



## APS HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER NEWSLETTER - January 2022

### NEXT HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER EVENT:

**Meeting via Zoom,  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2 pm  
Zoom link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82862152253?pwd=aTg1L3RodkltUnJZcE5qWUJhMzREUT09>

**Ruby Stevens from Macquarie University  
Floral Traits in Australian Plant Communities  
And citizen science**

Hoping to see you all there, safe & well.

Welcome to the January 2022 edition of the APS Harbour Georges River (formerly East Hills) Group Newsletter. That's a long name and will soon be shortened and often abbreviated to HGR I'm sure.

This is our first newsletter under the new name and introduces our plans for 2022. We have big plans to revitalise the group with a variety of events across our catchment area. It's sad to see the passing of an era so we are also honouring the old group with a story about old times. And sadly, farewelling two long term members who have been very important to our group over many years.

To whet your appetite, there is a report on the bushwalk we did after the Christmas Party as an example of our new approach. We plan more of these in the coming year. Read on.

enjoy  
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>

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER members to 2022 and the first newsletter from our renamed group.

Firstly I wish to acknowledge & extend the condolences of our group to Dorothy Taylor & her family on the death of Kyrill in December and to the Walters family, with Graham dying on the 12 January. They will be greatly missed by all who knew them.

Last year was a difficult year for everyone. Our Group appreciated the benefits of technology to enable us to have meetings via Zoom when we couldn't meet face to face. Some of our presentations have been preserved on the APS YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSqvvYJSVpV-MU-rQVAJug>

The Zoom meetings gave us a different perspective on the Plant table as we were able to see an image of the whole plant growing in situ. This somewhat made up for the loss of social interaction and afternoon tea.

In the process of rejuvenating the Group, we are going to try a variety of events this year including talks and outdoor events. The details are in the newsletter. Please feel free to add any thoughts or ideas to the committee for discussion. A big thank you to our Editor Dorothy, Secretary Liz & committee members for helping with the program for 2022.

Karlo is stepping down from his many roles with HGR to take a well-earned break and focus on his own business. He has been Vice President, Web Site Manager and Propagation Officer, as well as writing articles for the newsletter and giving presentations to us & other groups. We wish him well in his retirement & hope it is temporary.

Stay safe and look after your well-being. Enjoy your gardens.

Warmest regards to all,

Cheers,

Marie O'Connor.

President Harbour Georges River Group APS NSW.



*1 Marie's Lemon myrtle in full flower in the rainforest garden*



## LAST MEETING

### December 1<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Party

This was our Christmas get together and the first in a long time when we could meet face to face. We had a picnic gathering at Oatley Park.

### Annual General Meeting

held at 12 noon, before lunch. Vicki Bolling (Oatley Flora and Fauna member and sometime visitor to EHG meetings) chaired the elections. The new committee positions are:

Elected Positions: President: Marie O'Connor; Vice-Presidents: Graham Fry, Dorothy Luther; Secretary: Liz Cameron; Treasurer: Graham Fry

Appointed positions: Board Delegate: Dorothy Luther; Newsletter Editor: Dorothy Luther; Propagation Officer: Graham Fry; Speaker Co-ordinator: Graham Walters; Hospitality: Liz Cameron; Committee Member: Karen Fong; Plant Table Recorders: Boyd Webster, Jan Douglas, David Cameron

### Bush Walk

Following our 2021 AGM, which was held in the Oatley Castle, four members, two visitors and a dog set off on the Headland Track which begins nearby. This short track winds through Sydney sandstone flora and provides good views across the Georges River and Lime Kiln Bay. Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society has produced an informative brochure about the track, and along the track there are signs with QR codes linking to more information

<https://www.oatleyflorafauna.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Headland->

[Nature-Walk-Oatley-Park.pdf](#)



3 The Castle, Oatley Park



2 Botanising along the track



Along the track we found a variety of interesting plants, a few of which are shown in the following photos.

