



APS HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER NEWSLETTER - June 2022

NEXT HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER EVENT:

Sunday 3rd July from 10:00 am

“PUB” Crawl in the Inner West

The Inner West Environment Group (IWEG)

Are hosting a tour of their Bushcare programs

Along the light rail line between Dulwich Hill and Leichhardt

With chances to socialise over coffee

Please RSVP to Liz on elsmere02@gmail.com in case of a change of plans.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Welcome to the June 2022 edition of the APS Harbour Georges River Group Newsletter.

Our next outing got its name from the absence of National Parks in urban areas to bushwalk in, compensated by the presence of small patches of bush, and many coffee shops. Most of our ‘bush’ long since disappeared, but bands of intrepid bush carers are trying to bring it back. We are visiting one such group this month, and another next month.

We look forward to catching up with our members and friends who are into bush regeneration to come & admire their progress. The challenges are considerable, but a small group of determined people can change the world, as Victor Hugo said.

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,
Happy gardening,

With a break from the rain the last week or so our gardens have had a chance to dry out and enable us to weed, plant & prune. Yet some plants, particularly new, need watering.

The members and friends who attended our excursion to the Calyx in the Botanical Gardens last month had a fascinating time looking at the underwater theme and the amazing way it was created.

I particularly liked the depiction of jellyfish. This was achieved by turning a wire basket upside down, then covering it with round succulents and using grandfather's whiskers as the tentacles. I am going to give it a try, time permitting.

The stroll through the rain forest walk was inspiring.

Next Sunday is our meeting for July. It will be interesting to see the inner West area along the light rail line and how the vegetation and bush regeneration has been developed.

Dorothy assures me we will be able to get great coffee along the way.

Warmest regards to all,

Marie O'Connor.

President Harbour Georges River Group APS NSW.



2 at The Calyx. photo by Dorothy



1 Rainforest in baskets. photo by Dorothy

NEXT MEETING

Inner West 'PUB' Crawl (Patches of Urban Bush)

Sunday 3rd July, from 10.00 am

Introduction to the area, from the walk organisers – Chris King and Jo Blackman – who are leaders in the Inner West Environment Group (IWEG).

The IWEG GreenWay vision of providing habitat for birds and animals and an active transport corridor was developed 20 years ago. The aim was to link nearly 6km of shared walking and cycle paths from Iron Cove to Cooks River. It mostly follows the route of the Inner West Light Rail and Hawthorne Canal and **features bike paths and foreshore walks, cultural and historical sites, cafes, bushcare sites, parks and sporting facilities.**

IWEG is a volunteer bushcare and birding group that established and maintains sites of bush restoration along this corridor. **The GreenWay provides a green corridor that is home to a surprising number of small bird species and is used by other species on their seasonal migrations.**

The northern half of the GreenWay, from Iron Cove to Longport Street Lewisham West, is an off-road shared path. The southern half, from Longport Street to the Cooks River, mostly relies on street footpaths, with a number of awkward crossings.

Prior to European settlement, much of inner-western Sydney was vegetated with **Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF)**. This is now listed as a Threatened Ecological Community. It consists of an open tree canopy of a variety of eucalypts, and a groundcover of mostly native grasses and herbs, sometimes with layers of shrubs and/or small trees. STIF typically occurs on areas with clay soils derived from Wianamatta Shale, or shale layers within Hawkesbury Sandstone. Along the creek lines, including the present-day Hawthorne Canal, plants that could tolerate waterlogged and saline soils including saltmarsh species would have existed. Bushcare projects along the GreenWay aim to bring back some of the vegetation that existed in the inner west prior to European settlement.

Itinerary

Meet at **Café Calibre**, in the apartment complex on the east side of Arlington light rail station (Grove St). After a short introduction, we will walk North through the bush care sites and streets, inspecting the plantings that are part of the bush restoration.

