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Native Plants for NSW

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The Journal is a forum for the exchange of views of members and others and their experiences of propagating, conserving and gardening with Australian plants.

Contributions are warmly welcomed. They may be emailed, typed or hand written and accompanied by photographs and drawings. If handwritten, please print botanical names and names of people.

Photographs may be submitted as either high resolution digital files, such as jpg, or prints.

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Front cover: Rainbow Lorikeet in callistemon.
Photo: Carol Drew

Back cover: Wentworth Falls view to Federal
Pass. Photo: Phillip Grimm

See page 44 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*



Welcome to another bumper issue of *Native Plants for NSW*. I begin by apologising to several members who submitted articles which have not made it into this issue, not because of any deficiency in the articles but because of the limitations of this publication. The printed journal needs to be a certain size (pages in multiples of four), come out on a certain date and fit the restrictive format of these small pages with punched holes. An on-line or emailed journal could break free of some of these constraints but would lose some of the favourable attributes of a hard-copy publication in the process. Any change is an issue for consideration by APS members and officials alike. Remember that this journal is always available on the website (www.austplants.com.au) a few weeks before it arrives in your letterbox.

This issue features several reports on the 2016 Get-together hosted by APS Blue Mountains Group last July (pages 11, 16, 18, 19). It was obviously a very full program, judging from the articles.

The next major event on the Australian Plant Society calendar is the national biennial conference in Canberra in November. It would be great to have some willing volunteers to write brief articles (preferably with pictures) about the conference and its associated activities. Please email me via the office if you are happy to help, nominating which aspect you'll report on.

Our next NSW activity will be a quarterly gathering intended for late February 2016. See page 25 for the currently available details.

In this issue you can enjoy reading about a great private garden in the Hunter region (p 4), a great public garden that has recently been opened at Barangaroo on the edge of Sydney Harbour (p 23) and a garden that is recovering from fire (p 36).

John Knight has written about the genus *Leionema* which contains plants many of us will know by their old name of *Phebalium*. So go to page 45 and sort out how to tell the two genera apart and which species might make valuable additions to your garden.

There are two conservation-related items. On page 26 read how APS is helping to conserve an endangered species and on page 51 learn about the plan to destroy an endangered ecological community and how you can register a protest.

And there is more, so take the time to have a good read.

Evolution of a garden (and gardener!)



Heather Miles has recently become the Secretary of APS NSW. She is a member of the Hunter Valley Group. Here she describes the development of her garden, some plans for its future and some of her gardening philosophy.

Perched on the top of a windswept hill in the Hunter Valley, this Australian native garden started with some lofty goals:

- Offer beautiful views from the house
- Create a haven for local fauna
- Be a rewarding 'walk-around' experience with places to sit
- Provide a rich source of vegetables
- Provide places for kids to play

We fell in love with the land in 2003 and while hubby built the house, I started planting. Little did we consider the vicious westerly winds, shallow, compacted soils, clay, 45° days and the locals eating the plants. All we saw were the stunning views and the sense of space and belonging.

Garden opportunities and challenges

Part of a 100 acre block, the garden sits on the top of a ridgeline in the lower Hunter Valley, 2 hours north of Sydney (200 km) and an hour west of Newcastle (60 km).

The garden is approximately 1.5 hectares around the house, with a mix of native and vegie gardens, an orchard of about 30 trees and lawn areas.

About 40% of the 100 acres is cleared and 60% bush. It was previously used for cattle grazing. Over the last 100 years or so, selective logging took out very large Red Cedars (*Toona ciliata*), Rosewood (*Dysoxylum fraserianum*) and other dry rainforest trees, but the bush is still dense and not too weedy. We have started reforestation and have planted about 6,000 trees across the property.

At 400 metres above sea level, there are views east to Newcastle, south over the Hunter Valley, north to Barrington Tops (on a clear day) and west, through the trees, to Singleton and beyond.

Being on the top of the hill, there are no frosts. But there are very strong westerly winds in spring, with gusts up to 150 km/hour. Not only do plants get ripped out by their roots, but pool canopies and their metal poles get ripped out of the concrete!

There is high rainfall, at 900 to 1100 mm per year, mostly falling in late spring and summer. Twice in the last 10 years, we've had 400 mm or more in a few days. This has led to rivers overflowing, bridges being washed away and electricity cuts. But the garden seems to cope.

The soil is fairly shallow on the top of the hill, silty loam, slightly acid with reasonable organic matter, but with patches of clay and many, many rocks. Fossils of ferns abound in many rock outcroppings, indicating the Carboniferous/Permian age of the area (360-250 million years ago).

Going native

I went fully native after a couple of years. It was partly a commitment to sustainability (water and nutrients), partly to fit with the landscape, partly ecological and a lot about the subtle beauty and scents of Australian plants.

I remember walking around the garden one day and thinking, 'I need to do my bit to protect these incredible plants'. I hope we can bring natives more into the mainstream so we can conserve as well as revel in their beauty and unique qualities. My ambition is to create a garden that is attractive and accessible, then not only will I and my family enjoy it, but perhaps others may be inspired to do the same, and support, in a small way, our environmental heritage.



(L) *Hardenbergia violacea* in full bloom leading down to the garden from the house.

(R) Facing south are plants that can cope with very poor and dry soils, like *Crowea* 'Festival', *Lomandra cylindrica* 'Lime Cascade' and *Westringia* spp.

'There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.'
Janet Kilburn Phillips

Experiments in design and style

There was much experimentation with styles and plants – what would look good, what would survive, how to do layers, getting the scale right as well as managing for fire risk. I started with a few trees but not much else. I got some great ideas about layout, shapes and plants from a garden designer, Michael Cooke.

The garden is a mix of formal and informal:

- Triangles and straight lines provide some structure and complement the bush style and grass paths.
- The informality comes from repetition of plants, like mounds of *Westringia* spp. and mass plantings of *Anigozanthos*, although I admit to a bit of serendipity rather than design: ‘This seems to grow well here, I think I’ll plant more!’
- Scale and perspective has been a learning experience – I would buy a statue and it would disappear! Or I would create a design on paper, and then walk around and have to re-adjust.
- Getting layers right has been an ongoing experiment. I have well-populated upper and mid-level plant layers, but not enough lower level plants to create that layered effect. Sometimes they just get crowded out. And other times I miscalculated how tall plants would grow, or they just bolted!
- In terms of hardscaping, we have a wonderful big gazebo looking to the west, attached to the house by a walkway. There’s nothing better than sitting there with family and friends with a coffee or wine, looking out to the south and east. We also have the driveway, a few rock walls and, of course, big rocks in the garden beds.

I am constantly thinking about ‘design’, being more of a plantswoman than a designer. For me, design is 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration!

Zones, not garden rooms

The garden has three zones with different needs and challenges, as well as an orchard and vegie patch. The zones have quite different needs and ‘look and feel’:

- The **north east** zone is in front of the house. It was the first area I planted. It is relatively well protected with a windbreak and has good sun, soil and moisture. Many plants thrive, including *Banksia* ‘Giant Candles’, *Doryanthes excelsa*, *Hibiscus* ‘Barambah Creek’, *Grevillea flexuosa* ‘Zig Zag’, *Acacia cognata* ‘Limelight’, *Westringia fruticosa*, *Anigozanthos* and *Xanthorrhoea*. The boronias last quite a few years



North east: *Hibiscus* 'Barambah Creek', *Grevillea flexuosa* 'Zig Zag', *Acacia cognata* 'Limelight', *Westringia fruticosa*, with *Anigozanthos*, *Boronia* and *Xanthorrhoea*.

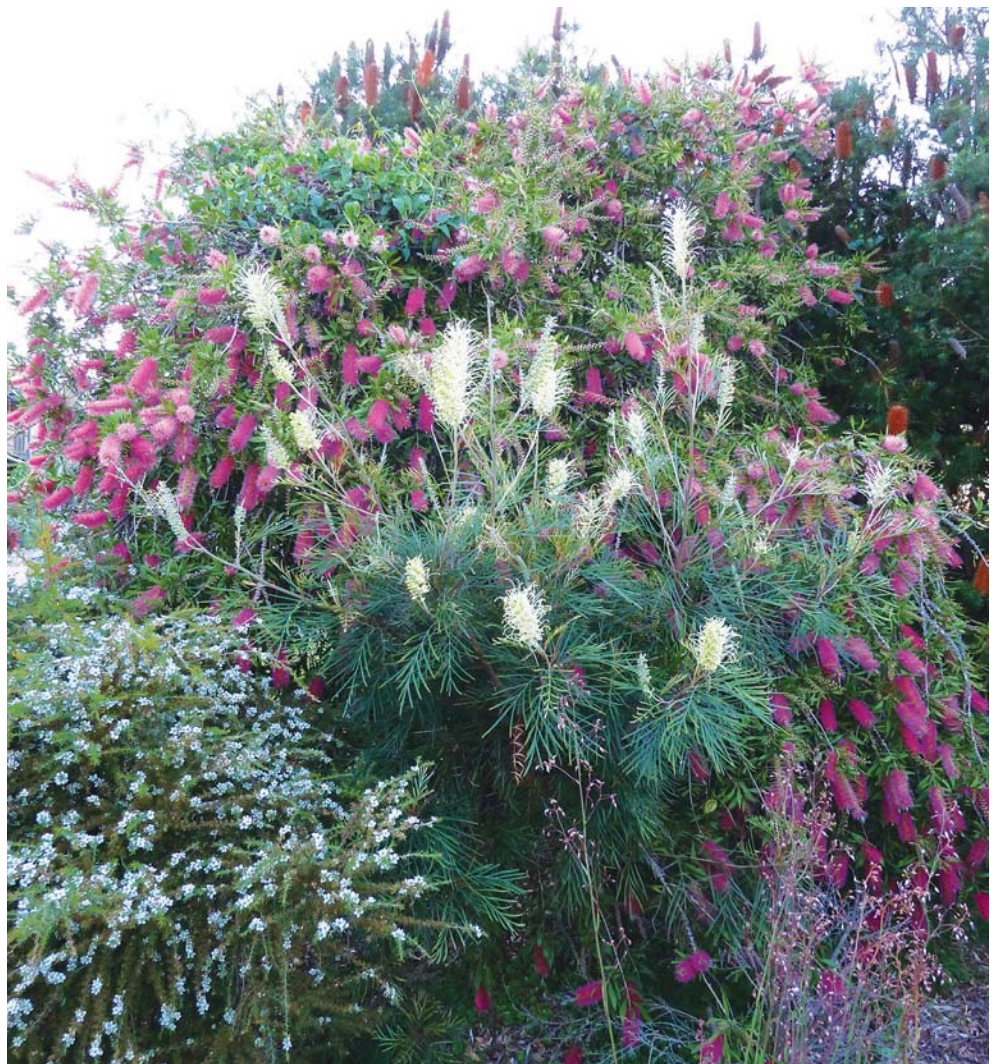
and we have just planted a *Ficus rubiginosa* in the middle of the lawn to give shade in summer. Perhaps I'll regret it in 30 to 40 years...

- The **south east** zone is below the house with clay soil on a slope, surrounding the wastewater treatment system. It gets good water run-off from the house, but then sits in clay, requiring plants that don't mind wet feet or bone-hard soil in the dry weather. Plants include *Leptospermum* spp., *Kunzea baxteri*, *Crowea* 'Festival', *Philotheca* spp., *Lomandra cylindrica* 'Lime Cascade', *Westringia* spp., *Callistemon* 'Rocky Rambler' and *Doryanthes palmeri*. Three *Doryanthes* were transplanted about 5 years ago, and I'm waiting with bated breath for them to flower! I've just planted a new garden of massed *Anigozanthos*, an idea courtesy of Angus Stewart, with *Westringia* 'Smokey' and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*. The kangaroo paws are a kaleidoscope of red, orange, yellow and lime.

