



HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER Group of APS NSW NEWSLETTER – July 2023

NEXT HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER EVENT:

Sunday 13th August, from 9:30 am

with the Bankstown Bushland Society (BBS)

to see their planting & bush care projects

Meet at Lansdowne Reserve, Bass Hill.

at 9:30 am

Please RSVP to Liz on elsmere02@gmail.com to organise car pooling.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Welcome to the July 2023 edition of the APS Harbour Georges River Group Newsletter.

We had a great outing this month & another planned for next month. If we keep doing 'PUB Crawls', we'll get a reputation. Since its coming into Spring (did Winter actually happen?) there are quite a lot of events coming up – ours & others. Be sure to check the 'Coming Events' Section for details. Who would have thought we would be having 23-degree days in July-August? Could be an early start to the spring growing season. Be prepared for exponential weed growth!

Many thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter & to Kerry Snelgrove who has taken over the Web site management.

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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Adenanthos sericeus, Western Australia Woolly bush
flowering in Marie’s front garden

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I hope you all have had time to enjoy your gardens as this month has been very dry. I have been monitoring the plants' need for water with the new growth in mind for flowers in the coming months.

The walk we did along the light rail in the Inner West earlier this month was most enjoyable with the diversity of things of interest. The vegetation, the different buildings from new developments to cottages over 100 years old. The street trees such as Lemon myrtle, the historic bridge and railway infrastructure.

The trip on the Light Rail made it so convenient to explore and appreciate what has been achieved over time by the community efforts to improve the environment and Native Habitat both Fauna and Flora.

Congratulations to all involved in this project.

Thank you all for your help and support in making our group a success as we continue to grow and expand into a dynamic, successful society.

Warmest regards to you all,

Marie O'Connor President of HGR APS NSW.



Grevillea Kimberly Gold in the front garden, about to wow the neighbours and advertise the beauty of the Australian native plants. My pride and joy!

