



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: Joseph Banks Native Garden in Kareela where Sutherland Group members offered guided tours before the May gathering and AGM.

Photo: Ralph Cartwright

See page 47 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW* editorNP@austplants.com.au

Your Society has held its Annual General Meeting (see p 30); congratulations to Alex Floyd, our newest Life Member (p 6). The Strategic Planning Workshop (p 31) has also been held since the April issue of



Native Plants. Most District Groups were represented at the workshop, but unfortunately not all. Personally I found the process challenging but enjoyable. Our Society has declining membership and is losing money (p 37). These declines need to be reversed; luckily we have many enthusiastic and capable members. It was a highlight of the workshop for me to meet more of them. The Board is developing a strategic plan based on discussions at the workshop and the intention is to present the draft at the Presidents' Dinner in conjunction with the Annual Gettogether in Tamworth (p 24).

To make it easier for members to comment and contribute to *Native Plants* I have a new email address editorNP@austplants.com.au. This will automatically forward to my personal email saving Sharlene passing on emails. I am your editor, and this is your journal: contributions are always welcome, words and pictures. I keep seeing great images on Facebook and in local newsletters, but very few are sent to *Native Plants*. Please share your best! Leading on from there, I must thank Brian Roach (p 10), Clare Bell (p 22), Alix Goodwin (p 32) and Warren Sheather (p 42) for their contributions to this issue.

Burrendong Arboretum is facing a crisis (p 8). Please consider contacting your local state member and the relevant minister to object to the withdrawal of funding. Also of great concern to those passionate about our flora are the proposed changes to biodiversity protection laws in NSW (p 18). By the time you read this the community consultation period will have ended, but hopefully the controversy will be just beginning. The changes will result in reduced and inadequate protection of our threatened plants and animals. The pendulum is swinging excessively in favour of developers and those who undervalue the natural environment that ultimately we all depend upon.

Many members contributed in May to a survey about the Society, and Heather Miles (Secretary of APS NSW) has provided a summary of the results (p 14). It is interesting reading, as I hope you will find the entire issue.

Report on a recent activity May 2016 quarterly gathering

Rhonda Daniels, Sutherland Group

The Annual General Meeting for the Society was held in conjunction with the May gathering. The President, John Aitken has reported on this in his column on page 30. Earlier in the day participants had the chance to visit Joseph Banks Native Garden (see our cover) and be guided by members of the Sutherland Group which is active in maintaining and promoting the garden and its value to the community. Also open for viewing was the garden of local member, Joan Zande. This garden demonstrates the ability of natives to work as great hedging plants in an interplay of the formal and informal. The images on the next page are from Joan's garden. After the AGM Anthony O'Halloran spoke on the Pilliga.

The Pilliga - a wonderland getting wasted

Anthony O'Halloran, from of Bilby Blooms Nursery at Binnaway on the western slopes of NSW, spoke passionately about the Pilliga forest – both its wonders and its threats. The Pilliga is a wonderland of over 600,000 hectares, featured in Eric Rolls' *A Million Wild Acres: 200 years of man and an Australian forest* (1981).

The underlying geology of the area has determined both its botanical richness and the threats to that diversity. On poor sandstone soils, plants have to fight for pollinators and many spectacular flowers are found. For instance, on a 1.5 km walk, there may be over 140 species in flower. Anthony highlighted just a few including *Acacia cultriformis*, *Dodonaea angustifolia*, *Drosera indica*, *Grevillea arenaria*, *Leucopogon biflorus*, *Melaleuca lanceolata* and *Xyris* species. For more, see Anthony's booklet *The Pilliga*.

The Pilliga continues to face many threats from the impact of humans including drought, fire, clearing, logging, coal seam gas and coal mining. Anthony participated in the Western Regional Assessment community consultation process on the future of the area in good faith but wonders if it was worth it, with many financial interests competing. While there are many hectares in reserves, most is pine regrowth. Damaged areas are not properly rehabilitated.

Anthony also highlighted the role of language used by different stakeholders. 'Environmental thinning', in which 90% of new growth seedlings are cleared, allows more light into the understorey and the material can be burnt for 'green energy'. But depending on the definition of the diameter of the trees to be thinned, it can really just mean logging. The common description of Pilliga Scrub is less appealing than either

Pilliga Forest or Pilliga Woodland, which recognise the significance of trees such as *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Pine) and ironbarks which can provide habitat hollows for small fauna.

Proposed changes to native vegetation laws and biodiversity conservation, discussed on p. 18, are likely to pose further threats to the Pilliga.

Join Anthony for a tag-along tour of the Pilliga after the annual gettogether hosted by APS Tamworth Group on 19-21 August 2016. Contact Anthony at www.bilbyblooms.com.au .







Life Membership for Alex Floyd

Alexander Geoffrey Floyd was made a Life Member of the Australian Plants Society NSW at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. The following summary is from the nomination proposal prepared by Coffs Harbour Group.

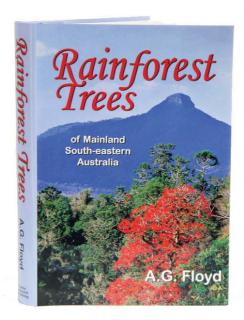
Alex Floyd joined APS in March 1996, but his interest in Australian flora has been life-long. Born in Victoria in 1926, he entered the University of Melbourne in 1947 and excelled in botany. His tutor and mentor was the late Jim Willis, well-known as the author of *Handbook to Plants in Victoria*, which was for many years the definitive reference for that state's flora.

Alex began his professional career in 1949 with the Australian Forestry School in Canberra. After graduation in 1951 he joined the Forestry Commission of NSW as a forester based in southern NSW. He spent two years as Forest Ecologist and Assistant Botanist in PNG, returning to the Forestry Commission in 1956 as a silviculturist based in Coffs Harbour, and spent 15 years as the officer-in-charge of the Forestry Research Centre in Coffs Harbour. In 1961 he gained his Master of Science in Forestry and became Research Scientist in 1969. During this time Alex's interest in rainforests became evident with the publication of his NSW Rainforest Trees in twelve parts (1960-1983), issued as 'Research Notes' of the Commission and providing a comprehensive account of rainforest species in NSW, Victoria and southern Qld. This was published by the Commission in 1989 and republished in 2008 by Terania Rainforest Publishing as Rainforest Trees of Mainland Southeastern Australia, widely regarded as the indispensable reference in this field.

Alex's research was facilitated by the small forestry herbarium established at Coffs Harbour by Harold Hayes. Alex took over the maintenance and expansion of this herbarium which remained at Coffs Harbour after his retirement. In 1996 State Forests decided to transfer it to Pennant Hills in Sydney, but local pressure led to its transfer to North Coast Regional Botanic Garden (NCRB) with Alex as the Honorary Curator, a position he still holds. The collection now holds almost 29,000 specimens including Alex's own collection.

Alex's association with NCRBG began in 1972 when the Ulitarra Conservation Society became interested in rehabilitating an area along Coffs Creek that had been subject to unrestricted waste disposal. The idea of a botanic garden was born and 18 local community organisations were mobilised to present council with a well-documented submission.





(L) Alex Floyd with Bosistoa floydii in Coffs Harbour Botanic Garden. Photo: Alison Moore

In August 1975 this resulted in the gazettal of a reserve for the 'purposes of a Botanic Garden'.

Alex's willingness to share his expertise, whether informally, in work situations, or through Continuing Education courses at UNE, has been widely appreciated. He is well-known to many Coffs residents and plant enthusiasts, available to assist in authoritative plant identification. Alex is often involved in APS day meetings as a member, speaker and consultant.

Alex's expertise in rainforest flora proved invaluable in the critical period of 1970s and 80s when state government decisions were being made about the protection of native forests. Alex was seconded to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake a review of the state's rainforest communities, providing research data and information that fed into critical decisions to conserve our natural heritage.

In 2008 Alex was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to botany, particularly through research on and identification of rainforest plants and support to NCRBG, and to conservation and environmental education.

