



HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER Group of APS NSW NEWSLETTER – February 2023

NEXT HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER EVENT:

Saturday 11th March

**Join the APS NSW Quarterly Gathering
at Bundeena – walks from 10 am
and talks in the Community Hall**

See <https://www.austplants.com.au/event-5075009> for full details

Register on the Web site

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the APS Harbour Georges River Group Newsletter. Our next meeting is supporting our neighbours at Sutherland who are hosting the APS quarterly gathering, so a little later in the month than usual. This promises to be a great day out and a chance to meet members of other groups as well as our own.

This edition has a good review of our outing to the University of Sydney to view the native plantings, and some historical ones too. There is also a lot happening in our neighbourhood, now that we have got over the fear of mingling again. And please check the list of garden supplies we have for sale and pick something your garden really needs.

Dorothy Luther, Editor

In the spirit of reconciliation, the APS Harbour Georges River group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

<https://www.austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River>

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Birds nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) on rocks in O’Connor’s backyard.
Grown from spores - about 10 years old.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It was great seeing everyone, especially the new members, at our February outing. Being out in gardens and socialising again is always good for body & soul.

We are having a committee meeting on Wednesday 8th March to plan out the rest of the year. We have more meeting ideas than there are months to do them in, so some will be held over to next year.

With the policy of having a small job for everyone, we are also working on some other ideas to involve members in activities to do at home or in smaller teams. Watch this space & be prepared to be invited to participate in some small way in improving our local environment.

Warmest regards to you all.

Marie O'Connor. President HGR APS.



view over the O'Connors back garden
rainforest: Ivory curl tree (*Buckinghamia
celsissima*) in centre and Lemon Myrtle
(*Backhousia citriodora*) on the right.

Hibiscus Tiliaceus Rubra, also from O'Connor back garden



NEXT MEETING

APS NSW Gathering at Bundeena, Saturday 11th March

This month, we are going to piggy back onto the APS NSW Gathering at Bundeena, hosted by Sutherland group.

See <https://www.austplants.com.au/event-5075009> for full details

Program overview:

10-12 noon: Excursion to a private native plant garden or a bushwalk in Royal National Park.

An Extra Activity: Garden visits/artists' studios. See <http://www.arttrail.com.au/map.html> for map & details.

12-1 pm: Lunch and plant sale

1-3 pm: Meeting at the Bundeena Community Hall, 17-37 Liverpool St, Bundeena.

Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for visitors, to cover hall hire and afternoon tea. Payable on entry.

Talk by Ann Young: Mosaics of vegetation - the rocks and dirt story.

Afternoon tea provided by Sutherland Group of APS.

Please RSVP by 4 March, by clicking the 'Register' button on the web site.

Where



**Bundeena
Maianbar
Art Trail**

Artist studios in the creative communities of Bundeena and Maianbar open to the public on the first Sunday of each month.

Refer overleaf for studios open this month.

- STUDIO NUMBER
- PUBLIC BATHROOM
- ART TRAIL MURAL
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS



Bundeena is accessible by either ferry or car.

For access by ferry from Cronulla, see the timetable: <https://cronullaferries.com.au/ferries-to-bundeena-old/bundeena-timetable/>

The ferry leaves Cronulla and crosses Port Hacking to Bundeena every hour. If you wish to travel by ferry from Cronulla, contact 0458 366 022 prior to departure from Cronulla to arrange transport from the wharf.

By car, Bundeena is 56 km from Sydney via the Princes Highway and Audley Road, Sir Bertram Stevens Drive and Bundeena Drive. You do not require a NPWL permit to drive to Bundeena, however you will need one if you plan to join the beautiful bushwalk from Bonnie Vale to the adjoining suburb of Maianbar.

