**Our next meeting as outlined on page 2, will be a talk about insects. If this is your passion or if you just have some interesting photos of insects on native plants, we would like to share them with the group at the meeting. Please send the photos to [diClark293@outlook.com](mailto:diClark293@outlook.com) prior to the meeting.**

The files should be no larger than 2MB. You don't need to know what they are, but if you have an idea please include that information. The group may be able to help.

We would like to avoid the possibility of spreading virus from one computer to another so we would prefer that you sent the pictures in advance, rather than bring a USB device. If you prefer to use drop box or some other file sharing system just let me know.

**This brings me to the monthly reminder about COVID 19.** Unfortunately the virus is still with us, so we would appreciate it if people remember the following guidelines.

A few things to consider

- If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend a meeting
- Try and maintain 1.5m between yourself and others
- If we are gathering indoors and distancing is difficult consider wearing a mask
- Wash your hands regularly or use hand sanitiser
- NSW Health strongly advises people get fully vaccinated and wear a face mask where they cannot physically distance

Kind regards, and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Di

# Next Meeting Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

Arrive 10.00 a.m. for morning tea,  
meeting to commence at 10.30 a.m.

**“How Insect pollinators have driven the evolution of flower  
structure in the Angiosperms”**

**Dr Roger Farrow**

Roger is a retired insect ecologist who previously worked at CSIRO, Division of Entomology. After retiring he joined the Canberra Branch of the Australian Native Plants Society to further his interest in native plants and their relationships with insects, especially pollinators. For more than two decades he has led excursions with the Society to places of botanic interest both in the local area and further afield.

**He is the author of**

**“*Insects of South-Eastern Australia: an ecological and behavioural guide*” (CSIRO 2016)**

**and co-author of “*Field Guide to Orchids of the Southern Tablelands of NSW including the ACT*” (2020).**

In a recent paper, Roger discussed **“The need for fire to sustain the diversity of fire-adapted vegetation: a response to the need for any management intervention of bushfire-affected rare plants.**

He also joined our members at the Murramarang Bioblitz, regaling stories of the insects his trained eye spotted, and their relationship with the plants on which they were observed.



*Corysanthes hispida*, (*Corybas hispidus*)  
photographed at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. R. Farrow  
Demonstrates how the evolution of the floral structure has been  
influenced by pollinators

Now we will all have an opportunity to learn about the important relationship between plants and their pollinators. Following his presentation, Roger will be tasked with discussing what insect relationships we might expect with some flowering plants.

**To make this a useful exercise, members are asked to bring along flowering specimens for a “grand show and tell session”.**

**As Roger pointed out, “even if we don’t see any insects on them I can still explain what visits them and the pollination mechanism. Peas are a good example, some orchids would be even better!”**

**You may bring along flowering plants in pots, or specimens as cut flowers. Also as Di mentioned, she would love to receive some photos of insects on plants, and these will be included in the show and tell session.**

What a great opportunity to learn about such an important aspect of growing Australian plants. The committee is very pleased that Roger, and his partner Christine have consented to journey to the coast for this meeting.

## Last Meeting

### Photography David Kemp, President of Eurobodalla Photographic Club

At our last gathering, we were joined by a number of Photographic Club members, who came to support their President, and no doubt to learn some more tricks to add to the quality of their photos.

We were surprised to learn that with the growth of digital cameras, and more importantly phones that can now take exceptional photos in the right hands, the number of photos taken worldwide has increased from 1 billion in 2015, to a staggering 1 trillion by 2020. Many of these might be selfies, or photos of meals or young people having fun. We were also surprised to learn that photographing flowers and plants is the most popular subject worldwide. There has been a similar exponential growth in serious photo taking, and whilst film cameras are still regarded by purists as the ultimate tool for great photos, many users of digital cameras produce exceptional results.

Whilst most people use the **.jpg** format, serious photographers shoot in **.raw** format, which gives much more scope for post processing using any of the excellent computer programs available. Many high end programs require steep learning curves, but there are equally many which more that satisfy casual users. Photoshop 'Elements' was one such program mentioned.

**Also mentioned was the recent innovation of stacking**, where a camera is set to take many slightly adjusted photos of the same subject, and these are automatically stacked over each other, with the layers producing a much more detailed and full depth photo with almost 3D qualities.



***Grevillea "Firesprite"* - this is a focus stack of 15 photos that have been merged together to keep much more of the subject in focus than would normally be possible.**

Hunter Valley Group APS newsletter April 2022

Illustrating his presentation with many examples of his own photos, David explained the fundamentals of "good photography". **Understanding the properties of light is fundamental in achieving great photographs.** The most common mistake of less-accomplished photographers is shooting in harsh light conditions.