Alex's position in Australian botany is assured: two genera are named in his honour (*Floydia* and *Alexfloydia*) and six species (*Acacia floydii*, *Bosistoa floydii*, *Cryptocarya floydii*, *Endiandra floydii*, *Homoranthus floydii* and *Zieria floydii*), all named by different botanists.

Burrendong under threat

Lyn Burgett Ex-officio Trustee BBG&A for APS NSW



The NSW Department of Primary Industry - Lands has advised the Trustees of Burrendong Botanic Garden & Arboretum (BBG&A) that operational funds will be reduced by 20% annually over the next 5 years. This means there will be no funds allocated after June 2019 as the reduction has already commenced.

This was devastating news for the Friends and Trustees of BBG&A. These funds currently provide partial staff salaries. The curator and other staff are employed to maintain BBG&A and support the Friends and Trustees who manage this Crown Reserve to benefit all NSW.

APS NSW members have been involved with BBG&A throughout its 52 year history by assisting in plant collections, propagation, planting and maintenance activities since the 167ha site was gazetted an Arboretum in 1964. APS NSW has also provided financial support for specific projects and held the annual Get-together at BBG&A jointly with the Friends in August 2011.

The Friends and Trustees will be active and tireless in their commitment to maintain this public native garden for its current purposes of conservation, education and recreation. You are also encouraged to write to the Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair MLC, and the local member for Dubbo, Troy Grant MP (see contact details next page) to express your concern at the risk of losing the unique historical plant

collection that now provides a valuable scientifically based resource for education and recreation.

Burrendong is a 'must do' visit for the many people who are road travelling around Australia. A highlight is seeing hundreds of threatened species that survive at BBG&A and were part of the original collection by George Althofer. Accommodation is available adjacent to the site at the NSW Lake Burrendong State Park.

Minister – Niall Blair niall.blair@parliament.nsw.gov.au Phone 02 8574 7190 GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 Local Member – Troy Grant dubbo@parliament.nsw.gov.au Phone (02) 6882 3577 PO Box 1327 Dubbo NSW 2830



STONY RANGE BOTANIC GARDEN SPRING FESTIVAL

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11 9am-4pm



Guest speaker

JAKE CASSAR

'Bush Survival'

SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Cultivation advice from Stony Range Botanic Garden volunteers & members of Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches Group.

Guided walks - insects, nature. children's treasure hunt. Exhibitions - bees, frogs, flower photography. Children's activities, live native animals, face painting. Sausage sizzle, Coffee Shop & home made cakes.

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden 810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why

Amazing Greys

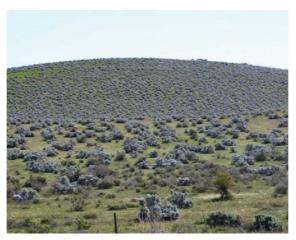
Brian Roach, APS North Shore Group

This article can be found on the GardenDrum website at gardendrum. com/2016/05/30/amazing-greys/ where the images are much larger and easier to appreciate. All photos were taken by Brian.

Gardeners have a better insight than most into changing weather patterns. Whatever the reason, the hot days seem to be getting hotter and the cold days colder, but it's usually the former that presents the greater challenges in selecting the right plant for the hot spot.

Enter stage right our wonderful grey-foliaged native plants.

On a recent trip out through Broken Hill to the Flinders Ranges I could only look in awe at the great swathes of blue-bush, *Mairiana oppositifolia* (below left) and *M. sedifolia* that adorned the hot and often rugged countryside. These plants are wonderfully adapted to a hostile landscape where water is scarce and sunshine plentiful.





On our return trip we stopped off at the new Shearers' Centre at Hay. It was hellishly hot but what was loving the weather in the garden there was *Eremophila glabra* 'Kalbarri Carpet' (above right). I've been growing this plant for a few years now and it's as tough as old boots once established. The ochre coloured flowers contrast beautifully with the shimmering, silver foliage which seems to actually reflect the heat of the sun.

A few years earlier we drove out along the Great Ocean Road in Victoria and there the Cushion Bush, *Leucophyta* (formerly *Calocephalus*) *brownii*, (opposite top left and right) coped so well with the harsh salt-laden air and hot, sandy conditions. I was amazed at just how big these





plants could grow. Unfortunately, my experience in Sydney is that these plants do not cope with our humid, summer conditions.

So nature has been able to work it out; why can't we? It is all about 'horses for courses'.

One of the very first native plants I grew around 40 years ago was *Olearia phlogopappa*. It was worth growing just to rattle off that wonderful name to anyone who would listen. But in recent times another *Olearia* with wonderful grey foliage has come into my garden. *Olearia lanuginosa* 'Ghost Town' (below) is one of those 'unkillable' plants and thrives in a hot spot with very little demand for water. It's low growing to around half a metre high and, if left to itself, will certainly spread a couple of metres over time but it's very amenable to severe pruning. The foliage has a delightful aroma when cut or crushed. It's not the small, white flowers that make this plant well worth growing, but rather the silvery, grey foliage that fairly laps up the hot sun. An added bonus is that cuttings strike with ease.



A wonderful new plant was only discovered in the wild a dozen or so years ago around the Copeton Dam near Inverell. Members of the Grevillea Study Group were on the prowl for an elusive *Grevillea* when they spied a stunning, yellowflowered plant. It was keyed out back at RBGS and found to be *Homoranthus prolixus*





(above left and right) and apparently had not previously been brought into cultivation.

It has wonderful blue/grey foliage with red stems on the new growth and stunning bright yellow flowers across the horizontal growth of the plant in late spring and early summer. Growing naturally on granite outcrops in an extreme climatic environment, this is yet another great plant to cope with our topsy-turvy climate.

The grey, strappy *Conostylis candicans* has been around for quite a while however I've never managed to maintain one for any appreciable time. Related to the kangaroo paws as it is, I suspect it doesn't enjoy our humid summers. However around 20 years ago my mate, Peter Olde sent me back some material he'd collected in WA – as he has done from time to time and he labelled it *Conostylis aurea* (below left and right). I've been growing the plant ever since with wonderful results. It's a low, clumping plant to around 20 cm high with very grey foliage and masses of yellow flower stems from late autumn through into early spring. It really is a stunner and is as hardy as anything else in the garden. I find it strange that I've never seen this plant for sale since I first received it.





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Any list of grey-foliaged native plants would be incomplete without mentioning *Actinotus helianthi* (above left and right), our wonderful east coast flannel flowers.

Okay, so they're difficult to maintain in the garden for more than a couple of years, but ain't it worth it! With a bit of luck there'll be some self-seeding, especially if you pluck off the dying flower heads and sprinkle the seed about.

But if I had to pick my favourite on the basis of toughness and display in my Sydney garden, I'd opt for *Senna artemisioides* (below) with wonderful grey, lace-like foliage contrasted so stunningly by the bright yellow pea flowers. Again, let the seed pods develop and lots of little babies are sure to put up their hands to be dug up and potted on. Don't be frightened to cut it back quite heavily after flowering to maintain a dense plant as shown in this photo (below).



So let's hear it for Amazing Greys – how sweet the ground that sees a stretch of these.

Results from APS members' survey Thank you for 'having your say'

Heather Miles, Secretary APS NSW

During May 2016, over 300 of our members responded to an online survey to provide feedback on how we are going as a Society. This is a very healthy 39% response rate.

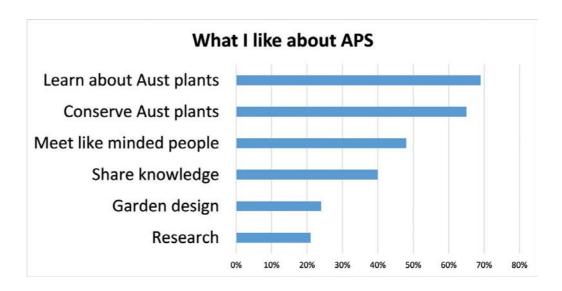
Who responded?

