

Native Plants for New South Wales



\$5.⁰⁰

Journal of the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd Vol 51 No 4 October 2016



Native Plants for NSW

Published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd ACN 002 680 408

Editor: David Crawford

Proof Reading: Rhonda Daniels
Jan Douglas

Layout: Lachlan McLaine

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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Deadline for the January 2017 issue is 1 December 2016.

Deadline for the April 2017 issue is 1 March 2017.

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Number of Copies: 1400

Printed: Elect Printing, Fyshwick ACT.

Print Post Approved: 100000848

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ISSN 1323 – 7314

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Front cover: *Phebalium squamulosum* subsp. *gracile* taken on the tag-along tour of the Pilliga.

Back cover photo: *Hovea apiculata*.

Photos: Harry Loots

See page 43 for more information.

Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*

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Each month I receive newsletters from local groups that are busy growing, propagating and learning about our flora. Their activities are many and varied, but most groups are concerned about habitat and species loss, both locally and at a broader scale. They seek solutions they can participate in, but also they look to our leaders and governments for considered and balanced outcomes – at present rather forlornly. At a state level, APS NSW is aiming to be more active in conservation of our flora. The formation of the conservation committee is a positive move in that direction (p 34). The workload needs to be shared, and committed and capable people coming forward to give their time and energy to this endeavour is a good sign for our future. We are a volunteer organisation and only through such commitment can we continue to succeed.

The recent Annual Get-together in Tamworth has provided the bulk of the articles for this issue and I thank all contributors – without you there is no journal. Alix Goodwin has provided her ‘reflections’ on the event (p 10). This is complemented by brief articles on individual talks and activities: shelter belt planting by Warren Sheather (p 20), bird watching by Wendy Grimm (p 36), tag-along tour by Harry Loots (p 37) and box gum woodlands by Lyn Burgett (p 22). The cover images are from the tag-along tour and more photos from the get-together are on page 38.

The next quarterly gathering is on 19 November and is being hosted by Macarthur group in south-west Sydney (p 8). It features two fabulous native gardens that will be open for inspection and a talk from Ben Walcott, leader of the ANPSA Garden Design Study Group.

Plants also feature in this issue, with John Knight returning to focus on *Calytrix tetragona* (p 16) and Jennifer Liney profiling three grey wattles from the south coast of NSW (p 4).

The strategic planning process that APS NSW has been undertaking is nearing completion (p 40). The plan is to be formally presented to members at the November gathering.

Finally we remember Bill Hardin, a Life Member of APS NSW and a former Conservation Award winner (p 32). Appropriately, applications for Life Membership and the Conservation Award are called for again in this issue (p 29).

More Amazing Greys

Jennifer Liney, APS South Coast Group

I read with interest the 'Amazing Greys' article in the July issue of *Native Plants for New South Wales*. I, too, have a fondness for grey plants, both in their natural place and in the garden.

On the south coast and southern tablelands of NSW where I live, there are three beautiful grey wattle species that demand attention.

Acacia binervia is a very large shrub, or even a spreading small tree, that occurs north from Victoria, extending into the Upper Hunter Valley. It grows in forests and woodlands on sandy or gravelly soils. The phyllodes are grey, or sometimes grey-green, with the grey colour provided by silver appressed hairs. The golden flowers are tightly packed into spikes 2-3 cm long, in pairs (or threes), in the phyllode axils. In a largish garden it would make a statement in a dry, well drained corner. Even though it also grows on the tablelands, the common name, Coast Myall, was given because the first plants collected in 1798 were from the coast of New Holland. It was first named *Mimosa binervia*. So it has been known for quite a long time.



(L) *Acacia binervia*: phyllodes and buds. (R) *Acacia binervia*: tree (J Liney)

The second grey wattle species is *Acacia covenyi*, which also has grey phyllodes, but these are grey because of a glaucous bloom. It has a very limited distribution, as it is confined to the limestone ridges of the southern tablelands west of the town of Moruya. Surprisingly, this species was not officially named until 1966. Goldmining and grazing activities occurred in the Bendethera Valley from the 19th century, so why had no one taken the trouble to collect and name it before 1966? As it grows in pure stand thickets, contrasting with the dull green of eucalypts, it certainly could not have been overlooked. The specific

name, *covenyi*, honours Bob Coveny, a botanical collector at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, only recently retired. It is often sold in commercial plant nurseries as Blue Bush, not to be confused under any circumstances with Brian Roach's Blue Bush, *Mairiana oppositifolia*. *Acacia covenyi* grows well in domestic gardens, and needs space but little, if any, fertilisers and little water once established.

Acacia blayana bears silver hairs on the stems and on the bipinnate foliage that give the foliage a shimmering grey appearance. It belongs



Acacia covenyi (L) close-up of phyllodes, (R) a young tree, (B) massed growth contrasting with eucalypt forest at Bendethra (J Liney)

to a group of *Acacia* with longer and wider pinnules than most other bipinnate wattle species.

The species was first brought to the notice of botanists at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney as recently as 1982 when John Blay lodged the type specimen there. The type is cited as being from the Brogo River catchment, on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range within the Wadbilliga National Park. John Blay is a writer, ecologist and naturalist who wrote a book, *Trek through the back country* (Methuen 1987), walking with his mule Zac through the 'back country' from Araluen (west of Moruya) south to the township of Bemboka, at times following the three main rivers (the Deua, the Tuross and the Brogo). While resting by a tributary of the Brogo River, he noticed some 'unusual looking silvery wattles' growing in thickets among the eucalypt trees, and, although familiar with many of the coast and tableland plant species, could not put a name to these.

It was not until 1990 that a formal description of the new species was published. I cannot imagine how such a dramatic tree growing to 25 m in such large congregations was ignored for so long. From the earliest days of settlers taking up stock runs in the 19th century, through to government surveying teams and explorers and bushwalkers in the 20th century, someone must have noticed that these wattles were different. Appropriately, the wattle that John Blay could not name bears his own name in perpetuity.



Acacia blayana (L) close-up of phyllodes
(R) tree in full flower (J Liney)





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Lake Eyre Basin and Flinders Ranges Expedition

15 Day Camping Tour – Departs Adelaide 29th April 2017

This tour is a must-do for all who long to experience the Australian outback. We will cover some of South Australia's most historic outback locations in the Lake Eyre Basin and the spectacular Flinders Ranges.

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Future APS NSW event

November gathering at Macarthur

The next APS NSW quarterly gathering is on Saturday 19 November and is being hosted by Macarthur Group in the south-west outskirts of Sydney. There are two gardens to inspect and a wonderful talk on garden design. In addition there will be plant sales and plenty of opportunity to socialise with APS friends.

We suggest that you start at Peter and Margaret Olde's garden 'Silky Oaks' at Oakdale, then drive to Tony and Penny Sexton's home 'Black Stump Natives' at Brownlow Hill near Camden where you can enjoy the garden, lunch and a presentation by Ben Walcott. Ben is the leader of the ANPSA Garden Design Group and his talk is titled 'Garden Design: a personal perspective'.

Visitors to 'Silky Oaks' are welcome between 9 am and noon. The gardener, Peter Olde is the leader of the ANPSA Grevillea Study Group and co-author of the three volume reference, *The Grevillea Book*. The address is 140 Russell Lane, Oakdale.