LAST MEETING – University of Sydney

Background

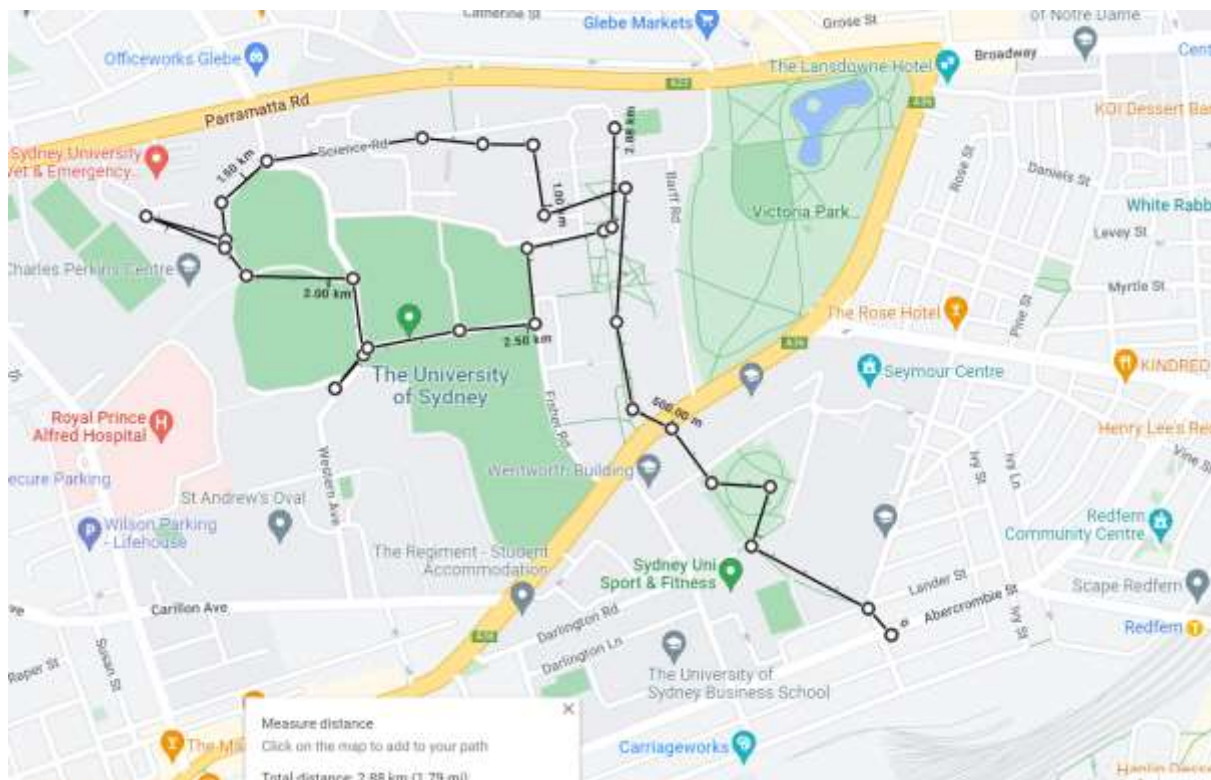
The Walanga Wingara Mura Design Principles were introduced in 2016 to bring more Indigenous fauna and flora to the University's campuses.

Since then, the Open Spaces Team have been continually sourcing local flora for our gardens and green spaces. There are currently more than 500,000 native plants, shrubs and grasses used across our campuses, and of more than 2000 trees, approximately 1400 are native.

Indigenous landscape areas, such as the Transient Garden on Fisher Road are developed using symbols and patterns to reflect Indigenous gathering places and original natural environments.

Native Plantings

Route of walk exploring native plantings on the campus, courtesy of Andrew Sinclair



Notes from Liz Cameron:

On this visit to the University of Sydney we were delighted to welcome 17 members, including some from our predecessor, East Hills Group, and others who have joined APS only in the past few months.

We met in the Charles Kernan Reserve in Abercrombie Street beside a community garden (which was worth an inspection itself) before entering the campus. I suggested a visit to the university because on intermittent visits over the past fifteen years, I noticed a steady increase in plantings of native species.