The rest of the south area is a steep grassy slope, looking out to the bush and views. It's very peaceful. Kangaroos and wallabies regularly graze on the grass (and occasionally plants). We have regular visits of wombats and have even seen a spotted quoll. There's a large Spotted Gum in the middle of the view, which some people say to get rid of as it impacts the view. But I think it frames the view perfectly, and the kookaburras use it to spy from.

- The **west** zone is a very dry area that competes with mature stands of *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) and ironbarks. This area takes the brunt of the westerly winds, and has very poor shallow soil and many rocks. The plants have to enhance the windbreak, as well as look good and so are drought resistant, with a mix of colour and texture.

Acacia vestita provides protection while its stunning colour and texture contrasts with the silvery white of *Eremophila* spp. and the lime green of *Acacia cognata* and *Lomandra* 'Little Con'. *Stenanthemum scortechinii* has put on a stunning display this



Colour is such fun! I do love colour and try to create colour themes. There's a grove in the north east that 'goes off' in spring with *Grevillea* 'Moonlight', *Chamelaucium uncinatum* 'CWA Pink', *Anigozanthos* 'Bush Pizazz', *Grevillea* 'Jennifer Joy', *Callistemon* spp. and *Leptospermum* 'Cardwell'.

winter (image below). In this area *Grevillea* 'Sylvia' is now coming good while *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' is going well, as is *G.* 'Poorinda Queen'.



In a separate spot, under stands of Spotted Gums, a rock garden houses a mass of *Dendrobium speciosum* giving a beautiful display each spring (image below).



My journey as well as the garden's

Like any garden, this is a work in progress. My next evolution is to learn more about horticulture and planting design so the experiment continues.

I have created an arboretum extending down to the dam with trees including *Eucalyptus scoparia*, *E. saligna*, *E. acmenoides*, *E. amplifolia* and *Casuarina cunninghamiana*. The flowering gums are not happy – too windy and exposed, I suspect. I'm wondering how to complement these with low maintenance mass plantings of colour and texture. This area is definitely still a work in progress.

This quote from English poet laureate, Alfred Austin sums up gardening for me:

'The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul.'

Great Native Plant Photos

Many APS members are keen and capable photographers. This journal needs good quality images to adorn its pages. If you have outstanding photos of native plants please share them with other members by contacting the editor via the office. Several members have already provided great photos that members have been enjoying in the pages of *Native Plants for NSW*.



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A weekend with APS

Blue Mountains Get-together

The Annual Get-together for 2015 was hosted by APS Blue Mountains Group over the weekend 3-5 July. Members attended from across Sydney and from as far afield as Armidale and Coffs Harbour. There was even a visitor from America learning about Australian plants and the Blue Mountains environment on America's Independence Day.

The following reports show how much participants enjoyed their weekend.

Lindy Monson with a little help from Martyn Robinson, both from APS Northern Beaches Group, have written this thorough account of the event.

Over three brisk but sunny days, APS Blue Mountains Group gave APS members a diverse range of opportunities to appreciate the local geology, geography, flora, fauna, cuisine and culture of the Blue Mountains.

Saturday morning seminar

Margaret Baker's two lectures revealed her deep respect and understanding of the Blue Mountains' environmental importance. The Greater Blue Mountains Area was listed in 2000 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Margaret described the formation of its geology and plant communities.

Any geologist will tell you it all starts with the rocks and Margaret's talk demonstrated how the current Blue Mountains landscape came to be formed. Going back to the supercontinents of Pangea and Gondwana, Margaret explained how the movement, separation and later erosion of these land masses resulted in the different layers of rocks (with their resultant soil types), which became the familiar rock formations and plant communities we know today. It's hard to imagine that parts of the Blue Mountains were once as high and pointy as the Andes or the Himalayas but Margaret assured us this was the case. This long history has resulted in an enormous variety of plants as species changed and adapted to meet the different conditions. As the continents separated, conditions became cooler and drier with rainforest contracting to moist valleys, to give way to fire adapted species such as eucalypts in more exposed areas. Margaret's talk included examples of plants which are remnants from ancient times as well as more modern species. She explained that it was this extraordinary variety of plants and plant communities from the broad geological time scale that made the Blue Mountains such a special place and why it deserved its World Heritage Listing.

The lectures were illustrated with diagrams, graphs and photographs. Almost as fetching were some APS members, dressed as if for a European winter. This proved prescient as the climate in the Lapstone school hall was perishing, notwithstanding the warm generosity of the members of APS Blue Mountains Group who catered for two morning teas for such a large audience.

In her second lecture Margaret outlined the various methods used to list threatened plant species and plant communities, such as the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSCA) and the ROTAP (Rare or Threatened Australian Plants) coding system developed by the CSIRO. The latter is a relatively simple means of categorising the 'at-risk' status of Australian plants.

Margaret presented numerous cases of at-risk plants and plant communities, some in very small areas. For example, the communities of the 'waterfalls, wet cliff faces and damp rock ledges' of the upper mountains, such as Wentworth Falls, include the dwarf mountain pine, *Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* (Dwarf Mountain Pine, previously *Microstrobos fitzgeraldii*), which has a very limited natural distribution and depends on the spray it catches on the rock faces of merely seven waterfalls. It is not found in similar waterfall communities with the northern aspect of the Govetts Leap side of the mountains. *Pherosphaera fitzgeraldii* is listed by the TSCA as an endangered species. Margaret elaborated on how a community may remain unprotected despite protection of the plant species. Activity such as building a footbridge designed to protect plants from walkers can result in the plants being trampled during construction, whilst natural and unpredictable rockfalls can also lead to losses.

Other communities that Margaret discussed were:

- temperate highland peat swamps on sandstone
- upland basalt eucalypt forest of the Sydney Basin bioregion
- threatened shale communities of the Lower Blue Mountains
- Blue Mountains shale cap forest
- Sydney turpentine ironbark forest
- shale / sandstone transition forest
- Sun Valley cabbage gum forest
- river-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of the Sydney Basin.

Afternoon walk to Darks Common

During the walk to Darks Common after lunch, Margaret stopped by many plants and also showed us in the field how the soils of the region are directly related to geology and landscape position.

Standing over Glenbrook Gorge, the Northern Beaches Group members were thrilled like kids to see the trains travel into the tunnel.

Saturday evening dinner

The main dinner in Emu Plains on Saturday was another opportunity for sociability, and the Northern Beaches Group took out the highest score for special-diet meals. It is on a sober note that one can consider that the weekend's two dinner venues were in clubs located further from built-up areas than much of the bushland we examined during the get-together. No doubt fine bushland once occupied these sites too.

The Presidents' Dinner

The Presidents' Dinner in Springwood on Friday was a time to consider the strengths and future direction of APS. Greg Smith addressed the group of about 20 presidents, APS NSW office bearers and group representatives. Greg was the CEO of non-profit organisations such as Paraquad and the Asthma Foundation and now works as a consultant and speaker. Greg's talk covered his own experience and the endemic difficulty that groups have in attracting and retaining members and volunteers. He had interesting thoughts on bank balances, spending, strategy, purpose, change, the internet, marketing, volunteer work structure and the knowledge-base of members.



Investigating native plants on the Charles Darwin Walk at Wentworth Falls (P. Grimm)

Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve

Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve, together with nursery production and sale of plants, is a testament to the achievement of APS Blue Mountains Group members and volunteers, who have maintained the site's remnant bushland and added enrichment plantings. Access to 'the experience' of the bush is created through engineered bridges, paths and ways. However, as with Stony Range Botanic Garden at Dee Why, the illusion is not completely sustained, as the noise of the highway remains the walker's constant companion.

Sunday

On Sunday the Blue Mountains Group hosted a garden visit at Phil Bendall's in Springwood (see page 18), and members led walks at Glenbrook, West Glenbrook, Wentworth Falls and Katoomba.

Glenbrook Bird Walk

Dick Turner enthused a large group to a cold early start to find birds on the old Great Western Highway, now a sealed walking and bike track in Glenbrook. Dick is very knowledgeable about local history and plant and bird species, as were many of the other walkers. A single Eastern Yellow Robin (see picture right) accompanied us most of the way. The Lapstone railway tunnel is nearby and Arthur Streeton's *Fire's On* (1891) recreates the drama of a tragic accident during its construction. Above all, the painting still speaks of the dominance of the landscape captured in the Australian midday light.



Birdwatching 8am on a frosty Sunday morning in Knapsack Reserve, Glenbrook. Guide Dick Turner (W. Grimm)



Charles Darwin Walk beside Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls, Blue Mountains National Park.
(W Grimm)

Charles Darwin walk

Connie Southwell led the Charles Darwin walk to see the hanging swamp. In her nineties, Connie can still walk on bush tracks and she conveyed her knowledge of local plants and appreciation of their aesthetics. Many of us continued the walk to see Wentworth Falls and the wide views of the cliff faces.

Returning to Wentworth Falls railway station and shops, the group ate at a local bakery cafe before farewelling each other and the mountains. We then slipped off home through the winter afternoon shadows.

More information

Native Plants of the Blue Mountains 2nd Edition Margaret Baker & Robin Corringham, A Bower Bird Book 2004

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Threatened Flora Lists, including ROTAP coding anpsa.org.au/coding.html

Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve www.apsbluemtngroup.org

Arthur Streeton *Fire's On* 1891 www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/832/

West Glenbrook Nature Reserve

Sunday 5 July 2015

The promise of a good spring flowering was all around as 14 of us set out on a sunny July morning to discover the plants of West Glenbrook Nature Reserve with bush guides Margaret Baker and Jill Dark. This Reserve is tucked away between a quiet residential area and the Blue Mountains National Park and supports a host of native plants in a number of different plant communities. In just three hours we strolled through endangered Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest and several different sandstone associations where, with the help of Margaret and Jill, we named all of the plants that were in flower.

Many plants were in bud on the open shale capped ridge but we were lucky to find, through graceful drifts of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), open flowers on Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis* subsp. *angustifolia*), *Daviesia squarrosa*, *Dillwynia* sp. *trichopoda* and *Lissanthe strigosa*. The track wound in a southerly direction and in the damp shade we were treated to a colony of delicate Pixie Cap orchids (*Acianthus fornicatus*). Another bend brought us into sandstone woodland where on a south facing embankment we discovered more terrestrial orchids,



Drosera auriculata



Pterostylis nutans (Nodding Greenhood)



Villeia lyrata



Acianthus fornicatus (Pixie Caps)

the Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*), that intermingled with a miniature forest of *Drosera auriculata*. The last stage of the walk, in the warming sunshine of the north facing plateau edge, meandered by a stunning display of Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*), that led to groves of Myrtaceae (*Calytrix tetragona*, *Euryomyrtus ramosissima* and *Micromyrtus ciliata*) and Fabaceae (*Dillwynia elegans*, *D. sericea* and *Pultenaea tuberculata*). In just a few damp spots we were very lucky to spot the bright yellow flowers of *Villeia lyrata*, an uncommon member of the Goodeniaceae family.

Everyone agreed that this was an excellent morning of botanising. We all found plants that were new to us and gained an appreciation of the diversity of species and of communities that can be enjoyed in the Lower Blue Mountains. Thank you Margaret and Jill for this special experience.

Phil Bendall's garden

Leonie Hogue from APS Sutherland Group and Neil McGlashen from APS Blue Mountains Group both contributed to this article.

Blue Mountains Group put on lovely weather for us when we went to visit Phil Bendall's garden in Springwood in July.

