

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

Southern Highlands Group SOCIETY *...your local native garden club*

7th April Ian Raynor from Greening Australia to talk at Moss Vale CWA

23/24 April Volunteers to help on our info stall

Late April Practical activity with Greening Australia

SHAPS Committee:

President
Bill Mullard

Vice President
Louise Egerton

Secretary
Kim Zegenhagen

Treasurer
John Desmond

Newsletter Editor
Trisha Arbib

Communications Officer
Jen Slattery

Committee Members
Marjorie Lobban

Paul Osborne

APS Committee
southernhighlandsaps@gmail.com

[www.austplants.com.au/
Southern-Highlands](http://www.austplants.com.au/Southern-Highlands)



Is it ever going to stop raining! Only half way through March and already 500.8mm in Bundanoon. Some big daily falls. 109mm on the 3rd March, 91 on the 4th, 121 on the 7th, 70mm on the 8th and 41 mm on the 9th March.

The *Melaleuca hypericifolia* photographed in my Bundanoon garden this March is flourishing in the almost constant rain. My *Isopogon formosus*, an Epacris and several Grevilleas sadly didn't make it, and I have heard similar stories, especially about Grevilleas, from other local gardeners.

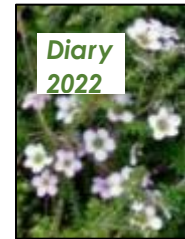
Upcoming Program

SHAPS 2022/23 Program Summary

	General Meetings 1 st Thursday of the month or as specified, at 2pm	Outings 1 st Thursday of the month or as specified	Committee meeting 2 nd Monday of the month
Jan			10/1/21 Kim
Feb	AGM on Zoom 2pm 3 rd Feb		14/2/22 Bill
Mar		Garden visit to Jonquil Temple's 3rd March postponed due to rain.	14/3/22 Kim
April	Greening Australia- Ian Raynor talk at Moss Vale CWA. 2pm on 7 th April	23/24 April Information stall at garden fair at Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Late April planting activity with Greening Australia	11/4/22
May			9/5/22
June	Pat Hall-edible native plants talk at Moss Vale CWA. 2pm on 2 nd June		13/6/22
July		Garden visit 7 th July	11/7/22
Aug	Richard Batterley- talk on better using your mobile phone to photograph native plants. Moss Vale CWA. 2pm on 4 th August	Richard Batterley – follow on practical exercise in photography 11 th August. Location to be announced.	8/8/22
Sep		Garden visit 1 st Sept ANPSA Biennial Conference- Kiama 10-16 Sept.	12/9/22
Oct	TBA		10/10/22
Nov		SHAPS hosting APS NSW weekend 12/13 November in Southern Highlands.	14/11/22
Dec		Xmas party	12/12/22
Jan 23			9/1/23

Details of coming events

Thursday 7th April Moss Vale CWA 2pm Ian Raynor from Greening Australia will focus on the local work they are doing, including the Wall to Wollondill project <https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/projects/w2w/> and Rivers of Carbon Source Water Linkages <https://riversofcarbon.org.au/our-projects/rivers-carbon-source-water-linkages/>.



April 23 – 24 weekend, 9 – 4. Volunteers are needed to help with our information stall at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. No plants to sell. Just hand out flyers and chat to people about your love of Australian native plants. You can volunteer for an hour or two, or for a whole morning or afternoon.

Please email our secretary Kim to register your interest at southernhighlandsaps@gmail.com

Late April - Planting activity with Greening Australia. You don't need to be fit to be involved. Holes will be already dug and there are roles other than actual planting. It is all very well organised. And fun. Date and details of venue to be given at Ian Raynor's April talk.

Report of SHAPS AGM

13 members attended the Zoom meeting. The Welcome to Country, the president's and treasurer's report were followed by election of committee members.

Returning Officer, Jane Pye declared all existing committee positions vacant. Jane then read out the list of nominees for the new committee.

As there were no more members nominating for positions than there were positions available the new committee was declared elected and now in operation.

General business:

- Short discussion about our next garden visit to Jonquil Temple's Garden in Mittagong on 3rd March.
- Louise asked all members to keep a look out for the safety of the large *Eucalyptus macarthurii* at the corner of Moss Vale Road and Eridge Park Road. Please let her know if there is any activity with excavation works that threaten it.