We were grateful to Andrew Sinclair, a staff member at the university as well as an HGR member, for providing the attached map and acting as an informal guide during our visit. The Botany Department has produced a Campus Flora app but it was being upgraded, so we relied on Andrew's laptop and his patience to access digital information on plants we encountered. <https://campusflora.sydneybiology.org>

The boardwalk was flanked by tall bottlebrushes (?*Callistemon shiressii*) which have soft pink new leaves and pale lemon flowers; they formed an effective screen for the adjacent childcare centre and benefit from a swale drain. There was a grove of mature Spotted Gums (*Corymbia maculata*) at the end of the boardwalk.

Progress slowed as we tried to identify the wide variety of shrubs and small trees planted in beds lining the path leading to the Cadigal Green. Not all were natives - Chris King pointed out Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) which is an invasive grass to be avoided; another import was *Dietes*. On the steps of one building large concrete 'saucers' were planted with a mixture of introduced and native climbers - *Mandevilla* and *Pandorea jasminoides*.

White-trunked Lemon-scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) provided welcome shade near the Cadigal Green and a Queensland bottle tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) was spotted growing amongst Prickly-leaved and Broad-leaved Paperbarks (*Melaleuca styphelioides*, *M. quinquenervia*).



1 Illawarra Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius* photo by Dorothy

Some paused for a coffee break at the Law School café, while others compared the leaves of two red-flowered native trees growing beside Eastern Avenue – Firewheel Tree *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Proteaceae) and Illawarra Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Sterculiaceae).

In contrast to these contemporary plantings of Australian natives was the Vice-Chancellor's Garden behind the quadrangle in a traditional style. It was designed by Eben Waterhouse, and planted with camellias and azaleas and Chinese elms, interspersed with classical statues.

Andrew led us down Science Road to the Curriculum Native Garden installed to mark National Tree Day in 2021. University staff and students have partnered with IndigiGrow, a local Aboriginal-owned social enterprise, to



2 entering the Min Quad, photo by Jemima Jamieson

plant and create the garden. It will have many functions, including use in the Botany teaching curriculum; Associate Professor Rosanne Quinnell cites the garden's critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub species as an example. She says designing and driving the project provided the opportunity for the campus community to better engage with living campus environments and to learn about plants.

We ended the visit with lunch in the Chau Chak Wing Museum café and some were able stay long enough to explore some of the galleries there. There was much to see on the walk and difficult for such a large group to share all the comments that were made about the plants. We hope to return in a few years' time and have another guided walk.

We ran out of time to explore the playing fields & Science Road. Maybe next time.

There will be more about his excursion next month.

GROUP NEWS

Planning for 2023

In 2022 our group's monthly gatherings were held at a range of localities and at different times of the day and on different days of the week. In 2023 we plan to continue holding some events outdoors and others indoors (mostly evenings).

So far, we have 3 more activities planned:

- Sat 11 Mar 2023, piggy back onto APS NSW Gathering at Bundeena Community Hall, hosted by Sutherland group. See above.
- Wed 5th April evening, indoor meeting at the Earlwood Uniting Church Hall, 16 William Street, Earlwood. Members night – short talks by various members about their particular passions concerning native plants. A chance for new members to introduce themselves & get to know long standing members.
- Sun 7th May, from 10 am. Visit Sydney Park – coffee shop, community gardens, wetland, 2 hr walk. Meet at the brickworks, opposite St Peters Station. There are also buses along Princes Highway. Details to be confirmed.

We are holding a committee meeting on Wednesday 8th March at the Bush Music Hut in the Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville, to plan out the rest of the year's activities.

Garden Supplies for Sale

We have some garden supplies we are trying to sell, including plant foods and pesticides, on behalf of one of our members. It was agreed that the supplies be offered to HGR members first, but you may also have friends or neighbours who would be interested in acquiring some of these items. Please feel free to advertise this bounty.

Prices shown below are estimated retail, as a guide, and are negotiable. Please be generous. The donor is a very experienced retired horticulturist who has been forced out of her rented accommodation into a share home.

The goods can be collected at our indoor meeting on Wed 5th April. Please contact Liz Cameron by email elsmere02@gmail.com if interested or to make other arrangements.