It was a very pleasant experience, with our experts providing snippets of information on interesting plants but not overwhelming us with too much. We found 2 types of orchid in bloom which was quite a treat. I think it was a good model for further bush walks & PUB crawls to come. The path has quite a lot of steps which Chris found a bit challenging but we were able to help her along so she enjoyed the outing.





5 The amazing base of an *Angophora costata* Sydney Redgum



5 *Actinotus helianthi* Flannel Flower



6 *Dipodium variegatum* Slender Hyacinth Orchid



7 *Cryptostylis erecta* Bonnet Orchid



4 Flower of *Cryptostylis erecta* Bonnet Orchid



8 *Caustis flexuosa*  
Old Man's Whiskers



9 Time for a new skin - bark peeling from *Angophora costata*



## NEXT MEETING

Ruby Stevens from Macquarie University will present about her PhD work on floral traits in Australian plant communities. She will also introduce a citizen science project she is working on to engage local plant groups in threatened species assessments. Her description:

### Flowers, floral traits and Flora Connections

Flowering plants are the most diverse group of land plants, and surround us every day in the bush. Flowering plants emerged at least 130 million years ago and have since evolved a huge diversity of forms, especially in their flowers. Flowers vary hugely in size (<0.5mm to >1m!), colour, scent, shape, timing and more - features termed **"floral traits"**. For my PhD, I want to understand some of the ways in which floral traits vary, across both space and time. How does flowering time vary across Australia's ecosystems? How has flower size evolved in eucalypts? Has eucalypt flower size diverged between western and eastern Australia? Was the ancestral flower animal or wind pollinated? How many times has wind pollination evolved since the first flower?



*from the very showy*



*to the very modest - photos by Dorothy Luther*

As well as flowers, I'm interested in plants and plant conservation generally, to which end I have been working on a citizen science project named **"Flora Connections"**. Flora Connections aims to connect community plant knowledge to government. Community scientists and botany groups have a wealth of on-ground plant knowledge. Government committees making decisions about threatened plants across Australia need on-ground plant data. Flora Connections hopes to connect community to government to improve outcomes for Australian plants, particularly for rare or threatened species which may be poorly known. We're currently developing a website and data collection guide which will launch in the next few months - stay tuned!

-Ruby E. Stephens (second year PhD candidate at Macquarie University)

This will be presented via Zoom

link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82862152253?pwd=aTg1L3RodkltUnJZcE5qWUJhMzREUT09>

The presentation will be recorded and published on the Australian Plants Society NSW YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSqvvYJSVpV-MU-rQVAJug> for those who are unable to attend a daytime meeting. The full link address and a summary will be in the February newsletter.

## GROUP NEWS

### Plans for 2022

'Our Patch' – the area of inner Sydney where our members live, is quite large, extending east and north from Georges River to the harbour and the coast. Members are spread through a number of council areas including Canterbury Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West & Randwick LGAs. So we have changed our name to Harbour Georges River (formerly East Hills) Group, to better reflect our patch.

To celebrate our new name, this year we are following a theme of 'Exploring our Patch', with walks & visits to a number of the gardens & bush areas of our catchment – a wide variety of habitat types from rainforest to Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) to coastal sand dunes. These will be supported by talks about the areas by local experts. We will also be showing off members' gardens & the amazing variety of plants they manage to propagate & grow.

Our program is also published on our new web site, <https://www.austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River> . We will add more details as they are confirmed.

We are also setting up a Facebook Group which will feature event notices and news on our patch.

Here is the overview for the first months of 2022:

**February 2nd at 2pm via Zoom** - Ruby Stevens will talk on floral traits in Australian plant communities & also mention her citizen science project on rare & endangered species. (as above)

**March Sat 5th at 10 am** – Visit two members' gardens in the Hurstville area – Marie and Des O'Connor in Connells Point, and Graham Fry and Liz Cameron in Hurstville Grove; opportunity to discuss propagation techniques, and purchase some native tubestock propagated by HGR members (so bring your money with you). Optional coffee or picnic lunch nearby afterwards.