In demographic terms, most of us are over 55 years old and only a small number of us are in the 25 to 34 year age bracket.

	rvey responde	
39% response rate	33% from North Shore,	86% over 55 years old 1% aged 25 to 34
More than 50% have been a member for more than 10 years	Sutherland, Blue Mountains and Newcastle Groups	Over 75% do not belong to an APS Study Group

Why do people join Australian Plants Society?

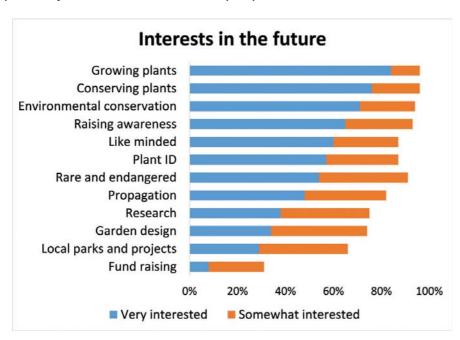
What people like most about belonging to APS in NSW is the knowledge, learning and passion of other members, followed by the opportunity to be with like-minded people. Members really enjoy local group activities including guest speakers, visiting parks and bushland, socialising, receiving advice, visiting other people's gardens and plant sales.



People who responded were also quite actively involved, participating in between 2 and 10 events in the last 12 months. When they didn't participate, it was generally due to lack of time, distance or health issues.

Future interests

Looking ahead, people continue to be interested in growing plants, along with conserving them and the environments in which they exist. They are also keen to raise awareness of native plants and have the opportunity to be with like-minded people.



What should we improve?

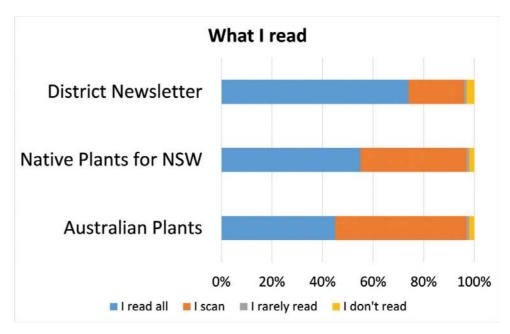
In terms of areas to improve, there were many constructive comments with the main areas for improvement being:

- Increasing our membership, and particularly attracting and retaining younger people
- Focusing more on conservation of Australian native plants, which includes the plants and the environments in which they exist.
- Improving our promotion of APS and Australian natives through all channels, but particularly using new technologies like social media and our website
- Ensuring we are inclusive and welcoming when new people join and visit
- Ensuring our meetings are interactive, flexible, interesting and run to time.

People valued newsletters and journals...and go online

People enjoy the journals and newsletters, with local newsletters being the most read. However, people did enjoy *Native Plants for NSW* and *Australian Plants*.

We asked people if they were willing to receive the journals online, as a way to reduce costs. Over 60% said yes and just under 40% said no. Many people said they'd prefer a hard copy, but understand that online



is the new world and they accept this change as necessary. Clearly if we make this move, we will need to manage the transition carefully.

Fees

We asked people if they were prepared to pay more for their membership. A surprising 60% said yes, with many prepared to pay \$10 to \$20 more. A third said they didn't want to pay more, or were unsure. There was a high percentage of people who said they planned to renew their membership – over 90%.

Summary of findings

In summary, we are mostly over 55 years old, loyal and value APS and willing to make adjustments to how we operate. We think that we need to improve:

Attracting new members

- Promoting ourselves
- · Improving meetings' approach and timing
- Including conservation as an objective with the form of this to be determined
- Being more inclusive and welcoming to new members
- Going online journals, transactions and knowledge sharing
- Exploring partnerships with like-minded organisations
- Increasing the education we are doing, starting in schools!

So where to from here?

We shared the results through the District Groups and the full results can be accessed on our website at: austplants.com.au/media/ kunena/ attachments/186/APSSurvey31May2016.pdf. We also considered these results as part of the Strategy Workshop held on 28 and 29 May and will be developing plans to address the issues that people raised.

Thank you again to all those people who responded.



Conservation Report

Dan Clarke, Conservation Officer for APS NSW conservation@austplants.com.au

Proposed new biodiversity legislation in NSW

The NSW Government has released its proposed new biodiversity protection legislation (public comment closes 28 June 2016). The draft Biodiversity Conservation and Local Land Services (Amendment) Bills are at www.landmanagement.nsw.gov. au/simplifying-land-management. The Conservation Committee's submission on behalf of APS NSW will be posted on the APS NSW website for members to access.

Conservation groups, including the Stand Up For Nature alliance organised by the Nature Conservation Council, and APS NSW have many concerns with the ability of the proposed legislation to adequately protect biodiversity. It appears that the current legislation will be weakened and species, populations and ecological communities are likely to be placed at further risk of loss.

The current legal requirements to 'maintain or improve' biodiversity outcomes when vegetation clearing is assessed under the biocertification and BioBanking assessment methodology will be removed under the new legislation, allowing vegetation to be cleared without adequate compensation. Offsetting measures and practices will also be changed with a move away from 'like-for-like' requirements of conserving the same vegetation communities or species that are being impacted.

Most of the current ecological assessment processes and reporting procedures such as BioBanking, biocertification, the assessment of significance and species impact statements will be replaced by a new Biodiversity Assessment Methodology. While this may produce more consistency in assessment, consenting authorities, such as local councils, will have the discretion to reduce or mitigate the biodiversity offset credits calculated to offset the impacts of development and will not have to enforce like-for-like compensation of vegetation communities of species impacted. This will be a novel approach to biodiversity protection.

Rural land will be classified under the categories of 'exempt land' and 'regulated land' which will be reflected on a new Native Vegetation Regulatory Map (currently being produced by the government). Vegetation in these two categories can be cleared by landowners with increased freedom using self-assessment, with little oversight from

government authorities. Other land (for example, most of the urban land in Sydney, as well as national parks) will classified as 'excluded land', on which vegetation impacts will be assessed using the new biodiversity assessment methodology (BAM) where like-for-like offsetting will not be required and where there will be no 'red flag' triggers – which are currently identified ecological communities, populations and species which can sustain no further impact, under the current BioBanking methodology.

A new State Environmental Planning Policy will govern tree removal on 'excluded land', with potential major impacts on urban vegetation.

For more information about the proposed changes see Stand Up for Nature at www.standupfornature.org.au



Prostanthera densa

At a species conservation level, APS Sutherland members have successfully produced a second survey and report on *Prostanthera densa* (Villous Mint Bush) in the Royal National Park. We have now recorded and mapped 61 plants in the area. We have received some feedback from the NSW Environmental Trust that we are achieving the Save our Species project aims. This is encouraging. While completing the survey on a very warm day in April, Ralph Cartwright, John Arney and I also came across an impressive Eastern Brown Snake which made us wary. Our second report can be found at www.austplants.com. au/conservation9.html

New members July 2016

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 25 new members (21 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



Ngaire Bujayer Glenning Valley
Michael Clarke Macmasters Beach

Sylvia David Bundanoon
Louise Egerton Bundanoon
Shayne & Shauna Gillett Martinsville

Les Irwig Frenchs Forest

Bronwyn James Emu Plains
Sandra Kay Nords Wharf
Barbara & Brian Kerle Gladesville
Alan Lowing Thirlmere
Robyn Mamouney Marrickville
Mark McDonald Lawson

Chris & Tina Mills

Melanie Nolan

Andrew Pengelly

Orange

Central Tilba

North Rothbury

Megan Rose Balmain

Justin Rogers Baulkham Hills

Christian Sorensen Menai
John Tozer Goulburn
Lucy Turner Welby

Colleen Woods & Matthew Arnison Umina Beach

Vale

It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths of **Nathan Giles** of Macarthur Group and **Sally Muir** of Tamworth Group. The Board extends condolences to their families and friends.

SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS



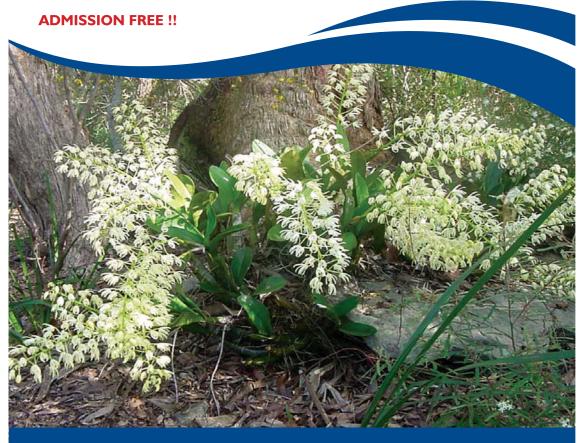
The NEW City of CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN

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 13 August - 27 November 2016 9:00am - 4:30pm.

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



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

Sydney Royal Easter Show Beauty is in the eye of an APS Judge

Clare Bell is a member of APS North Shore Group who has worked as a qualified horticulturalist in both wholesale and retail nurseries for the past 16 years. Her one acre 'Confetti Gardens' at Mt Colah NSW has opened for six years under the banner of the former Open Gardens Australia (NSW) and has raised valuable funds for designated charities. It features Australian native plant species integrated with ornamental trees, and shrubs which have been planted to attract both honey and native bees, birds and insects in a natural pesticide-free landscape.

It's 7 am on a cool April Easter Good Friday morning and we are walking past the Horse Pavilion with the horses blowing steam and their riders well rugged up doing their exercises. We hurry towards the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show Flower and Garden Pavilion for the briefing at 7.45 am before the judging commences, knowing a welcome cup of tea and a biscuit are available.

I am again privileged to be judging the Australian Native Plant exhibits on Good Friday and Easter Tuesday courtesy of the APS Committee nomination - Graeme Ingall and Roger Starling my Stewards.

Stewards and Judges are selected by the APS and this seems to be the case with other plant societies. Nominations are always welcome from our local APS groups and should be sent to the APS NSW Office early in the year. Two years working as an RAS Steward along with APS membership and some affiliation with the nursery industry are some of the criteria for the selection of judges, whose term is for two years only. Formal qualifications and floristry experience are seen as an asset but not an essential requirement for most applicants. The benefits of working at the RAS in both these capacities has opened my eyes to yet another area of horticulture.

The RAS judging criteria are very strict and guidelines are clearly set out in the entry applications. Every entry must comply with any restrictions on height and width, the number of flower stems, and even whether it includes seeds or flowers or a mix. We find it very hard to rule out non-compliant exhibits, especially when they may prove better than the competition, but we have cards to complete and notes to make in case of disputes and the long-standing honour of the RAS to preserve. Yes, we do use a tape measure!

In my opinion, the stewards have most of the work to do, ensuring all entries are submitted on time, the award sheets completed correctly

and any discrepancies noted as per the rules. They also have the pleasant duty of placing the winning cards and ribbons on the blocks after the judge has nodded wisely, looked puzzled and hopefully tried to select placements within the set guidelines but also chosen according to personal taste, based on quality, originality and artistic flair.

It has been a great honour to wear the red steward's badge and more recently the blue judge's badge especially when the judging is over and the cards and ribbons awarded, the photos are taken and we receive the feedback from the eager waiting participants from the Central Coast Menai and Sutherland Groups. My children and grandchildren joined me this year for an extra buzz.





Images from Roger Starling and Marie O'Connor

Over the last four years I have always been delighted and impressed by the striking examples of our native flora so brilliantly displayed with consistent quality to impress the passing parade of admirers that is so much a part of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The recently introduced plant identification cards have proven useful as an aid for the public.



It is thanks to a loyal band of exhibitors who dedicate so much of their personal time and effort to supply, deliver and remove exhibits in a timely manner plus maintaining the information stand over so many days. Hopefully their enthusiasm was rewarded!

With all the formalities completed, we join the RAS Flower and Garden officials for a wonderful lunch in the Members Dining Room which is not to be missed!

Future APS NSW event APS NSW 2016 Get-together Tamworth 19–21 August 2016

Tamworth APS are looking forward to hosting the event with a packed seminar program, dinner and a range of local activities to enjoy.

The President's annual dinner will be held on Friday evening. Six speakers to inform and engage at the Seminar on Saturday. This includes a Welcome to Country and talk about plants of significance to the Kamilaroi People by Aboriginal Elder, Leonard Waters. Martin O'Rourke will help you to understand why low rainfall is normal for Australia. Warren Sheather will outline the advantages of growing plants close together using a wide range of species – even three plants in the one hole! Anthony and Annabelle O'Halloran of Bilby Blooms left Canberra to start a Wildflower Farm, now after 16 years what have they learnt? Phil Spark will discuss the management issues relating to TSR's: often the last refuge for native plants and ecological communities under threat. John Hosking is a local plant guru in Tamworth and curates the Herbarium in Tamworth for the NSW DPI. John will speak about plants with horticultural potential that are native around Tamworth, many of which are not yet widely cultivated, including boronias, brachyscomes, cassinias, dianellas, goodenias, hoveas and many others.

That's just the talks, in addition visit the Native Agroforestry Trial, have afternoon tea in an award-winning native garden, enjoy breakfast with the birds and view the nearby Rare and Threatened Species Garden. Also on the program - Carr's Park Garden will be open and there is an opportunity to visit Peel Wetlands. You get the picture - there's more than you can possibly do justice to!

The cost of attending the Saturday seminar is \$30 which includes morning tea and lunch. To register for the Get-Together, complete the registration form on page 21 of the April issue of *Native Plants for New South Wales*, or contact Lee Esdaile at pjltesdaile@gmail.com. But be quick. Please complete and return the registration form by no later than Friday August 5.

Following the Get-together Anthony and Annabelle O'Halloran of Bilby Blooms will host a 3 day tag-along tour of the Pilliga Forest. This is probably your best opportunity to see its varied plant communities - the Broom Plain, Tall Ironbark Forest, Sand Heath - and a diversity of early spring flowering. Cost is \$30. Bookings: bilbyblooms@bigpond.com

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

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: Roy Menzies **☎** (02) 6337 7388

Email: rjmenzies@activ8.net.au

Email: l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Meetings: Monthly outings to various locations.

Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour

President: Alison Moore \$\mathbb{\textit{20}} 0439 597 118 Email: anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au Secretary: Robert Watt \$\mathbb{\textit{20}} (02) 6655 0043

PO Box 241 Bellingen NSW 2454 Email: rob8milehill@yahoo.com.au

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 (20) 4930 1458 Secretary: Kevin Mantle (20) 4937 3200 1505 George Booth Dr, Buchanan NSW 2323

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 20414 333 475

Email: kath@malleedesign.com.au

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 28

Australian Plants Society NSW A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Membership application and renewal form

Please select your application type.	
New member. I wish to apply for membership of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd and agree to the Memorandum and Articles of Association at www.austplants.com.au	
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	
	$\overline{}$
Email	
Phone ()	
District Group (if relevant)	
2. Select your membership type	
12 months membership. Rates at 1 January 2015. GST inclusiv Joint membership applies to two people at the same address. Each	
receives a membership card. A concession is available to Senior	
people on a limited fixed income and full-time students.	
Individual - Concession \$45	;
Joint \$61 Joint – Concession \$53	;
Overseas A\$60	
Ontional donation to APS NSW \$	

3. Select your payment method Cheque or money order payable to Australian Plants Society NSW MasterCard Card number _ _ / _ _ Expiry date 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

4. Return your form by post or email

Australian Plants Society NSW Membership Officer PO Box 3066 BOWENFELS NSW 2790

advise of your deposit.

Membership inquiries

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer merleaps@bigpond.com

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



Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd ACN 002 680 408 www.austplants.com.au

01/16

District Group directory continued

Macarthur

President: Robin Davies Secretary: Rod Bray

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

Newcastle

excluding January).

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:

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: vacant

Email:

Secretary: Sue Bowen \$\infty\$ 0478 957 951

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 (22) 4443 4004 Secretary: Gwen Smith (02) 4443 3497

PO Box 140, Sanctuary Point NSW 2540

Email: rapidpulse@bigpond.com

Meetings: Pavilion Committee Room, Nowra Showground at the end of Junction St. 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.30 pm.