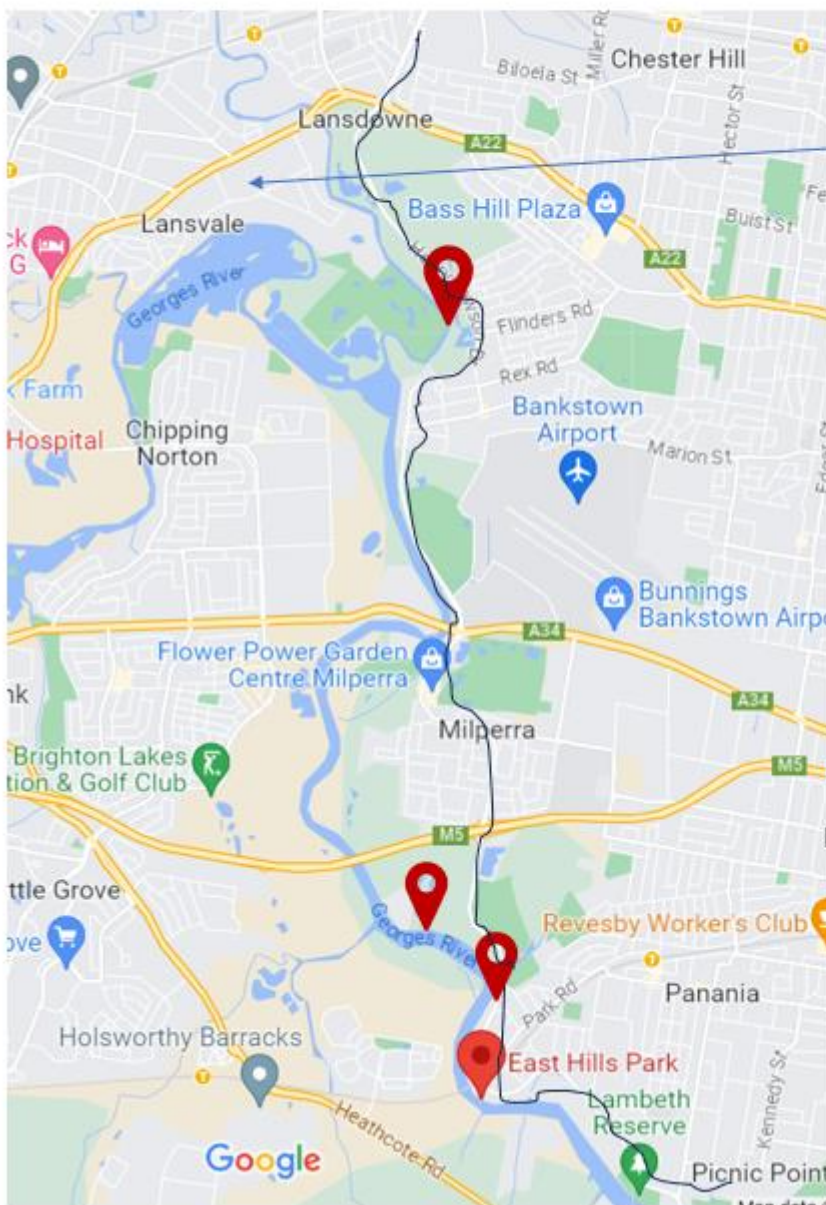
NEXT MEETING

'PUB' Crawl with the Bankstown Bushland Society

Sun August 13th, 9:30 am start – 'PUB' crawl with the Bankstown Bushland Society (BBS), to see their planting & bush care projects.

BBS care for 21 sites in parks, patches & reserves in the Bankstown area. See <https://bankstownbushlandsociety.com/parks-and-reserves/> for the full list. We are visiting 3 or 4 of these sites.

'PUB' Crawl with the Bankstown Bushland Society



Canley Vale
Lansdowne Reserve, Bass Hill
A22 = Hume Hwy
A34 = Punchbowl Rd
M5 = Motorway

Deepwater Park (Milperra)
Monash Reserve (East Hills)

The tour will be led by Colin Gibson, an expert on plants of the area. It will possibly include sightings of rare orchids in flower. This is a great

opportunity for us to meet like-minded people and see the work that BBS does, along with having the opportunity to view some amazing native local flora.

We will start from Lansdowne Reserve, Henry Lawson Drive, Bass Hill. From there we will travel south along Henry Lawson Drive to Deepwater Park (Milperra) and Monash Reserve (East Hills). If time permits us, we will also squeeze in East Hill Park as part of the PUB crawl. Both Lansdowne Reserve & Deepwater Park have adequate parking, but the other parks are small. Deepwater Park also has picnic tables & toilets, so we will make it a central point & car pool from there to the East Hills parks.

Bring gardening gloves & a weed bag in case you just have to pull something out, or pick up some rubbish.

Contingency Plan

If it's raining lightly, we will go ahead. If the rain is heavy and set-in, we will cancel. In this case, Liz will contact you & we will post a notice on our Facebook Group.

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

Transport

In the interests of the environment and because parking at the sites is limited, please come by public transport if you can.

Please advise our secretary, Liz Cameron by email on elsmere02@gmail.com if you are intending to come to the event, so we can let you know of any issues.

LAST MEETING

Sunday 9th July – 'PUB' Crawl on the Greenway

What a great day we had on Sunday.

I've written a detailed report on our walk (5 pages long) & updated the plant list the Chris gave me with other species mentioned. Both are available from our web site.

As planned, we started from Arlington light rail station at 10 am and visited 3 sites nearby - two areas of Johnston Park and the offset planting for an apartment building. Meandering



1 A well-earned rest at Fred St. Photo by Sarah

along the local streets, we visited Hoskins Park bush care site as well as admiring some garden & street plantings along the way.

We eventually reached Fred St with its street plantings & the bush care site, which, along with a private garden, is large enough to attract quite a lot of small birds.