2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Despite another difficult Covid year resulting in an enforced recess from July to September we still had several well patronized and successful functions. The photogenic Gang Gang cockatoo at Carrington Falls made the end of year picnic that little more special. Thanks to all members who made the effort to attend these events.

It was pleasing to see the increase in membership over the year, due in no small part to the influx of people from Sydney and elsewhere, bringing with them an interest in native plants. We all know the difficulty with the promotion of native plants and gardens in an area like ours dominated by exotic gardens and treescapes, but signs are that attitudes are beginning to change.

I would like to thank the committee members for their enthusiastic effort during the year and retiring members Erica Rink who has served 5 or 6 years on the committee as communications officer and Christine Goodwin for their contributions to the committee.

Thank you all for participating in the 2022 AGM and keep spreading the word about Australian Native Plants.

2021 Highlights

The Southern Highlands group had a Covid enforced recess from July to September. Despite this we still had several well patronized and successful functions:

1. Four successful garden visits with up to 35-40 attendees each time.
2. Very successful propagation workshop with 26 participants. This has resulted in several members now propagating rare and endangered acacias. Our intention is then to distribute these as tube stock to members to grow in their own gardens.
3. Talk on landscaping for small gardens with 29 participants. Very worthwhile.
4. One indoor talk was given by an environmental employee of Wingecarribee Shire Council discussing an app called Naturemapr.
5. On three occasions talks were given by several members on a local community radio station. These sessions typically were for 10-15 minutes in a question-and-answer format broadcast live at about 1pm on Fridays. We will resume this when sitting unmasked in a small windowless studio will be considered desirable.
6. A very enjoyable Christmas function incorporating a visit to a native plant nursery, a bush walk and then lunch in a national park was attended by about 35 members.

We continue to publish a newsletter every second month. Asking members to submit articles and /or photos has been met with an enthusiastic response.

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY – SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT 2021 YEAR

Due to the continuation of the pandemic induced lockdowns and cancelled meetings both revenue and expenses were reduced compared to previous years.

Our major source of revenue during the year was the district group share of membership subscriptions. We currently have 90 members who list Southern Highlands as their primary group and a further 21 who list us as a secondary group.

In addition we received revenue from plant sales and raffle tickets at meetings and some minor bank interest.

The major operating expenses were gifts for guest speakers and printing and posting newsletters and notices. Total revenue was \$1,328 with total expenditure of \$1,425. However included was the purchase of a new PA system and a multimedia projector to improve the conduct of meetings.

At 31 December we had a healthy bank balance of just over \$4,000 which will be adequate for our activities over the following year.

New Committee

The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor remain the same. Communications Officer Erica Rink and Committee Member Chris Goodwin resigned from the committee. We appreciate their contributions and are sorry to see them go from the committee, but will still see them at meetings.

We welcome three new committee members. Paul Osborne and Marjorie Lobban, and Jen Slattery who will take on the role of communications officer. They have each written a short profile to introduce themselves.

All positions are shown on the first page of this newsletter.



Paul Osborne

As a gardener I've always had an interest in and love of our native plants.

This has moved beyond the general to a wider enthusiasm since joining the APS.

After five years of living in Mittagong, coming from inner suburban Sydney, it's an increasing joy to experience the vast range of natural bushland across the Southern Highlands as well.



Marjorie Lobban

My interest in native plants came about through working with a Bushcare group in Chatswood. Using what I learnt there, I regenerated my large and weed-ridden backyard which ran down to a creek line leading to the Lane Cove river. When I moved to Bowral 6 years ago, one of the first things I did was to join the Mt Gibraltar Bushcare and Landcare group and expanded my weed knowledge to encompass local favourites. I am a keen bushwalker with the National Parks Association and love photographing trees and flowers on our walks. I am a much better plant appreciator than identifier.



Jen Slattery

I've lived in the Highlands with my husband Garry, on a beautiful sandstone bush block, for 20 plus years.

For the past 11 years I worked as part of council's Bushcare Team, recently retiring as the Team Leader.

Prior to Bushcare, I worked in the finance industry in Sydney, whilst gaining qualifications in Conservation and Land Management.

My favourite native plant varies with the seasons. My current favourite is *Veronica perfoliata* (syn *Derwentia perfoliata*, *Parahebe perfoliata*).

Over the Hedge with Kim and Erica

Kim Zegenhagen and Erica Rink



Australian Native Plant Jobs for March and April

In our last article we warned you to keep your worm farms in a coolish place because of summer heat. In hindsight it would have been more relevant to suggest to find a dry place for your wriggly friends.