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 2 0408 447 678
Email: yaraan@southernphone.com.au
Secretary: Michele Pymble 2 (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: Kristine Gow (02) 4861 1913 Email : krislloyd2@bigpond.com Secretary: Kay Fintan (02) 4861 2594 Email : kaynbrian@bigpond.com

2 Sir Donald Bradman Drive Bowral 2576

Meetings: CWA Room, next to Council building in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale at 2 pm on the first Thursday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug and Nov.

Southern Tablelands

President: Tim Hayes 237

Email: knockaroura@skymesh.com

Secretary: Bob Galland 248 154

PO Box 1046 Goulburn NSW 2580 Email: rcgalland1@bigpond.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 2 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.

New e-resources

I have recently become aware of two new electronic resources that may be of interest to members. They are designed to be loaded onto a smart phone or small tablet for use in the field and they are both free.

Plants and Fungi of South Western New South Wales

This app is an interactive key for identification of plants and fungi. It is designed for anyone who has an interest in finding out about the plants and fungi of south western New South Wales and the surrounding areas. It includes about 1100 Fact Sheets, accompanied by over 3000 images. The key uses a limited number of easily seen characters using a minimum of technical terms to help with identification of plants.

Even if you are not interested in using the characters in the key to identify a plant, the Fact Sheets, which can be seen by swiping to the right from the Key page, have many attractive images. Most of the plants and fungi in Kinchega National Park, eastern South Australia, and north western Victoria are included.

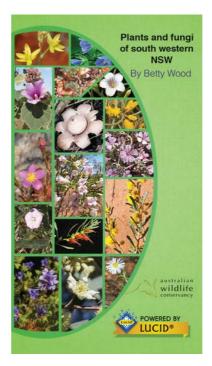
This link to the announcement about the app makes it easy to download from either the Apple or the Android platform. www.lucidcentral.org/mail/2016/April/index.html#mobile_apps

Fungi in Australia

This is an e-book produced by the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. It can be loaded to a small tablet or Android phone. It consist of nine parts and is intended to assist in the identification of some of the fungi that may be encountered in our native forests. It contains 307 species and over 1500 images of fungi and references for further study.

This is the first edition and it is the intention to keep adding to the species list as more identifications become available.

It can be freely downloaded, but the Field Naturalists Club requests that you consider making a \$10 donation if you find it interesting or useful. The download is at www.fncv.org.au/fungi-in-australia/



President's Report

John Aitken, President APS NSW

Annual General Meeting

Thank you for your confidence in re-electing me as President at the recent AGM. I very excited about

the future of APS NSW and believe that we can all reinvigorate the Society now that we have the beginnings of a strategic plan and make it more attractive to a wider audience of people.

Following the AGM, the Board now consists of:

1. Elected members:

John Aitken President

Alix Goodwin

Harry Loots

Merle Thompson

John Andrews

Roger Starling

Vice President & delegate for Blue Mountains Group

Treasurer & delegate for Northern Beaches Group

Membership Officer & delegate for Central West Group

Property Officer & delegate for North Shore Group

2. Non-elected members:

Heather Miles Secretary & delegate for the Hunter Valley Group

Mary Hedges Delegate for the Menai Group

Tony Maxwell Delegate for Parramatta-Hills Group

Two former Board members, Graeme Ingall and Richard Street did not seek re-election. I would like to thank them for their commitment to APS NSW and their contributions to the Board during the past year. A special thanks to Graeme who has been a member of the Board for many years, having served as President, Vice President and Secretary on a number of occasions. We all owe Graeme a great deal of gratitude for his enthusiasm and commitment he has been a tireless worker for the Society and has been responsible for reorganising and streamlining many of the Society's administrative and functional activities.

May gathering

A special thanks to the Sutherland Group for hosting the AGM and recent gathering, which was held on 21 May at The Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre, Sutherland. Sixty-five members attended, which once again reinforced the popularity of these meetings. The success of these gatherings is largely due to the warm and friendly welcome of the host groups, which is one of the strengths of our Society. The

gatherings provide an opportunity not only to hear great speakers talk on a wide range of topics and buy a range of plants from suppliers, but also to catch up with friends over a welcoming cup of tea and an inviting selection of food.

Strategic Planning Workshop

On behalf of APS NSW, I wish to thank the 30 keen and enthusiastic participants who gave up their valuable time to attend the recent APS NSW Strategic Planning Workshop, which was held at the Mantra, Parramatta on 28 and 29 May. The workshop was attended by members of the Board and representatives from 15 District Groups, many of whom travelled large distances to join us, especially those from Coffs Harbour, Tamworth and Central West. It was also a great privilege to welcome two members of APS Victoria and ACT who joined us as observers. Both Richard and Alison made valuable and insightful comments and readily exchanged views about the challenges facing their Societies. Those attending the workshop discussed and worked together on a number of issues in a friendly and collaborative way, which resulted in a number of achievable outcomes for the Society. The workshop also gave the representatives of the 15 groups an opportunity to understand the function of the APS NSW Board and to meet and socialise with each other. In addition, the workshop strengthened the hands of friendship and understanding between different Groups, with the Board of APS NSW and with the two representative States. The strategic plan will be developed over the next few months based on the discussions held at the workshop and members will be kept informed of progress.

A special thanks to Greg Smith, from Professional Partners, who facilitated the two day workshop, and to Alix Goodwin and Heather Miles for the highly professional way in which they organised the weekend and ensured its successful outcomes.

Annual Get-together in Tamworth

I would like to encourage you to attend the annual get-together on August 19 - 22, which is being hosted by the Tamworth Group. The Group has organized a wonderful weekend of activities, followed by a three day tag-along tour of the Pilliga and surrounding areas. This weekend should prove to be another successful gathering. You can view the program in the April issue of *Native Plants for NSW* and on the APS NSW website.

I look forward to catching up with many of you in August.

Capertee's annual tree planting still going strong Regent Honeyeater Conservation

Johnathan Lygdas, Student, Haberfield Public School

The Capertee Valley (in the western Blue Mountains, north of Lithgow) is the primary breeding location in NSW for the Regent Honeyeater, Anothochaera phyrgia. While it was only in 2010 that it was listed in NSW as critically endangered, the Capertee Valley Regent Honeyeater Recovery Group, comprising committed landholders and birders, has been working since 1993 to restore the Regent Honeyeaters' disappearing woodland habitat in the valley. Favoured species of this magnificent bird include Mugga Ironbark, White Box, Yellow Box, Spotted Gum, Swamp Mahogany, River Sheoak and Box and Needle-leaf Mistletoe. The Capertee Valley is the place you are most likely to sight a Regent Honeyeater in the wild.

Longstanding APS NSW member Dick Turner has been a member of the Recovery Group since its inception and is responsible for site selection and preparation. APS NSW member, Dominic Della Libera propagates the seedlings for planting in his nursery in Capertee Valley. Other APS members, no doubt too many to name, have also participated as volunteer tree planters over the program's 22 years.

A group of Haberfield Public School students with a keen interest in Australia's native flora and fauna participated in the most recent tree planting on 30 April 2016. The following article was written by nine year-old, Johnathan Lygdas and includes excerpts from his interview with Dick Turner.



Families could access the planting site by 4WD or the 8WD known as ARGO.





(L) Planting in the rain surrounded by Cobbler's Pegs was a difficult task for the 130 volunteers. (R) A young volunteer planting trees

Heavy cloud coverage, intermittent rain and spiders popping out of every second hole didn't dampen the spirits of volunteers as they planted thousands of trees and shrubs during the annual tree planting event in the Capertee Valley.

With rain dripping down the car windows, 130 volunteers converged on the 'Junjira' property in Glen Alice, with one goal in mind - to plant thousands of native saplings and shrubs all in the name of Regent Honeyeater conservation.

Weather wasn't the only unexpected challenge on the day. Entry to the planting site was a steep slope of deep sand, limiting car access to only those with 4 wheel drive (4WDs). Luckily, help was available with volunteers offered a ride in an 8 wheel drive (8WD). For the eight student volunteers and their families from Haberfield, this was music to their ears.