The entry to Phil's battleaxe block is down a steep drive past the neighbouring houses with their conventional gardens. Both sides of the driveway are planted with natives and the small front garden is densely planted, creating an eye-catching low-maintenance native garden that takes in all the front of the house.

It was early in the season so there wasn't a lot in full flower, but *Hardenbergia violacea* (Native Sarsaparilla or Purple Coral Pea) was twining around making a show and *Crowea exalata* (Small Crowea) was peeking out amongst the small local plants. This area is a haven for birdlife.

Phil's backyard is also filled with native plants. Past the gates, we entered a magical lush garden at the bottom of a sunny dell. A stunning *Phebalium nottii* (Pink Phebalium) met us as we entered. It was covered in tiny pink flowers and was a real show-stopper at this time of year. Visitors wind their way around the garden beds. Mature trees and shrubs such as *Syzygium wilsonii* (Powderpuff Lilly Pilly) protect smaller plants. *Acacia aphylla* (Leafless Rock Wattle) and *Acacia denticulosa* (Sandpaper Wattle) were two of the more unusual wattles to catch the eye of the visitor.

The success of Phil's plant selection is especially evident in the moist area under the tall trees near the creek which runs behind his back fence.

The garden presents an example of creating a native landscape that is attractive to wildlife and people on an urban block. The bowerbird clearly finds this to his liking as he has chosen to build his bower in the back yard.

Blue Mountains Weekend Get-together

Charles Darwin Walk

John Arney, APS Sutherland Group

On Sunday 5 July, several of the weekend group opted for the Charles Darwin Walk, which descends from the Great Western Highway at Wentworth Falls along Jamison Creek, to the actual falls, a distance of 2.8 km one way. Some chose to do the walk both ways, while others settled for a car-shuffle back to the starting point near Wentworth Falls Bowling Club.

It was a beautiful winter's day for the mountains, crisp, sunny, and no wind, with small patches of frost still to be seen in shaded areas around midday.

The narrow track alongside Jamison Creek was well patronised by people of all ages and we were soon in the rhythm of leaning to the side and letting others past as we examined plant species that are not so common in our home areas. Our thanks to some sharp-eyed visitors and especially to our guides for identifying the various species that we encountered. As a general comment on the walk in the upper area, it was great to see what could perhaps be described as a classic hanging swamp, with steep, wet slopes of sandstone covered with ferns and



Charles Darwin Walk beside Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls, Blue Mountains National Park.
Guide Jim Ward (W. Grimm)

low shrubs, and just the occasional banksia or larger tree where soil conditions permitted.

A few of the plants of interest were *Acacia ptychoclada*, *Baeckea linifolia*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Mirbelia platylobioides* and *Olearia quercifolia*, with *Empodisma minus*, *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Blechnum nudum* being well represented and seemingly revelling in their environment. The end of the walk presented us with great views across the Jamison Valley to Mount Solitary and beyond.

Again, our thanks to the Blue Mountains Group for their great attention to detail for this memorable excursion.

See the walk description from Wild Walks at:

www.wildwalks.com/bushwalking-and-hiking-in-nsw/blue-mountains-wentworth-falls/charles-darwin-walk.html

Advertising in *Native Plants for NSW*

Size	Members		Non-members	
	Single Issue	4 Issues	Single Issue	4 Issues
Full page	\$122.50	\$416.50	\$175	\$595
½ page	\$63	\$214	\$90	\$306
¼ page	\$31.50	\$107	\$45	\$158.50



APS NSW Life Membership and Conservation Awards for 2016

Nominations are being sought for these two awards.

Life Membership is the highest accolade the Australian Plants Society NSW can bestow upon a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Society, their Group and their community.

No more than two Life Members may be appointed in each calendar year except where a nomination includes both a husband and wife.

Conservation Award - each year, APS NSW seeks to recognise the significant contribution made by an individual member or a District Group to the conservation of Australia's native plants, in particular those of NSW. This may include the conserving of a population, a species or a community of plants.

APS NSW invites District Groups to submit nominations for Life Membership and/or the Conservation Award.

Nominations for Life Membership and the Conservation Award can only be made on the official application forms that are available from the APS NSW office or can be downloaded from the APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au. Nomination forms will also be emailed to District Group presidents and secretaries in October 2015.

The Board of the Australian Plants Society NSW must endorse all nominations prior to consideration by the Annual General Meeting in May 2016.

Nominations in both categories must be received at the APS NSW office no later than Monday, 29 February 2016.

Postal address:

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Email address:

office@austplants.com.au

For further information or any enquiries, please contact the office.



Coates Wildlife Tours

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New Zealand South Island Wildlife & Wilderness Expedition

15 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs 13th February 2016

This unforgettable tour looks at the natural history of the breathtakingly beautiful lower South Island, Stewart Island plus three of the countries national parks and the unspoilt coast of the Catlins region and the Otago Peninsular.

Sri Lanka Wildlife, History & Culture

18 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs 14th March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS: Yala and Bundala National Parks, Kitulgala and Sinharaja Rainforests, historic Sigiriya and Polonnarawa. This trip has it all a diverse array of mammals from whales, elephants to squirrels plus each year we record sightings of over 200 species of birdlife. When you add this to the local culture, food and wonderful historic sites plus being lead by one of countries top naturalist guides, this a trip not to miss.

Pilbara Reef & Ranges Expedition

15 Day Camping tour – Departs 5th April 2016

Experience Ningaloo Reef, Abrolhos Islands & Karijini National Park. Join us as we explore the wildlife of the Western Australian coast including the Abrolhos Islands, Shark Bay and the Ningaloo Reef before travelling in land to experience the spectacular Karijini National Park.

Kimberley Discovery

15 Day Camping / Accom Tour – Departs Broome 4th June 2016

Enjoy a wonderful outback experience as we discover the Kimberley's wildlife, spectacular outback scenery, and many wonderfully refreshing waterholes as we explore Purnululu N.P, the many gorges of the Gibb River Rd, El Questro and Mornington Stations.

Kimberley Wonders

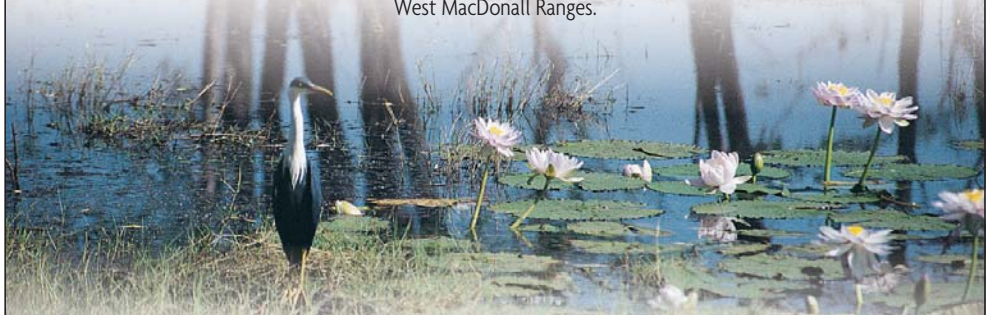
12 Day Camping Tour – Departs 25th June 2016

A different twist on the Kimberley, we include the best of the Gibb River Road but add a visit to the Mitchell Plateau. On the plateau experience the spectacular Mitchell and Mertons Falls plus great examples ancient rock art along with the regions wonderful flora and fauna.

Kununurra to Alice Springs Expedition

14 Day Camping Tour – Departs Kununurra 14th July 2016

This trip is packed with highlights including a Lake Argyle cruise, the Keep River National Park, Duncan Highway, Wolf Creek Crater, Lake Stretch, the Tanami Road, Newhaven Sanctuary and the West MacDonall Ranges.



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Barangaroo Reserve

A visitor's perspective

Alix Goodwin, APS Blue Mountains Group

I can honestly say that I have awaited the opening of the Barangaroo headland on the western edge of Sydney CBD with great anticipation. Having had the pleasure of visiting this new Sydney landmark on a sunny late winter's day just after its opening in August I am looking forward to many returns.

Entering the six-hectare park midway along what was once known as Hungry Mile it is impossible not to be struck by the wondrous foreshore that has been recreated from large blocks of golden Sydney sandstone. Nearly 10,000 sandstone blocks hewn from the site adorn both the curving '1836' shoreline with its two coves and the parkland. A 'natural' amphitheatre has been created at the southern end and, on the day my mother and I visited, students from the Aboriginal dance college, NAISDA, were performing on the jetty.

Abundant in native plants of the Sydney region, the headland is a set of lovely tiered gardens that provide inspiration for the home gardener. Over 80 common and lesser known species have been planted including young trees (Morton Bay and Port Jackson figs, eucalypts, corymbias, acacias and banksias), ground covers, sedges and grasses



This view clearly shows some of the terracing employed on the steep slope down to the water's edge and the advanced plants used to create an established look (Patrick Lawnham)

(such as *Lomandra*, *Hardenbergia* and *Hibbertia* species). Grown on a ridge top at Mangrove Mountain to prepare them for the exposed and windy conditions of Sydney Harbour, the nearly 74,000 plants have had an incredibly low mortality rate of 1%, rather than the expected rate of 10%. It will be fascinating to watch the shape of Barangaroo change as the trees and plants grow over the years ahead.

The northern end of Barangaroo is home to a grassy park and trees; perfect for family picnics and viewing the fireworks on New Year's Eve. A set of walkways meander through the park, some of which have been given Aboriginal names. Visitors can cycle or walk the foreshore and wander across the headland. Access is very easy for those who are less mobile, and a lift has been installed at the southern end.

What I really love about the area is the way that Millers Point has been reconnected to the foreshore. If you've strolled around this area you will know that the Palisade Hotel once looked darkly over the former dockyard and, in my mind, would have featured well in a work of Salvador Dali. Today it is integrated into the Barangaroo parkland, bringing warmth to this once arguably desolate area.

Without the vision, drive and determination of former Prime Minister, Paul Keating, the restoration of this headland might have been an idea only. He successfully negotiated the inclusion of the headland park, an essential



Two views showing different aspects of the reserve. (L) Dense planting with *Banksia robur* featured (R) Open grassed areas with standing stones and eucalypts (Alix Goodwin)

element of one of the unsuccessful plans for the entire Barangaroo site, into the final approved design. I am eternally grateful to Paul Keating for this achievement and for this reason Barangaroo will always be Keating Point in my mind.

That said, it is fitting that the parkland is named after Barangaroo. A 'fierce and un-submissive character' according to one early settler, she was a Cammeraygal woman and the companion of Bennelong – the Sydney Opera House is located on Bennelong Point. The restoration of the headland, lost to Sydney over 100 years ago, brings this couple together once again as guardians of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Another view of Barangaroo Reserve (Alix Goodwin)

Designed by landscape architect Peter Walsh there will no doubt be many views about Barangaroo Reserve. For me, it is a great success and will become a favourite place to visit for many Sydneysiders and visitors alike.

To read more about this amazing area, go to the web and type in Barangaroo ABC or Barangaroo SMH to find a small number of news articles that provide information on the site's genesis and development.

Most importantly, take a visit to Barangaroo Reserve and enjoy every moment.

2016 Activities – Advance Notice

APS NSW February Gathering Northern Beaches Group has been confirmed as the host for the first quarterly gathering on 27 February 2016. Full details will be in the January 2016 issue of *Native Plants for NSW*.

2016 APS NSW Get-together Planning is still at an early stage, but preference is to hold the event in spring. The Board is exploring possible alternatives but unfortunately nothing can be confirmed at this stage. *Native Plants for NSW* will contain details as soon as possible.

Conservation Report

Prostanthera densa survey

Dan Clarke is the Conservation Officer for APS NSW and can be contacted by email at conservation@austplants.com.au



I have been preoccupied in the last quarter with APS Sutherland Group's field search and monitoring of *Prostanthera densa* which has the common name of Villous Mint Bush. This activity is a voluntary contribution by the Australian Plants Society to the NSW Government's Save Our Species Program, which aims to conserve threatened species in the wild for the next 100 years.