Item	Quantity	Price
Miscellaneous orchid mix	c. 10 litres	\$10
Osmocote orchid mix	c. 5 litres	\$5
Sulphate of ammonia	c. 8 kg	\$20
Sulphate of ammonia	5 kg (unopened)	\$12
Sulphate of ammonia	c. 1 kg	\$5
Sulphate of potash	c. 1 kg	\$5
Hortico Weed & Green ferrous sulphate (controls lawn weeds)	c. 5 kg	\$20
Amgrow buffalo lawn weeder	c. 100 ml	\$10
Slasher organic weed killer	c. 750 ml	\$20
Yates easy-see spray dye to identify areas sprayed for weeds	c. 300 ml	\$20
Bin-die lawn weeder	c. 240 ml	\$20
Paspalum and crabgrass weed killer	500 ml (unopened)	\$30
Glyphosate, undiluted	c. 500 ml	\$10
Amgrow Wettasoil liquid concentrate	c. 300 ml	\$15
Amgrow Wettasoil granular soil wetter	c. 1 kg	\$20
Chelated iron	c. 500 g	\$20
Spredmax spreader wetting agent	c. 100 ml	\$5
Horticultural charcoal	5 litres (unopened)	\$18
Amgrow Nitrosol liquid plant food	c. 750 ml	\$15
Hortico snail and slug control	500 g (unopened)	\$10
Ecosnail snail and slug repellent (surface barrier)	c. 700 ml	\$10
Confidor lawn and garden insecticide	c. 100 ml	\$5
Yates scale gun spray	c. 200 ml	\$5
Pyrethrum insect spray concentrate	c. 200 ml	\$10
Amgrow 'Conquer' lawn and garden insecticide	c. 200 ml	\$10
Pestoil insect spray	c. 600 ml	\$15
Rose black spot and pyrethrum concentrate	c. 300 ml	\$15
Yates fungus gun spray for black spot etc	c. 700 ml	\$20
Searles Maricozeb Plus fungicide	200 g (unopened)	\$20
Amgrow lime sulphur fungicide and miticide	500 ml (unopened)	\$14
Amgrow lime sulphur fungicide and miticide	250 ml (unopened)	\$8

Royal Easter Show

Easter Show Flower display from 14th April.

This year the Easter Show is on from 6 - 17 April. Sutherland Group will again put in a few arrangements so that people can see Australian Plants at the Show.

PLANT PROPAGATION

This project is currently on hold, although we are receiving requests from local bush care groups for plants. We hope to get this project up and running soon.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

There is a lot happening in our patch, with community groups and local councils being active in promoting native plants. My plan is to feature a local group or event each month. I welcome contributions - stories about your other favourite groups.

East Arnhem Land Presentation

Thanks to Liz Cameron for the following:

Tony Porritt is giving a presentation to Menai Wildflower Group of APS NSW on trip to East Arnhem Land in 2022 with photos of some interesting local flora. Saturday 4th March at 2pm at the Illawong Fire Station, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong. Map of locality:

<https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities>

See <https://www.eastarnhemland.com.au> for general information about the area.

Wolli Creek Excursions

Our friends in the Wolli Creek Preservation Society have 3 excursions coming up that we are invited to join.

Wolli Creek Eco-Paddle – 25 March 12 noon to 3.00pm

Following the successful relaunch of our popular Wolli Creek eco-paddle, the Wolli Creek Preservation Society is again partnering with the River Canoe Club of NSW to run another paddle on Saturday 25th March 2023 from 12 noon to 3.00 pm. The tour will start from the River Canoe Club, Richardson Crescent, Marrickville, and finish with light afternoon refreshments back at the clubhouse.

The River Canoe Club will provide paddle guidance, and all the gear including canoes and life jackets. You get a very different view of the Wolli Creek Valley from creek level, and it's a chance to get a gentle and short introduction to paddling as we cater for beginners.

Ticket price is \$75 per person. Young people from 10 – 17 years are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Bookings are now open on Eventbrite via this link

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wolli-creek-paddle-tour-tickets-518597126967>

Bookings essential. Places are limited so please book soon to reserve your place.