On the quick drive up, the families were told many Cobbler's Pegs had popped up recently in the fields and, sure enough, as the volunteers reached the crest of the steep hill, the field was full of them.

Most of the volunteers arrived early in the morning ready for a hard, yet rewarding day's work. Joining the students and parents from Haberfield Public School were volunteers from the Shah Satnam Ji Green 'S' Welfare Force Wing of Dera Sacha Sauda, members from BirdLife Australia and the Land Rover Owners Club (LROC) as well as teenagers from Taronga Zoo's 'Youth at the Zoo' program.

Prior to commencing planting, Committee Member, Jenny Schabel showed the volunteers the correct technique to ensure the best success rate possible for the newly planted saplings. With new knowledge, the students and other volunteers grabbed their shovels and mattocks and set to work.





(L) The tree guards are designed to make sure that kangaroos and rabbits don't eat the newly planted trees. (R) Some of the Haberfield school volunteers

Although the 3.2 ha site looked daunting with their patches of clay and thousands of Cobbler's Pegs, the volunteers were in luck as they only had 1,845 trees to plant, much less than the 3,000 planted on previous occasions.

'We have 3.2 ha and I calculate (at) 5 m by 5 m (tree spacing) is 400 trees per hectare. I like to sneak in a few more. I like to plant 500 trees per hectare,' Forester Dick Turner said.

Moreover, the terrain wasn't very steep and the loam soil made it easy to work with although rocks occasionally blocked the ripped lines.

During a break the Haberfield students took the opportunity to learn from forester, Dick Turner, and National Regent Honeyeater Recovery Coordinator for BirdLife Australia, Dean Ingwersen, about the importance and logistics of organising such an impressive event.

The first thing the students discovered was that getting this annual event up and running takes a lot of work from many different people.

'It takes lots and lots of people power to put those trees in the ground,' said Dean Ingwersen.

A month prior to the event, a tractor ploughs the site, creating the planting lines. Dick Turner, the project organiser, carefully selects the trees which includes Yellow Box, White Box and Eucalyptus.

'The Mugga Ironbark has very valuable nectar that's appreciated by a lot of birds and mammals,' said Dick Turner when asked how he selects the trees to plant.

The species selected have been specially chosen because their flowers produce large amounts of pollen, providing quality food and shelter to the Regent Honeyeaters.

However, in order for the tree planting to be a success, large quantities of saplings need to be cultivated and this is the job of local nurseries.



Students from Haberfield Public School learnt first-hand about tree planting from forester, Dick Turner.

'We collect seeds in the valley. They're raised in a nursery in the valley and planted back in the valley and that's called provenance planting,' Dick Turner said.

This event is now in its 22nd year and it's already proving its worth.

'In 2008 we did a bird survey. On 28 of those properties we saw 83 species of birds. Nine were scheduled (either endangered or vulnerable species). In 2013/14, five to six years later, on 28 properties, we saw 90 species. Of these nine were scheduled and one of those nine was the Regent Honeyeater,' Dick Turner said.

The Regent Honeyeater is critically endangered with only around 500 left in the wild and the Capertee Valley has proven to be one of their favourite woodland habitats. This is why the annual plantings are crucial to the long term survival of the Australian Woodland ecosystem.

The next planting will be held from the 19 to 21 August, 2016. If you would like to be involved please contact Wendy Fox at the Sydney office of BirdLife Australia on 02 9647 1033. Alternatively you could email: southernnsw@birdlife.org.au.



Results of the volunteer efforts planting native trees for Regent Honeyeater habitat.

Seed Bank 2016 Annual List

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 2016 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.html

There is a limit of six seed packets per request. Inquiries can be made to John at johnannette@dodo.com.au or on (02) 4353 9390. Please enclose a stamped (\$2.00) 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: nil

Deletions: Libertia paniculata and Senna sturtii



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.

Extract from APS NSW Annual Report APS NSW finances 2015

The APS NSW Annual Report for 2015, available on our website at www.austplants.com.au, reports on our activities for 2015 and includes our financial statements. To save postage, the Annual Report is no longer mailed out to every member which means key details about our financial performance are not widely known. Key elements from the 18 pages of the full financial statements are summarised below.

The financial performance of APS NSW has three components: the APS NSW office, District Groups and the Bequest Fund.

APS NSW office

In 2015, the APS NSW office had income of \$68,774 and expenditure of \$85,452, giving a loss of \$16,678. The three main sources of income were membership fees (58%), sales of *Australian Plants* to people outside NSW (26%) and interest on our savings (11%). Major items of expenditure included printing and posting *Native Plants for NSW* and *Australian Plants* to NSW members and non-NSW subscribers (47%), renting the office (14%), paying our part-time staff (17%) and insurance (3%).

District Groups

In 2015, the District Groups combined had income of \$145,642 and expenditure of \$135,728, giving a net profit of \$9,913. Selling plants was the largest source of income in total (65%) and buying plants (96%) was the largest item of expenditure. However, given the different sizes of District Groups and their activities, there was great variation between groups. In 2015, four District Groups made a profit of over \$1,000 each, eleven District Groups made a profit of less than \$1,000 and six District Groups made a loss.

Bequest Fund

The Bequest Fund was established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Napier Thomson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden. At the beginning of 2015, the Fund had \$563,127. It earned interest of \$15,063 in 2015. After donations were given study groups and paid meeting costs, displays and promotions there was a net profit of \$12,537. A proportion of the interest each year is added to the capital and the remaining interest is available for grants and donations. Donations have not been made every year. Declining interest rates have reduced the income of the Bequest Fund in recent years.

Summary

The profit made by the District Groups and the Bequest Fund has offset the loss made by the office, so APS NSW made a profit of \$5,783 in 2015.

APS NSW profit and loss summary

Area	Profit	Loss
State Office		\$16,678
District Groups	\$9,813	
Bequest Fund	\$12,537	
Net operating loss	\$5,783	

Our total assets at the end of 2015 were \$1.135 million, compared to \$1.129 million in 2014. This sounds impressive, and there are always year-to-year variations, however, there is concern about our financial position. Over half the APS NSW assets are in the Bequest Fund, which has conditions on its use. Expenditure is \$16,678 greater than income for the office. This is not sustainable in the long term. Even if all the annual income from interest from the Bequest Fund is allocated to the office, the office would still have made a loss in 2015. The Board is aware of the need to both reduce costs and increase income to improve the sustainability of APS NSW.

Three pages from the financial statements are shown on the next pages but members are encouraged to become familiar with the financial statements. For a copy of the Annual Report for 2015, please check the website www.austplants.com.au (login as a member) or email the office at office@austplants.com.au

Thanks to our Financial Officer Sharlene Cormack and our accounts reviewer Furzer Crestani for their work.

A great gift idea – Australian Plants by online subscription

As a member of APS NSW, you receive *Australian Plants* four times a year as part of your membership. Now you can buy an Australian Plants subscription as a gift for family or friends who are interested in Australian flora so they too can enjoy the high quality articles and photographs.

Subscribe or buy a gift subscription online at www.austplants.com. au. It's easy.