A group of APS Sutherland members headed down to the target population of *Prostanthera densa* at Marley in the Royal National Park in late June 2015. I am happy to report that our survey was a success. We tagged and recorded data for 27 plants of *P. densa* in sandstone heath vegetation, about 400 metres upslope from Marley Beach.

Most recorded plants were in flower and most appeared healthy, with little or no browsing damage evident from the feral Rusa Deer which are a considerable problem in the Royal National Park.

We have not yet covered the entire area, with earlier collections made in 2005 and 2008 located further north-west from our recorded patch. Therefore, more surveys will be planned for the coming months.

A progress report is available on the Conservation section on both the APS NSW and Sutherland Group websites.



Close-up of flowers and foliage of *Prostanthera densa* (Dan Clarke)



Left: Tagging of plants with metal pins and numbered brass tags – the tags are being affixed to pins using pliers. (Dan Clarke)

Below: The team having lunch at the site, showing the habitat of the area. (Dan Clarke)



Special thanks to APS members John Arney, Rhonda Daniels, Ian Hill, Paul Rendell and Peter Shelton who conducted the monitoring with me, as well as NPWS staff member Patsy Nagle for assisting with logistics and finding a few extra plants for us on the day.

My background research of online databases for previous records of *P. densa* in the Royal National Park has unearthed a somewhat forgotten collection made in the 1970s in a different location, which also requires further investigation on our part.

I look forward to updating you on our survey.

The activity was a great example of citizen-science and I encourage any member who is interested in threatened species monitoring to get in contact with me.

Bush Tucker native fertiliser

Bush Tucker is a new product currently being developed by Neutrog Fertilisers in conjunction with renowned native expert and media personality Angus Stewart and leading soil scientist Simon Leake.

An organically based fertiliser for Australian plants, Bush Tucker has been fortified with trace elements to ensure it will provide the specialised needs of native plants. Trials are currently underway at a number of sites around Australia including botanic gardens, major golf clubs, native plant nurseries and by members of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia).

Neutrog commenced in 1988 and has since grown to become the largest manufacturer of its kind in Australia. Neutrog supplies its products to some of the most magnificent grounds and gardens in Australia, and many of the leading commercial primary producers within the horticulture, viticulture and broadacre markets.

From its beginnings, Neutrog has actively sought to continuously improve the efficacy and performance of its products. Each new product is developed over many years and is trialled and tested before being released to the marketplace.

At the 2015 APS NSW May gathering, Vince Davey from Neutrog spoke to our members about the development of Bush Tucker and the importance of testing it before its release on to the open market. Vince offered members a 5 kg sample of the fertiliser to trial on their gardens on the understanding that those participating in the trial would report their result back to him for evaluation. Members who accepted a sample of Bush Tucker are asked to email their experiences with Bush Tucker to Vince Davey at vince@neutrog.com.au. If APS NSW is to forge relationships with horticultural companies, such as Neutrog, it is important that we do our part by providing feedback to the suppliers informing them of our experiences with their products.



(L-R) Simon Leake, Angus Stewart, Bush Tucker pail and logo

President's Report

John Aitken, President APS NSW

Congratulations to APS Blue Mountains Group for organising and hosting a very successful weekend Get-together in July. I would also like to thank and congratulate all those members of the Blue Mountains Group who were involved in the weekend's activities for their warm hospitality and for their wonderful efforts in ensuring that this year's Get-together was an outstanding success.



The Presidents' dinner on the Friday night preceding the event once again provided a wonderful opportunity for District Group Presidents or their representatives and the members of the APS NSW Board to meet and share their experiences. Our guest speaker, Greg Smith, who has headed a number of non-government organisations and not-for-profit organisations, shared his experiences on how to attract and retain members and volunteers. All agreed that Greg was a wonderful and insightful speaker. It is important that APS NSW develops a strategic plan to strengthen our future.

There is a general decline in the number of people joining not-for-profit organisations such as ours. If we are to survive, we need to attract and retain members and volunteers. In order to do so, we must meet the needs of the members of our communities in a rapidly changing world.

In the 1970s and 1980s people flocked to join the Australian Plants Society to obtain information about growing Australian native plants, which was then not widely available. During those two decades, we were seen as relevant to people's needs. With the growth of the internet, however, people can now readily access much of this information, without being a member of APS NSW. They may perceive that we are no longer relevant to their needs.

As members of District Groups we know that the Australian Plants Society is more than an information bank on Australian native plants. We are far more than that and each District Group caters for its members in a wide variety of ways. Other organisations, such as Bushcare groups run by local government, now offer volunteers information on Australian native plants, identification courses, bush walks, social activities and so on – all for free. We need to inform the community why we are special and why we are relevant to them. All groups have tried various strategies to attract more members; some successful, some less successful. APS

NSW is a collection of groups, and as such we must work cooperatively to promote the benefits of membership.

APS NSW has been working hard to raise our public profile in the community. We do this through our stall and displays at the RAS Easter Show, TAFE colleges, through our website, Facebook, quarterly gatherings where members of the public are invited, *Native Plants for NSW*, and more. Our Growth and Promotions Committee, led by Rhonda Daniels, has proposed and enacted a number of strategies to promote the Australian Plants Society.

There is a need to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses and the direction in which we are heading if we are to meet the needs of, and be relevant to, a rapidly changing society.

Personally, I am very confident and excited about our future. Since the AGM in May, all Board positions have been filled. For the first time in 12 years we have a Treasurer and a Publicity Officer. In addition, Heather Miles, who has a background in corporate strategic planning, has joined us as Secretary.

Finally, all those who knew Allan Woollett, a former Secretary of APS NSW, would have been saddened to hear of his death in June. Allan was one of 'nature's gentlemen', who will be remembered fondly by those who had the pleasure to know him. We owe Allan a great deal of gratitude at both the District Group and State levels. He was a committed and tireless worker in the Sutherland and Newcastle Groups and as Secretary of APS NSW for many years. Allan will be remembered for his integrity, the highly professional way in which he undertook and completed any task, his gentle nature and his compassion for others.



APS NSW on the web

www.austplants.com.au

For the latest information about your Society see the web site, where you can read articles and newsletters, and participate in the forum about all aspects of native plants.

District Group directory

District Groups are located in many areas throughout New South Wales and range in size from fewer than 20 to over 100 members. Group members are able to take part in many activities including bushwalks, bush regeneration and conservation projects. Regular meetings enable members to keep in touch with people of similar interests and to hear expert guest speakers. Contact the Secretary of a specific group for further information.

Armidale and District

President: Phillip Rose
Email: prosecarwell@bigpond.com
Secretary: Helen Schwarz ☎ (02) 6772 1584
PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Email: woshes@bigpond.com

Meetings: ASCA House, 166 Barney Street, Armidale
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (excluding December, January, June, July).

Blue Mountains

President: Dick Turner ☎ (02) 4739 5362
Secretary: Alix Goodwin ☎ (02) 4739 1571
PO Box 23, Glenbrook NSW 2773
Website: www.apsbluemtnsgroup.org

Meetings: Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Hwy, Glenbrook
1st Friday of the month at 8 pm (Sep-May) and 1st Sunday of the month at 10 am (Jun-Aug).
No meeting when there is an outing in the month.

Central Coast

President: Richard Street ☎ 0414 762 324
Secretary: Liz Hoesle ☎ (02) 4339 1274
Email: aps.cc.secty@gmail.com

Meetings: Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong
Generally 2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 7.30 pm but winter meetings on Saturday afternoons. Check website for details.
Website: www.australianplants.org

Central West

President: Gillian Baldwin ☎ (02) 6332 1583
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
Email: l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Meetings: Bimonthly at alternating centres.
Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour

President: Dr M Duggan ☎ (02) 6649 3202
Email: morris@guarana.org
Secretary: Gwyn Clarke ☎ 0419 414 324
123 Sandstone Dr, Kungala NSW 2460
Email: gcl.38500@bigpond.com

Meetings: Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Display Room normally on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months at 7.30 pm (excluding Jan).
Website: www.coffs.australianplants.info

East Hills

President: Graham Walters ☎ (02) 9534 3039
Email: agwalters@bigpond.com
Secretary: Karlo Taliana ☎ (02) 9709 6135
Email: karlo.taliana@optusnet.com.au

Meetings: Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm (excluding January).

Hawkesbury

Contact: Arthur Rutter ☎ (02) 4577 3271
99 The Terrace, Windsor NSW 2756
Email: aande42@bigpond.com.au

Meetings: This group was re-launched at the APS NSW gathering in November 2014.

Hunter Valley

President: Michael Belcher ☎ (02) 4930 1458
Secretary: Kevin Mantle ☎ (02) 4937 3200
29 Wallaroo Road, Seaham NSW 2324
Email: mantlej58@gmail.com

Meetings: The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45 pm.

Illawarra

President: Kath Gadd ☎ 0414 333 475
Email: kath@malleedesign.com.au
Keith Hunter ☎ 0481 599 008

Email: keithjohnhunter@gmail.com
Facebook: type 'APS Illawarra' in the Facebook search bar.

Activities: This group is aiming to have an activity each month – check the Facebook page or contact the leaders.

Continued page 34

Membership application and renewal form

Please select your application type.

- New member
- Renewing member: Membership number _ _ _ _ _
Please tick if any details have changed from last renewal

- Gift membership. Donor name _____

Include any personal card you wish to accompany the new member's pack.

1. Complete your details

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode

Email _____

Phone () _____

Mobile _____

- District Group affiliation _____

2. Select your membership type

12 months membership. Rates at 1 January 2015. GST inclusive. Joint membership applies to two people at the same address. Each receives a membership card. A concession is available to Seniors, people on a limited fixed income and full-time students.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual – Concession | \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint | \$61 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint – Concession | \$53 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas | A\$60 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optional donation to APS NSW | \$ _____ | | |

3. Select your payment method

Cheque or money order payable to Australian Plants Society NSW

Visa MasterCard

Card number _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

Expiry date _ _ / _ _ CVV/CSC: _ _ _
(The last three digits printed on the signature panel on your card)

Cardholder's name _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Direct deposit

Bank	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Account name	Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
BSB	062 217
Account no.	0090 7163

Please use as the reference your surname and 6-digit membership number which is on your membership card and your journal mailing envelopes. Please email merleaps@bigpond.com to advise of your deposit.

4. Return your form

APS NSW
Membership Officer
PO Box 3066
BOWENFELS NSW 2790

Membership inquiries

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

merleaps@bigpond.com

Ph (02) 6352 3805 Fax (02) 6351 2384

District Group directory continued

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies
Secretary: Rod Bray ☎ (02) 4647 9928
147 Holdsworth Drive, Mt Annan NSW 2567
Email: yarbdor@westnet.com.au
Meetings: Jack Nash Club Rooms, Nash Place
Currans Hill NSW 2567. 3rd Wednesday of the
month at 7.30 pm (Feb-Nov).

Menai

President: Jason Cockayne ☎ (02) 9570 8559
Email: Jay.shaz@hotmail.com
Secretary: Annette Tuckfield ☎ (02) 9543 1490
Email: menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au
PO Box 3104, Bangor NSW 2234
Meetings: Illawong Rural Fire Service.
2nd Saturday of the month at 1 pm (June–Aug)
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.00 pm (others
excluding January).

Newcastle

President: Colin Lawrence ☎ (02) 4965 6110
Email: president.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Secretary: Maree McCarthy ☎ (02) 4943 0305
Email: secretary.aps.newcastle@gmail.com
Meetings: The Wetlands Centre, Sandgate Rd,
Shortland
1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm
(excluding January).