We will **end at Iron Cove** and then return to **Café Bones** for coffee. (This is the Inner West – you must have coffee regularly). The café can serve a light lunch or adjourn to the picnic areas in Richard Murden Reserve for BYO lunch.

Summer Hill's Flour Mill Markets are open in the forecourt of the historic Mungo Scott building at Lewisham Light Rail stop from 9 am to 1 pm. It is recommended to visit before joining the walk as we won't have time to linger there.

This area is well supplied with **public transport** and poorly supplied with car parking spaces. We strongly suggest you bring your Opal Card & travel by train or bus.



**Iron Cove
(End here)**

Film studios

Café Bones
Coffee, food
toilets

Richard Murden
Reserve,
picnic areas

Harvest Markets
Food, Toilets
Train interchange
Dorothy's place

Café Calibre
Start here at
Coffee shop
Toilets

Train interchange

Contingency Plan

Sunday trains are notorious for being affected by track work. Nothing is advertised at the moment, but we must plan for sudden changes. Please advise Liz by email on elsmere02@gmail.com if you are intending to come to the event so we can let you know of any changes.

Plants for Sale

As usual, we have some plants for sale. Please contact Graham on fryg45@gmail.com if interested in buying any & he will bring the plants for collection, at the end of our walk. The plants are advanced specimens and priced at \$7 each.

As at 22/6/2022

<i>Banksia serrata</i> – local species	Old-man Banksia	2
<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i>	Ivory Curl Tree	1
<i>Callistemon linearis</i> – local species	Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush	2
<i>Callistemon pinifolius</i> (green fl.) – local form	Pine-leaved Bottlebrush	1
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> – local species	Blue Flax-lily	1
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Giant Lily or Gynea Lily	2
<i>Eremophila mackinlayi</i>	Desert Pride	2
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Climbing Guinea Flower	1
<i>Isotoma</i> ‘Fizz’n’Pop’		2
<i>Pelargonium australe</i> hybrid	Native Storksbill or Wild Geranium	1
<i>Pseuderanthemum variable</i> (purple fl.)	Pastel Flower	1

LAST MEETING

Royal Botanic Gardens Tour

Sunday 5th June, 10.30 am

Report by Liz Cameron, with extra notes by Dorothy Luther

Eleven members and friends arrived at the Garden in time to indulge in a morning coffee before **Amanda Gibson, a volunteer guide at the RBG**, gave us a background talk on the current exhibition at the Calyx – ‘Inside the Tide’. Amanda explained that the exhibition featured three threatened marine ecosystems – **kelp forest, coral reef and sea grass beds**. Some marine animals were represented by models or ‘puppets’ and marine vegetation and some other animals, by terrestrial plants. An important message was the threat that climate change poses to the viability of these ecosystems. Also depicted were ‘heroes’ and ‘villains’ – some marine plants and animals that were beneficial to their ecosystems and some that were harmful.

Amanda’s introduction was very helpful in understanding the messages and layout of the exhibition but I wasn’t prepared for the visual spectacle that I found inside. The exhibit was packed with flourishing plants in every shade of green and wine-red and of diverse shapes and textures. Ferns, cacti and succulents had been cleverly chosen for their resemblance to algae and marine animals; sharp-leaved cacti represented ‘villainous’ sea urchins which



3 Liz and Marie in the kelp forest display in the Calyx – Ellie Smith photo

overgraze kelp beds, and mauve-tinged sedums mimicked some corals. Fishes, sea snakes and other marine creatures, and columns of kelp, created from papier mâché and other lightweight materials ‘floated’ through the exhibition. Marie admired the ‘jellyfish’ suspended from the ceiling; they were made of inverted hanging baskets covered in small cacti, from which ‘tentacles’ of Grandfather’s Whiskers (*Tillandsia usneoides*) hung down.

