

BUDAWANGIA*

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THE NATIVE PLANTS OF THE NSW SOUTH COAST

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Aims: To connect those interested in the native flora of the NSW South Coast, to share up to date information on the flora of the region and to broaden the appreciation of the region's native plants.

Editorial

This month turned out to be very wet, with about 2.5 to 3 months of average rainforest received at Jamberoo over a few days late in the month. Some of you may have noticed the abundant white fruit on the forest floor lately; this is the Crab Apple *Schizomeria ovata* (Cunoniaceae), which is fruiting particularly well this year. If you live near a White Cedar *Melia azedarach* tree, you may have seen the hairy White Cedar Moth caterpillars, which are again on the march (see Newsletter No. 25, April 2014).

Rainforest trees often confuse people, so many similar looking leaves to study! The only recommendation I can give is that repetition is the only way to become familiar enough to identify a plant quickly and consistently each time. Unfortunately, some species exhibit a great variation in leaf shape and size. A few of the trees with serrated leaves are included here to aid their identification. Further to last month's piece on Araucaria, Allan (temporary Barcelona correspondent and *Araucaria* enthusiast) notes that there are two species of Araucaria in South America. The Paraná Pine *Araucaria angustifolia* occurs in Brazil. Plant of the month is the Beach Bean, a rare coastal plant in our region. The mystery weed is exposed and there are pieces on epiphytes and a very large stinging tree discovered recently on the escarpment.

The Lone Pine.

From childhood, we have been told the story of Lone Pine. The original Lone Pine was a tree on the site of the 1915 Battle of Lone Pine on the Gallipoli Peninsula. This species is the Turkish Pine *Pinus brutia* (Pinaceae), previously a subspecies of the Aleppo Pine *Pinus halepensis*. The seeds in some cones brought back to Australia from the battlefield were subsequently grown and eventually seedlings were planted in parks and public gardens throughout Australia, commemorating the sacrifice of so many young blokes all those years ago.

Lest we Forget

I would be pleased to receive appropriate articles, however small, on interesting observations, new discoveries, plant name changes, etc., up to two A4 pages, including some photographs. Deadline is one week before the end of the calendar month.

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* *Budawangia* is a monotypic, endemic genus restricted to the Budawang Range on the western edge of the South Coast region. The genus was named by Telford in 1992; the species *Budawangia gnidioides* (Ericaceae) was previously *Rupicola gnidioides*.

Serrated leaves of some local rainforest trees

While poking around Minnamurra Rainforest, I found four species of rainforest tree within a few metres of each other that all had serrated leaf margins. This reminded me that quite often I am asked the difference between Sassafras and Featherwood leaves. Well, there are another two species to look out for, one of which is very rare in this region (*Helicia glabriflora*), and one that is listed as threatened (*Daphnandra johnsonii*). The photographs below show the upper and lower sides of the leaves of all four species, gathered in the Minnamurra Rainforest valley. Leaf shape and the character of the serrations readily differentiae these species to the trained eye.



Above. Sassafras *Doryphora sassafras*,
Atherospermataceae.

Right. Featherwood *Polyosma cunninghamii*,
Escalloniaceae.



Above. Illawarra Socketwood *Daphnandra johnsonii*, Monimiaceae.

Left. Smooth Helicia *Helicia glabriflora*, Proteaceae.

Plant of the Month - Beach Bean - a rare local beach plant

The large creeping plant Beach Bean *Canavalia rosea* (Fabaceae) occurs as far south as Steamers Beach south of Jervis Bay. The species is primarily a tropical species, being common across the western Pacific. Locally, the species is known from three beaches; Windang Island, Bass Point and Steamers Beach.



The pink flowers of *C. rosea*.