Tony and Penny Sexton's home and garden, 'Black Stump Natives' is at Brownlow Hill near Camden. The Sexton's garden has a wonderful collection of natives and more information is on their website: www.blackstumpnatives.com/ (which includes a map). You are welcome at the Sexton's from 10 am. There is room to sit down and eat your lunch - which you should bring with you, but refreshments will be available. Please arrive no later than 12:30 pm.



View of Black Stump Natives Garden at Brownlow Hill



Tony Sexton our host at the gathering

The Sextons are at 26 Crana Road, Brownlow Hill, Camden. Note that it is approximately 20 km from Silky Oaks to Black Stump Natives. Please allow about 30 minutes to comfortably complete the journey and park.

Ben and Ros Walcott are well-known for the extensive native garden they have created at Red Hill in Canberra. Ben's talk will begin at 1 pm.

The following web addresses will help with maps and directions to the gardens.

www.google.com.au/maps/place/Silky+Oaks,+140+Russell+Ln,+Oakdale+NSW+2570

www.google.com.au/maps/place/26+Crana+Rd,+Brownlow+Hill+NSW+2570



(L) Ben and Ros Walcott in their garden
(B) Part of Walcott garden in Canberra



2016 Annual Get-together – Reflections

Alix Goodwin, APS Blue Mountains Group and APS NSW Vice President

The APS NSW 2016 Annual Get-together (AGT) was dedicated to the late Bill Hardin who worked tirelessly to establish the threatened native species garden at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden.

It was generously hosted by APS Tamworth Group. Responding to a request to host the weekend, the group pulled off a small miracle by creating a program in less than a month to enable its promotion in the April edition of *Native Plants for NSW*. What a brilliant and generous program we enjoyed with a seminar on the Saturday with five guest speakers focusing primarily on flora of the local and surrounding area, and a series of guided visits of bushland and gardens in Tamworth and its fringes. What follows is a small taste of what we learnt and enjoyed over the weekend.

Welcome to country

Leonard Waters, an Elder of the Kamilaroi people, the traditional owners of the land of Tamworth, gave a generous Welcome to Country including a smoking ceremony using brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*). Originally from Toomelah, Leonard welcomed us in language and spoke of the important roles that smoking ceremonies played in the lives of Aboriginal people, from cleansing places of evil spirits to teaching young kids the lessons of doing wrong.

Leonard Waters, Plants of significance to Aboriginal people

As Leonard reminded us, many today forget to look at the land and the ranges of the Tamworth area and consider how important they are to Aboriginal people, who believe that they come from dust and will return to the land. Leonard took us on a short journey of traditional Aboriginal plant use and the significant role plants play in the lives of Aboriginal people. The following two plants were profiled and give a taste of what we learned.



Smoking ceremony, 2016 Annual Get-together, Tamworth (P Grimm)

Capparis mitchellii, commonly known as wild orange, native pomegranate or (Mitchells) bumble tree as Leonard referred to it, is considered to be the serpent's mother-in-law in Aboriginal legend and a sign of mother earth. Also a women's tree because of the shape of the leaves, it was used in rituals to help fertility. The fruit of the bumble tree is high in vitamin C. This majestic tree can be found in many parts of Australia including Western Australian, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. For those wishing to grow one, it is worth knowing that while drought and frost tolerant it does not like humidity.

The Buddha tree (*Eremophila mitchellii*) shares its name with the black cockatoo. This extraordinary bird is very important in Aboriginal culture being synonymous with rain, which renews and regenerates. The black cockatoo is silent when flying and if it calls you, this can renew and refresh your spirit.

Other plants discussed included the Berrigan tree (*Pittosporum angustifolium*), Boobiolla (*Myoporum montanum*) and the Eurah tree (*Eremophila bignoniiflora*).

To learn more about the traditional uses of Aboriginal plants in the New England area the following book, recommended by David Carr, may be worth considering: McKemey, M. and White, H. 2011, *Bush Tucker, Boomerangs and Bandages: Traditional Aboriginal Plant Use in the Border Rivers and Gwydir Catchments*, Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority, New South Wales.

Martin O'Rourke, Rainfall – there is nothing average about average

Many of us left the get-together with more technical knowledge about rainfall averages than we could have imagined. Martin O'Rourke is a member of APS Tamworth Group and a respected hydrogeologist. In his spare time he has been studying Bureau of Meteorology historical records on rainfall both in the New England region and in other parts of Australia to understand how rainfall patterns have changed since records commenced in 1876.

Rainfall records in Australia are very detailed. Rainfall data is captured daily and reported on a monthly basis by the Bureau. While, as members of the public, we tend to think about how rainfall on any given day or over a period of time compares with the average, meteorologists work with a more complex measure known as the residual average. Calculating this average and then plotting it on a residual mass graph enables them to understand whether climatic conditions in a particular area and year have been drier or wetter than in previous years. It also assists when comparing rainfall patterns across different towns and cities.

With comparative residual mass graphs, we saw the similarities in rainfall patterns between 1876 and 2015 in Tamworth and surrounding towns. We were also able to see how surprisingly similar historical rainfall patterns have been when comparing Sydney and Brisbane, while being very different between Sydney and Melbourne.

When I first read the title of Martin's talk I wondered about his position on climate change. He answered this question at the end of his talk when he told the audience that he believes in climate change.

David Carr, Conservation values of travelling stock routes

Illness prevented Phillip Spark from presenting on the conservation values of travelling stock routes. We were fortunate that botanist and ecologist, David Carr, was able to give a presentation he prepared in collaboration with Rachel Lawrence on the same topic. His talk covered four areas – what travelling stock routes are, their values, how they are managed, and policy conflicts.

Travelling stock routes have been around since the early 1800s. They were set aside by government to facilitate the movement of stock from property to property or to market and provided (and still provide) emergency stock feed in times of drought. Wells and dams were positioned along the routes and the distances graziers could move their herds along these tracts of land were strictly governed.

An amazing network of active travelling stock routes once covered NSW, including Sydney, along with reserves where stock could be rested overnight. The width of a travelling stock route is variable ranging from 10 metres to 500 metres depending on the environment. Travelling stock routes in NSW cover nearly 2 million hectares and are managed by Crown Lands and Local Land Services. While very few people today use travelling stock routes to take their animals to market, there are still some very active routes in NSW. They no longer exist in Victoria.

Travelling stock routes have multiple values – grazing during droughts, movement of stock, conservation of biodiversity (endangered flora and fauna), cultural heritage including Aboriginal sites of significance (such as scar trees), recreation (bird watching), seed collection, and bee keeping (a great place for apiarists).

Like land in general, travelling stock routes as areas that support the conservation of NSW native flora and fauna, are under threat. Local Land Services are responsible for the management of half a million hectares of travelling stock routes. David told us that changes in government policy in recent years mean that travelling stock routes

are now managed as an income source to cover the costs of staffing associated with their management. Some are being fenced, leased and returned to intensive grazing which will threaten native plants and their habitat, and adversely impact the environment.

In September 2015, Local Land Services released a draft state planning framework for travelling stock routes for the period 2016-2019 for public consultation. Proposing four year management planning cycles, the framework is founded on the principle of cost neutrality with Local Land Services being expected to impose fees on users to help pay for the continued management of the routes. Although consultation closed in December 2015, the draft framework can be found at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/577971/draft-nsw-tsr-state-planning-framework.pdf

Perhaps unsurprisingly, travelling stock routes have been represented in Australian art, most notably in Walter Withers' 1912 painting, *The Drover*, which resides in the Bendigo Art Gallery.