Biodiversity Walks and Talks in the Wolli Creek Valley - 1 April and 15 April

Two family-friendly 3.5km walks showcasing beautiful bushland, creek views and birdlife.

This year we are again partnering with Canterbury Bankstown Council for these free short walks to see some of Sydney's best-preserved secret, Wolli Creek Regional Park. The walks will include striking sandstone cliffs, water views and sightings of threatened native fauna -

such as Grey-headed flying-foxes. These are medium grade walks with some sections of the trail covering uneven ground.

Bexley North to Turrella Reserve – Saturday 1 April 9am to 12 noon

For further information and booking see <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biodiversity-walk-talk-in-wolli-creek-valley-tickets-528009198727> **Bookings essential**

Bardwell Park to Tempe – Saturday 15 April 9am to 12 noon

For further information and booking see <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/biodiversity-walk-and-talk-2-bardwell-park-to-tempe-tickets-528028486417> **Bookings essential**

From our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1328674687627886>



From Andrew at Malabar

Spent ages wondering what this bright green rosemary/ lavender lookalike was. Spotted in Malabar and La Prouse. Turns out it's a native in the family Lamiaceae, *Chloanthes stoechadis*. The species name comes from *Lavendula stoechas*, French Lavender, that has similar leaves.

Does it smell good?



From Karlo at Voyager Point, Georges River NP

Beauty often comes in small packages. One of the smallest flowering species in our local bushland - *Caesia parviflora var vittata* (Pale Grass Lily)

Unwin Green Street- a Good News Project

Unwin St, Earlwood is a small street connecting the eastern end of the Wolli Creek Regional Park to Waterworth Park. some of the house blocks in this street were compulsorily acquired by the Government for the M5, when it was going to be above ground, so the blocks are now public land. The State Government is intending to sell these blocks off for

development, but the residents have rallied and are insisting that the blocks be developed as bush, adding to the small amount of open space in Canterbury Bankstown Council. A street meeting was held on Monday evening, 27th February to announce the project with support from the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, APS HGR, local council representative Barbara Coorey and almost every political candidate. We look forward to the success of this initiative.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

These are items of general interest found on the World Wide Web. All contributions for future editions gratefully accepted.

Bush Patch Restoration

Suburban bushland restored with 150 types of native trees by retired entomologist over 10 years [in Rockhampton, Qld]

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-18/retiree-transforms-bushland-with-native-trees-attracts-butter/101977090?fbclid=IwAR2wQTzqkZClusVI56XRPhT09xiFwF_GtH4B866xstQliglEdXIBpu0sAUo

"When I retired, I thought I needed to have something to keep myself occupied," Mr Newby said. "I had been watching for a long time the decrease in habitats, the falling levels of biodiversity. And I thought, 'Well, this is something I can do that will have a positive effect, I can plant some trees.'"

But it was more than just planting some trees and now he's a proud OGRE — that's Old Guy Restoring Ecosystems. A decade later, the area has become a training ground for conservation students and an example of how communities can restore suburban bushland. It has been a slow and steady process, though, with Mr Newby never planting more than he could maintain.

"I didn't plant thousands of trees to begin with and then just walk away, which so often happens with revegetation projects," he said. "It's the follow-up that really is the key."

Article on Herpetology

Thanks to Liz Cameron for the following:

I hope you enjoy this article - it is such a positive message.

An article about the Resilient wildlife of the sprawling suburbia of south-western Sydney, including the Wolli Valley. Author Matthew Mo.

<https://journals.ku.edu/reptilesandamphibians/article/view/17031>

The area of study is the main campus of the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury campus. It has beautiful photos of most of the animals (reptiles & frogs) discussed.

The best way to access this beautifully illustrated article seems to be to click on the link

<https://journals.ku.edu/reptilesandamphibians/article/view/16317>



Then under the photo of the iguana, in the middle of your screen, there is a little PDF icon.

Click on this & download the .pdf of the article.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Newsletters Received – January and February

The full text of the APS newsletters is available from the APS website, on the District Group pages – usually under ‘Resources’.

There are a lot this month, as some of the January ones got stuck in the system somewhere.