Subscriptions within Australia are \$25 or for overseas \$40 (plus \$2 payment fee)

Additional Financial Information

Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 31 December 2015

\$ \$			
	2015	2014	
1. STATE OFFICE	2013	2014	
INCOME	00.550	40.470	
Memberships	39,556	40,172	
Subscriptions to Australian Plants	8,337	8,261	
Sale of Australian Plants to States	9,594	10,074	
	57,486	58,506	
Other Dales Items	3,701	4,011	
Interest received	7,587	8,529	
Total Income	68,774	71,047	
EXPENDITURE			
Members Journals			
Printing & editing - Native Plants for NSW	11,515	8,297	
Printing & editing - Australian Plants	15,999	13,316	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,	,	
Editorial, insertion & dispatch	4,127	2,161	
Bulk Posting	8,751	7,999	
Cost of other items sold	2,512	394	
Total Journals	42,904	31,773	
General Administration			
	2.055	0.500	
Accounting & audit fees	2,055	8,500	
Business Registration costs	79	0	
ANPSA Levy	1,672	1,487	
Bank fees	812	1,093	
Conservation Committee	154	0	
Depreciation	746	758	
Doubtful Debts Provision	0	0	
District Group Gatherings	277	0	
Hire of halls & exhibitions	27	1,380	
Insurance	2,863	5,934	
Internet costs	1,276	1,370	
Legal Expenses	0	0	
Meeting costs	556	355	
Office expenses	1,038	685	
Office rent & outgoings	12,146	11,761	
Office supplies	1,644	3,320	
Postage	842	1,133	
Salaries & superannuation	14,270	15,947	
Study Group & other donations	0	590	
Subscriptions	626	210	
Sundry costs	218	3,603	
Telephone	1,248	1,023	
Traveling expenses	0	0	
Total General Administration	42,548	59,544	
Total Expenses	85,452	91,317	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(16,678)	(20,270)	

Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 31 December 2015

For the year ended 31 De	ecember 2015	•
	\$	\$
a DISTRICT ORGUPS	2015	2014
2. DISTRICT GROUPS		
INCOME		0.4.505
Memberships	26,808	24,565
Less Membership transfers to Region	(19,733)	(20,364)
Sales of plants	93,957	90,898
Sales of other goods	4,818	1,913
Raffles	8,864	7,484
Sundry income	25,411	18,264
Interest received	5,516	4,363
Total Income	145,642	127,124
EXPENDITURE		
Cost of Sales		
Cost of plants	57,887	56,116
Cost of other goods	16,075	11,489
Raffle prizes	1,225	2,151
Total Cost of Sales	75,186	69,756
A dualinintuntion		
Administration Administration costs	12.062	7,071
	12,063	•
Meeting costs Bank fees	7,051 43	7,345 84
Sundry expenses & Depreciation / asset write off	41,386	34,490
Total Administration	60,542	48,991
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	9,913	8,377
3. AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BEQUEST		5,5.1
Established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Nathernson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden INCOME	pier	
Donations Received	0	0
Interest received	15,063	18,629
EXPENDITURE	·	•
Displays & Promotions	1,002	0
Bank Fees	64	77
Advertising & Sponsorship	199	0
Meeting Costs	660	1,386
Study Group Donations	400	350
Donations & Subscriptions	200	11,225
Total Expenses	2,525	13,038
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	12,537	5,591

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 31 December 2015

	\$	\$	
	2015	2014	
State Office	(16,678)	(20,270)	
District Groups	9,913	8,377	
Australian Plants Society Bequest Fund	12,537	5,591	
Grevillea Book Project NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) FOR THE	10		
YEAR	(5,783)	(6,302)	

Retained Earnings For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Þ	Þ
	2015	2014
STATE OFFICE		
Balance at 1 January	263,144	283,414
Grevillea book Project	10	0
Net Total Surplus/(Deficiency) for the year	(16,678)	(20,270)
Balance at 31 December	246,476	263,144
DISTRICT GROUPS		
Balance at 1 January	303,290	294,913
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0
Net Total Surplus/ (Deficiency) for the year	9,913	8,377
Balance at 31 December	313,203	303,290
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BEQUES Established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Michael Bowden		lelvaine and
Balance at 1 January	563,127	557,536
Net Total Surplus/ (Deficiency) for the year	12,537	5,591
Transfer	0	0
Balance at 31 December	575,664	563,127
RETAINED EARNINGS	1,135,344	1,129,561
	,,-	, -,

Plant profile Grevillea scortechinii

Warren Sheather is well-known to many APS members. He is a member of the Armidale Group and he writes an occasional column about plants of the New England region. His website www.yallaroo.com.au contains a wealth of information about Australian plants.

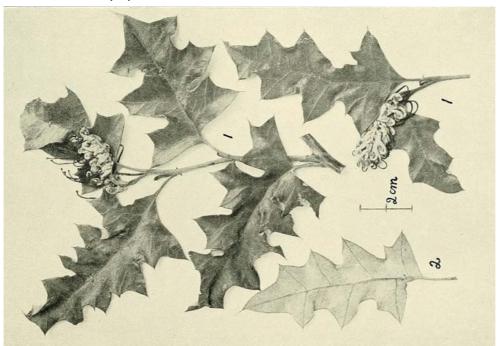


Grevillea scortechinii is usually a groundcover but this depends on where the species is growing. Plants will often use nearby shrubs for support and clamber into them, with stems many metres long, which is an unusual feature in ground covering grevilleas. The toothbrush-shaped flowers are eye-catching with their long pistils and unusual colourings of black or dark maroon. They are seen in spring and summer. This species propagates readily from cuttings.

Grevillea scortechinii has two subspecies: G. scortechinii subsp. scortechinii, known as the Black Grevillea, which is found around Stanthorpe in southern Queensland, while G. scortechinii subsp. sarmentosa, known as the Backwater Grevillea, occurs on the Northern Tablelands of NSW in the area of Backwater near Guyra. The Queensland subspecies has leaves that are papery and simply divided. The NSW subspecies has leaves that are leathery and more deeply divided, crowned with sharp points.

The species name comes from Rev B. Scortechini (1845-1886), a Catholic priest who worked in the Stanthorpe area. He was an ardent botanist who collected specimens wherever he worked and is one of many clerics of various denominations who added to our knowledge of the Australian flora. In 1883 the Linnaean Society of NSW published his paper *Contributions to the Flora of Queensland* in which he described plants observed near Stanthorpe, southern Queensland, including a description of *Grevillea ilicifolia* var *scortechinii*, the precursor of *G. scortechinii* subsp. *scortechinii*.

The NSW subspecies was described by W. F. Blakely and Rev E. N. McKie (another cleric) in their paper *Additions to the Flora of New England NSW* in the 1930 volume of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of NSW. They described *Grevillea sarmentosa* which eventually became *G. scortechinii* subsp. *sarmentosa*. The image below was included in the paper.



The NSW subspecies is considered a threatened taxa. Its ROTAP (Rare and Threatened Australian Plants) classification indicates a vulnerable plant with a restricted distribution, but protected in a reserve, (in this case Warra National Park near Glen Innes).

G. scortechinii subsp. *sarmentosa* is a vigorous plant that will cover a large area. The subspecies name means producing long runners, an appropriate name. In cultivation, with judicious pruning, it will form a dense ground cover. The flowers are an attractive and unusual feature.

Study Group notes

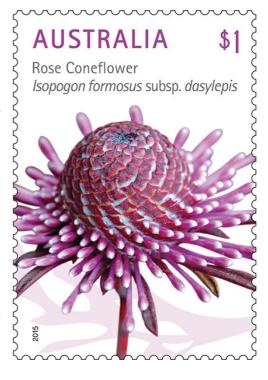
Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

The main flowering season for *Acacia* is underway. Celebrate Wattle Day on 1 September to help remind us all to care for our country, Australia.

Isopogon and Petrophile Study Group (Mar. 2016, No. 18)

Early this year Australia Post released its Wildflowers stamp issue which features four native plants from the south-west of WA. One of the \$1 stamps depicts the Rose Coneflower, Isopogon formosus subsp. dasylepis.

Members report that Isopogon and Petrophile species propagate readily from cuttings, but that particular care is required to cultivate the rooted cutting into a vigorous plant. Most WA Isopogon species do not grow well in NSW, so Study Group Leader Phil Trickett provides photographs and step-by-step details of a 'fast' grafting technique, which is known as a 'cutting graft'. Choose a local *Isopogon* as rootstock and it should be more tolerant of local soil and weather conditions. The Study Group aims to identify which Isopogon and Petrophile species perform well as rootstock material and to determine their long-term compatibility with the various target species grafted onto them.



Correa Study Group (Mar. 2016, No. 53r)

The Live Correa Collection is maintained by the Study Group Leaders. Bob and Dot O'Neill, in Narre Warren South in outer Melbourne. It focuses on species and wild-growing hybrids from Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. It can be a struggle to keep such a large collection of plants alive over summer.