Walter Withers (1854–1914), 'The Drover' 1912, oil on canvas, acquired by Mr David Whyte Bequest Fund, 1916. Collection Bendigo Art Gallery 1916.1

Other guest speakers

Two other speakers also generously shared their stories and knowledge of Australian plants: Anthony O'Halloran of Bilby Blooms Nursery, and plant taxonomist and photographer, John Hosking. Unfortunately Warren Sheather was unwell and unable to attend. He has written an article on his intended presentation, *Density and Diversity*, which can be found on page 20.

Weekend field and garden visits

We were spoilt with a range of field and garden visits led by members of the local community over the two days. On Saturday afternoon, Brendan George took us on a guided walk through the Department of Primary Industries' Native Agroforestry Trial. The trial was established in 1996 to determine the suitability of native species for timber production in an area of lower rainfall. Peter Dawson from Northwest Local Land Services introduced us to an area of remnant yellow box woodland and demonstrated how to undertake a rapid habitat site assessment. Kerrie Gray and Michael Dyson kindly opened their 3 acre award-winning garden to us. This was a lovely setting for afternoon tea and a chat with friends in the sun, and a stroll through the gardens they have been designing and planting with natives over the last nine years.

Sunday morning was spent in the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden with Tamworth Bird Watchers and APS Tamworth Group members. Wendy Grimm has written a short description of the very well-attended breakfast and early morning bird spotting walk, see page 36. Lunch was enjoyed by many at the Carr's Park open garden along with Greg Carr's passionate and informative guided tour.

For me, the highlight of the morning was the visit to the Peel Wetlands. I have enjoyed the tranquillity of wetlands since first being introduced to Fogg Dam in the Northern Territory in 1998. They provide a place for both quiet reflection and stimulation as one enjoys local and migrating water birds in their natural environment. While the Peel Wetlands will never be included in the Ramsar grouping, this small miracle is now home to an array of birdlife, fish, reptiles and mammals including the recently sighted swamp wallaby. The wetlands play a vital role in conservation and the filtering of stormwater, which eventually finds its way into the western river system.

The Peel Wetlands are located on what was once a flat, weed-infested horse paddock owned by Peel High School. Aboriginal people and early settlers would have recognised it as a grassy white box woodland. Today

it is a vibrant habitat thanks to self-taught naturalist Brett Coble who has selflessly dedicated his time and resources to the establishment of the wetland since 1995.

Creation of the wetland involved the use of earth moving equipment to establish a deep, u-shaped pond which, even in dry times, provides sanctuary for local wildlife. No soil was removed from the site when the pond was constructed. Instead it was used to create a series of mounds that give the area shape and form. The first part of the site to be regenerated was the badly eroded stormwater channel. *Casuarina cunninghamiana* were planted and 21 years later shade this soft grassy watercourse. These beautiful trees now have many companions including kangaroo grass which has regenerated naturally, native geranium, several *Acacia* species which are good for weed management (*A. salicina* and *A. implexa*) and bank stabilisation, (*A. stenophylla*) and many water plants.

While species endemic to the area are predominantly planted, this was not the case in the early days and so there are some out-of-towners happily residing in the wetland. Brett does much of the propagation himself and is now creating mini-habitats in pots (with multiple plants) and then planting them together to improve biodiversity. He admits that this idea is not his alone but says it is a very efficient use of potting mix and pots. He has also been using material from wetlands 10 kilometres away as a climate change strategy to protect and ensure species survival.

Brett does not work on the site alone. Locals and school children are all involved with some work undertaken with the assistance of small grants and other funds. He also quietly educates rather than punishes those whose activities can undermine the good work of the last two decades.

Brett and the Peel Wetlands are an inspiration to those contemplating the revegetation of degraded land. If you are visiting Tamworth please make time to visit and enjoy the fruits of this labour of love.

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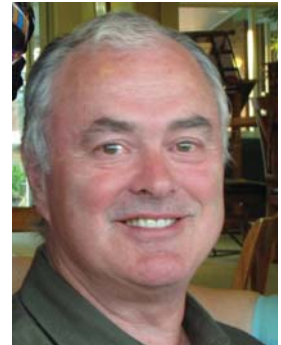
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Native plant profile

Calytrix tetragona

Common Fringe Myrtle



John Knight continues his regular series, this time looking at Calytrix and in particular Calytrix tetragona a plant which used to be very common in APS members' gardens but which John is now finding to be out of favour in spite of its obvious attractions.

It should be no surprise that plants, like almost everything else in life, come and go, as fashions change and we gardeners seek the new and exciting. While this is a natural sequence, maybe we miss the opportunity to really discover a plant's true potential. I am sure that, as a group, Australian Plants Society members were much more adventurous gardeners in times past, willing to try all manner of plants. There is much evidence that this is true, looking back through early volumes of Australian Plants journals, when entire issues were regularly devoted to highlight special features of plants in a particular family or genus.

Long-term members will have a unique insight into the changing fashions of plants simply by browsing through their growing collection of Australian Plants. I hope you keep these handy, to review from time to time, and in reminiscing, maybe even lament that plants you once grew are no longer part of your garden landscape.

Australian Plants Volume 15, Number 123, published June 1990, featured the genus *Calytrix*, and tantalised with photos of bright, showy purple, pink or yellow flowers from the heath country of Western Australia. You won't see many of these in gardens, because no one seems to propagate them anymore. Anyway, most proved recalcitrant as garden plants, suffering in more humid conditions. There are however some plants still grown in drier, inland regions by enthusiasts who are rewarded with magnificent displays as spring warms up.

***Calytrix* genus**

An endemic Australian genus, *Calytrix*, with about 75 species, is known as the Fringe Myrtle, for the long awns terminating the sepals, although most Western Australian species bear the common name of 'starflowers', a very apt description.

Calytrix is of Greek derivation, referring to the long, fine awns on the calices (*thrix* = hair). The specific name, *tetragona*, refers to the shape of the leaf in cross-section, that is four-sided, although some



Typical star shaped flower of *Calytrix tetragona*. Note the colourful stamens atop long thin filaments, and awns curling around the unopened flower buds.

(J Knight)

imagination might be needed to determine this. It was firstly described as *Calycothix*, a more literal translation of the Greek words, then revised to *Calythrix*, and now *Calytrix*.

Close relations of *Calytrix* include *Thryptomene*, *Chamelaucium* and *Darwinia*, all in the tribe Chamelaucieae of the Myrtaceae family, each with many desirable horticultural species, but again sadly few of which are grown today.

Calytrix tetragona

Calytrix tetragona, or Common Fringe Myrtle, is the most widespread species in the genus, occurring in eastern Australia from Tasmania, Victoria and NSW to Queensland, and also in Western Australia and South Australia. Plants grow in many environments, from sandy heaths, rocky creek and river banks, on hillsides of dry sclerophyll forest, woodland and plateaux, usually on skeletal or sandy soils. The one constant in my observation is that *C. tetragona* likes plenty of sunshine. A plant found in such a range must be a fairly successful survivor, and so it has proved for those growers who give this plant a home.

Plants are generally well-behaved and easy to grow, provided that the soil is well drained. This might seem odd, as I have observed many plants swamped in swollen creeks, where their little rocky islands were totally inundated. Likewise, two forms described further on were collected from swampy rills on sandstone. Many riverine forms tend to be rangy in habit, and can look very attractive when underpruned to show off the gnarled trunk and bark that develop as the plants age. Plants from forest margins tend to be more rounded in habit, and can be pruned quite hard to maintain a smaller bush. Pruning should be completed soon after flowering, as the plants need sufficient time to put on strong new growth to support flowering in subsequent years.