Australian Plants Society, South East NSW Group - Newsletter January 2023

The south coast of New South Wales contains about 68 percent of the ferns to be found in New South Wales. Also some notes about weeds, with more to come.

Australian Plants Society, South East NSW Group - Newsletter February 2023

the Mangrove Walk; lengthy AGM report; fabulous plant table; notes on the Ferns talk, shared with the Parra Hills group, with lots of photos; more species name changes & reorganisations; fighting bugs with other bugs.

Australian Plants Society, Newcastle Group - Newsletter February/ March 2023

Coming group outings; helping out at their Nursery; Article by Mark Abell - **How good is ‘artificial intelligence’ relating to plant profiles?** “The most concerning aspect is that it seems to just make up stuff, to cover what it does not know!”

Cultivating the waterwheel plant, *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*, a carnivorous plant.

Australian Plants Society, Hunter Valley Group - Newsletter February 2023

Preparing your Garden for the predicted dry weather; Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens (Victoria, dryland plants); Guidelines for a Native Fish Pond

Australian Plants Society, Sutherland Group - Newsletter February 2023

The History and Ecology of Illawarra’s Five Islands Nature Reserve – a horrifying story of land degradation. Celebrating Sixty Years of APS Sutherland Group 1963 - 2023

Australian Plants Society, Northern Beaches Group - Newsletter March 2023

Presentation by Stuart Read on the history of garden design using Australian native plants from 1788 to the present day – changes in fashion. The Pittosporaceae family by Anne Gray; Curl grubs, the larvae of scarab beetles – good or bad? Generally good.

Other Groups Newsletters

We have begun to swap newsletters with other environmental groups in the Harbour Georges River area. Links to their web sites are provided where available.



Figure 3 cartoon from John Nevin, Armidale Group

Wolli Creek Bushcare Group

To volunteer, contact Peter Semple, co-ordinator on bushcare@wollicreek.org.au Mobile 0411 021 440 r.

Australian Flora Foundation Newsletter, Jan 2023

Seven new grants were awarded for research to begin in December 2022, mostly centred on the impacts of climate change.

Young Scientist Award - Flowers and diversity over lawn: quantifying what people want to see in urban plantings

5 other reports on research. See <https://aff.org.au/results/newsletters/>

Bankstown Bushland Society newsletter, Summer 2023

<https://bankstownbushlandsociety.com/newsletters/> [not posted immediately]

Cryptic Forest Twiner (*Tylophora woollsi*) – the rarest plant in Western Sydney?

Extract from: “Comprehensive biodiversity survey of Wategora Reserve and Everley Park along Duck River, western Sydney” - another tale of destruction.

Wonga Smiths Bush Gateway Implementation - redevelopment of the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra, with a controversial patch of urban bush.

Yeramba Lagoon is located on the left (northern) bank of the Georges River estuary, approximately 20 km upstream from Botany Bay. It was a tidal lagoon, but was badly degraded from years of reclamation, construction and poor land management. Restoration & adaptive management is now in progress.

Extract from: “*Wonders of Australian Vegetation*” by William Woolls, Ph.D, F.L.S., The Sydney Morning Herald, 15th September 1876. “*You may depend upon it that nature requires a certain equilibrium. She must not be treated wantonly.*” 😊

Wolli Creek Preservation Society Update, February 2023

<http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Update0223.pdf>

The NSW ALP has made an election commitment to complete the regional park however.... so we must press on with our Open Letter. Please sign at https://www.nature.org.au/wolli_creek_open_letter.

Some damage & some good news - new bush care site started up in November 2022 around the dipping pond in Turrella Reserve, 9 am on the 4th Thursday of each month.

COMING EVENTS

For further details of coming district group events, please see the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Saturday 4th March, 2pm	Tony Porritt presentation to Menai Wildflower Group of APS NSW on trip to East Arnhem Land. Illawong Fire Station
Wed 8 March, 3 pm to 5 pm	APS HGR Committee meeting at the Bush Music Hut in the Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Sat 11 March – from 10 am	APS NSW Gathering at Bundeena – our event for this month

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<https://www.austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River>