It was well after noon by the time we reached Lewisham West and our scheduled lunch stop. Some people branched off at this point while the dedicated went along Cadigal Reserve, across Parramatta Road, and continued to Marion St. We

decided to call it a day at that point, so we didn't make it to Richard Murden Reserve.

As someone said, we'll have to do it all over again, starting from Hawthorne (Northern end) this time. That will be later next year, after the Greenway links construction work is done in Cadigal Reserve.

Some attendees wrote about their favourite discoveries on this walk.

From Liz:

Dear Jo and Chris, thanks so much for giving up your Sunday to guide our Harbour Georges River Group along the Greenway. I was very impressed with the quality of the bushland (it was hard to find a weed!) and the variety of plants; we were privileged to be able to visit some of the areas closed to the general public.

I'm sorry we ran out of time to visit the northernmost parts but I attribute that partly to the interest everyone took in the bushland sections and also in the heritage homes along the way. It was pleasing to see how everyone chatted to each other as we went along.

From Gail:

After Sunday's walk I'm feeling inspired. Jo pointed out a lovely old house with a native garden. After years of trying the heritage thing, roses, daisies, lavender, resulting in nothing but weeds, I'm going to Marrickville to buy some natives. And the ground cover that I saw in the conservation areas will make a wonderful replacement for my "wandering jew" (*Tradescantia*). Thanks for the opportunity to find my inspiration.

From Shelley:



Photo of the Bushcare site near the Light Rail in Dulwich Hill (Piggott St Site). Jo from IWEG showing Plant Society members the very steep slope planted with native plants, after broken sandstone was laid on the slope, preventing erosion of site.

Sarah, Gail & Shelley are visitors from the local area, not APS members. I'd like to thank them for coming along & making contributions. As well as Jo & Chris for guiding us & unlocking the gates to

the special sites.

Plant Table

Not a plant table as such, but here is a list of some of the interesting plants we saw on our walk.

<i>Einadia hastata</i>	Saltbush, with tasty red berries in summer
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	with yellow flowers most of the time if enough sun
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	Turpentine
<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo grass
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	Barb-wire grass
<i>Gahnia grandis</i>	Saw sedge, which flourishes in the former creek line
<i>Angophora hispida</i>	Dwarf apple. Has large cream flowers in summer & attracts bees & beetles
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry ballart/ native cherry
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo apple, because of the leaf shape
<i>Acacia binervia</i>	Coast myall
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Cheese tree, so called because its fruit look like tiny round cheeses
<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Watergum

I found this story rather lovely:

The hemi parasitic *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry ballart/ native cherry), is growing on a eucalypt. It has fine leaves like a casuarina. This was planted by Council. **Hemi parasitic** means taking nutrients from its host plant without doing it any harm:

<https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/exocarpos-cupressiformis-cherry-ballart.html>

GROUP NEWS

The Rest of 2023

Here is the updated plan:

Wed 6th September - Mt Annan Botanic Gardens tour with the manager of the Herbarium. This will feature a tour of the herbarium, which may take an hour. We will visit the quarantine areas and see how staff operate within the herbarium. We will also visit the incredible vaults and check the collection of herbarium specimens collected by Banks and Solander. This part of the tour will be limited to 15 people – first in, best dressed. We will then take a self-guided tour of the gardens which others are welcome to join.

Wed. October 4th, evening meeting at Burwood RSL - Garden design workshop with James Middleton, one of our members, who is a landscape designer.

November 15th at 10 am, outing to Royal Botanic Gardens, with a volunteer guide. Note this is a change of plans.

Wed December 13th – Christmas Party & AGM, at Earlwood Uniting Church, in the main hall. 12 William Street, Earlwood. Party games, music, food, fun for all.

Dorothy Taylor

Dorothy Taylor, a Life Member of APS NSW, has retired from Harbour Georges River group. In her letter, Dorothy wrote:

“Kyrill & I lived in Yagoona for 66 years and during his later years Kyrill developed an interest in ferns and native plants. He joined East Hills to further his knowledge and together we enjoyed the friendship we found, sharing many happy times such as Xmas meetings and Trivia nights, to which other groups had been invited to join us for a fun night; helping to display native flowers at fetes, discussing them with people and encouraging them to grow them.