I have come across many populations in travels around the country. Pictures of massed, stunning pink flowered forms of the desert country west and north of the Grampians in Victoria, through to the South Australian border, growing as shrubs about 1 m high, bring back memories of camping in sunny desert wildflower gardens during spring. During my time working at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, expeditions to nearby forests and national parks revealed unique forms which have behaved very well as garden plants.

A number of shrubby forms with typical pink to reddish calyces, and white flowers tinged pink, have been selected for trial as garden subjects, and thrive in dry open sites with no additional water. These range in size from rounded 1.5 m shrubs, to taller, more open plants. Hardiness might be their best feature.

Other colour forms of *Calytrix tetragona*

Two other forms warrant further discussion. Both are low mounding shrubs, which over time have grown to about 50 cm high, with a spread of around 1.5 m.

First is what I describe as the yellow form, which has the usual white, starry flowers smothering the shrub, and when the petals fall, crisp yellow calyces are exposed, which remain on the plants till early summer. Foliage is bright green, with the very small heathy leaves tightly packed on the branches. Looking closely with a 10x lens, tiny fringed hairs are evident. This plant was selected from a population on Little Forest Plateau, west of Ulladulla, in 1994, and planted in the gardens in 1995.



Calytrix tetragona, with yellow calyces, left in flower and right showing the strong yellow of the calyces once the petals fall. (J Knight)

The photo shows the plant some five years later, illustrating the arching habit. Careful pruning is required to ensure this attractive feature is not lost. Plants are still alive and well, now around 20 years old.

The other form, collected from dry, bare sandstone rock, growing as just a few spindly sticks in a shrivelled moss clump, caught my eye because the calyces could be described as black, starkly addressing the bright green leaves, of which there were few. Tiny cuttings, around 2 cm long, were selected, and from these first few pieces, a stock of plants was grown. Also around 20 years old, a couple of plants still survive, but are not much bigger now than when first collected. Looking closely, the calyces are initially reddish, ageing quickly through purple to black. This is a very attractive little plant.



Calytrix tetragona, form with dark almost black calyces very evident once the petals fall.
(J Knight)

With spring now well and truly upon us, maybe we should all get out and look for special forms of our favourite plants, and bring them into cultivation. After all, that is what being a member of the Australian Plants Society is all about: growing Australian plants.

Visiting Tasmania? *Don't miss ...*

Inverawe Native Gardens

15 Minutes south of Hobart

A photograph of a garden with various native plants. In the foreground, there is a small, light-colored sculpture of a person. The garden is filled with green foliage and some red flowers. In the background, there are trees and a body of water under a blue sky with clouds.

www.inverawe.com.au

Density and Diversity

Warren Sheather is well-known to many APS members. He is a member of APS 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.

Unfortunately I could not give my talk on Density and Diversity at the APS NSW Get-together at Tamworth in August, having being laid low by suspected food poisoning. The topic is summarised in this article.

We bought our property *Yallaroo*, west of Armidale, 20 years ago. The property had been subjected to excessive grazing over a number of years. Very few shrubs remained and weeds had taken over in many areas. The resulting lack of understorey meant there were no small birds.

A house was moved to *Yallaroo* and placed on a hill to take advantage of the eye-catching views. At an elevation of 900 metres the house site was rather exposed, and the decision was made to create a number of dense shrubberies to act as shelter belts. Our idea was to copy nature and plant very densely using a wide range of species.

To establish the planting density required we decided to try extreme planting by placing three plants in each hole and placing holes about 75 centimetres apart. Holes were dug a spade width square and before planting a handful of Dynamic Lifter was added. Holes were filled with water then once the plants went in the holes were back filled and soil piled around the holes to form a saucer shaped depression. Then the depression was filled with water. The area planted was mulched and watered once more. From then on new plants were watered every week or so, depending on weather conditions, for the first two growing seasons.



Usually three different plants were placed in each hole. Small plants were used in the holes on the front edge of the shrubberies and taller varieties towards the back.

Our density and diversity planting scheme has been very successful. The advantages are that plants

A recent example of our 'dense and diverse' planting technique. (W Sheather)



A mature section of shelter belt shrubbery. (W Sheather)

shelter and protect each other allowing a wide range of species to be grown, the ground is shaded reducing weed growth, and there is something in flower all year because of the diversity of plants.

The most important result is the arrival of small birds to the garden to take advantage of the dense understorey. The arrival of the first Eastern Spinebill was greeted by great excitement. We now have a bird list of about 90 species for our property.

This method of landscaping is not everybody's horticultural 'cup of tea' but it has worked extremely well for us. Of course we could not afford to plant in this way if all the plants were purchased. Even buying tube stock would be too expensive for large scale planting. Fortunately one of our passions is the propagation of native plants both from cuttings and seed.

The images show two shrubberies, one mature and one juvenile. They include acacias, correas, melaleucas, myoporums, prostantheras and westringias.

Valuing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands

Lyn Burgett, APS Central West Group



Crowther Travelling
Stock Reserve
(L Burgett)

A visit to one of the few remnants of box gum woodland surviving in the north-west slopes of NSW was held during the annual get-together recently hosted by Tamworth Group.

The plentiful and diverse grassy box gum woodlands of south-east Australia were once home to the greatest concentration of Aboriginal population in the country. European colonisers also found this area highly suitable to their need for fertile and productive land.

The Kamilaroi people once managed the land around Tamworth for the natural resources on which they depended in a sustainable manner. The complexity (biodiversity) of the woodland ecological community made it resilient to human management disturbances and the drought and flood cycles of the Australian climate. The removal of Aboriginal people from the land ended the environmental practices that had sustained the grassy woodland ecosystem.

The onset of European land management practices of grazing, agriculture and gold mining resulted in problems including soil erosion, vegetation removal, declining water quality, salinity, weed invasion and native animal extinctions. Simplification of the landscape by clearing native species and introducing exotic species has reduced biodiversity and ecosystem function. It is estimated that at least 95% of the woodlands have been cleared and those that remain are often small, degraded remnants severely influenced by the surrounding agricultural land. This ecological community is also poorly represented in protected

reserves and remains only in fragmented travelling stock routes, road and rail reserves and cemeteries.

Further conservation can now only be achieved through Aboriginal cultural and spiritual reconnection to land and on private property through on-farm management of high quality remnant patches.

The use of a biodiversity assessment tool can help identify the conservation value of native vegetation on farms. Peter Dawson from North West Local Land Services explained a quick assessment method used to determine the condition of the 16 hectare woodland near the Department of Primary Industries' Tamworth Agricultural Institute. Assessment methods vary, but always consider:

- connectivity to the surrounding landscape (for flora and fauna dispersal)
- past management practices such as grazing or firewood collection
- tree canopy cover and condition
- groundcover condition, particularly the ratio of native to exotic species.

Remnants in high or moderate condition possess an intact tree canopy and predominantly native groundcover species. These remnants provide the greatest potential for conservation of box gum grassy woodlands through formal protection and management of derived grasslands for understorey species diversity and natural recruitment of woodland trees.

Viability of our agricultural systems may depend on the services this ecological community provides.

Protection for grassy woodlands

White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland is listed as critically endangered under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. White Box–Yellow Box–Blakely's Red Gum Woodland is listed as endangered under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The NSW Government proposes to repeal the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and introduce the Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2016.



Wurmbea dioica (Early Nancy) in the recently-protected Albens Reserve on Mt Panorama basalt in NSW. (L Burgett)

SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS

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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.