Now that we have saturated soil - let's talk about some gardening strategies.

Autumn is a good time to move evergreen shrubs, while the soil is still relatively warm. It is important to dig around the plant as far from the base as you can and as deep as you can to take as good a root system as possible. Our experience is that digging in damp soil is always a happier experience than digging in dry soil. (Both for the digger and the plant).

This is also a good time to plant container grown trees and shrubs. Because the soil is still quite warm and moist the roots of the plants can become established before winter sets in, and the plants will be off to a flying start in the spring. With all our recent rains there is no need to water in the early stages, saving water and time.

If you are transplanting to an exposed position, it is worth considering a wind barrier on the windward side, Winds encourage water to evaporate from leaves causing scorching.

Now here is another bit of good advice. Deciduous leaves (which will start falling in April) will collect in among low-growing plants. This encourages rots and other diseases. Pick out all leaves from around plants at regular intervals during autumn. Fallen leaves left lying over or around plants can encourage slugs and snails.

Hedges

This is a great time to think about putting in a native hedge. Gardeners around here often plant exotics for a hedge. There are plenty of natives which will perform equally well, and often better. New varieties of old favourite tough natives can be used for hedging, screening, and even topiary work.

Dwarf lilly pillies can replace boring old box hedges. Varieties such as *'Allyn Magic'*, *'Tiny Trev'* and *'Lilliput'* are all worth considering. They have similar glossy green growth with small leaves and love pruning. Kim planted hedges of *'Hobbit'* Lily Pilly along the drive. They have wonderful flowers and fruit. The fruit attracted every Crimson Rosella within 5 kilometres to a glorious feast. A hedge that provides a feast for our native birds - what more can a native gardener want!

There are also Callistemon cultivars which are great for hedging. *Callistemon viminalis* cultivars such as 'Red Alert', 'Scarlet Flame' and 'Captain Cook' are all great substitutes for photinia. 'King's Park Special' and 'Perth Pink' are other great cultivars. They are great bird and bee attractors.



Callistemon 'Perth Pink'



Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'



Westringia fruticosa 'Sea Foam Swell'

Recently Erica and George dug up a metre high *Callitris rhomboidea* growing in the wrong place in the garden. They gave it a decent prune removing about a third. George dug a hole about half a metre across and put the plant in. Then covered it with compost and soil, watered it in with seasol and worm wee, and put on some



Erica and George's transplanted Callitris rhomboidea

mulch. That's over a month ago and it hasn't changed its colour. Maybe the recent huge rainfall has kept it happy.

Planting for wet conditions

Melaleucas can tolerate long periods in boggy conditions. Perhaps best to consider a small tree for this type of boggy planting. *Melaleuca hypericifolia* (the Hillock Bush) makes a great small tree. Pruning is a good idea if you want to make a lovely small tree. If you would like a plant that is bird attracting, then allow it to grow naturally. Small birds will search into the plant for flowers back along the stems instead of just feeding on the plant tips. There is also a cultivar called *M. hypericifolia 'Ulladulla Beacon'*. A great plant for growing over rocks.

Stay tuned for more excellent suggestions in the next issue.

Happy gardening, E & K.

Seasonal Bird Movements in our Gardens

Louise Egerton



Have you ever noticed how in spring some of the birds you are accustomed to seeing in your garden disappear? And then, in mid-summer they reappear?

Unless your garden is a magical bush block, with lots of tangled messy shrubbery (yes, go messy gardens) suitable for small birds to nest in, or you are the keeper of an old-growth tree riddled with nesting hollows for parrots, kookaburras and wood ducks you may not have much to

offer a pair of birds wanting to raise a family.

Crows, butcherbirds and magpies build large twig nests in tall eucalypts providing height and structural stability but how many of us can boast a cluster, or even one, of these? So, for most of us, it is only the Noisy Miners, with their make-do attitude, that can find a nesting spot in our garden. Unfortunately, these birds often turn our backyards into exclusion zones for other birds.

So, we have to face it. Most birds prefer to nest elsewhere but...once the young birds are fledged the parents often return to the shelter of a garden to teach their offspring some survival techniques.

The crows are early nesters and so may be the first to return to our gardens, often with one or two young in tow. You can tell the difference by their eyes. Adults have piercing blue eyes; the young ones, brown eyes. Crows are multi-skilled and highly social. They also have excellent memories since they hide (cache) food for later consumption and must remember where they hid it. Offspring stay with their parents for months, watching and copying, keeping in touch with throaty calls. After a while they join up with a larger group—a murder of crows—as they gather for loud cawing sessions.

