



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 171

May 2021

Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

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Next Meeting

**Saturday 5th June 2021, 10.00am for 10.30am start
at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens**

PROTEACEAE OF THE EUROBODALLA REGION

Dear Members,

This month we meet at the ERBG meeting room where we will spend the morning learning all about the family Proteacea from John Knight, and in particular the variety of plants in the Proteaceae Family which occur in the local area.

Members might be amazed to learn that over 60 different taxa occur locally. John will introduce most of these taxa, and offer information of how members might grow these in their own gardens.

The day will include a visit to the garden bed that the APS proposes to take on as a project and there will be an opportunity to discuss possible design processes as well as beginning to clear the area in preparation for future works.

If you would like to participate in some gardening activity please bring some gloves and wear your garden gear. We will be including a short volunteer induction process in the morning meeting just so we can all work on site safely in the afternoon. If the weather is not suitable for outdoor activities we will have an activity planned that we can do in the ERBG Nursery potting area. Di.



Banksia spinulosa

Last Meeting

Landscaping Principles and Practicalities with Shane Doherty Held at President Di Clark's Rosedale garden.

Di introduced Shane Doherty, professional landscape gardener and APSSE member.

Shane directed her comments to this garden, but reinforced that her comments apply equally to any landscape/garden project.

She began by pointing out the need to consider aspects and prospects in the garden. It is also necessary to consider the sun path - where the sun falls on the garden - at different times of year, as this controls where there is dappled shade during the winter, and which areas (including the deck) get hot in the afternoon in summer. Parts of the garden are in shade all day, and these need correct understorey plants for shade.

Practicalities raised by Shane:

How much money does the garden owner want to spend?

And how much time does the garden owner have to maintain the garden?

As a rough guide, structures (including paving, retaining walls of various materials etc) cost between \$2000 – \$2500 / sq metre.

The need for proper preparation of the ground, compaction etc was stressed, in order to avoid deterioration of paving or other surfaces. It is really important contractors understand the details of drainage and install the correct type of agricultural drains behind retaining walls and install the correct type of (river) sand around the drain.

Another practicality: The owner should consider how he/she/they use the garden.

Plants are the last things you should think about.

Discuss the order of work; how does one work area/project impact on other parts of the garden?

Moving into the garden, Shane began by standing outside the front gate, making the following comments.

An entrance garden has to welcome, be a nice space.

It was suggested to move the overcrowded young camellias from the latticed gazebo (the Folly) to the front fence;

to retain the *Metrosideros excelsa* tree at the gate;

to paint the fence charcoal to make the fence disappear visually;
and to get rid of the pergola above the gate, because it blocks the view into the garden.

The existing brick paving is uneven and a tripping hazard due to disruption by *Metrosideros* tree roots.

To overcome this disruption it was suggested to replace the brick paving with gravel, adding stepping stones of large pavers, close together, or alternatively to have a raised bridge built. This could be either of timber, or metal, and would provide connection to the house entry and deck.

The option of a suspended metal pathway, curved and with domestic patterns available, was explained.

Mulch and plants could be put under the pathway. However, there are large areas of brick paved paths in this garden - how important is continuity?



We then moved into the sloping lawn and vegetable garden area in front of the latticed gazebo structure.

All agreed the Kikuyu lawn must go, to be replaced by a bed with scattered shrubs, shaped to provide a bit of mystery beyond. It was suggested that the gazebo/Folly be retained as a sitting space, the lattice be removed and the remaining timber be painted charcoal to make it visually “disappear”.