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: Joan Harden ☎ (02) 4325 3807
Email: aps.cc.secty@gmail.com
Meetings: Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariang
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
Secretary: Lyn Burgett ☎ (02) 6331 9170
Email: l.burgett@bth.catholic.edu.au
Meetings: Monthly outings to various locations. Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour

President: Alison Moore ☎ 0439 597 118
Email: anchorsmoore@westnet.com.au
Secretary: Robert Watt ☎ (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 ☎ (02) 4930 1458
Secretary: Kevin Mantle ☎ (02) 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 ☎ 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 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 _____

Email _____

Phone () _____

District Group (if relevant) _____

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.

Individual \$53 Individual – Concession \$45

Joint \$61 Joint – Concession \$53

Overseas A\$60

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 _ _ / _ _

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 by post or email

Australian Plants Society 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



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 ☎ (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: vacant
Email:
Secretary: Sue Bowen ☎ 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 ☎ (02) 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 ☎ 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: 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 ☎ 0468 472 237
Email: knockaroura@skymesh.com
Secretary: Bob Galland ☎ 0407 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 ☎ 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.

APS NSW Life Membership and Conservation Awards 2017

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 2016.

The Board of the Australian Plants Society NSW must endorse all nominations prior to consideration by the Annual General Meeting in May 2017.

Nominations in both categories must be received at the APS NSW office no later than Thursday, 2 March 2017.

Postal address:

APS NSW

PO Box 5026

Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

or

Email address:

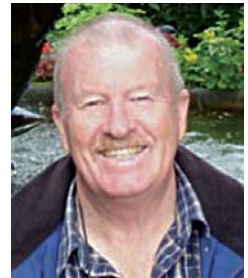
office@austplants.com.au

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

President's Report

John Aitken, President APS NSW

Congratulations to APS Tamworth Group for hosting a fabulous annual get-together on 20-21 August. I would like to extend APS NSW's thanks to all the members of the Tamworth Group who made the weekend such a wonderful success. The organisation, program of activities for the Saturday and Sunday and the dinner on Saturday night were excellent and ensured that everyone attending had a memorable and enjoyable visit to Tamworth.



The weekend was attended by over 95 members who enjoyed excellent weather, listened to wonderful talks, visited two beautiful gardens, savoured the beauty of the bird life in Tamworth Botanic Regional Garden, and were spoiled by country hospitality. The weekend also provided us with a great opportunity to catch up with friends, renew friendships and meet other people who share the same passion for our Australian native plants.

It was a great privilege to visit the Threatened Species Garden at Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden. This garden was initiated by the late Bill Hardin, whose contribution to the goals of APS NSW were recognised when he and his wife, Sonya, were made Life Members in 2010 and Bill was also awarded our Conservation award in 2015. Bill's vision has been actively supported by the members of the Tamworth Group who continue his work to ensure that threatened plant species from the local area are represented in the garden.

The weekend was capped with a three day tag-along tour to the Pilliga Forest and surrounds, led by Anthony O'Halloran from Bilby Blooms at Binnaway. From all reports the tour was highly successful and provided those attending not only with the opportunity to explore a beautiful part of NSW and enjoy the plants but also to understand the threats to the Pilliga by the logging industry and coal seam gas mining. Thanks Anthony for giving up your valuable time to lead this tour.

The annual Presidents' dinner held on the Friday night before the weekend was also very successful. During the evening we discussed various aspects of the proposed strategic plan which had been formulated at the workshop in Parramatta last May. Many constructive ideas were put forward. These will be incorporated into the final plan, which will be presented to members at our next quarterly gathering on 19 November. I would like to thank Alix Goodwin and Heather Miles for their excellent facilitation of the evening.

Those attending the dinner felt that the plan was essential if APS NSW is to remain relevant, and to grow by retaining its existing members and attracting new ones. There is a lot to do and the planning committee, which consists of four people, will be unable to implement the plan if we do not have the support of other members. If many members undertake small parts of the plan then together we can achieve all the goals over time. There will be many challenges along the way but unless we collectively contribute, then APS NSW will continue to drift along and face the continuing problem of declining membership and finances.

I look forward to catching up with you at the quarterly gathering on Saturday 19 November at Tony and Penny Sexton's beautiful home and garden at Camden in south-west Sydney.

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 2016 issue of *Native Plants for NSW*. This list can also be found on the APS NSW web-site 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 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.

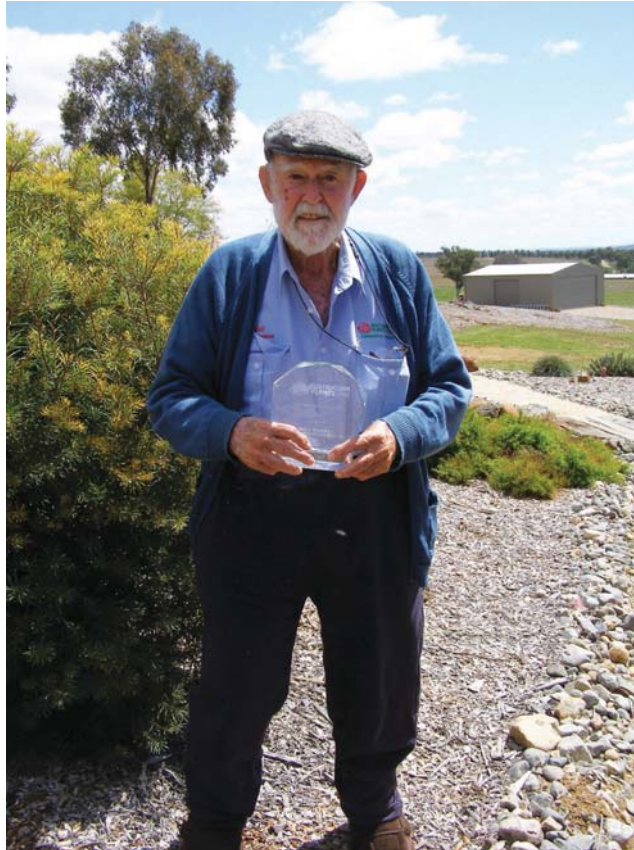
Additions: nil

Deletions: *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Callistemon pinifolius* (red), *Gossypium sturtianum*, *Grevillea banksii* (red), *Hibiscus geranioides*, *Hovea lanceolata* and *Leptospermum polygalifolium*.

Vale William (Bill) Hardin

20 February 2016

Martin O'Rourke, APS Tamworth Group



Bill Hardin with APS
Conservation award.
Photo Martin O'Rourke

As an APS member for over 33 years, Bill was well known to those in APS NSW particularly the Tamworth Group where he was a member for many years. He and wife Sonya were granted life membership of APS NSW in 2010 in recognition of their service to Australian plants and Bill received the Conservation Award in 2015.

Bill and Sonya moved to Tamworth in 1991. Bill served Tamworth Group as Treasurer for 11 years, President or Vice-president for 9 years and Newsletter Editor for 15 years. Bill and Sonya built up the local group membership from 16 to 70 members. As the membership grew Bill initiated the change from bi-monthly meetings to monthly meetings.

Bill was a keen propagator of Australian native plants, growing thousands over the years. The plants provided prizes for the monthly meeting raffle and for the annual plant sale at Tamworth Regional

Botanic Garden, where I first met Bill in 2008 after moving to Tamworth. Bill instigated the very generous idea of every new member selecting 10 free plants from the range of native plants propagated by him and Sonya. Bill held propagating workshops, growing plants from both seed and cuttings for members.