Correa pulchella at Whalers Way on Eyre Peninsula SA. (Photo: Barb and David Pye)

Former Study Group Leader Maria Hitchcock continues her enthusiasm for *Correa* species and their cultivars. The images and descriptions of several recently marketed varieties should stir your interest in these compact and colourful shrubs.

Acacia Study Group (Mar. 2016, No. 132)

Members' reports of successful germination tricks suggest that no one process is guaranteed to improve the germination rate for every *Acacia* species. Scarification and soaking in near-boiling water are the two most common approaches.

An Australian Flora Foundation funded project to propagate the rare western Queensland species, *Acacia wardellii*, obtained faster germination from stored seed compared with fresh seed and had a tenfold better percentage of germination with the stored seed. This 60% success rate was again improved to above 90% by sowing the seeds in small groups rather than individually.

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Acacia gordonii at Maroota in outer north-west Sydney (Wendy Grimm)

To improve the success of *Acacia* seedlings, an ACT propagator suggests introducing the normal soil organisms by 'adding to a potting mix a small amount of soil freshly collected from a natural site for the species'.

Garden Design Study Group (May 2016, No. 94)

The Study Group is proposing a bold new plan to create a formal garden of native plants at the National Arboretum Canberra. We hope that this exciting venture goes ahead.

Newsletter editor Ros Walcott revealed her passion for growing banksias sourced from all over Australia. Those that are not compatible with the conditions in the Walcott's garden in Canberra will often thrive in pots. This allows a little extra care during the extremes of Canberra's summers and winters.

Shirley Daniels from Canberra listed many of the incentives that drive native plant enthusiasts to design a garden. That the accommodation requirements of a Marbled Gecko would end up as the ultimate design guide was an unexpected twist to her report.



Inflorescence of Banksia menziesii dwarf form. (Ben Walcott)

In our cities large yards are rapidly being exchanged for more communal styles of living. The gardens and bushland surrounding the townhouses of Wybalena Grove in the Canberra suburb of Cook demonstrate that a reduction in individual block size can be achieved without the loss of a peaceful environment full of native plants.

Cover image

This photo was taken by Ralph Cartwright, a member of Sutherland APS Group. It shows plantings and a portion of the new accessible paths in Joseph Banks Native Garden. APS Sutherland Group has had a long association with the garden, providing plants, interpretive signs and plant labels. The group has monthly work days to plant and maintain some of the garden beds. They also lead guided walks for the community in conjunction with activities at the reserve, including before the May gathering and APS NSW AGM.

Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

Acacia (\$10/\$20/\$7) Leader: Bill Aitchison 13 Conos Court Donvale, VIC 3111 (03) 9872 3583

Email: acaciastudygroup@gmail.com

Australian Food Plants (free)

Leader: Sheryl Backhouse 201 Old Mt Samson Rd Mt Samson QLD 4520 ☎ (07) 3289 4198

Email: sheryl.backhouse@bigpond.com

Australian Plants as Bonsai

(\$14/\$20/\$14)

Leader: Roger Hnatiuk

PO Box 450, Jamison Post Office

Macquarie ACT 2614 **☎** (02) 6251 2228

Email: rjhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

Banksia (\$10/\$20/\$7) Leader: Kevin Collins Mt Barker WA 6324

1 (08) 9851 1770 **1 2** (08) 9851 1770 **1 3** (08) 9851 1770

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Boronia & Allied Genera (\$10 email)

Leader: Doug Coates 305/87 Yarranabbe Rd Darling Point NSW 2027 ☎ (02) 9363 0619

Email: doug.coates@bigpond.com

Brachychiton and Allied Genera

(\$5/\$10)

Leader: Kerry Rathie

6 Bright St

Toowoomba South QLD 4350

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Email: krathie6@bigpond.com

Correa (\$10/-/\$6)

Leaders: Dot and Bob O'Neill

7 Hillsmeade Drive

Narre Warren South VIC 3805

2 0425 887 068

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Admin & Editor: Russell Dahms

13 Everest Ave Athelstone SA 5076 ☎ (03) 8336 5275

Email: correastudygroup@gmail.com

Dryandra (\$10/\$12/\$5)

Leader: Margaret Pieroni 22 Ravenhill Heights Denmark WA 6333

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Eremophila (\$5)

Leader: Lyndal Thorburn 3 Considine Close Greenleigh NSW 2620 (02) 6297 2437

Email: Ithorburn@viria.com.au

Eucalyptus (\$10/\$20/\$5)

Leader: Warwick Varley

PO Box 456, Wollongong NSW 2520

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Email: tallowwood@hotmail.com

Admin: Steve Harries

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Fern (\$5)

Leader: Peter Bostock 54/260 Cliveden Avenue Corinda QLD 4075

2 0421 113 955

Email: pbostock@ozemail.com.au

Treasurer: Dan Johnston

9 Ryhope Street Buderim QLD 4556

Email: dan.b.johnston@bigpond.com

Garden Design (\$15/\$20/\$6)

Leader: Ben Walcott 10 Wickham Cres Red Hill ACT 2603 **(**02) 6161 2742

Email: bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

Grevillea (\$10/\$10/\$5)

Leader: Peter Olde 140 Russell Lane Oakdale NSW 2570 **(02)** 4659 6598

Email: peter.olde@exemail.com.au

Treasurer: Christine Guthrie

32 Blanche Street Oatley NSW 2223

Email: bruce.moffatt@tpg.com.au

(02) 9579 4093

Hakea (\$10)

Leader: Paul Kennedy 210 Aireys Street Elliminyt VIC 3250 **(03)** 5231 5569

Email: hakeaholic@gmail.com

Isopogon & Petrophile (free)

email only group

Joint Leaders: Phil Trickett and

Catriona Bate PO Box 291 Ulladulla NSW 2539.

2 0409 789 567

Email: catrionaandphil@gmail.com

Rainforest

Leader: Kris Kupsch 28 Plumtree Pocket

Upper Burringbar NSW 2483

(02) 6677 1466

Email: info@plumtreepocket.com.au

Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

Leader: Barbara Henderson 36 Railway Terrace Moore QLD 4306

1 (07) 5424 7073

Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

Leader: Maria Hitchcock 16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale NSW 2350

(02) 6775 1139, 0421 961 007 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 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 Veno St, Heathcote 2233 www.sydneywildflowernursery. 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

Blue Mountains

10% discount

Glenbrook Native Plant
Reserve Nursery
Great Western Highway,
Glenbrook 2773
 (02) 4739 8597
 Sat, Sun, Wed. 12 noon–4pm.

 discount
 to members,
 for roster participants.

Central Coast

The Wildflower Place
 453 The Entrance Rd,
 Erina Heights 2260
 (02) 4365 5510
 discount

Central West

 Wombat Gully Native Nursery
 1729 Coxs Creek Rd, Rylstone
 6379 6202
 10% discount

Hunter Valley

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

PresidentJohn AitkenVice PresidentAlix GoodwinHonorary SecretaryHeather MilesTreasurerHarry LootsMembership OfficerMerle Thompson

Company Co-ordinator vacant

Editors Australian Plants John Aitken and Merle Thompson

Editor Native Plants for NSW David Crawford

Publicity Officer vacant

Program Officer John Andrews

Exhibition Officer vacant

Property OfficerRoger StarlingConservation OfficerDan ClarkeStudy Group Liaison OfficerWendy GrimmSeed bank curatorJohn Randall

Website managers Mark Abell and James Ward

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John Aitken, John Andrews, Alix Goodwin, Mary Hedges, Harry Loots, Tony Maxwell, Heather Miles, Roger Starling, and Merle Thompson.

APS NSW Representatives to external bodies

ANPSA Council John Aitken
Australian Cultivar Registration Authority
Australian Flora Foundation Ross Smyth-Kirk

Burrendong Arboretum Lyn Burgett – I.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au

Native Flower Growers and PromotersJonathan SteedsNature Conservation CouncilMargery Street

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