We met many interesting and helpful people through the years. Thank you to everyone.

I am resigning from your group but after I settle into my new home I will most likely be joining the Parramatta Hills group, so hopefully will see you at some future meetings. I have decided to downsize as I am finding the property too large to look after by myself. I intend to move closer to my son and his wife.

Thank you to all members for the help and friendship extended to us and to myself in the last two years.”

Members Growing Stories

From the analysis of member interests, it seems that a majority of members are interested in growing plants – not surprising really. So, I’m asking you to send in a paragraph or two about your growing activities – a favourite plant, a challenge, your garden or bush patch - to

share with the membership in the next few newsletters. Here are some examples:

From Marie, in Connells Point

Pruning the *Xanthorrhoea* of the dead leaves of at least 10 years of growth. There are at least 5 new pups at the base of the tree that have been struggling for years to get enough room to grow. The area of leaves pulled off was about 20 inches then another 2 inches of green leaves pruned, to give the growth room to develop.

I will keep an eye on the new growth and photo interesting developments.

From Dorothy in Lewisham

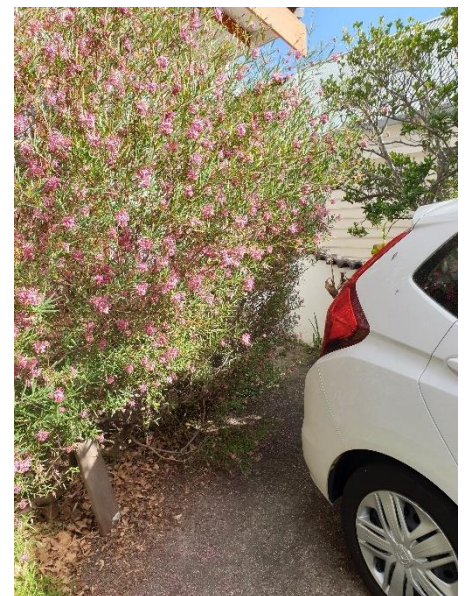
My home security system. To get to my front door, you have to edge between my car & the lovely *Grevillea sericea* plants, with their mass of dark

red blooms most of the year. You have to brave not only the prickly leaves, but the swarm of bees feasting on the flowers. Fortunately, they are friendly bees, too busy harvesting nectar to worry about humans. But it does freak some of the visitors a bit. If you want to come & collect some propagating material, send an email to dlutherau@yahoo.com.au

I notice that Angus Taylor doesn’t say anything about prickly leaves and says *G. sericea* flowers thru autumn, winter & spring. Mine flowers thru Summer, not Autumn. Did the nursery tell me fibs?



2 *Xanthorrhoea* pups - photo by Marie



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.

Wolli Creek Eco Paddle

Bookings are now open for our upcoming Wolli Creek Eco-Paddle on the **9 September from 1pm to 4pm**. Come along and learn more about this amazing piece of bushland and adjoining creek.

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society is again partnering with the River Canoe Club. 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 via this link

<https://events.humanitix.com/wolli-creek-eco-paddle>

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

One of our members recently reviewed this paddle in our Update newsletter. *"It was a wonderful thing to do. Being on the water and seeing the land one normally walks on from this different perspective is a lovely experience. It's so enjoyable to step into what feels like a different world with the birds, plants and creatures of the river.The guides were excellent and their commentary very interesting & informative about the history and life of the creek and surrounds. There was also an amazingly generous and delicious afternoon tea to come back to! ...I really recommend the Paddle tour. It is so good to be on the water, with people who love the river and its surrounding land."* - Miranda

We are also planning walks for the Spring with the first one being a Wildflower Walk on the **27 August**.