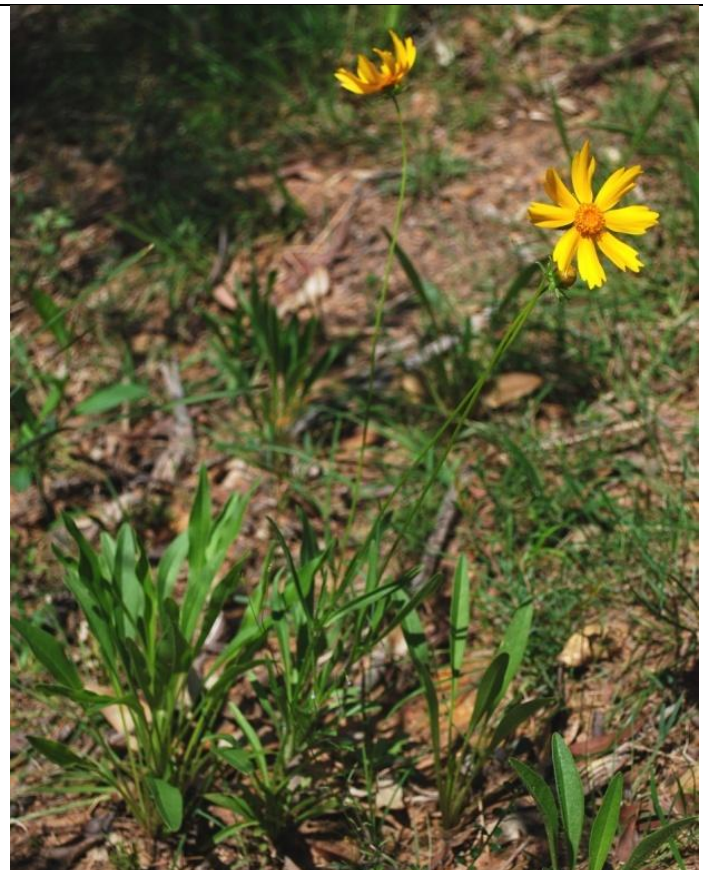


The large beans and scrambling habit of *C. rosea*.

Mystery Weed Solved

The mystery weed species from last month is *Coreopsis lanceolata* (Asteraceae), known as Coreopsis or Lance-leaved Coreopsis. An easy identification for District Weeds Officer David Pomery, who quickly emailed the correct species. Ian (Queensland) also came in a close second with the correct answer.

This is an invasive species of disturbed sites and is particularly common along some roadsides and railway lines in the region. Over the years, the species has spread southwards along roadsides well into the Shoalhaven. It was presumably introduced as a garden plant; other species in this genus are sold at nurseries for that purpose.



Above. Leaves and flowers of *Coreopsis lanceolata*.

Left. A large population of *Coreopsis lanceolata* in a railway easement near Yerrinbool.

Epiphytes

Epiphytes are plants that grow away from contact with the soil, on plants rocks, fallen logs and sometimes artificial structures. Epiphytic plants come from several groups, including ferns, orchids and herbs. Some epiphytes have been dealt with in past newsletters, such as the several recent pieces on orchids and the two local *Peperomia* species.

Epiphytic ferns represent 27 percent of all fern species in the region. These range from huge Bird's Nest Ferns *Asplenium australasicum* to tiny 'filmy ferns', one cm in length. Climbing ferns can also be epiphytic, growing on moss-covered rocks or trees, rather than from the ground (e.g. *Arthropteris tenella* and *Microsorium scandens*).

The photograph at left is a large cluster of epiphytes on an old *Pittosporum undulatum* tree overhanging the Minnamurra River at Minnamurra Rainforest. This clump contains five fern species, namely *Asplenium australasicum*, *Asplenium polyodon*, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, *Pyrrosia rupestris* and *Davallia pyxidata*.



A giant Giant Stinging Tree

The Giant Stinging Tree *Dendrocnide excelsa* (Urticaceae) has appeared in the newsletter before. The species is a common tree in the local subtropical rainforest at low to moderate altitudes, particularly along the escarpment where some big trees can be found growing in the deep soils developed on the benches.

The photograph at right was taken in Macquarie Pass National Park recently. At first glance, the huge trunk looked like a fig tree. This must be one of, if not the largest stinging tree in southern New South Wales; note my walking mate John in lower left of photograph. The tree has huge buttresses and must be many hundreds of years old.

The surrounding rainforest is virtually untouched and contains other large trees, especially Churnwood *Citronella moorei* (Icacinaeae).