**April Wed 6th** (date & time to be confirmed) - picnic at Malabar and a bush walk along the Malabar Headland NP.

**May Wed 4th** (date & time to be confirmed) - visit to our beloved Sylvan Grove Native Garden. This will be the official launch for our new name & a time to reminisce about East Hills Group. It is also a time to pay a special tribute to some senior members who have recently passed on.

**June Wed 1st 7:30 pm via Zoom** - a talk on the many Australian Plants organisations - their structure & resources – web sites, social media, interest & study groups. It will also discuss our specific HGR resources and the work we do to promote Australian plants.

**July Sun 3rd 10 am** – a visit to a bush regeneration project in our patch, perhaps Georges River Council (GRC) Bushcare program, the Greenway, Wollie Creek or an Eastern Suburbs site. There are lots of things flowering at this time of year!

**August and September** – TBA - probably activities associated with the ANPSA Biennial Conference in Kiama, which is in September

**October and November** - TBA - maybe a PUB Crawl (Patches of Urban Bush) or a shopping trip to the local community nurseries

**December** - AGM and Christmas party

## History of East Hills Group

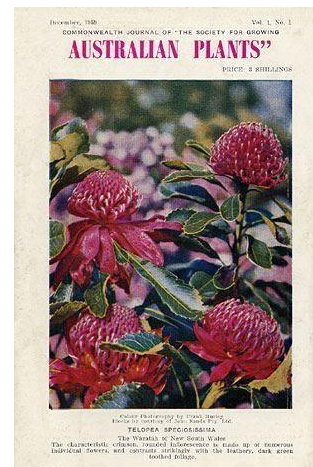
From <https://www.austplants.com.au/About>

In 1957, a small group of people pledged to 'promote the establishment and breeding of Australian native plants for garden, park and farm'. They established the Society for Growing Australian Plants in Victoria and within a year, societies had been established in six states, including NSW. This was the first real attempt in Australia to embrace our native flora.

The East Hills Group of the Australian Plant Society was formed at the inaugural meeting of the Region in 1957 - making it the oldest Group in New South Wales.

Over time, the East Hills Group absorbed a number of inner Sydney groups – Inner City, St George, Harbourside, as these groups foundered.

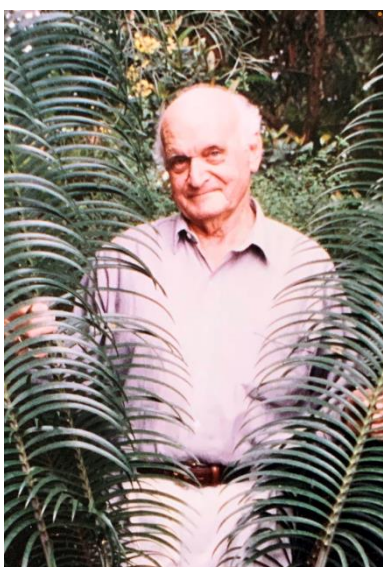
Founding member, the late Bill Payne, had foreseen the greater need for reliable information about our native flora. The community mindset 60 years ago was that natives were too difficult to grow. Hence, he took it upon himself to take on the job as editor of the journal, **Australian Plants**, in December 1959 - a role he continued for 42 years! Today the journal is the main publication of the Society.



## Remembering Kyrill Taylor

by Jan Douglas

Kyrill Taylor was a valued member of East Hills Group (now Harbour Georges River) for thirty years. Kyrill loved Australian native plants, loved learning about them and growing them, sharing his knowledge and enjoying their beauty. To Kyrill, no flower was insignificant – it might be small, but never insignificant. And of course, a plant need not have flowers to appeal to Kyrill – ferns were among his favourites.



10 : Kyrill in his home garden with *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* (Photo supplied by Dorothy Taylor)

Kyrill also cared about the people around him. He made visitors and new members feel welcome at meetings, and mentored and encouraged new members. He was eager to share his own knowledge but equally keen to learn from others. He shared plants as well as information – for example, several EHG members have specimens of *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* that were grown from seed by Kyrill; many have orchids and ferns he grew.