Northern Beaches

President: Conny Harris ☎ (02) 9451 3231
Email: conny.harris@gmail.com
Joint Secretaries:
Lynne McNairn ☎ (02) 9982 7964
Julia Tomkinson ☎ (02) 9949 5179
PO Box 393 Dee Why NSW 2099
Meetings: Stony Range Botanic Garden, Dee
Why. 1st Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm
(Feb-Nov).

North Shore

President: Barry Lees ☎ (02) 9653 3691
Email: barylees99@bigpond.com
Secretary: Sue Bowen
PO Box 141 Roseville 2069
Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au
Meetings: Willow Park Community Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.
2nd Friday of the month at 8 pm (Feb-Nov).
Website: www.blandfordia.org.au

Nowra

President: Lesley McKinnon ☎ (02) 4443 4004
Secretary: Gwen Smith ☎ (02) 4443 3497
PO Box 140, Sanctuary Point NSW 2540
Email: rapidpulse@bigpond.com
Meetings: Nowra Town Band Hall,
174 Kinghorne St, Nowra. 2nd Thursday of the
month (Feb-Nov) at 7.30 pm sharp.

Parramatta and The Hills District

President: vacant
Secretary: Brodie Sutcliffe ☎ (02) 8809 0833
Email: brodie.fuller@hotmail.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly meetings 2 pm on 4th
Saturday of Feb, April, June, August, Sept and
Nov at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook
Website: www.apsparrahills.org.au

South East Region

President: Margaret Lynch ☎ 0408 447 678
Email: yaraan@southernphone.com.au
Secretary: Michele Pymble ☎ (02) 4473 8587
Email: mishpymble@gmail.com
Meetings: At various locations, generally on
1st Saturday of every month except January.
Contact President or Secretary.

Southern Highlands

President: Wendy Johnston ☎ (02) 4883 6376
Secretary: Jane Pye ☎ (02) 4862 3750
Email: iandjpye@gmail.com
Meetings: CWA Room, next to council building
in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale. Bimonthly at 2 pm on
the 1st Thursday of February, April, June, August
and November.

Southern Tablelands

President: Bob Galland ☎ 0407 248 154
Email: rcgalland1@bigpond.com
Secretary: Gudrun Delbridge ☎ 0417 651 811
Email: gudrun.delbridge@gmail.com
Meetings: Only when essential – our group is
concentrating on walks and other activities.

Sutherland

President: John Aitken ☎ (02) 9589 1363
Email: jeaitken@gmail.com
Secretary: Leonie Hogue ☎ (02) 9528 6083
Email: leoniehogue@gmail.com
Meetings: Gymea Community Centre, Gymea
Bay Rd, Gymea. 3rd Wednesday of the month
at 8 pm (February–November).
Website: www.sutherland.austplants.com.au/

Tamworth

President: Matt Cosgrove ☎ (02) 6765 2693
Email: cosgrove72@bigpond.com
Secretary: Kerrie Gray ☎ 0427 652 986
PO Box 1193, Tamworth NSW 2340
Email: dyso57@bigpond.com
Meetings: Botanic Garden Meeting Room.
10 am on 4th Saturday Feb to Nov. Outings
and field trips at other times – contact the
Secretary.

SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS

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Experience the delights of spring in a 1.5 hectare floral oasis.

Great range of flowering plants from all states of Australia, including Acacias, Anigozanthos, Banksias, Chamelauciums, Epacris, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Orchids, Prostantheras, Thomasias and many rainforest species.

The Gardens are open from 7.00am-3.00pm on weekdays all year, plus weekends from 15 August - 29 November 2015 from 9.00am - 4.30pm.

We are located at 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, Sydney.

ADMISSION FREE !!



For enquiries or to arrange a guided group tour, call (02) 9707 9699.

Fire! Fire! Part 3 – Recovery and renewal around the house

Gwyn Clarke, Coffs Harbour Group

Gwyn and Geoff Clarke live on a property on the back road between Coffs Harbour and Grafton. In August 2014 fire ravaged their property. In the April 2015 issue of Native Plants for NSW, Gwyn described the property and the fire control measures they had undertaken. In the July issue she described the day of the fire. In this article she describes the recovery of the garden and in the final article due in the January 2016 issue she will describe the regeneration of the bush on their property.

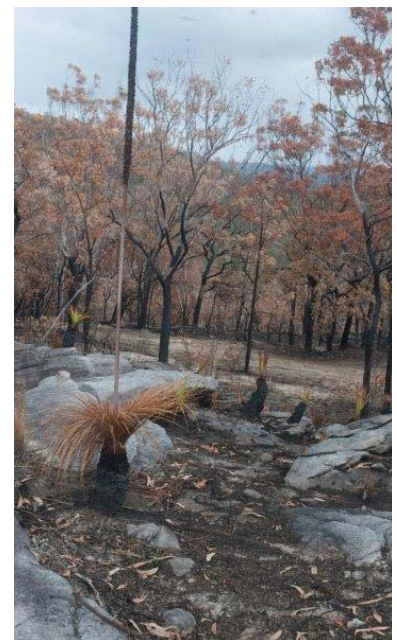
This morning a striated pardalote is sitting above the window trying for insects in an old mud wasp's nest. It was not like that on Sunday 3 August 2014 - it was smoky and the sunlight made things look hazy. The voices of birds, frogs, crickets and indeed all the sounds of the bush were silent. We were interested in having a close look at all the areas surrounding the house. It was still very dry. Even a slight breeze blew the ash and debris. In the house a fine, black dust quickly coated everything. After about five days we had visitors. The yellow-tailed black cockatoos came in large numbers and settled on the ground wherever banksia or hakea plants had once stood. They sifted through the ash looking for the dropped seeds. We haven't seen them since.

Early days and the impact of rain

Few plants showed signs of revival. After a week you could see in the centre of grass trees tiny green shoots but there was not much else.

In the garden only one plant had survived the burn in the garden bed on the north beside the drive. This was a small kangaroo paw known as *Anigozanthos* 'Bush Pearl'. Some of the plants were scorched or skeletonised and others were nowhere to be seen. At that stage it looked like a complete replant, but knowing Australian plants we decided to wait and see. What we needed was rain.

The damage to the south of the house is clearly visible soon after the fire (G. Clarke)





(L) Damaged Kangaroo Paws (R) The same area 12 months later (G. Clarke)

On Saturday 23 August, exactly three weeks after the fire, it rained. We had 178 mm in two days. It didn't take long for the effects of this to be seen in the damaged garden beds along the drive. By early September young shoots could be seen pushing through the soil. In the burnt out garden bed *Dianella*, *Lomandra*, *Anigozanthos* and *Libertia* came back first. *Dianella* and *Anigozanthos* put up flowering stems first, followed by new leaves. This was a surprise. *Scaevola albida* came back next from a little hole in the ground. It grew to about 60 cm and then began to flower and kept going until late autumn. Then the *Swainsona sejuncta* reshot and it wasn't long before they were little bushes again. By October most plants had leaves and flowering stems and late October to early November saw most plants flowering. However the *Grevillea* and *Boronia* in this bed did not recover and have now been replaced by other plants.

It was the same story all along the northern edge of the drive. Those plants closest to the fire which had suffered most came back vigorously. The kangaroo paw patch showed spaces where plants had been burnt, with half-dead plants as well as undamaged ones. Those which had survived the fire just started flowering and they flowered really well (no doubt thanks to the abundant ash blowing around). The others responded to the rain as did all the monocotyledons. *Grevillea sericea* (Collaroy Plateau form) was scorched on one side. We pruned off the damaged stems and it has recovered well. This winter it flowered better than ever.

A few plants killed by ember attack did not come back. Only one of these tried to regrow – a local *Hovea*. Unfortunately every time it tried reshooting there was some hungry insect around waiting to eat the leaves. In the end it gave up.



Rainforest area recovered with no dead plants around. Note the house is again becoming difficult to see (G. Clarke)

The western garden – rainforest plants

The western area of the garden houses the rainforest plants. There is a 4 metre wide cleared strip between the garden and the bush. The story here was similar to the northern area. Those plants closest to the fire suffered most, but the ginger was the worst. Again we decided to wait before replacing plants, but we were not so sure with the rainforest. Surprise! Surprise! *Syzygium wilsonii* on the very edge of the garden closest to the fire did not even scorch. It was covered by shade cloth to protect it from the sun. The shade cloth did not get damaged so neither did the plant. Two other small shrubby plants nearby were burnt, but they have both recovered. The native ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) has recovered to some extent but does not look great.



(L) Death of the ginger plants (R) The ginger now, you can see it is struggling (G. Clarke)

The eastern garden

Down on the eastern side of the house which was attacked first, we lost two *Brachychiton* and an *Araucaria cunninghamii*. They have shown no signs of recovery. We had planted them there because there was deeper soil and less rock and they had done well but we will not replace them. Instead we will allow the local grasses and smaller local shrubs which are regenerating well to grow there now. The grasses will grow towards the shadehouse area and the shed. This area will be kept mown. The smaller local shrubs will be growing behind the grassed area fringing a rocky area. All the larger plants will only be allowed to grow further from the house, beyond these rocks.

The plants growing in this area enjoy the sunlight and exclusion of larger trees. *Patersonia sericea* has formed a circle of plants which flower every two or three days. Their purple flower heads are very showy and sometimes three or more flowers open in the one head. They started flowering in late June and are still putting on a great show. There are some *Acacia brownii* growing well that have not grown in that area in the past. They are quite small shrubs the biggest being 30 cm x 40 cm with small golden ball flowers. *Dodonaea crucifolia* is a dainty plant that has already grown to 60 cm x 60 cm and some are already fruiting. This is a recently named species which is only found in this area. For



Patersonia sericea a local plant that is much bigger and has more flowers than usual, clearly the fire has been to its liking (G. Clarke)

many years it had been called *Dodonaea hirsuta* because that also grows in the area, but it is very hairy and *D. crucifolia* is not hairy at all. *Hardenbergia violacea* seems to be twining through everything else. It will probably only last a couple of years and leave behind lots of seed in readiness for the next fire.

Persoonia stradbokensis has come up in seedling clumps. There are about eight plants in the tallest clump. I think I will dig up and separate the smaller seedling clump nearby as it is not every day that *Persoonia* does this and we will have some plants available for those who would like to grow it. It grows into an upright small tree if not crowded out by bigger plants.

Other plants to put in an appearance are *Actinotus helianthi*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Bossiaea heterophylla*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Hibbertia vestita*, *Hovea heterophylla*, *Jacksonia scoparia*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Pimelea linifolia*, and *Pultenaea* species.

The protected southern edge

On the south the fire did not come over the edge of the escarpment in the area where the house and other buildings are situated. At the eastern end the *Lomandra longifolia* and *Myoporum boninense* growing over the septic trench did a sterling job keeping the fire at bay. The pictures tell the story best. At the southern end the fires kept the escarpment edge under control. It was amazing to see an *Isopogon petiolaris* still green and flowering in front of dead plants. There is very little garden in this area apart from the rocky area around the house, only some kangaroo paws on the house side of the septic tank and some ferns behind the shed. None of these suffered any damage.



(L) This shows a side view of the lomandras those on the left are the most exposed to the fire and the most damaged on the right the least damaged

(R) Lomandras and myoporum 12 months later – recovered (G. Clarke)

After the fire we were very fortunate to have plants still flowering in the rest of the garden. The bushland was badly burnt, particularly the understorey plants. Read about its recovery in the final article.