- David suggested we should always aim to shoot in soft light, such as sunrise or sunset, and avoid clear sunny days, which cause brighter and darker shades with areas being over-exposed.
- Harsh light can be overcome using a simple diffuser or cotton fabric to reduce glare.
- Colour texture detail is often washed out in sun, but shaded subjects can produce vibrant detail.
- Consider simplifying the background, using simple white or black cardboard. This will remove distractions from the subject, and assist with any post-processing.
- Fill the frame, get close to the subject to record detail. 3 points of interest are ideal.
- Shoot from a low angle for a more interesting composition. A reflector can fill in shadows.
- Using a spray of water can make a dramatic difference, adding refracted light to the image.

- Where possible, use a tripod and a lower shutter speed rather than increasing film speed (iso). It was suggested that any shutter speed lower than 1/16 second requires a tripod.
- Light availability is determined by an inverse rule, in that light availability at 60cm distance is 4 times less than available at 30cm. Backlighting is preferred, but where flash is required, the flash should not be attached to the camera, but held away at an angle to avoid dark patches in close up work.
- Some Macro lenses can take photos at 1:1 ratio. Adding extension tubes produces even greater magnification. Even phone cameras now can have macro lens attached, and some give excellent results. However, sensor size in phones is substantially less than that of a DSLR camera, which limits the quality of the final result. Depth of focus may be lost if the macro lens is not accurate.
- Look at the subject before deciding the final composition. Leaf patterns can add texture and detail when lighted across rather than on top.

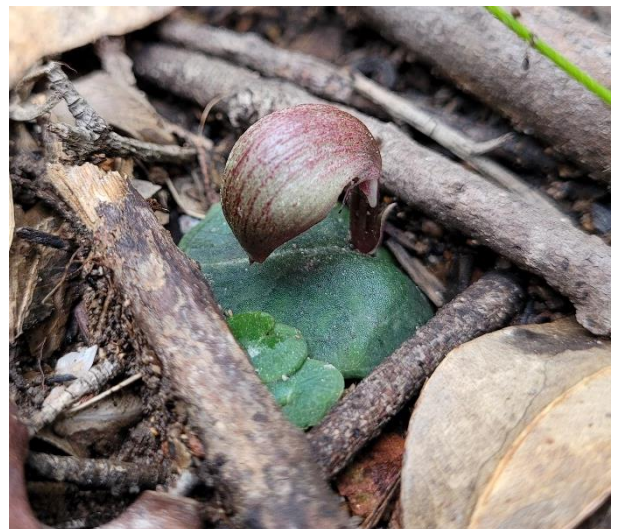
On completion of his presentation, and answering many questions from those attending, Di thanked David, with a gift on behalf of the group.

## and Autumn Orchids of ERBG

Di then introduced **Gardens horticulturist Dylan Morrissey**, who discussed his passion for orchids, and since joining the team at ERBG has been adding to his knowledge of the many species not just within the Gardens site, but more generally across the ERBG collecting area, noting that there are about 146 species of Orchids known to occur. An orchid grower for 20 years, Dylan says this led to his path to horticulture, and now working with the team at ERBG believes he can directly have an impact on the collecting and conservation of the unique flora of this stunning region and help educate the public of the importance of plants and more generally the natural environment. Since moving to this area he has become very interested in the local terrestrial orchids and spends many weekends searching for them. Having managed to tick off most of the species in his first year, he looks forward to spending many more years discovering more of these wonderful plants.

**A surprising range of orchid species is found within the Gardens themselves, and Dylan led the group along bush tracks within the ERBG , showing us some of the orchids currently in flower, and discussing some others he has come across at the Gardens but not currently in flower. Some in the group tried to use knowledge gained from the previous session to photograph our finds.**

*Corybas aconitiflorus*



### Orchids we saw on Saturday 7/5/22

Lists, resources and photographs supplied by Dylan

*Acianthus fornicatus* – Pixie Cap

*Chiloglottis diphylla* (not in flower, mature seed pods present) – The Common Wasp Orchid

*Corybas aconitiflorus* – The Cradle Orchid, Spurred Helmet Orchid

*Cryptostylis leptochila* (not in flower, old inflorescence present) – The Small Tongue Orchid