The re-appearance of the butcherbird is more likely heard than seen. Singing classes among young butcherbirds are compulsory. Parents spend hours continuously correcting their offspring's phrasing, timing and the rise and fall of notes.

As the summer progresses the King Parrot parents arrive back in the garden, trailed relentlessly by their squawking young. The magpies, too, may bring in their offspring. You may have seen them treading carefully on our lawns, teaching them how to pick up the vibrations of underground grubs.

As the summer wears on young kookaburras, with their rather tentative, slight off-key cackles, can be heard joining into the early morning family territorial throng. And the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos move back into the suburbs from their nesting hollows, scouring the old pine trees for ripe nuts within the cones.

For me, the most rewarding sight is watching the very small birds coming back into the garden: the spinebills and thornbills. When I see them, I know I'm doing something right in the planting department.

Even if we can't offer nesting sites, we can still be the providers of food, water and shelter. Recently I watched a shy whipbird check out the thicket of native plantings along the border of my garden for the very first time. I made a note that, with a couple of extra *Baeckias*, I could extend its cover and its foraging range just that little bit further.

Honey from Australian Native Plants

Trisha Arbib

Note: These stories refer to European, not native bees.

Unusual Tasmanian Honeys

I was interested to read about a Tasmanian beekeeper, Rob Barker, with 150 hives on the east coast of Tasmania. He sources his honey from less usual east coast Tasmanian native plants. Many Tasmanian apiarists target leatherwood tree pollen but Mr Barker prefers other native species. His hives are spread across an area nearly 300 kilometres in length, from the mouth of the River Derwent at Bruny Island, up to Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula. Those totally contrasting soil types and climates produce completely different honey.

He finds it exciting that there's a great variety of plants but his favourite is *Bursaria spinosa*, prickly box, followed by tea tree, Manuka, and *Kunzea ambigua*, which he says has a beautiful scent and a deep flavour.

Mr Barker has a small operation and hasn't had any issues keeping his hives healthy in the downtime when much of the major flora isn't in flower. There's plenty of flora on the east coast, he says, "you just need to know where it is and where to put your hives."

Extracted from an item in ABC Rural, 29th January 2022.

Extension of permits for Bee Keepers in Queensland National Parks

The importance of native plants to the production of Australian honey can be seen in the following.

Late last year the Queensland Government approved the preparation of legislative amendments, to grant a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping to continue in national parks until 2044.

These are amendments to the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The 2024 deadline was part of the South East Queensland Forest Agreement signed in 1999, which changed the tenure of state forests and forest reserves containing 1,088 apiary sites into 49 national parks.

The National Parks with their variety of flora are considered essential by bee keepers especially as a result of the drought, which has prompted up to 60% of Qld commercial bee keepers to move to NSW.

Industries such as beekeeping and native timber were expected to transition away from the newly formed national parks as part of the deal. However, the state government and the beekeeping industry have yet to find suitable alternative honey sites for beekeeping.

Some conservationists and The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) say beekeeping is "incompatible" with national parks and increases biosecurity risks. NPAQ is particularly concerned with the continued risk of pathogen spillover from honey bee hives. In a 2015 report the NPAQ warned that beekeeping removed up to 80 per cent of floral resources used by native birds and insects and reduced the seed-set of native plants. But beekeepers and an independent report by Dr Ben Oldroyd from the University of Sydney is said to have disproved that theory. They say access is vital to the survival and drought recovery of the industry and there is no evidence it is having a negative effect. If anything, they say, occupation for short periods of time was actually beneficial to some of the species of eucalyptus and native flora. The parks were also a major source of nectar that produced valuable medicinal-grade honey.

Extracted from an item in ABC Southern Queensland, 12th October 2021, supplemented by information from ABC Rural 9th November 2020.

Honey with a Provenance

And closer to home....

My curiosity was piqued by a local roadside stall selling honey because, alongside the jars of honey, there are information sheets on the Australian native plant origin and flavour of each one. Jeff's stall is on the Jamberoo Mountain Road, 3kms from the famous Robertson pie shop and on the way to the Carrington Falls.