(L) The burnt out garden bed beside the drive (R) The same bed 12 months later (G. Clarke)



Part of the rockery that survived the fire with the burnt bush behind – an indication of the stunning native garden (G. Clarke)

New members October 2015

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 31 new members (26 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



Frank Antram	Goulburn
Lauren Bullard & Anthony Frampton	Adamstown
Julie Burness	Oyster Bay
Hugh Capes	Nowra
Gregory Donovan	Berowra Heights
Nina Drydale	Saumarez Ponds
Stephanie Francis	Woy Woy Bay
Dan Ganter & Karmen Hughes	Nowra Hill
Paul Garde	Hazelbrook
Paul Wayne Hattersley	Dalmeny
Arthur Kelly	Camden
Judith Locke	Uki
Barbara MacTaggart & Norman Wise	Bathurst
Gerda Maeder	Cardiff
Belinda Meredith Medlyn	Warrimoo
Jan Newby	South Turrumurra
Marysia Nowak	Shoalhaven Heads
Brett O'Maley	Hornsby Heights
Janet Raabe	Dalmeny
Eyn Roti	St Ives
Agnes Ryan	Sun Valley
Norm & Andrea Sage	Lorn
Tamworth Central Northern Regional Library	Tamworth
Tim & Jennie Watkins	Coffs Harbour
Gordon Ross Willock	Cherrybrook
Glynne Wood	Artarmon

Vale Allan Woollett

Allan Woollett was active in APS and its predecessors for about thirty years from the early 1980s. Some memories are shared below.

From Peter Olde

Allan and Moreen Woollett became members of the Australian Plant Society during my term as President of the Sutherland Group in the early 1980s. It soon became clear that this quietly spoken man with a subtle sense of humour, who always went bush-walking in neatly pressed trousers and shirt, was an exceptional person. Allan held to the philosophy that joining a group meant that you contributed to it and was never shy to take on extra work. He was a very supportive and knowledge-hungry member and soon joined our council.

When I became President of the Society in NSW in 1988, I asked Allan to stand as Secretary, which he did, fulfilling that role with distinction and quiet, hard work during a very difficult period. You could not fault his reliability and sense of propriety. I wanted to recommend him for life membership, but he would not hear of it, believing he was only doing what he enjoyed, needing no further reward. He was the most self-effacing man I ever met, to the point even at his death where he did not want and did not have a public funeral.

Allan was also a great supporter and knowledgeable enthusiast of the Fern Study Group whose meetings he regularly attended. When he and Moreen left the Sutherland area, he cut all ties and moved into his new life. I am sure Paddy Lightfoot at Newcastle was the recipient of a wonderful and committed assistant. We lost contact but typically remained friends. When I was invited to speak at the Newcastle Group some years back, Allan rang and offered accommodation which I gladly accepted. He and Moreen were just the same friendly and supportive people and it was very special for me to have his company to myself for that short stay, touring his wildflower garden the next morning. Allan had recently been diagnosed with a terminal cancer, but before it became fully expressed he suffered a stroke from which he appeared to recover before relapsing suddenly and dying in hospital. Goodbye Allan and thank you for everything you did for me, for Australian plants and for this organisation.

From Merle Thompson

Allan's demeanour was of the quiet, retiring gentleman. Those with whom he worked knew that he was also clear thinking, resolute and an indefatigable worker. He brought to the position the knowledge gained

from working at a senior level in a public sector position and accurate and methodical procedures.

Behind the scenes and sharing in the work but without holding office was Allan's wife, Moreen. They were a wonderful duo of quiet achievers.

From Leonie Hogue

Allan was a great support to Sutherland Group for many years in the 1980s and 1990s. He was in many ways the backbone of our committee, holding many positions but never wanting any accolades. When he and Moreen decided to move north to be closer to family in Newcastle, our group's loss was Newcastle Group's gain.

From Kyrill Taylor

Allan's (and Moreen's) contribution to 'Australian Plants' was without doubt the most extensive in my experience - for many years a room at their residence was dedicated to the Secretarial duties of the Region (NSW) and the ever throbbing phone calls of enquirers and members.

Cover images

Rainbow Lorikeet in callistemon (Carol Drew)

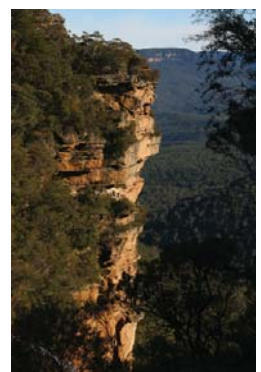
An image from Carol's garden showing one of the great benefits of a native garden – the added interest provided by the wildlife that is attracted to your plants.



Wentworth Falls view to Federal Pass (Phillip Grimm)

An image captured on the Charles Darwin Walk during the 2015 Get-together hosted by Blue Mountains Group last July.

[Thanks to Carol who continues to provide outstanding photos, and to Phillip who photographs every Australian Plants Society event that he attends and is therefore an indispensable aid to the editor in the preparation of this publication. More good photos of wonderful Australian plants, gardens and APS events are always welcome – just email the office and the editor will contact you.]



Native plant profile

Leionema – I used to be a *Phebalium*

John Knight continues his regular series, this time looking at *Leionema*, a genus which was created when *Phebalium* was subdivided some years ago.



Identifying plants, whether in the bush or our gardens, can present challenges. I really appreciate those botanists who have used recognisable characteristics to name plants, rather than honouring a person, no matter how deserving the person might have been.

When physical differences are used as the basis for naming plants, particularly describing the genus, we are better placed to identify the plants, or at least recognise characters which are distinctive and therefore place the plant within its correct grouping. It is helpful to know a little botanical Latin and Greek to aid the process.

This is the case with *Leionema*, which sits within the Tribe Boronieae in the Family Rutaceae. In the late 1990s Paul Wilson from the Western Australian Herbarium reviewed Rutaceae and proposed many changes to better reflect relationships. These changes included splitting *Phebalium*, raising *Leionema* to genus status, and resurrecting *Nematolepis*.

Within Rutaceae the tribe Boronieae contains 18 genera, and includes most of the desirable cultivated plants, such as *Boronia*, *Correa*, *Crowea*, *Eriostemon*, *Phebalium* and *Philothea*. All the genera within the Boronieae tribe have dry dehiscent fruit, and the seed when ripe is explosively discharged. In stark contrast to this are the citrus, the fruit of which is described as a berry, with the seed enclosed in fleshy pulp.

There are some simple characters to help growers remember which genera are which. For instance *Boronia* and *Correa* have opposite leaves and flowers with 4 parts. *Crowea*, *Phebalium*, *Philothea* and *Eriostemon* have alternate leaves and flowers with 5 parts. There are of course some plants which might not conform to these simple rules.

Leionema has 24 species found in eastern Australia, and a single species, *L. nudum* (Mairehau), which grows in New Zealand and has been studied for the value of its volatile oils for the perfume industry.

The difference between *Leionema* and *Phebalium*: scales

Leionema and *Phebalium* can be distinguished by scales. *Phebalium* has simple alternate leaves of varying size, and flowers with 5 sepals,

5 petals and an ovary containing 5 carpels. A key feature of *Phebalium* is the scales which cover the underside of the leaves, and often on the flower buds, sepals, stamens, ovary and the stems of new growth. These scales are described as being lepidote (from the Greek lepidotus meaning scaly).

All currently recognised plants within *Phebalium* have these scales, as do plants within the small resurrected genus *Nematolepis*, which has one WA species and six species occurring on the east coast.

A readily observed point of difference is that the anthers are fixed to the stamens at their base (basifixed) in *Phebalium*, but are fixed to the back of the stamens in *Nematolepis*, with the anthers then described as being versatile.



This picture of *Phebalium squamulosum* ssp. *squamulosum*, shows on the underside of the leaves, silvery scales, and on the petals brown scales, which are also on the young stem (J Knight)

Leionema does not have scales, but like *Nematolepis* has anthers which are versatile. The leaves and stems of *Leionema* species are glabrous or variously hairy, but never scaly, although in some, oil glands are readily seen. There is value in using morphological characters in naming plants. *Leionema*, from the Greek Leios, meaning smooth, and nema a thread, describes the glabrous staminal filaments, whereas in *Nematolepis*, Nema again refers to the staminal filaments, but lepis refers to scales, and describes the hairy scale at the base of the filament in *N. phebalioides*.

Leionema worth trying in your garden

Leionema includes a range of desirable garden plants. Most species are reliable, and tolerate dry soils once established even though some come from wet forests. They also survive well in shady sites, with the glossy green foliage and massed white flowers adding depth and life to your garden in such situations. They are worry-free plants.

Leionema elatius, known as the Tall Phebalium, occurs along the ranges of the NSW north coast and just into south Queensland and has two subspecies. *L. elatius* subsp. *elatius* grows to about 2 m or more, with dark green foliage. It is found in shaded aspects. The more commonly grown, but much rarer, *L. elatius* subsp. *beckleri*, grows only in warm temperate wet forests and rainforest on Mt Lindesay in Queensland's McPherson Range, and can grow to 5 m. Foliage is somewhat smaller than the other subspecies, only about 10 mm x 8 mm, dark green with a slightly notched apex, and is fragrant when crushed. It is easily grown in a shaded site, but appreciates a bit of water during dry weather when grown in areas where summer rainfall is lacking. Both subspecies produce copious white flowers in spring, and are naturally bushy, so can be pruned to hedges.

Leionema lamprophyllum (lampro, shining, phyllum, leaf, refers to the shiny green foliage) is a shrubby species that occurs from the central tablelands of NSW, and further south, and into the ranges of East Gippsland in Victoria. There are three subspecies, each of which is found on inhospitable sites of rocky ranges. *L. lamprophyllum* subsp. *lamprophyllum* is found in subalpine woodland of the East Gippsland ranges and into NSW, usually on rocky escarpments where it grows to around 1 m, but in cultivation it can get taller. Requiring well drained soils but little else, this is a rewarding no-fuss plant which copes under tree canopy or that impossible spot under eaves, and is also quite happy out in the open. Well-displayed white flowers are borne during winter and spring.



(L) *Phebalium squamulosum* subsp. *ozothamnoides* with the anthers basifixed i.e. connected to the filaments at the base (J Knight)
 (A) *Leionema lamprophyllum* subsp. *lamprophyllum*, with anthers versatile i.e. connected to the filaments at the back (J Knight)

The popular garden hybrid *Leionema* 'Green Screen' (*L. elatius* x *L. lamprophyllum*) has proved very adaptable. It is a shrub to 2 m which holds its foliage to the ground, and makes an excellent hedge or background shrub. It takes quite hard pruning.

Leionema ambiens, the Forest Phebalium, grows in the border ranges of northern NSW and into southern Queensland, where it is confined to protected rocky crevices. This is a good indication of the conditions best suited to successful cultivation, although the plant is quite happy in sunshine provided the soil does not dry out. It is also a great plant for a dark shady garden, and will grow happily beneath trees. Plants grow to 2 or more metres, but take to pruning very well. Foliage is highly aromatic, giving rise to a local common name of Fruit Salad Bush, with leaves often more than 100 mm long and 40 mm wide. The base of the leaves surround the stem, hence the specific *ambiens*, which means around or surrounding. During late winter and spring, massed white flowers are held outside the foliage, attracting a range of insects including introduced honey bees.

Leionema bilobum is called the Notched Phebalium for the leaf apex, which has a distinct notch, although in some forms the end of the leaf looks like it has been cut off with scissors. Leaves are up to 50 mm x 10 mm, but usually smaller, with many oil glands which exude a lovely spicy aroma on warm days. Plants are found in a range of habitats in Victoria and Tasmania, and three subspecies are recognised. A small tree form, *L. bilobum* subsp. *serrulatum*, comes from the wetter forests east of Melbourne to Gippsland. Growing to 4 m or more, it is upright in form, making a good plant for narrow shaded gardens. I grow it with *Prostanthera* species on the south side of the house. Flowers are showy, starry white, and adorn the plant from winter through spring, held in prominent terminal clusters.