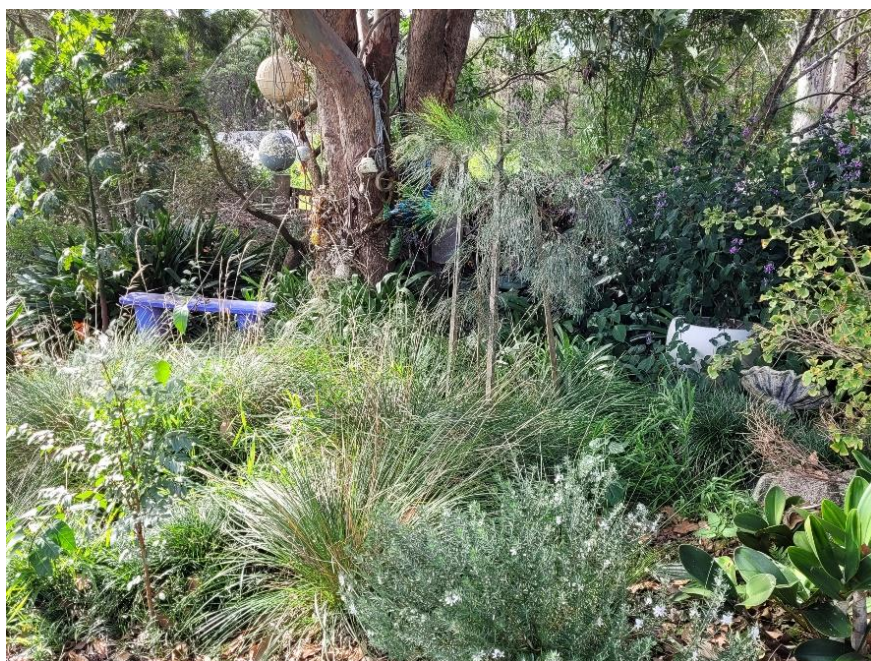


The existing plants in front could be replaced by Di’s preference for subtle plants in greys (**Atriplex**, **Rhagodia**, blue-flowered **Lechenaultia** and grasses etc) which would tone well with the charcoal structure behind. Options for changing the sloping area to a terraced one, with a vegetable area at the bottom, were suggested. There was discussion on which of the existing crowded trees and shrubs should be retained in the eastern end of the garden, and where rubbish bins could be more conveniently located.

After lunch we moved to the shade side of the house to look at existing plantings of trees along the property boundary which don’t provide sufficient privacy. Options for pruning sun-loving trees back to force them to bush out were explored, as were some suggested additional plantings.

In Shane’s estimation, parts of the shade garden work well and are beautiful as they are.

We continued our tour at the western end of the garden where high maintenance citrus trees will be removed. A beautiful hedge of **Callistemon** and **Ceratopetalum** was admired in the driveway.



The narrow front verge garden of the property screens the house from the road. It contains large exotic shrubs that are mostly well suited as privacy screens and Shane discussed which to retain and prune, and what to remove amongst the smaller ground covers of exotics.

All agreed that it was a very educational and thought-provoking presentation for which we thanked Shane.

Report by Marjorie Apthorpe and Di Clark,

A quick **Show and Tell** session was held directly after lunch. **Anne Keaney** brought purple flowered *Lysiosepalum involucratum*, a small, rarely grown shrub from South West W.A. *Ammobium alatum*, a long-flowering daisy, and *Leptospermum* 'Mesmer Eyes', a Peter Ollerenshaw creation, a tea-tree which has proved very adaptable as a garden plant.



Marjorie Apthorpe brought specimens of three WA plants which are growing happily in her Currowan garden, *Beaufortia squarrosa* (Orange flower form, which featured in our last newsletter), *Thryptomene denticulata* which displays copious pink-purple blooms from Autumn to early Summer, and a *Verticordia* (species in doubt: ?*multiflora* or ?*paludosa*).



Just a quick note following the May APS meeting at my place.

I have commenced removing vegetation from in front of the folly and when I looked inside I discovered a Southern Boobook owl had made it their temporary home. I hope the wildlife approve of the proposed changes and I will endeavour to keep the garden wildlife friendly.

Di Clark



Member **Jill Gutteridge** has passed on this very pertinent information from ANPC regarding Myrtle Rust, which is again appearing locally.



Australia needs a national response to the threat of extinctions caused by Myrtle Rust



Callistemon affected by Myrtle Rust Image by Geoff Pegg

This plant disease, caused by an introduced fungal pathogen, affects plant species in the Myrtle family (Myrtaceae), which includes paperbarks, tea-trees, eucalypts, and lillypillies. These are key, and often dominant, species in many Australian ecosystems.

First detected near Sydney in 2010, the pathogen has naturalised along the entire east coast and has proven capable of infecting over 380 native plant species. Twenty to fifty of the currently-impacted species are threatened with severe decline. Some face near-term extinction.

Broader ecological consequences are expected from the disease. Myrtle Rust is likely to have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance protected under national environment law, including listed threatened species and ecological communities, wetlands of international importance, World Heritage properties, and national heritage places. Many more species, ecosystems and special places may be at risk if the pathogen spreads to Western Australia, or if further strains of the same pathogen (one of them known to be strongly eucalypt-associated) arrive from overseas.

While the Myrtle Rust pathogen (*Austropuccinia psidii*) does not directly affect human or animal health, its impacts on ecosystem integrity are likely to have critical flow-on effects to people and animals, through economic, social and cultural values, amenity, loss of key habitat, and loss of genetic resources. Sectors such as tourism, recreation, and nursery and garden industries, including rural and regional and Indigenous enterprises, are likely to be impacted economically.

The arrival in Australia of Myrtle Rust disease is the second example in recent decades (after amphibian Chytrid disease) of the enormous environmental damage that can be done by broad-spectrum exotic pathogens. Myrtle Rust is our second wake-up call – such pathogens are on the move globally.

More information on actions you must take can be sourced through the National Action Plan website. Myrtle Rust in Australia – a National Action Plan. R.O. Makinson *et al.*, Australian Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation, Canberra (2020). <https://www.apbsf.org.au/myrtle-rust/>

Committee news

Interesting Website - our very own APS NSW

In this day and age of overwhelming information it is sometimes easy to miss some very useful documentation. I recently discovered a gem.