Five facts about honey

1. Honey is made from the sweet nectar of flowers. Collected by bees, it is broken down into simple sugars before being regurgitated into a hexagonal wax cell in the honeycomb.
2. Winnie-the-Pooh's obsession with "hunny" is based on a false premise. Bees are a major beehive predator, but it's the larvae and pupae they most want, rather than the honey.
3. The flavour and colour of honey are dictated by what flowers the nectar is taken from.
4. Honey was almost the only source of sugar available to the ancients, and is mentioned in both the Bible and the Koran.
5. Historically, honey has often been used as a symbol for all that is pleasant and desirable.

SMH Good Weekend, June 23, 2007

An example of one of his signs: *“This mainly banksia honey (Banksia Blend Honey) is a naturally bee produced blend of honeys from Banksias, Iron bark and Grey Gum around the Jervis Bay area. This is a bold and distinctive honey, for the honey connoisseur, it is incredibly*

dark in colour. With aromas of deep caramel and some say flavours of molasses or a taste of caramelised banana...”

The flavours of the honeys that I’ve bought here and tasted do vary. And are delicious. It always takes a while when visiting the stall to read the descriptions and choose.

Jeff has had the stall for about 3 years. It all started when his son started keeping bees, and now he sells honey from bee keepers on the central coast Newcastle, Nowra, the Shoalhaven area, Boorawa, Braidwood....

For economy of space I have transcribed some of his signs together with his photos.

On my last visit, in addition to honeys described below, he had honey from Red Gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, a Mugga Ironbark and yellow box blend, and also honey from Thistle and Paterson’s Curse.



The Eucalyptus blend is interesting. Done by bees he says, not man. This happened when the hives were partially filled with honey from one tree species that stopped flowering, and the hives were filled from trees that then came into flower.

Honey is seasonal. And both drought and excess rain are enemies of production. Some of the coastal bee keepers, after the recent fires destroyed so much of the forest, had to take their boxes out west. And after the prolonged rain we’ve been having recently, trees put on growth rather than flowering, and the bees work inside their boxes to keep them warm and dry. Wet boxes invite disease. Not counting the many boxes that must be simply washed away in times of flood.

The stall owner used to have a wholesale nursery growing trees and shrubs. And it shows in his signs.



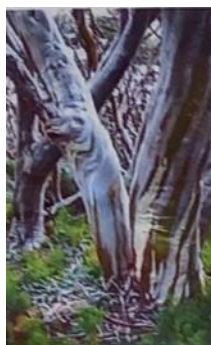
Grey Ironbark Honey A honey crafted by the bees from a gum tree known for its narrow leaves and furrowed ironbark. It produces a very sweet flavourful honey that is runny in texture, popular and distinctively Australian. The flavour is family-friendly, warm and buttery and not too strong. Grey ironbark honey is often loved by children and sweet tooths, a teaspoon being a perfect solution to alleviate cravings for sweet things.

The botanical name is *Eucalyptus paniculata* which grows into a large sized tree with white flowers in coastal forests along eastern NSW. When in flower the nectar is attractive to birds, bees and other insects. This honey has been taken from hives in forests stretching from Mogo to Bodalla and west to the Deua River Valley.



Yellow Box Honey Crafted by the bees from *Eucalyptus melliodora* trees around Young NSW. The yellow box is thought to be the best native tree for honey production. The honey produced is very aromatic, is a delightful light amber colour, and has an exceptional sweet, mild and mellow taste. Yellow box honey is normally one of the slowest Australian candying honeys, which makes it desirable for home use...

It also has the lowest GI rating of all Australian honeys, which means it is more slowly digested, absorbed and metabolised...



Snow Gum Honey *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, commonly known as Snow Gum, grows along the ranges and tablelands from Queensland down to Tasmania in colder woodlands above 700 metres. The honey has come from the Southern Tablelands of NSW around the Braidwood area.

The Snow gum is a mallee, a multi trunked tree with bark that is shed in ribbons and has clusters of white flowers from October to February. With the bees doing all the hard work, the nectar from the flowers produces a honey which is often described as a "magnificent medium to rich strength honey with a fantastic freshly harvested honeycomb flavour" or "a spicy honey with a distinctive peppery taste" another critic comments "Snow Gum honey has a distinctive dry, bitey flavour". Remember like all honeys the taste and flavour can vary each year. Snow Gum honey sits in the middle of the flavour chart so is ideal for people who like a mild or rich honey....