A much smaller plant from Mt Thackeray and adjacent rocky areas in the Grampians area is *L. bilobum* subsp. *thackerayense*. It is an attractive shrub, often less than 1 m tall, with glossy green foliage. It features pink to red flower buds, before opening into the typical white flowers, and as these age, a reddish tinge again appears, adding to the ornamental value of this plant. Grow this subspecies in a sunnier site, with good drainage, as plants in dry shade under trees have not been thrifty.

Leionema coxii is a tough plant from a restricted area of the southern tablelands of NSW. On rocky ridge tops it can be a stunted plant to 2 m with a very stout trunk festooned with lichen due to moisture rising from the surrounding area, but in adjacent valleys it can reach 6 m as a narrow upright small tree. It is at its best as a tree, with bright green

foliage looking luxurious, and exuding a strong fruity aroma, which some suggest is like passionfruit. Grow this species in shade, where it shows to best advantage, with dark green foliage complimented by white flowers through spring and summer. Once established, it is quite hardy, and can be underpruned to lift the foliage and allow plants which need more shelter to be grown beneath. *Hovea* species make a nice choice with their strong purple hues contrasting with the white.

The heathy species, *Leionema diosmeum*, prefers sunny situations, although it tolerates dappled light. Found along the south coast of NSW and just into Victoria, it also occurs on sandstone south of Sydney, where it grows with other heathy plants, often in full sun, although it also inhabits the adjacent forest. Plants can reach 2 m in the understorey, but exposed to the elements they are often only 1 m high. Foliage is slightly hairy, and not dark green like the other species, but still has a lovely fragrance when crushed. Flowers can be bright yellow, particularly those of the sandstone country, and are held above the foliage from winter to late spring. This species suckers strongly after fire.

Propagation

Although we rarely see *Leionema* in nurseries, they are quite easy to propagate from cuttings of firm new season's growth, which can be taken from November onwards. Use tip cuttings about 100 mm long, with the first couple of leaves removed, typically these rooted from 6 to 10 weeks in a 50/50 mix of coarse sand and perlite, having been dunked in Esi-Root hormone liquid for 5 minutes.



Leionema elatius
subsp. *beckleri*
(J Knight)

Duffys Forest in danger

What value Endangered Ecological Community status?

Conny Harris is the President of Northern Beaches Group. She is passionate about native plants and the local environment. She wants all APS members to know about an environmental disaster unfolding in her area associated with a proposal to dramatically widen Warringah Road in conjunction with the Northern Beaches Hospital Development.

Sydney's Northern Beaches have often been labelled 'the hidden gem'. Anyone who loves the bush and beaches would agree. Beautiful bushland within National Parks and Crown Lands intermingles with residential areas. Locals get surprised by swamp wallabies on roads or even in their gardens. The occasional snake, usually a diamond python, or birds like black cockatoos or black swans with their cygnets are the happy nature stories talked about. People feel blessed to be here.

However the NSW Government is likely to change this blissful picture soon. With the help of precisely crafted rules for State Significant Sites (SSS) and State Significant Infrastructure (SSI), our precious environmental protection legislation is being swept aside and a remnant hilltop forest is to be destroyed for a road development.

The remnant hilltop forest is classified as Duffys Forest Ecological Community, (DFEC), named after the suburb of Duffys Forest, where its special nature was first recognised.

DFEC is listed as an endangered ecological community under NSW legislation. It is an ecological community restricted to local hilltops with a richer soil containing ironstone. Only about 15% of the original or pre-European DFEC remains today. It occurs only in isolated patches, all within a radius of about 20 kilometres.

DFEC is characterised by its high biodiversity with a high percentage of species from the Proteaceae family. No particular plant is needed to define DFEC. It is the combination of a large number of species matching the characteristic assembly. It may host threatened species, but it is not required to do so. It has specific eucalypts, like *E. sieberi*, *E. capitellata*, *E. umbra* and *E. pilularis*. The Sydney Red Gum, *Angophora costata* is also often about, but *E. haemastoma* indicates the periphery of the DFEC.

A significant aspect of the section of forest under threat is its function as a wildlife corridor between the bushland of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, which includes Garigal National Park East and the bushland

of Manly Dam. Without this forest corridor, terrestrial fauna cannot cross between these areas.

It is by no means an ideal corridor. Its width is often just enough for animals to hide in and it is cut by a six lane road, which animals are required to cross. However roadkill data confirm the corridor's regular use by swamp wallabies. Genetic studies demonstrated long nosed bandicoots also cross over.

The proposed development is to widen Warringah Road to alleviate congestion during the peak hours. The 6-9 lane wide road is to be widened to a 10-15 lane wide tarmac with the central 4 lanes lowered in a deep channel to facilitate better transport within the area and for future growth, which is expected to follow the construction of a large hospital near this location. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared. It is daunting, being over 2500 pages, but selected sections make an interesting read. For example five threatened fauna species were encountered during the EIS survey: Red-crowned Toadlet, Powerful Owl, Grey-headed Flying-fox, Swift Parrot and the White-bellied Sea Eagle.



Boronia pinnata (Jane March)

The recently rediscovered Spotted-tailed Quoll was discounted in the EIS as having enough other habitat, even though large tree stumps are its favourite habitat and there are plenty in this section of DFEC. It is acknowledged that the area is likely habitat for 17 threatened flora and 35 threatened fauna species.

However as no threatened terrestrial fauna was encountered, it is not regarded as necessary to keep this corridor. Our common fauna species like Swamp wallabies, which rely on this corridor to reach the Manly Dam bushland would quickly become locally threatened and extinct within the Manly Dam Catchment if this corridor were to be terminated. The EIS ignores this simple and undeniable conclusion.

The government's ecological consultants predict the proposed clearing will over time drive the local DFEC stand at Frenchs Forest to extinction.

Duffys Forest provides a range of eco-services. It acts as a noise and light absorber, filters the air from pollutants, produces oxygen, acts as a sponge in storm events and retains moisture and cools the area during heat and drought. It also relaxes our mind and lifts our spirits.



It is hard to believe that our Liberal Government, with the Premier Mike Baird living adjacent to Manly Dam, could be supportive of the destruction of the iconic ecology in his backyard. But apparently widening Warringah Road for a short distance of 1 km is worth sacrificing all this. Roads and Maritime Services predict it will shorten travel times during the evening peak period in 2028 by almost 50%, saving motorists just over 1 minute compared to their predicted worsened travel times and the do-nothing scenario.

Bossiaea obcordata (Jane March)



Large old tree with nesting hollows required by many fauna species (Jane March)

The afternoon peak will be slower even with all the extra lanes and during the morning peak, the road will only save a few seconds. As for the wildlife corridor it will be 100% cut for terrestrial fauna, as high noise barriers and retaining walls are required in the design.

I thank APS NSW for objecting to this development during the submission period.

But what can you do? If you can spare a few minutes contact Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning and request that he simply rejects 'Roadworks for Stage 2 of the Northern Beaches Hospital' or requests a redesign protecting DFEC and the wildlife corridor. As his electorate is very close by contact his local office on 9999 3599 or email pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au If you would like to help more please contact Conny on 0432 643 295.

The introduction of Regional Planning Panels to assess developments over \$20M is another recent change to the planning process in NSW. It will be important to keep a close eye on what is happening with similar projects in the future.

APS NSW Seed Bank update

John Randall, Seed Bank Curator

Requests for seed can be sent by mail to:

**John Randall
8 Coachmans Place,
Mardi NSW 2259**



An updated seed list was published in the April 2015 issue of *Native Plants for NSW*. This list can also be found on the APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au by selecting **Seed Bank** in the **Resources** pane on the Home page, or it can be accessed directly by pasting the following address into your browser: austplants.com.au/seedbank

There is a limit of six seed packets per request. Inquiries can be made to John at johnnnette@dodo.com.au or on (02) 4353 9390. Please enclose a stamped (\$1.40) self-addressed envelope (110 x 220 mm) for return of the seeds. Please list seed requests in alphabetical order and include a list of alternative selections.

Seed donations are always welcome and are vital if the seed bank is to remain viable. Please state the source of the seed, whether from natural or cultivated material. Please do not send seed from hybrid plants.

Additions: none

Deletions: *Dodonaea peduncularis*, *Eucalyptus ovata*.

Donors: none

Study Groups notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

Fern Study Group members, including fern greats Kyrill Taylor and Peter Hind, were extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Allan Woollett in June. Allan was a most inspiring and knowledgeable Fern Study Group Leader and wonderful person.



The Walcott garden features as one of the excursions for people attending the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Canberra in November. Ben and Ros Walcott lead the Garden Design Study Group.

Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group (Jun. 2015, No. 9)

Actinotus forsythii, a pink-flowered species of flannel flower, has been propagated from wild-collected seed and grown through to flowering and seed set at the Menai Wildflower Group's garden at Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Station. Lloyd Hedges described the seed pre-treatment he used and his intention to experiment to try to improve the germination rate.

If flannel flower seed is sown directly into the final bag or pot, the pricking-out step can be bypassed. This is desirable as the roots are very fragile and easily damaged.

Grevillea Study Group (Jul. 2015, No. 101)

Grevilleas hybridise readily and a Victorian member reported a hardy, accidental hybrid that he knows as *Grevillea* 'Galah Hill', arising in his garden. It propagated well from cuttings and exhibited strong root growth.

This predominately Queensland edition included a summary of a grevillea-focused trip to Cape York by members of the Study Group. Further south, a local nurseryman documented a large stand of hybrid grevilleas near the village of Coominya, 83 km west of



Massive roots on *Grevillea* 'Galah Hill' cuttings (Tony Cavanagh)



Grevillea 'RSL Spirit of Anzac' (Peter Olde)

Brisbane. Dubbed the 'Coominya Collection', their flowers ranged from creams through yellows and into red tones. As these are local hybrids, they may withstand the drought conditions that have prevailed in the area for some time and may be worth propagating for local sale.

In Western Australia, a senior Kings Park plant breeder released a new cultivar, *Grevillea* 'RSL Spirit of Anzac', as a commemorative plant for the Anzac centenary celebrations. Appropriately this cultivar flowers in April.

Acacia Study Group (Jun. 2015, No. 129)

The Acacia Study Group is now a member of the Wattle Day Association and encourages all Australians to celebrate Wattle Day on 1 September each year.

A dwarf form of *Acacia fimbriata* known as 'Crimson Blush' is a small wattle with attractive foliage. It would be well suited to most sunny or shady gardens.

A spectacular type of *Acacia* bark which comes in varying shades of red and peels off in narrow shavings which curl back on themselves is known as 'Minni Ritchi'. Wattles with 'Minni Ritchi' bark generally have phyllodes with more than one longitudinal vein and flower heads in cylindrical spikes.

A new book, *Plant Life of Southwestern Australia – Adaptations for Survival*, focuses on the survival mechanisms, adaptations and ecology of the unique flora of southwestern Australia and may be downloaded for free from <http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/430900>

Hakea Study Group (Jun. 2015, No. 58)

A member of the Study Group from the Adelaide Hills continues to document the recovery of his hakea plants after bushfire damage in January 2015. Intense heat caused most leaves to drop off and many plants have died. Some are reshooting from the base of the plant. He was able to collect the released seed from many species that are programmed to regenerate from seed rather than re-shooting.

Dryandra Study Group (Jul. 2015, No. 69)

Field collecting expeditions undertaken during winter will ensure that the Western Australian Herbarium has a comprehensive collection of all forms of *Dryandra conferta*. The *Dryandra conferta* Project will use genetic work to explore the differences which may exist within this species. The Study Group will contribute to the cost of this project.