Buried in layers of the NSW APS website (austplants.com.au) is a resource that I think we should all be aware of. You may all know about it already but just in case you are like me, and didn't take the time to explore I'll help you find it.

If you go to the APS NSW website and click on the Resources tab, you will see a drop down tab for Plant Database, Information and Newsletters and Journals. The Plant Database is interesting , but it is another database that amazed me. Click on Information, and then on the Conserving Native Plants and Habitats box.

On the page where it says "To see all regions and data, click [here](#).", do just that and the regions and data options will be revealed. Select the area you wish to explore.

There is so much information here relevant to the Eurobodalla Region and the far South Coast. The person who put all this together, Tony Maxwell, explains how he began this project and what he has done. A huge amount of work and such a valuable resource. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.



Information

- [Gardening with native plants](#)
- [Buying native plants and seeds](#)
- [Seeing natives in gardens and reserves](#)
- [Identifying native plants](#)
- [Conserving native plants and habitats](#)
- [Using native plants](#)
- [Animals and habitats stories](#)
- [APS NSW news](#)



Eurobodalla

[Natives Plant Species List Eurobodalla 010321](#)

[ALA Maps Eurobodalla](#)

Far South Coast

[Natives Plant Species List Far South Coast 010321](#)

[ALA Maps Far South Coast](#)

To see all regions and data, click [here](#).

- Northern Sydney, Southern Sydney
- Central Coast
- Central Tablelands
- Central West
- Eurobodalla
- Far South Coast
- Hunter North, Hunter South
- Illawarra Shoalhaven
- Southern Highlands
- Southern Tablelands north, Southern Tablelands south

There is some overlap also with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region, so it is worth looking at this also, especially for those in the north of our area.

Di Clark

Committee news

We have missed Michele Pymble at our gatherings over recent months, and we have been advised that husband Brian passed away last month after a long illness. Our thoughts are with Michele, a long-time member and for some years, past Secretary and committee member.

As Secretary, Michele thanked our speakers using the card illustrated, so I feel it is appropriate to print it here to in some small way express our condolences, and we trust that Michele will soon be able to again attend our meetings.



In My Garden

In preparation for the next meeting, the following notes describe some local Proteaceous plants which are in my garden.

Not all Grevilleas are designed for bird pollination. A local form of *G. linearifolia* is a slender upright shrub to about 1.5m with a spread of about 80cm, now 8 years old, growing under the dappled shade of *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*. White flowers tinged with pink are borne terminally for much of the year, and are visited by a range of insects.



Grevillea linearifolia

A similar foliaged plant, *G. patulifolia*, is a small suckering shrub which grows in open Eucalypt forest west of Milton. Flowers are deep pink, and adorn the shrubs from winter through summer.

In the garden, this is a very accommodating plant, adapting to any reasonable well drained position. I have it established under *Eucalyptus olsenii*, a low spreading Gum with an open canopy.



Grevillea patulifolia

Here the conditions are quite dry, whereas in natural conditions the plant often inhabits quite damp conditions.

At the ERBG, plants are suckering profusely after the fires, and are in full sun.

Both these plants are easily propagated by cuttings of firm young wood, taken late spring to autumn.

Grevillea oxyantha is a medium to large shrub which grows on the ranges west of Moruya almost up to Monga National Park.

In the Snowball area, at high altitude it grows in wet Eucalypt forest, in quite deep shade, reaching about 2m. Further south near Tuross Falls, it grows as a large spreading shrub to 3m x 4m, and prefers an open sunny situation.

Both plants are excellent garden plants, but do need some space to flourish. Regular pruning will keep the plants in bounds, but experience shows that the plants do not appreciate hard pruning into old wood. Flowers are initially rusty, but open to deep red, in confluences of up to 30 flowers.

A plant that can be a ground cover with a spread of 3m, of a sprawling upright plant 2 – 3m high and wide, *G. macleayana* from around Milton/Ulladulla is quite a different form to that found near Diamond Creek west of Moruya.

Collected during an early excursion to discover the variety of plants of the ranges, this form develops a strong single trunk, reaching around 4 – 6m, with a spread of 4m. At ERBG it was planted along Deep Creek in the shade of large Eucalypts to provide conditions similar to its natural environment. Plants thrived until the recent fires, but seedlings have germinated to continue the lineage.



Grevillea oxyantha



Grevillea macleayana

COVID 19 restrictions still apply at all our gatherings, both indoors and outside.

Members will be required to sign our attendance record, and supply contact details for tracing purposes should that need arise. Also, you need to supply your own refreshments, as a “no sharing” policy is adopted by the committee until advised by APS NSW Region that this requirement has been relaxed.

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