Bill and Sonya were both involved for several years in the creation and maintenance of an SGAP* garden at the Delugal Arboretum at Chaffey Dam. Bill was also involved in organising the Tamworth leg of the ASGAP Conference Tour in 2007, and the North West Tour.

Bill produced a sizable and in-depth booklet, Australian Plants Suitable for Tamworth Regional Council Area, and a hard copy is given to all new APS Tamworth Group members.

Bill was involved in setting up the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden. The original concept was for a totally Australian native botanic garden similar to the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra but this was overruled by Tamworth Council and it became a botanic garden of worldwide plants. Over time and gradual redevelopments of the gardens, more and more native species have been planted.

Bill was instrumental in setting up the Threatened Species Project at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden in 2008. His passion for native plants resulted in the challenge of the conservation of threatened flora species on the Northern Tablelands and the North West Slopes and Plains in conjunction with Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden. To achieve this Bill obtained a licence to collect seeds from threatened species in the wild and he propagated many of them. Bill needed somewhere to plant them. A site was chosen in the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden. All credit to Bill, the Tamworth Group was successful in obtaining a grant for the Threatened Species Project from APS NSW and Tamworth Regional Council to support the project.

Bill received the APS NSW Conservation Award 2015, nominated by Tamworth Group. It was presented to Bill on 26 September 2015 at Kerrie Gray and Michael Dyson's Garden Walk. It was a fitting tribute to a man who had such a passion for promoting, propagating, growing and sharing Australian native plants.

Bill will be missed in APS Tamworth Group but his legacy will live on in the Threatened Species Project at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden.

* [SGAP is shorthand for the Society for Growing Australian Plants, the original name of our Society. APS NSW adopted the name Australian Plants Society NSW in 1997. Each state is autonomous and name changes have taken some time for example SGAP Queensland changed its name to Native Plants Queensland as recently as 2015-Ed.]

Conservation Report

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



APS NSW Conservation Committee

Consultation to develop a strategic plan for APS NSW has shown us just how important the protection and conservation of Australian flora and its habitat is to our members. At its August 2016 meeting the board approved the appointment of Margaret Baker (Blue Mountains Group), Marilyn Cross (Parramatta/Hills Group), Alix Goodwin (Blue Mountains Group), Conny Harris (Northern Beaches Group) and me (Conservation Officer) to the board's Conservation Committee. Our appointments are for two years and our first priority is to update our conservation policy and develop an action plan. Our current conservation policy is on our website at www.ustplants.com.au/conservation9/31conservation/31-conservation-policy.html. If you have suggestions about the policy or the action plan, please email me at conservation@ustplants.com.au

NSW biodiversity legislation changes

In June, APS NSW made a submission to the NSW Government on the proposed changes to NSW biodiversity legislation. This submission is available on our APS NSW website under the conservation tab. The NSW Government is reviewing submissions and is expected to make a formal response later this year. I applaud the efforts of the Conservation Committee in producing such a detailed response.

The proposed changes to biodiversity legislation in NSW have become one of the foremost issues over recent months in NSW. Many environment groups and media outlets have released accounts and articles on land clearing acceleration in parts of NSW and are accusing the NSW Government of appeasing a small but powerful group of rural landholders.

It is difficult to ignore events that are strongly intertwined with this legal process, such as the murder of NSW Government Environment Protection Officer Glen Turner in July 2014 who was investigating a case of illegal land clearing. This tragedy is now widely viewed as a catalyst for biodiversity reform in NSW and the ultimate ramifications from this event are still to be seen. This event has received such exposure that a documentary is being made about it. The film, *Cultivating Murder*, will explore the culture of land clearing in NSW and the events that led to such a tragic circumstance. The film producers are asking for

donations to support the making of the documentary and I have made a personal donation. I encourage members who are concerned about biodiversity protection in NSW to explore the film's website at www.cultivatingmurder.com.au/. Donations to the film can be made at: <https://pozible.com/project/cultivating-murder-4>.

***Prostanthera densa* monitoring**

Our voluntary research monitoring project of *Prostanthera densa* continues in the Royal National Park. If you are interested in attending our next monitoring exercise before the snakes are overly active please contact me at conservation@austrplants.com.au so I can let you know when the date is finalised. If you have been undertaking your own work on a threatened flora species in NSW, please let me know so I can share it in my next article.

Travelling stock routes

Travelling stock routes play a significant role in preserving native plant habitat. This precious resource is currently under threat, with the NSW Government to decide whether to allow them to be leased for continuous grazing. At the annual get-together in Tamworth in August a call was made to lobby local MPs. While the deadline for submissions on a proposed planning framework for the management of travelling stock routes closed in early December 2015, APS NSW will be writing to the NSW Government outlining our concern that the conservation value of travelling stock routes is likely to be jeopardised if the draft planning framework is adopted. This reflects the decision, as part of the strategic plan, for APS NSW to take a more active role in conservation. The threat of losing such significant remnant habitats indicates the urgent need for a more active approach. More information on travelling stock routes can be found in the report of the annual get-together on page 10.

Australian plants abroad

In my recent extended trip to Greece from June to August I observed that plants such as *Callistemon* cultivars are available for gardeners and a sapling in an 8-inch pot can sell for about 100 Euro (\$150 Australian dollars)! It appears there could be a lucrative market in the Mediterranean region for Australian plants!

Bird Watching in Tamworth

Wendy Grimm, APS North Shore Group



Early risers on Sunday morning met at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden for 'Breakfast with the Birds'. The site in North Tamworth was established as a botanic garden in 1995 and a mix of exotic, Australian and local species are grown in beautifully landscaped grounds.

A family of Wood Ducks with about fifteen chicks were the first birds encountered. While Australian Plants Society members were refuelling on juice, coffee and croissants, Eastern Spinebills, Friarbirds, Brown and also Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters were flitting between the copious sources of nectar in the surrounding shrubs. The intense flower colours of grevillea, senna and callistemon species planted along sinuous paths and around still ponds seemed to warm the chilly morning air.

The Tamworth Bird Watchers kindly conducted a tour to find and identify many of the bird species heard and briefly seen. The calls of Ravens, Currawongs, Magpies and Butcher Birds warned us and the Wood Duck parents of the constant threats posed to tiny ducklings by these black and white predators. Rushes and grasses provided seed for Double-barred and Red-browed Finches while a shy Speckled Warbler was discovered in its favourite haunt near the gully. Rainbow Lorikeets, Crimson Rosellas and aerobatic Galahs added splashes of colour and their raucous calls to the scene. The bird list continued with doves and cuckoos, but I am sure that return visits at other times and seasons would be rewarded with different types of birds and species of plants in flower.

Thank you to the Tamworth Bird Watchers and APS Tamworth Group for sharing their enjoyment of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden.

Pilliga Forest Tag-Along Tour

Harry Loots, APS Northern Beaches Group



Anthony O'Halloran had spent some days before our tour driving up and down the Pilliga's sandy tracks to discover what was in flower. As the owner of a local native plant nursery, Bilby Blooms, a flora surveyor and author of *The Pilliga Wildflowers Guide*, he knows his plants and their locations. Although the three days of the tag-along tour were wet, each stop or walk was so rich in unusual, colourful and verdant growth that the more than 20 participants did not mind the cold and light drizzle. On day two I was wearing my greatcoat. On the positive side, a light drizzle and overcast sky is best for taking flower photos.