During his thirty years of EHG membership, Kyrill contributed in many ways to the running and development of the Group. At various times he served as President, Secretary, venue



organiser and entertainment organiser for our Annual General Meetings. He was a driving force behind a variety of activities, including annual plant stalls at East Hills Girls Technology High School, visits to Sylvan Grove Native Garden and celebration of EHG's fiftieth anniversary in 2007. At times when the Group might have faded away, he provided enthusiasm and new ideas as well as practical support. For many years, he and his wife Dorothy were first to arrive and last to leave every EHG meeting, ready to unlock and help prepare the venue and welcome visitors and new members, and tidying up before locking the venue.

Kyrill also contributed significantly to Australian Plants Society as a whole. He joined APS NSW (then the Society for Growing Australian Plants) in 1980 - over a decade before joining East Hills Group. He was EHG delegate to the APS NSW Council or Board for many years, and served as Vice President for six years. He joined the Eremophila Study Group at its inaugural meeting in 2003 and was an active member of the Fern Study Group for over forty years. Kyrill's contributions to APS NSW were formally recognised by the awarding of APS NSW Life Membership in 2009.

A search of the ANPSA web site found 39 items, mostly from the Fern Study Group, with occasional appearances on the grevillea & eremophila Study Groups. Many of the Fern Study Group meetings were held at his home.

I also have 11 East Hills newsletters that feature his plant stories.

Kyrill died on 15 December 2021. We will remember Kyrill for his knowledge and enthusiasm and kindness. We will miss him, his friendship, and his warm and engaging smile.



11 Kyrill Taylor APS Life Member at Sylvan Grove Native Garden (Photo by J Douglas)



12 Dorothy and Kyrill at EHG stall at East Hills Girls Technical High School (Photo by J Douglas)

*Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas and information for this article, including Dorothy Taylor, Karlo Taliana, Ian Cox, Karl Schurr, Liz Cameron, Charles Farrugia and David Crawford. A longer article should be available soon on the APS NSW website and a link is to be included in the January 2022 APS e-newsletter – Jan Douglas*

## Remembering Graham and Margaret Walters

By Liz Cameron

We are very sorry to report the deaths of long-term APS members Graham and Margaret Walters; Margaret died on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and Graham on 12<sup>th</sup> January this year.



Graham and Margaret joined the East Hills Group in 1964 and Graham filled many positions, including President (2013- 2016), Vice-President and Treasurer. In recent years he was speaker coordinator and secured high-quality speakers on a range of topics which reflected some of his own wide interests in addition to growing Australian native plants - birds, conservation, Australian history and exploration.

Wherever he lived, Graham developed a flourishing garden of native plants and was happy to share his knowledge and experience of propagating and growing them; he researched and wrote notes for the EHG newsletter on many plants brought to our plant tables.

Graham was an avid reader and kept up to date with environmental issues, often quoting from recent publications at our meetings. He recognized the need for the Society to continue to evolve in order to remain relevant, and was particularly keen for it to act on climate change. Graham remained active in our group until very recently. He was present when our committee discussed a name change for East Hills Group and he endorsed the new name of Harbour Georges River; President Marie O'Connor really appreciated this endorsement from someone who'd been a member of EHG for over 50 years.



13 Hugh Stacy and Graham Walters, Sylvan Grove, 2013

In 2014 Graham and Margaret attended the FJC Rogers Seminar on Brachychitons and allied genera, hosted by the Bendigo Native Plant Group and Graham wrote about the meeting in *Native Plants for New South Wales* 50(2): 42-45. He attended APS NSW annual get-togethers including those at Tamworth (2016) and Coffs Harbour (2017), and was widely known by other long-term members. He was a close friend of APS NSW Life Member, the late Hugh Stacy.

In recent years the support of his family enabled Graham to maintain his involvement and some members also

participated in East Hills Group activities - Robert spoke on trekking in Colombia, Sue on the re-enactment of the 1915 coo-ee recruitment march, and grand-daughters Ruby and Halcyon (with fellow Fossickers singers) entertained several of our Christmas gatherings.