National Parks – Hidden Gems

A list of 7 stellar national parks slipping under the radar includes Dharawal National Park. The park sits between Stanwell Tops and Camden, southwest of the Heathcote and Royal National Parks, but it flies under the radar because it was declared a national park in 2012.

It's a special bit of bushland, a patchwork of heathland, swamps, rockpools and eucalypt forest that includes many sites sacred to the Dharawal Aboriginal people. While you can't camp in the park, you can ride your mountain bike along the trails, visit lookouts and experience waterfalls.

Ranger tip: Minerva Pool is a gorgeous location, but it's also a sacred women's place for the Dharawal people and it's asked that only women and children enter the waters of the pool. You can head to nearby Jingga walking track and its swimming hole if you're a male looking for a swim.

Visit <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/> for more details.

Wild at Art Children's Art Competition



3 Artwork: Palm Cockatoo by Daren, age 11

A children's art competition that perhaps some of our younger members and friends might be interested in. Wild at Art **opens for entries on July 17 - with entries closing on September 7.** Entry is easy through the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) website, <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-competition> and there is an optional check box that allows parents to send their child's artwork and writing to their federal MP - last year hundreds of beautiful artworks and pleas for assistance landed on the desks of politicians.

You can view the astonishing artworks of the 2022 winners at <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-winners-22>

We will be posting some of the 2023 entries daily from July 17 on the competition's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289862308022985> You can join to view these inspiring artworks and read the entrants' heartfelt comments.

Through the competition, many children feel empowered knowing that by raising awareness, they can make a difference. We'd love you to spread the word so even more children can participate!

Thanks to Gina Svolos from WCPS for alerting me to this.

Nature Conservation Council (NCC) Annual Picnic

NCC hold a statewide picnic in October each year – this year on Saturday 21st. That is, groups across the state organise local events, all on the same day. NCC supports & publicises the events, so we promote conservation to the public. The idea is to incorporate bush walks, visits to public gardens or botanical gardens in a relaxing manner, showing off the wonders of native plants and the fauna that go with it.

Last year, we joined forces with the Wollie Creek Preservation Society and hosted a very enjoyable picnic in Girrahween Park. Several of our members have expressed an interest in helping to organise events, so we'll be contacting you soon to talk about what we can do this year. We have lots of good picnic spots in or near a bush patch.

Footprints Eco Festival

Sunday 27 August, 11 am to 3 pm at Whites Creek valley park, White St & Piper St, Annandale

RANDOM JOTTINGS

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

Essentials of Bird-Friendly Gardening

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzKzrMUX2ho>

This is a YouTube of a webinar organised by Birdlife – major lobby group and protector of our native & migratory birds. It covers the basics of making a bird friendly garden.

The Urban Birds Program also has a range of other resources to help you be bird-friendly:
<https://birdlife.org.au/discover-birds/birds-in-your-backyard/bird-friendly-garden/>
<https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Supplementary-feeding-and-water-guides>

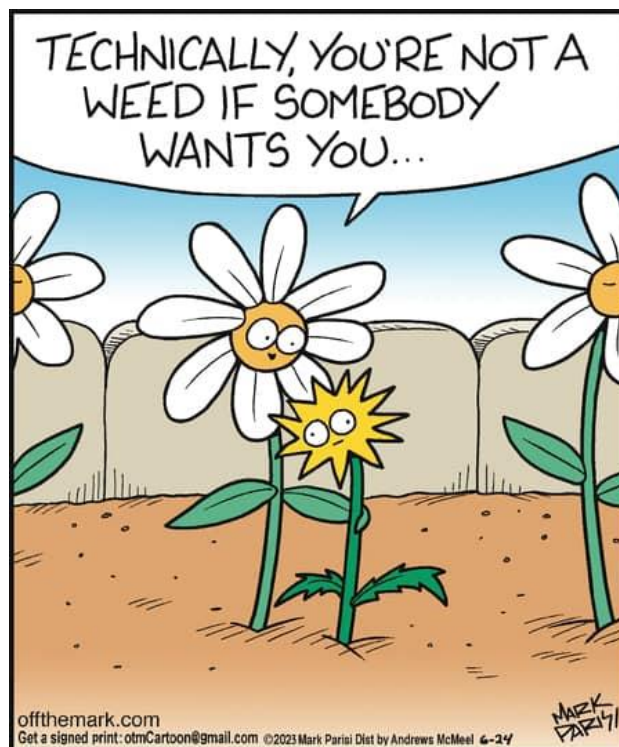
Thanks to Peter Stevens from WCPS for alerting me to this.