Hibbert's Flowers and Hitler's Beetle – What to do when Species are Named After History's Monsters

Kevin Thiele, Adjunct Assoc. Professor, The University of Western Australia
Taken from The Conversation December 16, 2021



Hibbertia scandens

“What’s in a name?” asked Juliet of Romeo. “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

But, as with the Montagues and Capulets, names mean a lot, and can cause a great deal of heartache.

My colleagues and I are taxonomists, which means we name living things. While we’ve never named a rose, we do discover and name new Australian species of plants and animals – and there are a lot of them!

For each new species we discover, we create and publish a Latin scientific name, following a set of international rules and conventions. The name has two parts: the first part is the genus name (such as *Eucalyptus*), which describes the group of species to which the new species belongs, and the second part is a species name (such as *globulus*, thereby making the name *Eucalyptus globulus*) particular to the new species itself. New species are either added to an existing genus, or occasionally, if they’re sufficiently novel, are given their own new genus.

Some scientific names are widely known – arguably none more so than our own, *Homo sapiens*. And gardeners or nature enthusiasts will be familiar with genus names such as *Acacia*, *Callistemon* or *Banksia*.

This all sounds pretty uncontroversial. But as with Shakespeare’s star-crossed lovers, history and tradition sometimes present problems.

What’s in a name?

Take the genus *Hibbertia*, the Australian guineaflowers. This is one of the largest genera of plants in Australia, and the one we study.

There are many new and yet-unnamed species of *Hibbertia*, which means new species names are regularly added to this genus.

Many scientific names are derived from a feature of the species or genus being named, such as *Eucalyptus*, from the Greek for “well-covered” (a reference to the operculum or bud-cap that covers unopened eucalypt flowers).

Others honour significant people, either living or dead. *Hibbertia* is named after a wealthy 19th-century English patron of botany, George Hibbert.

And here's where things stop being straightforward, because Hibbert's wealth came almost entirely from the transatlantic slave trade. He profited from taking slaves from Africa to the New World, selling some and using others on his family's extensive plantations, then transporting slave-produced sugar and cotton back to England.

Hibbert was also a prominent member of the British parliament and a staunch opponent of abolition. He and his ilk argued that slavery was economically necessary for England, and even that slaves were better off on the plantations than in their homelands.

Even at the time, his views were considered abhorrent by many critics. But despite this, he was handsomely recompensed for his "losses" when Britain finally abolished slavery in 1807.

So, should Hibbert be honoured with the name of a genus of plants, to which new species are still being added today – effectively meaning he is honoured afresh with each new publication?

We don't believe so. Just like statues, buildings, and street or suburb names, we think a reckoning is due for scientific species names that honour people who held views or acted in ways that are deeply dishonourable, highly problematic or truly egregious by modern standards.

Just as Western Australia's King Leopold Range was recently renamed to remove the link to the atrocious Leopold II of Belgium, we would like Hibbertia to bear a more appropriate and less troubling name.

The same goes for the Great Barrier Reef coral *Catalaphyllia jardinei*, named after Frank Jardine, a brutal dispossessor of Aboriginal people in North Queensland. And, perhaps most astoundingly, the rare Slovenian cave beetle *Anophthalmus hitleri*, which was named in 1933 in honour of Adolf Hitler.

This name is unfortunate for several reasons: despite being a small, somewhat nondescript, blind beetle, in recent years it has been reportedly pushed to the brink of extinction by Nazi memorabilia enthusiasts. Specimens are even being stolen from museum collections for sale into this lucrative market.

Aye, there's the rub

Unfortunately, the official rules don't allow us to rename Hibbertia or any other species that has a troubling or inappropriate name.

To solve this, we propose a change to the international rules for naming species. Our proposal, if adopted, would establish an international expert committee to decide what to do about scientific names that honour inappropriate people or are based on culturally offensive words.

An example of the latter is the many names of plants based on the Latin *caffra*, the origin of which is a word so offensive to Black Africans that its use is banned in South Africa.

Some may argue the scholarly naming of species should remain aloof from social change, and that Hibbert's views on slavery are irrelevant to the classification of Australian flowers. We counter that, just like toppling statues in Bristol Harbour or removing Cecil Rhodes' name from public buildings, renaming things is important and necessary if we are to right history's wrongs.

We believe that science, including taxonomy, must be socially responsible and responsive. Science is embedded in culture rather than housed in ivory towers, and scientists should work for the common good rather than blindly follow tradition. Deeply problematic names pervade science just as they pervade our streets, cities and landscapes.