## Documentary Film Festival

A brochure was thrust into my hand the other day about the Antenna film festival, which takes place in early February at the Dendy & Palace Cinemas in Inner Sydney.

<https://antennafestival.org/> It has a couple of possibly interesting items:

“The Lake of Scars” <https://tix.antennafestival.org/Events/The-Lake-of-Scars/Sat-Feb-5-2022-15-30> a conservation story from regional Victoria – scarred trees and wetland.

“The Mushroom Speaks” <https://tix.antennafestival.org/Events/The-Mushroom-Speaks/Sun-Feb-6-2022-18-30> - the secret life of fungi – a lesson in interconnectedness and collaboration.

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

### Newsletters Received - December

The full text of these newsletters is available from the Members area of the APS website, on the District Group pages.

#### Native Plants for NSW – December 2021

The monthly e-newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW, available at

<https://resources.austplants.com.au/newsletters-journals/monthly-enewsletter/>

Note that this is a pdf and the links don't work. You need to save your emailed copy to access the links.

#### Australian Plants Society, Menai Wildflower NSW Group - Newsletter December 2021

creating a beautiful Christmas wreath, wildflowers in bloom, particularly orchids; photographic challenge in 2022.

#### Australian Plants Society, Northern Beaches NSW Group - Newsletter December 2021

Bushwalks in the area with great photos; a new plant species on Uluru - a fig which has been hiding in plain sight for years. *Ficus desertorum*, or the desert fig; New Native Nursery in Northern Sydney – Cicada Glen, Mona Vale Road, (corner of Chiltern Road) Ingleside.

Flies like yellow, bees like blue: how flower colours cater to the taste of pollinating insects  
The Conversation September 2, 2021

#### Australian Plants Society, South East NSW Group - December 2021

New book 'Native Plants of the Ulladulla Region'; native Christmas flowers

January 2022 Newsletter - visiting a "wild" native garden in Narooma; UNSW scientists are behind a citizen science event which will document the bushfire recovery of plants, animals and fungi across three bushfire affected regions in New South Wales; the waratah's genetic secrets

[always a good read]



*Bray Ave, Wollie Creek - part of our patch, photo by Dorothy Luther*



## COMING EVENTS

For details of coming events, please see the APS NSW e-newsletter (which members should be receiving by email at the end of each month).

You can find more district group events on the APS NSW website at

<http://austplants.com.au/calendar>

Wednesday <b>2 February</b> from 2 pm	Harbour Georges River Group meeting, <b>via Zoom</b> Ruby Stevens from Macquarie University on Floral Traits in Australian Plant Communities and citizen science
Saturday <b>Feb 12</b> , 2pm	Menai Wildflower Group. <b>A Botanical Ramble through Early Sydney.</b> Peter Olde will be following the early European botanists in the new colony of NSW. Illawong Rural Fire Brigade Headquarters, Old Illawarra Road, Illawong. For a map: <a href="https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities">https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Activities</a>
<b>Wed, 16 Feb, 2022</b>	Sutherland group meeting. (Details TBA) GyMEA Community Centre, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd, GyMEA
Saturday <b>Mar 12</b>	<b>APS NSW Quarterly at Menai.</b> Chris Gambian from the Nature Conservation Council will talk about how we can influence the conservation of native plants.
<b>April 1 to 4</b>	<b>APS NSW - Central West Trip</b> to Burrendong, Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine, Parkes [fully booked]
<b>Sep 11-16</b>	<b>ANPSA Biennial Conference, Kiama</b> , with field trips during, before & after <a href="https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022">https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022</a>

### EAST HILLS GROUP CONTACTS

President	Marie O'Connor	9546 8105	<a href="mailto:madoc71@gmail.com">madoc71@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Liz Cameron	9580 6621	<a href="mailto:elsmere02@gmail.com">elsmere02@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Luther	9564 6513	<a href="mailto:dlutherau@yahoo.com.au">dlutherau@yahoo.com.au</a>
Website Editor	Dorothy Luther	9564 6513	<a href="mailto:dlutherau@yahoo.com.au">dlutherau@yahoo.com.au</a>

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

