

# APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



**March 2020**

**NEXT EHG MEETING:**

**7.30 pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Native Plants of Kangaroo Island**

**Doug Rickard**

Please bring specimens for the plant table and something to share for supper.

**LUGARNO-PEAKHURST UNITING CHURCH**

**909 Forest Road Lugarno (opposite the Chivers Hill Lugarno shops)**

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME**

**WELCOME** to the March 2020 edition of the APS East Hills Group Newsletter.

This month's Newsletter includes our President's Report, the listing of plant specimens that were brought to our February Plant ID table and our Business notes from the February Meeting – this includes details of the topics spoken about from our Group members. Don't forget to check the important 'Dates for your Diary'.

Karlo Taliana  
Editor

<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The scientists have been warning for many years that climate change will bring extreme weather and this summer eastern Australia has certainly experienced this. A couple of weeks ago we were experiencing 45°C temperatures and then a week later we get 350mm of rain, incredible.

Our plants, notwithstanding that they are Australian plants and should be used to such extremes, are behaving very strangely. I have a number of spring-flowering plants such as *Graptophyllum excelsum*, *Grevillea fililoba* and *Melaleuca fulgens* flowering profusely in February. My concern is that at other times during extended dry periods, I have had other plants go through an out of season flowering event and then promptly die. It seems that they put one last effort into producing seed before they succumb. I hope these plants don't suffer the same fate.

In our area there are a lot of Grey Gums in parks and they are also flowering very well at present. Currently, there doesn't seem to be a lot of insects about, probably due to the exceptional weather conditions, and so wildlife is exploiting any resource that is available. These trees are providing a very important food source and many birds, particularly lorikeets, are feeding on the blossom and at night the fruit bats are also utilising the resource. It just shows how important reserves and parks are for our wildlife with trees in private properties and street frontages gradually disappearing. We must be vigilant and proactive in ensuring that the small amount of natural vegetation in our urban areas is well protected. Even our common birds such as Rainbow Lorikeets, Magpies and Noisy Miners all need significant trees to breed. So do many of the other organisms we know little about but which are an essential component of our environment.

One final point, I am have recently become aware that we can be members of multiple groups within APS without the need to pay fees to each group. I know there are members of our group who are also members of Menai WFG and/or Sutherland APS and you do not need to pay extra to be members of those groups.

Graham Fry  
President, East Hills Group

### *Isopogon anemonifolius* (Broad-leaved Drumstick)

is the floral emblem of the East Hills Group

Photo taken by Karlo Taliana at Picnic Point, Georges River National Park

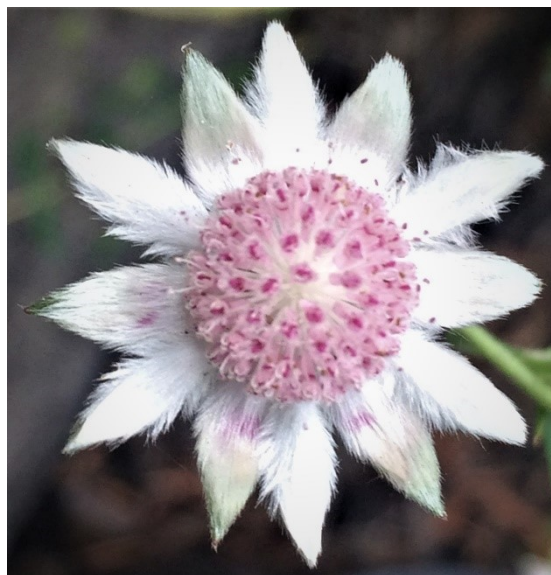


FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING  
PLANT TABLE – FEBRUARY 2019

List: Ashlie Stevenson

Thanks to everyone who brought specimens.

*Doryanthes excelsa* (seed head) - Gymea Lily  
*Plectranthus cremnus* (endangered) - Cockspur  
*Grevillea* 'Golden Lyre'  
*Actinotus forsythii*- Pink Flannel Flower  
*Brachycome* 'Radiant Magenta'  
*Grevillea* 'Scarlet Sprite'  
*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*  
*Grevillea semperflorens*  
*Grevillea* 'Splendour'  
*Grevillea fililoba*  
*Stenocarpus sinuatus* - Queensland Firewheel Tree  
*Banksia media* - Southern Plains Banksia  
*Viola* 'Monga Magic'  
*Hibiscus heterophyllus* - Native Rosella  
*Hibiscus geranioides*  
*Backhousia citriodora* - Lemon Scented Myrtle



Photos (from the top right going clockwise) – *Stenocarpus sinuatus*,  
*Actinotus forsythii*, *Grevillea fililoba*

**FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING**  
**APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING – WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church, Lugarno  
Notes recorded by Liz Cameron

Meeting opened at 7.40 pm with an attendance of 14.  
Apologies from Des and Marie O'Connor and Carol Drew.

President Graham Fry reported on the planning meeting held on 15th January:

Graham Walters has lined up three or four speakers –

March – Doug Rickard, probably talking about Kangaroo Island

April – Sophie Moore, an ecology post-graduate student at Macquarie University and member of The Fossickers folk group –“Functional diversity of urban street trees”

Later in the year – Sandra Guy or a colleague from Office of Environment and Heritage will present at two meetings, one on fire effects; Shauna Chadlowe, Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Editorial committee – Jan and Karlo are producing a simplified version of the newsletter and Kate Porritt will help with it. Jan would like members to provide lots of photos, saved on a memory stick.