Hibbertia may be just a name, but we believe a different name for this lovely genus of Australian flowers would smell much sweeter.

This article was co-authored by Tim Hammer, a postdoctoral research fellow at the State Herbarium of South Australia.

The photo of Hibbertia scandens was not part of the original article. It was taken by Pam Tippett.

And some more.....

What plants do you photograph? – Your feedback is important

If you are thinking about attending Richard Batterley's photographic sessions for SHAPS in August, he'd like to know, now, a bit more about your plant photography so that he can better help you.

From Richard: I want to make sure what I talk about is totally relevant to your members and not just a view from a photographic perspective.

- Are the flora your members interested in garden or wild flowers or both?
- Is it plants in general or mainly flowers?
- Do your members go out to specifically photograph them or do they just happen to see them while out walking and happen to have their phones with them?
- Are your members interested in the flora only when they're flowering?
- Do your members only photograph flora "growing, on the plant" or do they cut them and photograph them on a table or in a vase?
- Is it the flower, the whole plant or the environment the plant is in that's important? Or all three?

Whilst he will be showing us how to better use our digital phones, he would like to know whether you also use a camera, and which one.

Please reply to trisharbib@gmail.com

Talks at BDAS

Exploring Photography

Where the world of art overtook the world of technology

For something totally different to the talk that Richard Batterley will be giving to SHAPS in August, you may be interested in these talks he is giving at the BDAS on 17 and 31 March.

Booking is essential with BDAS. Book now by contacting the office on 4861 4093 or by email at office@bdasgallery.com \$10 donation. 5.30pm.

March 17 *“120 years of cameras... and the photographs they might have taken.”* Richard Batterley looks at how the camera as we know it today has evolved and how that has influenced the medium as an artistic pursuit.

March 31 *“20/20 vision of photography...inspiration and satisfaction.”* He talks about the works of famous photographers that have inspired him. And he presents some of his own work, explaining how he went from his first idea to the finished image.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

For the Australian Native Plants Society Australia (ANPSA) Biennial conference in Kiama

10 – 16 September 2022

<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

Australian flora - past present future. With a series of expert speakers and excursions to surrounding areas, they will be sharing:

- The evolutionary history of the Illawarra – its landforms and plants
- How the land was used and cared for, pre-white settlement
- Successes in environmental protection, regeneration, horticultural trends and the threats of fire, weeds, feral pests and population growth and development
- Opportunities with education, plant resilience, collaborations and seed and plant conservation

It's a great opportunity having the conference so close to home. Some of our members have been as far afield as W.A. and Tasmania to attend the biennial conference.

A brief visit to Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra in Pictures

I can't wait to get back! Trisha Arbib



A new blue kangaroo paw. The 'Masquerade' kangaroo paw, the only blue variant in existence world-wide, is the result of nearly a decade of development by BGPA Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, (W.A.) plant breeders. The result of controlled cross-pollination between green and red-and-green varieties. It has been developed to be disease tolerant to ink-spot and rust, common issues affecting the plants species' survival. A limited number of first-release plants have been available for sale through the Friends of Kings Park before distribution at select commercial nurseries in WA in 2022.



The rainforest gully. Lush, and cool walking along the boardwalk through the periodic misting. Plants are from diverse rainforests of Australia's east coast from Tasmania to Queensland.



We saw water dragons from this size to tiny baby ones



Banksia nivea, commonly known as Honey-pot Dryandra. Endemic to W.A. A small rounded shrub with fine serrated fronds with a silver reverse. Quite fern like on first glance.



Banksia occidentalis (dwarf) in the very new Banksia garden. Sadly many of the W.A. Banksias had died in the excessive rain, despite the pebbly substrate.



Callistemon brachyandrus, prickly bottlebrush. Flowers appear a gorgeous reddish orange. The masses of stamens, which are the conspicuous parts of the flowers, are dark red with yellow anthers. These two characters combine to give the flowers the appearance of being gold dusted.

Many thanks from the Committee to Jenny Simons for her years of efficient archiving for SHAPS. This has now been taken over by Kim Zegenhagen. And also their thanks to **Margaret Weatherall and Kay Fintan** for their continued watering and maintenance of the planter boxes at Coles, Bowral.

Many thanks
to all
contributors

I'd like to thank Bill Mullard, John Desmond, Paul Osborne, Marjorie Lobban, Jen Slattery, Kim Zegenhagen, Erica Rink and Louise Egerton for their contributions to this newsletter.