Correa Study Group (Jul. 2015, No. 52)

The 2015 Correa Crawl explored Victoria's East Gippsland area and encountered both red and green forms of *Correa reflexa* and also the



Correa 'Peachy Bob' (M. Hitchcock)

pale *Correa lawrenciana*. In the evening members swapped cuttings and listened to a fascinating presentation by Peter Ollerenshaw on the breeding of correas. See his website: www.bywongnursery.com.au/

Maria Hitchcock described several hardy correa varieties that are thriving in her garden in Armidale in northern NSW.

Garden Design Study Group (Aug. 2015, No. 91)

This issue includes an article on Cloudy Hill garden which is located in the high country near Blayney, NSW. Competition for water between shrubs and trees is an ongoing difficulty and the demise of an immature *Banksia serrata* and several other shrubs was attributed to the combined effect of the proximity of *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) and the dryness of the summer. During winter, various shrubs have difficulty contending with the weight of snow. Pruning rescued those plants with split branches but *Prostanthera ovalifolia* and *Acacia spectabilis* had snapped at ground level.



Banksia spinulosa at Cloudy Hill (Fiona Johnson)

Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group (Jun. 2015, No. 28)

Leptospermum species can frequently be found as neglected nursery stock but they feature prominently among the native plants cultivated as bonsai. *Leptospermum* is a widespread genus and the naturally small leaves and varied barks translate well to bonsai culture. Species used

include *L. laevigatum*, *L. brachyandrum* and *L. madidum* var. *sativum*. At a recent Melbourne convention, individual talks focused on banksias, acacias and eucalypts and their use as bonsai.

Wallum Study Group (Aug. 2015, No. 39)

The Study Group holds excursions in South East Queensland and this newsletter contains images of species seen in April in Freshwater National Park.

Eremophila Study Group (Aug. 2015, No. 111)

The new leader of the Study Group, Lyndal Thorburn, introduced her Queanbeyan garden to members. She described its site and the challenges that frequent frosts and fogs presented to the growing of *Eremophila*. Once-weekly watering is delivered via drippers and slow release pellets are used to encourage rapid development of the roots after planting out. With the garden supporting about 120 species of *Eremophila*, Lyndal must be doing something right! See the colour-wheel of spring-flowering eremophilas below.



Eremophila flowers laid out as a colour-wheel demonstrate the range of flower colours available with this diverse genus (Lyndal Thorburn)

Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

Acacia (\$10/\$20/\$7)
Leader: Bill Aitchison
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Australian Plants as Bonsai
(\$14/\$20/\$14)
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Boronia & Allied Genera (\$10 email)
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Brachychiton and Allied Genera
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Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

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Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

Leader: Maria Hitchcock
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Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

The following study groups are all in recess and require new leaders. If you are interested in a role contact the APS NSW Study Group Liaison Officer, Wendy Grimm at wagrimm@tpg.com.au

Australian food plants
Australian plants for containers
Calytrix
Daisy, the Australian
Fabaceae
Hibiscus and Related genera
Orchids, Indigenous
Palm and Cycad
Prostanthera and Westringia
Rhamnaceae
Succulents, Native
Verticordia
Wetlands (and Water Plants)
Wildlife and Native Plants

Membership discounts

Discounts are available from the following organisations to Society members who present their current membership card.

Sydney

☼ **All GreenGold Nurseries**
5% discount, except on landscape materials, garden design services or discounted merchandise.

☼ **Florilegium**
The Garden Bookstore
65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037
PO Box 644, Rozelle 2039
☎ (02) 9571 8222.
Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun
11am–5pm.

10% discount on some titles. Please check before purchasing.

☼ **Sydney Wildflower Nursery**
9 Venio St, Heathcote 2233
www.sydneywildflownursery.com.au
10% discount

Armidale

☼ **Cool Natives**
Retail mail order nursery
16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale
2350
Open by appointment only
☎ (02) 6775 1139
0421 961 007
Email: maria@coolnatives.com.au
www.coolnatives.com.au
10% discount

Blue Mountains

☼ **Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve Nursery**
Great Western Highway,
Glenbrook 2773
☎ (02) 4739 8597
Sat, Sun, Wed. 12 noon–4pm.
10% discount to members,
20% for roster participants.

Central Coast

☼ **The Wildflower Place**
453 The Entrance Rd,
Erina Heights 2260
☎ (02) 4365 5510
5% discount

Central West

☼ **Wombat Gully Native Nursery**
1729 Cocks Creek Rd, Rylstone
☎ 6379 6202
10% discount

Hunter Valley

☼ **Muswellbrook Forest Nursery**
New England Highway,
Muswellbrook
☎ (02) 6543 2622
Email: mfn@hlmaus.com.au
www.muswellbrook
forestnursery.com.au
M–F 8.30am–4.30pm
Weekends 10am–3pm
10% discount

Nepean Valley

☼ **Darvill Nursery**
Darvill Rd, Orchard Hills 2748
Contact for price list or
arrange to visit beforehand
☎ (02) 4736 5004
www.darvillnursery.com.au
10% discount

Newcastle

☼ **Leearne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery**
260 Lake Road, Glendale 2285
☎ (02) 4954 5584
Open 7 Days 9am–5pm.
10% discount

North Coast

☼ **Bonny Hills Garden Centre,**
1055 Ocean Drive,
Bonny Hills 2445
☎ (02) 6585 5764
10% discount on all plant
purchases

☼ **Greenbourne Nursery**
Oxley Hwy, Wauchope 2446
(opp. 'Timbertown')
☎ (02) 6585 2117
10% discount

Mildura

☼ **Native Nursery, Mildura**
10% discount on the
purchase of any native plants
or other products, including the
Watertube ordered online at
www.nativenursery.com.au

South Coast

☼ **Wildgems Native Nursery**
Illawambra Valley Road,
Yowrie 2550
☎ 0427 937 398
Wholesale / retail nursery.
Please ring and arrange day
before arriving.
10% discount

☼ **Verdigris Fern Nursery**
Currowan Creek 2536
Mail order is available through
the website which includes
useful information on fern
cultivation. The nursery is
open by appointment.
☎ (02) 4478 1311.
Email: verdigrisferns@gmail.com
Wholesale price for APS
NSW members

APS NSW contacts



APS NSW Office

Email: office@austplants.com.au

Website: www.austplants.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/APSNSW

Postal address: PO Box 5026, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

Office: Shop 1, 33 Emma Crescent, Wentworthville

Phone: (02) 9631 4085 (voicemail messages)

Administration Officer: vacant

Financial Officer: Sharlene Cormack

Please contact office-bearers, internal Committees (Management, Publishing and Projects) and representatives through the office email or by phone.

APS NSW Office-bearers

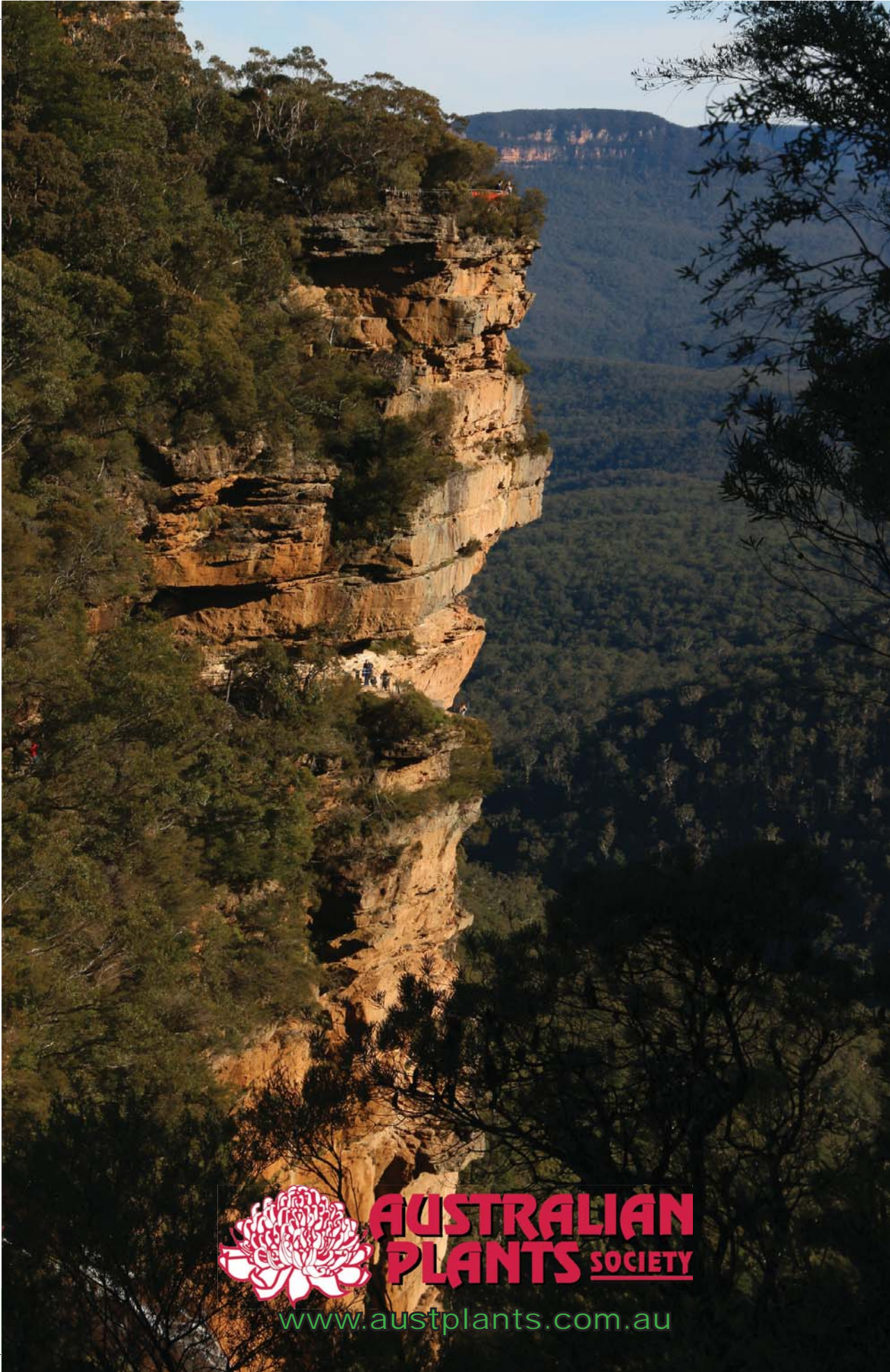
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Honorary Secretary	Heather Miles
Treasurer	Harry Loots
Membership Officer	Merle Thompson
Company Co-ordinator	Alix Goodwin
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Editor <i>Native Plants for NSW</i>	David Crawford
Publicity Officer	Richard Street
Program Officer	John Andrews
Exhibition Officer	Graeme Ingall
Property Officer	Roger Starling
Conservation Officer	Dan Clarke
Study Group Liaison Officer	Wendy Grimm
Seed bank curator	John Randall
Website managers	Mark Abell and James Ward

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John Aitken, John Andrews, Rhonda Daniels, Alix Goodwin, Mary Hedges, Graeme Ingall, Harry Loots, Tony Maxwell, Roger Starling, Richard Street and Merle Thompson.

APS NSW Representatives to external bodies

ANPSA Council	Rhonda Daniels
Australian Cultivar Registration Authority	David Murray
Australian Flora Foundation	Ross Smyth-Kirk
Burrendong Arboretum	Lyn Burgett – l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au
Native Flower Growers and Promoters	Jonathan Steeds
Nature Conservation Council	Margery Street
External Book Service	Florilegium -The Garden Bookstore



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