Laying on of Hands

<https://www.theguardian.com/who-gives-a-crap-uncrap-the-world/2023/jun/16/tree-change-the-case-for-changing-the-way-we-see-our-branched-buddies>

“I used to walk around the mountain behind my house in Canberra, in Ngunnawal Country, and it has many snow gums on it,” Professor Troy says, “and that’s a connection with my own high country, the snow country. And there was a waraganj (snow gum) that I would go and stand in front of and put my hands on. It has this beautiful, smooth, cool bark.”

Have you ever done that?



CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Newsletters Received – July

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

Australian Plants Society, Parramatta Hills Group - Newsletter July 2023

Visit to Mt Annan Botanic Garden; Challenger Track – bushwalk 24 June, with lots of photos. *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Native Cherry) growing in Annangrove Park – apparently self-seeded. A long article on volunteering at the Cranbourne botanic garden in Melbourne. Mr Bosisto and the tale of Australian eucalyptus oil.

Australian Plants Society, South East Group - Newsletter July 2023

Talk on Dendrobium species, with emphasis on section Dendrocoryne. Kianga/ Box Cutting Rainforest Walk, with lots of photos & discussion of ferns & other plants.

Australian Plants Society, Sutherland Group - Newsletter July 2023

Open Gardens weekend, 2–3 September 2023; video highlighting Sutherland Group’s week-long trip to Charlotte Pass in the Snowy Mountains in February last.

Australian Plants Society, Northern Beaches Group - Newsletter July 2023

Visit to Harry Loots’ garden; fungal biodiversity and its interaction with plants; Rhamnaceae, a number of which were used as dyes and for medicinal purposes. The Botanic Gardens of Sydney is embarking on a special project to reflect the First Nations names of its plants.

Photos from Marie’s garden:



4 *Banksia blechnifolia* in back garden about 3 years old



5 *Rulingia magniflora*

COMING EVENTS

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

Sun August 13th, 9:30 am	HGR 'PUB' Crawl with the Bankstown Bushland Society, start from Lansdowne Reserve, Henry Lawson Drive, Bass Hill.
Saturday 12 August to Sunday 17 September	Muogamarra Nature Reserve is open for 6 weeks each year https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/muogamarra-nature-reserve/visitor-info#Getting-there-and-parking
Wed September 6th, 10 am	HGR outing to MT Annan herbarium & Botanical Gardens. Details TBC
Sunday September 10	Northern Beaches group invites us to the Stony Range Flora Reserve Festival
Sat 16 September	APS NSW September Gathering , hosted by Illawarra Group. Meet at 1pm at Corrimal Community Hall. More information & registration here. https://austplants.com.au/event-5278229
Sun 17th Sept 11 am	HGR annual group visit and tour of Sylvan Grove Native Garden, Picnic Point. The flora of Sylvan Grove will begin to put on its show of colour and magic.
13th to 15th October	Orchid Show & Sale, Club Condell Park, 178 Eldridge Road, Bankstown. https://www.orchidscentral.com.au/
Thursday 19 October	WCPS Annual Dinner, with Peter Ridgeway, naturalist and author of "A Wide and Open Land" about walking the Cumberland Plain
Sat 21st Oct	NCC Picnic for Nature – any volunteers to organise one?
Wed 15th November, 10 am	HGR Outing to Royal Botanic Gardens. Note this is a change of plans. Details TBC

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