Identifying plants, taking photos or just admiring the vegetation's beauty was reward enough. There were fields of purple orchids as high as a finger, pink flowers of shrubs that are normally white, bright yellow acacias - some with spiky leaves, some with small straight leaves - and many different types of pea plants displaying red and yellow flowers. While the Pilliga is mostly flat we also saw its spectacular landforms. The Sandstone Caves are a series of hollowed out overhangs and other water-formed cavities at the base of a high cliff. The Sculptures in the Scrub are placed on the escarpment edge of a ridge that overlooks a deep gorge.

Anthony's enthusiasm for plants, while at times overwhelming, was endearingly instructive. As I was his passenger in the lead truck I managed to get a double dose of plant and ecosystem descriptions. His inexhaustible energy and knowledge about everything that grows or moves in the Pilliga is astounding. I didn't set out to be a student yet Anthony has taught me much and given me a greater appreciation of the Pilliga's rich environment.



Clockwise from top left: Peel wetlands (W Grimm), *Eucalyptus melliodora* dominated this remnant of Grassy Yellow Box Woodland (P Grimm), *Typhonium* sp. from Wingen Maid NR (J Hosking), Narrow leaf Ironbark forest (H Loots), Western Donkey Orchid *Diuris goonooensis* (H Loots), *Podolepis* sp. as yet unnamed (J Hosking)

ANPSA 2018 Conference – Hobart

The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Inc. (ANPSA) presents a national conference every two years, in conjunction with the ANPSA Biennial General Meeting. These rotate through the six states and the ACT. Tasmania is the host in January 2018 which will allow ready access to flowering alpine flora.



Conference Theme: *Grass Roots to Mountain Tops* is depicted in our logo with *Themeda*, the grass roots, and the recognisable mountain tops shaping the map of Tasmania.

Dates: 15–19 January 2018

Venue: Wrest Point in Hobart, with wonderful conference facilities and stunning views of the Derwent River but most importantly a flat and navigable site with our own space for lectures, displays, meeting places, happy hour and dinners.

Program: The program is being developed and will contain all the traditional sections, lectures and social events.

Pre- and post-conference Tours: A selection of tours is being planned to King Island and to alpine and rainforest areas of Tasmania.

Pre-conference tour – Hobart and surrounds. If you choose to go on this tour, one of your day trips will be to Mount Field National Park, one of Tasmania's most loved national parks. The visit will include stops for subalpine and alpine flora and an easy walk around Lake Dobson to visit the Pandani Grove.

More detail is available at www.apstas.org.au/conference and this site should update as planning proceeds.

Moving ahead on APS NSW Strategy




Heather Miles, APS NSW Secretary

As most members know, we are renewing our strategy to become more member-focused, increase our external presence and build a more contemporary organisation.

At the Presidents' dinner in Tamworth on 19 August and at the broader members' meeting the next day, we shared the strategy, our progress so far and asked for final feedback.

1. Are we doing the right things?
2. Have we prioritised correctly?
3. Who would like to assist?

APS NSW Strategy, 2017 to 2020

<p>Mission: A network of members with a passion for learning about, growing, and conserving Australian native plants and their habitats</p>	<p>Vision: Be the first point of call for information and advice about Australian native plants and their habitats</p>	<p>What we are known for: Promoting knowledge and the growing, protection and restoration of Australian native plants and their habitats.</p>
<p>Our values: Integrity, Credibility, Respect, Enthusiasm</p>		
		
<p>Support members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve value • Increase communications • Volunteer awards • Resources for DGs • Regular surveys • Young people's activities • 'Silent' members • Exit interviews 	<p>Promote native plants and APS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and promotion • Conservation agenda • Conservation seminar • Knowledge for DGS • Knowledge for schools • Reconciliation action plan • Plant sales 	<p>Build a contemporary organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating model (roles, processes) • Technology and systems • Membership processes • Governance • New sources of revenue

There was a resounding 'yes' for the first question – with strong support for the strategy. We added 'plant sales' to the strategy – vital for both promotion and revenue creation. Another addition was APS NSW playing a strong role in coordinating sharing across the District Groups. Upgrading technology and our online presence received very strong support.

Other areas highlighted were:

- Recognising our volunteers
- Strengthening partnerships with allied organisations
- Refocusing on publishing through all media such as books, leaflets and our website
- Offering scholarships
- Promoting plant registrations with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority
- Exploring Deductible Gift Recipient Status
- Enhancing our online presence – website, Facebook and other social media – and allowing District Groups to have a dedicated presence on the APS NSW website
- Keeping membership data and financial data on one database, for both security and management.

On priorities: we are on the right track while needing to ensure we prioritise to manage human and financial resource constraints – and not burn ourselves out!

On people's help: the District Groups felt that they could play a key role in knowledge capture i.e. all that wonderful insight in people's heads – capturing it in a way that it can be shared. Other District Groups felt that their next step was to take the strategy and translate it to their District Group – a great idea to ensure relevance. Many others put their hands up to assist.

The long form of the strategy has been updated and will be recirculated to Presidents shortly.

Thank you to all our Presidents and members for their generous contribution to rethinking our future.



Flowering eucalypt at Carr's Park Garden in Tamworth. (H Miles)

New members October 2016

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 54 new members (45 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.



Catherine Cooper	Terrigal
Peter Cousins	Stockton
Linda & George De Vos	Caringbah
Brenda Gaal	Casula
Marjanna Gilchrist	Little Hartley
Philippa Gordon	Wahroonga
Gillian Gutridge	Warriewood
David Hardin	Armidale
Thea Harris	Bondi
Mary Harrison	Narooma
Phil Hempel	Wilsons Creek
Judy Jeffery	Hornsby Heights
Julie Jones	Adamstown
Mwyfanwy King	Mandalong
Veronica Mamo	Glenbrook
Virginia McIntosh	Calga
James & Gill McLaren	Holgate
Anthony Meyer	Gungahlin
Cecily Michaels	Blaxland
Jann Mulholland	Beecroft
Pavlina S Naydenova & James P Chan	Balgowlah Heights
Julian Nimmo	Tuross Head
Daniel O'Dey	Dulwich Hill
Brian Patterson	Ourimbah
Colin Pearshouse	Peakhurst Heights
Julie Anne Phillips	Pearl Beach
Kate & Tony Porritt	Blakehurst
Amanda Prior & Paul Meharg	Shoalhaven Heads
Craig Pullman	Tamworth

Carolyn Ridge
Lorraine Stott
(Rosalind) Prue Strang
Michael Sutton & Janet Wheeler
Brenda Venton
Kaye Walker
Helen Ward
Jenny Whiting & Martyn Cook
David & Dona Wicks
Barbara Wilson

Berry
Moss Vale
Church Point
St Georges Basin
Bundanoon
Ettalong Beach
Goulburn
Yarrawarra
Ryde
Moss Vale

We welcome back the following former members

Jenifer & Edward Finnie
John Jennings
Ms Dorothy Luther
Gail Marks
Ms Margaret McKenzie
Fran Tomkins

Merriwa
Menai Central
Lewisham
Emu Heights
Mt Hunter
Bodalla

Vale

It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths of two highly respected members of Southern Highlands Group: Margaret Wilson (former group Secretary) and Sheila Micholson. The Board extends condolences to their families and friends.

Cover images

Front cover: Flowers of *Phebalium squamulosum* subsp. *gracile* taken by Harry Loots on the tag-along tour of the Pilliga led by Anthony O'Halloran which followed on from the 2016 Get-together held in Tamworth. The common name for this species is Scaly Phebalium and the subspecies is one of about eight found in NSW. Intergrades occur between many of the subspecies, and this can make it difficult to identify many plants definitively.

