



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

## South East NSW Group

### Newsletter 201

### November 2023

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#### For your diary:

##### Next meeting,

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Latest news on Isopogons and  
Petrophiles Phil Trickett and  
Catriona Bate at Lesley and  
Norm Hulands Moruya Garden.  
Celebratory Pizza lunch.**

**Plant Swap**

**See page 2**

##### Future meetings

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

**2024 Annual General Meeting**

**Details on these events will be  
presented in the newsletter  
closer to the day.**

#### **WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Note from Dylan, that from the  
2<sup>nd</sup> of December Eurobodalla  
will be entering level 1 water  
restrictions.

This is yet to be announced, and  
I'm not sure what good it does  
people to know ahead of time, but  
as everyone reads their  
Newsletters at least they will  
know to expect the announcement.

Dear Members,

I trust this final newsletter for the year finds you in good spirits. I am always impressed at the positive feelings that abound at our monthly meetings or our working bees and congratulate you all on your positive outlook on life. I believe our passion for plants and the natural world helps us to navigate through these difficult times. Hopefully this organisation helps you to appreciate the local world around you.

One of our aims is to share knowledge, but next month we are going to give you an opportunity to share plants that you have grown with the group. We are calling this a plant swap, so come along to the final meeting of the year and find a few treasures. The details of how this will work will be outlined below.

**The committee** is due to meet soon and we will be planning for the activities next year. If you have any ideas of places to go or interesting activities, please make contact with someone from the committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

I hope that everyone remains safe and has a chance to enjoy family and friends, the garden and the bush over the next few months. I look forward to seeing you in December and then again in February at our AGM.

**That's all for now, Di.**



**Cheery bright yellow flowers of *Senecio linearifolia*, captured by Daniel at Joan Lynch's garden**

## Next Meeting:

**Saturday 2nd December 2023,**

**at Lesley and Norm Hulands home and garden, 9 Mountain View Rd Moruya**

**Arrive by 10.00 a.m. for a social morning tea, then at 10.30 a.m. be entertained by Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate, leaders, since 2015, of the Isopogon & Petrophile Study Group.**

Even among native plant experts, there is little known about these interesting and spectacular genera.

This presentation will clarify what they are and how isopogons differ from petrophiles. They will also discuss some of the latest findings on fire response, pollinators and propagation.

To round it off, Phil and Catriona will look at some species you may be interested in growing. In this way you can help in studying these beautiful plants.

***Petrophile linearis* is a superb garden plant, and this one produced 36 flower heads this year in Phil and Catriona's garden. Catriona's delightful photo details the intricacy of the flower**



Following the Isopogon and Petrophile presentation, Dylan will introduce our “**Plant Swap**” session. Says Dylan, “I hope everyone has had great successes with their propagation endeavours this year, and as you will all no doubt know by now, we will be having a plant swap at our December meeting. We would encourage you all to bring along any excess plants that you have, maybe even something special that you would like to share around.”

**Your committee has decided that the Plant Swap will be run along the lines of a raffle**, with monies raised to assist our efforts at the ERBG Proteaceae garden.

Tickets will be just \$1 each, and limited to the number of plants offered for the plant swap. Everyone attending will be ensured of a ticket, and therefore a plant, if they wish to be involved.

As Dylan is controlling the session, he warns that he won't tolerate elbowing and tripping up of others as you get to the plant table. Tickets will be drawn in an orderly fashion and therefore there will be some luck as to who gets the most prized plants.

**We ask that you bring along some gold coins or small notes only as change may not be available.**

## The Big Pizza Party

Construction of Norm's latest project, the Bakers Oven, is now complete, and to celebrate Norm is going to cook us all a pizza for lunch.

**He will supply the pizza base, his own special healthy recipe, and all you need to supply is your toppings, be they savoury or sweet.**

We agreed with Lesley and Norm that it would be impractical to supply toppings as the tastes of so many is impossible to predict.

So pack your picnic basket with your favourites, and enjoy our Christmas breakup gathering. Hot water is available for tea and coffee, or might like to bring something a little bit stronger. The choice is yours.



No need to be concerned if the weather is a bit damp, as there is plenty of undercover seating area.

After lunch Lesley and Norm will let us loose in their garden, which they assure is looking nice and green with recent rainfall.

Hope we get a big roll up for our last meeting for this year.

## Last Meeting , notes by Di Clark

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November we set off to visit the Narooma property of Joan Lynch on Scenic Drive. Joan supplied extensive notes describing the drive in from Dalmeny and we were treated to an information session on the deck after morning tea, followed by a walk to two different areas. The first track towards the dam passes through various ecological communities but it was dominated by dry sclerophyll, spotted gum / burrawang forest with south facing fern gullies.

For those of you who have not been to this property before, the block covers 40 hectares of mostly bushland and is divided by the road. The house was built by Joan and her husband in around 2000 and sits beautifully on the land looking out over Wagonga Inlet.

The property was partially burnt in the 2019/20 bushfires and our walks revealed differences between the burnt and unburnt areas.