*Pterostylis acuminata* – The Sharp Greenhood, Pointed Greenhood

*Pterostylis nutans* (not in flower) – The Nodding Greenhood

## Orchids found since fires with confirmed ID at ERBG

*Acianthus fornicatus* – Pixie Cap

*Caladenia carnea* – Pink Fingers

*Chiloglottis diphylla* – The Common Wasp Orchid

*Corybas aconitiflorus* – The Cradle Orchid, Spurred Helmet Orchid

*Cryptostylis leptochila* – The Small Tongue Orchid

*Dipodium roseum* – The Rosy Hyacinth Orchid

*Diuris pardina* – The Leopard orchid

*Diuris sulphurea* – The tiger Orchid, Hornet Orchid

*Genoplesium vernale* (*Threatened species*) – East Lynne Midge Orchid

*Microtis* spp. – Onion Orchids

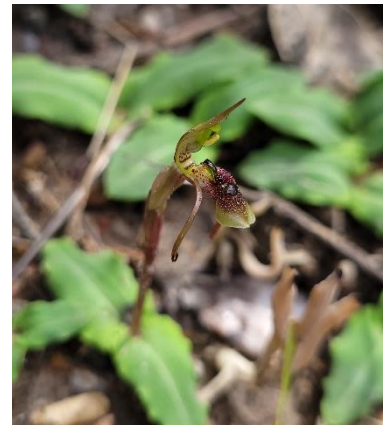
*Prasophyllum sylvestre* – The Forest Leek Orchid

*Pterostylis acuminata* – The Sharp Greenhood, Pointed Greenhood

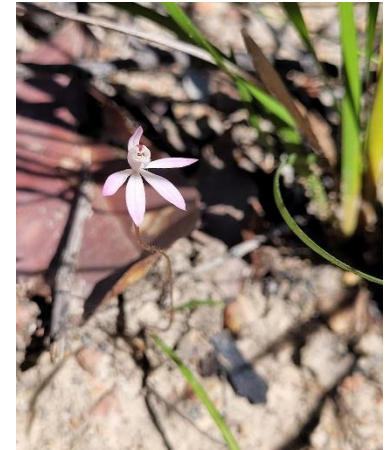
*Pterostylis nutans* – The Nodding Greenhood

*Pterostylis longifolia* – Common Leafy Greenhood

*Spiranthes australis* – Austral Ladies Tresses



*Chiloglottis diphylla*



*Caladenia carnea*

## Species previously found on site

*Acianthus cordatus*

*Caladenia fuscata*

*Corybas fimbriatus*

*Cryptostylis subulatus*

*Cymbidium suave*

*Eriochilus cucullatus*

*Genoplesium woollsii*

*Glossodia major*

*Pterostylis parviflora*,

*Pterostylis grandiflora* *Thelymitra* spp.

## **Here is a brief guide to some of the useful resources for finding and identifying orchids.**

They are well worth having a look at and I would again encourage you all to use them and get out and have a look what is in your local area.

**Atlas of Living Australia** - <https://www.ala.org.au/>

A great website that shows you the areas where a species can be found. Searching a plant name will show you photos of the plant in its habitat, as well as a map with all recorded locations of its occurrence and other information about the plant.

**PlantNet** - <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

This is the website of the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. There are many search functions on the website, however the most useful I have found is selecting to do a “Spatial search,” and searching for local government areas. This will result in a full list of plants found in that area, and by scrolling down (the list is alphabetical by family) to Orchidaceae, you can find a full list of orchids found in the LGA you have searched for. This can give you a good idea of what you can expect to find in your local area. And again, by clicking a particular species you will find photos of the plant and a wealth of information about it, including a map, flowering times and an official botanical description of the plant.



*Pterostylis acuminata*



*Genoplesium vernale*

**iNaturalist** – A great app that is well worth getting on your phone. By creating an account (it is free) you can take photos of any living organisms that you come across and log them on the app with a location, time and date. Other people can then help you identify what you have seen (if you are unsure) and the app itself uses AI to attempt an identification (Which is sometimes very accurate, to the species, and sometimes less so, to a family). This information is what is used to generate the maps on Atlas of Living Australia, so is well worth doing to help advance our collective knowledge.

**GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF NSW AND ACT** by Lachlan Copleand, Gary Backhouse

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7975/>

An exceptional resource, this newly published book is great to chuck in the car or backpack when going bush. It includes every species native to NSW and the ACT, including maps, photos, flowering times, and other useful information. I would highly recommend this book to an orchid grower in the state that is interested in our native species.