Garden visits – it is hoped to arrange a couple of garden visits one day in spring.

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society has scheduled a visit to Muogamarra Nature Reserve in August and EHG members might like to join in; it will be advertised in our newsletter closer to the date.

Sylvan Grove – EHG may not schedule a visit to Sylvan Grove Native Garden this year but Dave Crawford suggested a 'dry run' in 2020 because Ralph Cartwright, one of the organisers of ANPSA conference next year, would like to include Sylvan Grove in the list of excursions offered to conference participants in 2021. Dates are 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September with perhaps two visits per day. Members discussed some details:

Canterbury Bankstown Council and the Garden manager will need to be approached. Provide morning tea but not lunch – EHG urn which has been stored with Jan and Dave, might be needed.

Seating for 50-60 people– perhaps hire chairs

Marquee or large awning needed in case of hot or wet weather; the cottage on site is vacant, so visitors might be able to gather nearby.

Difficult to talk to a large group on the narrow winding paths; Dave suggested 30 or 40 numbered signs linked to a printed sheet or an app to which visitors could refer for plant names and information.

Parking for excursion bus – no space at the entrance to the gardens.

Plants for sale – perhaps share two tables with Menai Wildflower Group.

Graham Fry will respond to Ralph - EHG members agreed in principle to host the excursions but need to discuss details further.

Disposal of EHG's slide projector stored with Jan and Dave but no longer required: Dorothy Luther said she would like to take it and the meeting approved this.

EHG Library, which is stored at the back of Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church Hall, is underutilised. Dave will make a list of the contents to inform members and encourage its use.

Treasurer Tony Porritt presented an unaudited Financial Summary for East Hills Group in 2019. Revenue from sale of plants and raffle tickets was up a lot on average. Surplus for the year \$11.19 and account balance at 31 December 2019 was \$5,139.15. Tony has sent the summary to NSW Head Office for auditing.

**THAT** Treasurer's report be accepted. Moved: T Porritt Seconded: E Cameron CARRIED

Members' talks followed:

Dorothy Luther gave a PowerPoint presentation on Discarded Plastics – gathering, sorting and recycling.

Graham Walters read the introduction to *Boom and Bust*, a book about the adaptations of Australian birds to the climatic extremes described in Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My Country'. The citation is Robin, Libby, Heinsohn, Robert and Joseph, Leo (editors). 2009. *Boom and Bust: bird stories for a dry country*. CSIRO Publishing. 299 pp.

Chris King described the difficulties of including native grasses in the landscaping of urban areas. She illustrated luxuriant growth of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda* sp.) and Barbed Wire Grass (*Cymbopogon refractus*) bordering a footpath outside a residential complex. Although it provided habitat for fauna, a large minority of residents and gardeners considered it messy and obstructive, and Chris's subsequent photos illustrated the gradual decline and removal of some of the grasses.

Jan Douglas screened 35 "Pretty Plant Pictures from Western Australia 2019" featuring mostly small and beautiful flowers.

Dave Crawford's talk was on the seldom-featured palm family Arecaceae, beginning with a broad overview, then focussing on two species that he and Jan were growing in pots in Lugarno –the local Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis*, and the Fan Palm *Licuala ramsayi*, an understory plant in the Daintree rainforest of north Queensland.

Members' talks were terminated at 9.35 to allow time for the plant table and raffle draw before supper at 10 pm.

***Grevillea semperflorens*** – Photo taken by Karlo Taliana at 'The Australian Garden' Mt Annan



## COMING EVENTS – CHECK YOUR DIARY!

Jan Douglas

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>4 March 2020</b>  <b>From 7.15 for 7.30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>East Hills Group meeting – Doug Rickard (APS Sutherland Group): Native Plants of Kangaroo Island.</b>                  Includes information about native plants that were on Kangaroo Island before the recent bushfires that devastated 48% of the island, and about the fires and their impact.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>11 March 2020</b>  <b>7 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Menai Wildflower Group – Pam Forbes and Greg Jackson (APS Menai Group)</b> who are guides at the Australian National Maritime Museum: '<b>Science on the Endeavour</b>' with an emphasis on botany.</p> <p><b>Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong.</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b>  <b>18 March 2020</b>  <b>From 7.45pm for 8pm</b></p>	<p><b>Sutherland Group meeting – Sutherland Meeting – Allan House: Flora and fossicking in Far North Queensland</b></p> <p><b>GyMEA Community Hall, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA</b></p>
<p><b>Weekends in March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Boongala Native Gardens</b> are open for weekends in March. There is a small entry charge.                  For details see <a href="https://www.boongalagardens.com/">https://www.boongalagardens.com/</a>  <i>Note that a visit to Boongala is part of the March quarterly gathering – see below.</i></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b>  <b>21 March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>First APS NSW Quarterly Gathering for 2020</b>                  Hosted by the Parramatta-Hills Group at Kenthurst and Cherrybrook. See page 3 of the EHG February 2020 newsletter for details or go to <a href="https://austplants.com.au/event-3712419?CalendarViewType=1&amp;SelectedDate=3/23/2020">https://austplants.com.au/event-3712419?CalendarViewType=1&amp;SelectedDate=3/23/2020</a>.</p>
<p><b>Saturday and Sunday</b>  <b>28 and 29 March 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Westleigh Native Plants – Open garden and plant sales</b> at Brian Roach's place at 47 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh 2120. Free entry. Enquiries: 0418115630 or <a href="mailto:bcroach@optusnet.com.au">bcroach@optusnet.com.au</a></p>

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