Back Cover Photo: Flowers of *Hovea apiculata* again taken by Harry Loots on the tag-along tour. This species is native to the tablelands and western slopes of northern NSW extending into Queensland. Hoveas are often overlooked in the bush until they burst into flower with their conspicuous pea flowers. Alas they are often in flower for quite a short period.

Study Group notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

APS NSW has recognised the need to make the vast knowledge of our past and present members more accessible. Much of this knowledge has been captured in study group newsletters.



Across Australia, the study group coordinators, study group leaders and website managers are working towards making all of the study group newsletters available on the national website at anpsa.org.au/.

Brachychiton & Allied Genera Study Group (May 2016, No. 44)

Leader Kerry Rathie observed that the Illawarra Flame Tree, *Brachychiton acerifolius*, has flowered well this past year, but that other brachychitons have been less spectacular. About 30 species occur in Australia and this diversity is augmented by naturally occurring and cultivated hybrids which are selected to enhance variety in flower size and colour, and leaf shape.

Hakea Study Group (June 2016, No. 61)

There are now 145 species in the ground in the *Hakea* collection at Elliminyt, west of Geelong, in Victoria. Purpose-built beds are designed to provide excellent drainage.

The endangered species, *Hakea pulvinifera*, from Lake Keepit, near Tamworth, has been propagated from cuttings by the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. Over 110 plants have been translocated to three sites within the Lake Keepit State Park. A report in 2004 had concluded that there was no genetic variation within the wild population.

The Hakea Crawl in September will visit the Western Australian wheat belt, the Fitzgerald National Park and the Albany area.

Fern Study Group (June 2016, No. 136)

The move to a larger garden and the installation of an automatic watering system has provided one member with a greatly improved space for growing ferns. Several south-facing walls will provide the particular light, sun and moisture needs of each fern species.

Mt Strzelecki on Flinders Island in Bass Strait is home to an extensive array of ferns, tree ferns, and mosses. Fifteen genera of ferns were identified. The track passes in and out of open forest, across creek lines and climbs rocky slabs to reach the summit.

Drynaria is a widespread genus of large lithophytic or epiphytic ferns commonly known as basket ferns. The characteristics of the three Australian species and the single natural hybrid were compared and illustrated by images of the growth form and sori patterns.

The Circular Walk at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains will be the venue for the October excursion of the Fern Study Group Sydney region.

Acacia Study Group (June 2016, No. 133)

Acacia irrorata is a ferny-leaf wattle occurring naturally along the coast and ranges of NSW. Its flowering extends the wattle season into the summer months and, if planted in windbreaks and shelterbelts, *Acacia irrorata* contributes a valuable habitat component for wildlife.

Chemistry sleuthing identified carbonyl sulphide as the source of the natural sulphurous smell released by acacia roots, stems and seeds. Carbonyl sulphide 'plays a role in stratospheric ozone chemistry' and 'has a cooling effect on the atmosphere'. Please send a list of any acacias that you notice emitting a 'sulphurous smell' to John Gibson (john@potn.com.au) to contribute to this ongoing study.

Grevillea Study Group (June 2016, No. 104)

Grevillea hodgei is very rare. It is found on two of the smaller Glass House Mountains, namely Coochin Hills and Rupari Hill. Making space for telecommunication infrastructure has led to a significant reduction in the summit populations. The species is already stressed by below-average rainfall. A proactive solution would be for a consortium of land managers, catchment group and local Native Plants Queensland members to protect the species and arrest its decline in the wild. Native Plants Queensland Conservation Officer, Glenn Leiper, proposes that the threats impacting this species and its extremely limited distribution warrant its listing under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* as Critically Endangered.

Grevillea alpina exhibits 'huge variation in growth habit and flower, conflorescence shape and colour' and



Flowers of *Grevillea hodgei*. Photo: G Leiper

is a favourite of many growers, but its 'survival in cultivation is limited to a few forms'. Long-term observation of plants hand-propagated from seed or cuttings and grown side-by-side with naturally-occurring plants may lead to a better understanding of this species and its cultivation requirements.

Waratah & Flannel Flower Study Group (July 2016, No. 11)

Several members reported germination rates above 80% in the trial of the *Alloxylon pinnatum* seed donated to the Study Group.

Members reported success with planting spindly *Actinotus helianthi* seedlings to a greater depth into the sandy potting mix to provide extra initial support for the plant stem.

Tasmania is home to three diminutive, mainly alpine species of *Actinotus*: *Actinotus moorei*, *A. suffocatus* and *A. bellidioides*.



(L) *Alloxylon pinnatum* seedlings. Photo: N Rosten

(R) Margaret Pieroni, Leader of the Dryandra SG with honours student Francis Nge

Dryandra Study Group (July 2016, No. 71)

Francis Nge, an Honours student from University of Western Australia, is studying morphometric and genetic characteristics of specimens of dryandras (*Banksia* ser. *Dryandra*) belonging to the former Series *Aphragma*. Francis is very grateful for Study Group Leader Margaret Pieroni's invaluable help throughout the project.

Garden Design Study Group (August 2016, No. 95)

Flat, regularly-shaped blocks of land pose a challenge for the garden designer. A small public space in Mallacoota in Victoria features sinuous paths, curved seating and plants themed to augment the purple and grey scheme of the built structures. Many of the plants are native to

NSW, so the design sketch provided with the article and the plant list could be adapted to beautify any similarly uninspiring space.

Brian Roach's article *Amazing Greys* which appeared in the July issue of *Native Plants for NSW* also made an appearance in the Garden Design Study Group newsletter to a national audience. Jennifer Liney has written a follow-up article about grey-foliaged *Acacia* species found on the NSW south coast and hinterland. See page 4.

Storms that follow heavy rain can bring down well-established trees and large shrubs and necessitate the total replanting of the affected area. Study Group Leaders Ros and Ben Walcott are trying to look on their storm losses in July this year as an opportunity rather than a disaster.

Correa Study Group (Mid 2016, No. 54)

Flinders Island in Bass Strait is home to *Correa reflexa* var. *nummulariifolia* and this variety is not known to be in cultivation. *Correa alba* was also found growing on the island.

Correa aemula has a scattered distribution in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island in South Australia and in the Grampians, Victoria. The leaves are elliptical and densely hairy. It flowers in spring, with the colour varying with location, from yellow to pale blue-green.



Steel-blue flower
colouring in *Correa
aemula*
Photo: L.E. Stridvall

Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

Acacia (\$10/\$20/\$7)

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Australian Food Plants (free)

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Australian Plants as Bonsai

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Banksia (\$10/\$20/\$7)

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Hakea (\$10)

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Joint Leaders: Phil Trickett and
Catriona Bate
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Rainforest (free)

Leader: Kris Kupsch
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Wallum & Coastal Heathland (\$5)

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Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)

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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.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 Coxs 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



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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

President	John Aitken
Vice President	Alix Goodwin
Honorary Secretary	Heather Miles
Treasurer	Harry Loots
Membership Officer	Merle Thompson
Company Co-ordinator	vacant
Editors <i>Australian Plants</i>	John Aitken and Merle Thompson
Editor <i>Native Plants for NSW</i>	David Crawford
Publicity Officer	vacant
Program Officer	John Andrews
Exhibition Officer	vacant
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

APS NSW Board members at 1 July 2016

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	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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