On past visits there have been more flowers on display along the tracks but our group still managed to find many, small flowering plants and shrubs. There were *Olearia tomentosa* (a large form). These were plants along the track that were not so abundant before the fire passed through This prompted much discussion about how the seed came to be there and what were the conditions that the burning provided to enable this mass seeding.



*Olearia tomentosa* flower,  
and below setting seed



Our second walk included an area over the road and was not burnt in the last fires. There were some wonderful large, old *Corymbia maculata* that attracted our attention and a few hugs.

Prior to our walks Joan presented us with some information regarding the covenant that has been placed on the property. Joan has entered into an in-perpetuity agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, allocating part of the property to be under this covenant. The agreement is a permanent legal covenant on the title of the land that binds the NSW Government and the successors in the title (except in exceptional circumstances allowed in the Act).

The objective of the agreement is to maintain, conserve and restore species habitats. Joan has allocated 21 Hectares to be under this agreement. The site was assessed for the value of its vegetation types. There were three vegetation sites recorded

<b>South Coast Foothills Dry Shrub Forest</b>	<b>1.8ha</b>
<b>South Coast Spotted Gum Cycad Dry Forest</b>	<b>15.7ha</b>
<b>South Coast River flat Peppermint Forest</b>	<b>3.5ha</b>

The South Coast River flat Peppermint Forest is considered to be a threatened ecological community.

The property is relatively weed free, with weeds only showing up along some of the tracks and along the creek line. The declared weedy Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) has made their home along the creek line and a grant has been approved to enable Joan to pay a contractor to help with weed removal.

Placing a covenant on your land comes with some restrictions, set up to protect habitat. Some of these obligations and restrictions are

- No clearing or cultivation of native vegetation
- No fertilizers or herbicides – except for agreed weed removal
- No removal of dead wood or fallen timber from area

Joan has had a long association with this land and this area. She and her husband Tony were visitors to the area in the 1940's and eventually purchased land in 1989. The house was built around 2000.

Joan has spent a lifetime of learning. She has a keen interest in the history of the local area and is a member of the local Historical Society. Joan and Mary have been documenting a list of plants found on the site, some of which were recorded by APS in 2016.

If you would like a copy of this list please contact Di.

These are some of the plants that were not seen before fires:

*Astrotricha latifolia*, Broad-leaf Starhair, is in the family Araliaceae, and is a large shrub of 2-4m, but can get much taller in northern wet forests. Locally it occurs in wet sclerophyll forest or rainforest margins, with slender upright branches topped by branched inflorescences around 30cm long

*Polyscias sambucifolia* Elderberry Panax, Ornamental Ash, Elderberry Ash can be a shrubby understorey plant or a small tree to 5m., and grows commonly on disturbed sites in wet or dry sclerophyll forest



*Astrotricha latifolia*  
Mary Harrison

*Haloragis exalata subsp. exalata* Square Raspwort, pictured at right (Mary Harrison) is a Threatened Species

Square Raspwort grows to around 1 to 1.5m, and occurs in damp places near watercourses, habitats which are vulnerable to many threatening processes, including grazing, flooding, clearing, weed invasion, pollution and water regulation.



Another couple of Daniel's photos, Lacy Wedge Fern *Lindsaea microphylla*, and flowers of *Leichhardtia rostrata* Common Milk Vine.

Notes on the revision of the Genus Marsdenia by P. I. Forster were published by Queensland Herbarium (**Austrobaileya**, 11, PP 1 -18) in 2021

As I drive around my own local area it is impossible not to notice how much clearing has been taking place. This is the usually reaction to fire impacted areas and a warning of hot, dry weather to come. But this type of clearing, removal of all the understory, also removes a huge amount of habitat. It is wonderful to know that there are landowners like Joan who are prepared to take steps to protect the vegetation and consequently the animals and organisms that live in it.

This does not mean that Joan's property is less protected against fire. The house site was chosen with this in mind. There is a large dam on the property and Joan has also installed a sprinkler system attached to the house that is able to be used via a petrol pump. The group was given a demonstration of the sprinkler system in action.

It was a lovely day and we all came away knowing more than when we arrived.

## In my Garden Recent Knockouts

by Leigh Murray

We've been knocked out recently by big, beautiful *Eucalyptus conferruminata* flowers that are easily visible downhill from our Queanbeyan deck. The tree grows well at Tuross, but because the trees there are taller and further away, the flowers are not as easily appreciated (although we can watch the birds enjoying them). I'm very fond of green-flowering plants, and grow *Callistemon pinifolius* and *Melaleuca diosmifolia* at Tuross for their lovely, bright green flowers.

But the flowers on this Queanbeyan *E. conferruminata* are the ants pants. They are such huge knockouts, at nearly eye level. Each glowing flower ball is about the size of an apple.

None of my photos does justice to the flowers, so I'll attach a photo showing both flowers and buds from the Native Shop website (<https://www.nativeshop.com.au/products/eucalyptus-conferruminata>), which is where I obtained my plants many years ago.



Another plant stopping me in my tracks at present is a *Myoporum floribundum* in full flower, espaliered against the carport wall at our Queanbeyan place.