### Online resources for identifying Australian plants

You can find many floras and species identification keys online. Keys are the most reliable way to identify a plant species. Below are a few online resources to help with Australian plant identification:

**Flora of Australia** [ausflora.org.au](http://ausflora.org.au)  
**NSW PlantNet** [plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)  
**VicFlora** [vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au)  
**WA FloraBase** [florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au)  
**eFlora SA** [flora.sa.gov.au](http://flora.sa.gov.au)  
**eFlora NT** [eflora.nt.gov.au](http://eflora.nt.gov.au)  
**Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants** [apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest](http://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest)  
**Eucalypts of Australia** [apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid](http://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid)



*Pterostylis nutans*



*Cryptostylis leptochila*



*Spiranthes australis*



*Dipodium roseum*



*Diuris sulphurea*

## In my garden (Lost and Found)

I have found some plants which weren't there last time I looked, so can only assume they belong to others.

If you have lost some *Cerastium vulgatum* (Mouse-ear Chickweed) or *Cardamine hirsuta* (Flickweed), I am keeping it healthy for you.

**No proof of ownership is required, just come along and help yourself!**

I also have some *Galium aparine* (Cleavers) and lovely pink flowered scramblers, Fumitories, either *Fumaria muralis* or *Fumaria bastardii*, and I am leaning towards the second.

Any of these would make handsome additions to your weed list.



Not every plant which grows like a weed is in fact a weed. Native violet *Viola banksii*, has invaded what little lawn I have, with dainty purple and white flowers dotted throughout.

But they have also invaded garden beds nearby, outcompeting Dichondra, and that is a first.

It seems anywhere the soil has been disturbed, either weeds or Violets invade overnight.

So again, if you need some Violets, help yourself.

**Many members** have recorded losses with continuing wet weather, but plants which have survived have been stacking on heavy growth, and plenty of evidence that spring will be a good season.

In the meantime, there is still some life in the garden as we head towards winter, with *Correas* and *Crowea* cheery despite the rain.

*Correa* “**Federation Belle**” is thought to be a hybrid between *C. “Marion’s Marvel”* and *C. reflexa var speciosa*, which arose in the garden of Sarah Caldwell, of Mole River Station near Torrington in northern NSW. It is named to commemorate the centenary of Federation in 2000 and was registered with Australian Cultivar Registration Authority that year.

This is an easy to grow cultivar which is hardy to frost and drought, and as we are finding, tolerant of quite rainy weather, albeit in a well-drained garden bed. Growing to about 1m x 1m, regular tip pruning will maintain a compact habit, and the prunings can be used to propagate some new plants, as the cuttings strike readily.

*Correa baeuerlenii* is a perennial favourite, flowering for much of the year and seemingly happy to grow in any well-drained position, from full sun to quite heavy shade. This year the flowers are more noticeable, and quite a favourite with smaller honeyeaters, although the wattlebirds do make an effort to drive smaller species away.

This year we have had a first crop of seedlings, although Carolyn Noake gets regular recruitment at Moruya, and some of my plants were her ‘babies’. This *Correa* prunes well once established, and can be easily kept to moderate size.





**And some Proteaceae to finish.**

On the left is a **Grevillea seedling** which popped up in a pot. It appears to have *G. lanigera* and *G. alpina* roots, although I don't have any *G. lanigera* in the garden. Flowers are a lovely shell pink, but age black, typical of *G. lanigera*. The ***Banksia spinulosa*** comes from Wog Wog trig in the Budawang Range. Flowers are a lovely lemon aging to honey, on a bush currently 1.8m high after 12 years. This is its best flowering to date. Can't help but notice that **Persoonias** always look fresh and green despite the weather. This one is a ground cover, also 12 years in the ground. It has spread about 2m and if it didn't have a ***Grevillea thyrsoides*** to scramble over, would be prostrate. I always thought it was ***P. prostrata*** from Fraser Is., which I purchased from a Victorian nursery, but there are some doubters out there.



**ANPSA Biennial Conference, Kiama, Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September 2022**

The Australian Plants Society NSW is delighted to be hosting the Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA) Biennial Conference at the Kiama Pavilion in September 2022.

**Registration is now open, and speakers announced.**

Highlights include presentations by Costa Georgiadis and Clarence Slockee, presenters from Gardening Australia, leading botanist and ecologist Professor David Keith, Forest ecologist Professor David Lindenmayer, Grevillea Study Group leader Peter Olde and Eremophila Study Group leader Lyndal Thorburn.

A south coast tour is also planned.

For more details - [austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022](http://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022)

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