The plant popped up in a tiny patch of soil, cramped between that wall and a narrow main access path. Rather than removing the plant, I thought it was worth a try at espaliering it, and so far that has worked well, with the pruned plant fitting nicely into the very narrow space. It's looking gorgeous, and attracting lots of flying insects.

**In my Garden**

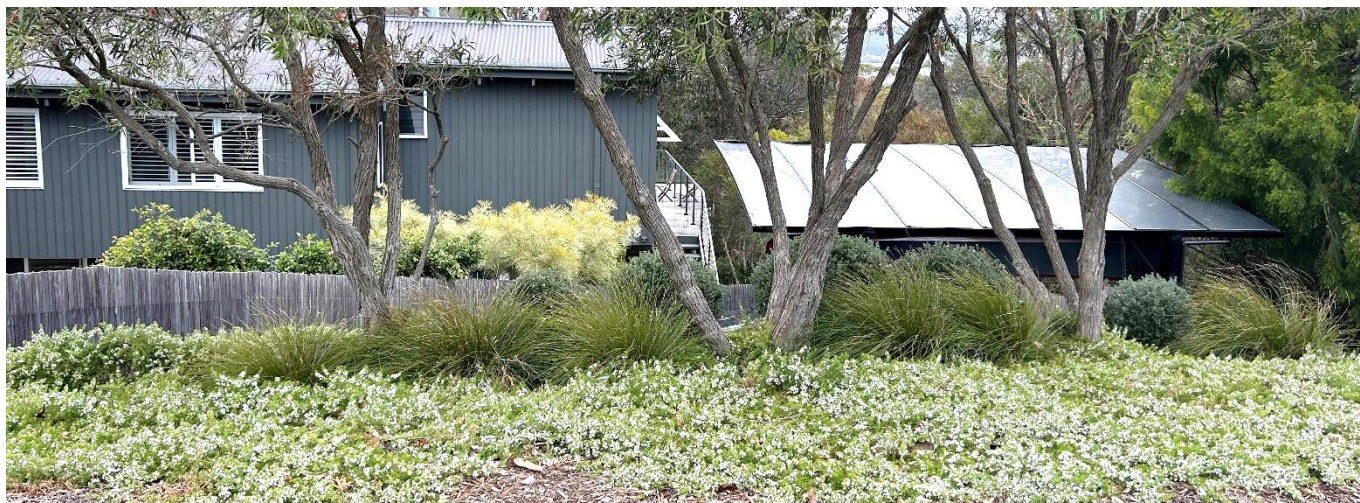
**Alison Spurgeon**

Who can argue that *Brachychiton acerifolius*, Illawarra Flame Tree is not one of the most spectacular plants when in full flower. This specimen in Narooma, radiating a fluorescent beacon to its many pollinators, is a fine example of the many trees flowering beautifully at the moment.

I am also very pleased with the verge garden, which was previously kikuyu lawn. Once the kikuyu was removed, I used a thick layer of newspaper and covered this with mulch.



As the photo shows, the 3 tubes of *Myoporum parvifolium* I planted have done a magnificent job, much better than I had expected, covering the whole verge with a bonus of flowers at the moment. No more mowing ! Hopefully these plants will continue to thrive and survive the dry weather.



## Calling all propagators .....

Ian Rose

Ian is offering heating cable and thermostat, free, to any member who might wish to improve their propagation results.

He has **12m of Parasene soil warming cable** (unused) and the associated thermostat which has UK electric plugs which will need to be changed to meet Australian regulations, and a heat mat thermostat, all unused and in as new condition.

Note that these must be picked up from Ulladulla.

Ian can be contacted by email, [ian.rose@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.rose@bigpond.com) if you are interested



## Committee News

**Dylan's suggested "walkers" group**, to meet separately to our usual activities, has received interest from a couple of members. Already a couple of walks have taken place, centred around identifying flowering plants, which aims to improve our knowledge of the plants found in local bush areas.

Members should contact Dylan to register their interest of joining the planned activities.

Email : [Dylan-morrissey@hotmail.com](mailto:Dylan-morrissey@hotmail.com)

## Proteaceae Working Bee

Everyone is aware that the dry spell we are experiencing is not only affecting our garden plants, but the available food for wildlife is quickly diminishing, meaning plantings are under even more pressure.

If you would be interested in **helping out with the summer watering** occasionally, please let me know. We can work out a time that suits you and go through the process. The watering days need to be during the week.

Thanks everyone for your support and I hope to see you at one of our sessions early in the new year  
**Di Clark 0402 555 330**

## Annual General Meeting

Members will note that our Annual General Meeting is planned for February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024.

The current committee is seeking support from other members to join, to bring new ideas and enthusiasm, and ensure our group remains vibrant and relevant.

Please give this some consideration. Feel free to discuss options with President Di, or any existing committee member. Contact details are below



Orange flowered Carpobrotus, purchased from Mt. Annan plant shop in 2019.

Would you like one ? Available at the plant swap this month.

## COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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