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/what-s-on/inside-the-tide-exhibit>

On leaving the Calyx, Amanda guided us to a number of other Garden highlights. We followed the meandering path through the **Australian rainforest section**; Graham remembered when it was planted in the 1980s, at the height of the campaign to save rainforest on the north coast of NSW. He was impressed by how fast the trees and shrubs had grown to form a tall closed canopy. I glimpsed some trees which also grow in the gardens of HGR members, including holly-leaved *Graptophyllum ilicifolium* and Davidson’s Plum (*Davidsonia jerseyana*).

The rainforest is guarded by 2 cassowaries, made in a similar style to some of the Calyx creatures. They are necessary to the ecosystem as some rainforest plants only germinate after passing thru the gut of a cassowary.

Further on we were shown some of the **Garden’s heritage trees** including the tallest – the Queensland Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*) – and two local species - Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*); the latter prompted discussion of their uses by Indigenous people and Europeans respectively.

Another very early planting was an imposing Weeping Lillypilly (*Waterhousea floribunda*), the same species that was planted as a small sapling last May at Sylvan Grove, in memory of Hugh Stacy. On the way to the Fernery we noticed several *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* which reminded us of Kyrill Taylor for whom it was a favourite cycad.

The Fernery featured one of the plants on the Treasure Hunt list provided by the Gardens – *Anglopteris evecta* the Giant Fern. Its fronds can grow to 8 metres long on a trunk up to 3 metres high. True dinosaur food! The Fernery also has some begonias, which gave Ana a brief attack of nostalgia, as they are native to her homeland, Venezuela.

A brief stop at the Cadi Garden led to a discussion on the Aboriginal uses of some plants such as banksias and food plants. We didn’t stop to look at the token veggie garden showcasing the original Farm Cove garden plants.



4 Rainforest topiary - photo by Karen Fong

By the time we arrived at the Maiden Memorial Pavilion to eat our lunch the sunshine had been replaced by cloud and a cool breeze so we did not linger. Amanda's guidance was much appreciated and our group was impressed by the current flourishing state of the Royal Botanic Gardens. We look forward to another visit to the RBG at a different time of year.

GROUP NEWS

Is Your Membership Due?

Lots of memberships are due in June. Please remember to pay promptly. You can do so online, using PayPal, and check/ update the details of your interests at the same time. Open the web site <https://www.austplants.com.au/>

Log in at the top right hand corner & navigate thru the menus About Us > Membership > Renew Membership

Click on the link to take you to your profile. This gives you your membership card, all your details & the Edit and Renewal buttons.

Member Introduction – Kerry Snelgrove

Kerry introduces herself:



I have always been a gardener - I remember weeding / planting etc when still in primary school - and also bushwalking mainly around Sydney's national parks as well as in the Blue Mountains. As far as native plants go, I remember inspecting Beverley Blacklock's marvellous garden in Castlecrag in the 1970's and from that moment it was native plants for me!

I was busy for decades with five children and working full time as a librarian but have always been active in cultivating native plants in my own garden. About 15 years ago I completed a Diploma in Horticulture at Ryde TAFE - a wonderful experience, especially the subjects on native plants and plant communities. Now that I'm finally retired, I'm hoping to participate in APS activities and meet and learn more about the subject from other members.

Tree Saga – *Euc sideroxylon* (contd)

Following last month's story about the 2 *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* - Red flowering ironbark plants that Graham has for sale, I'm happy to announce that we finally found them a home.

Graham was contacted by Pam Pitkeathly from Menai WFG, who said she could use them, as she is involved with her brother regenerating a bush block near Yass. They have already

planted some trees provided by Lloyd Hedges. The committee agreed that this is worthy cause and the trees will be planted in an area where they naturally occur.

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.

The Great Southern Bioblitz - October 28-31st 2022

Increasing biodiversity awareness through Citizen Science

The '[Great Southern BioBlitz](#)', or 'GSB' for short, was established by the not-for-profit team at *Ferox australis*, as an international event. It is a co-created citizen science initiative to observe as many species as possible over spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

This initiative was born in Australia, and it quickly expanded to 12 countries over three continents in the first year, covering at least three different languages. The GSB connected people from different areas through the sharing of their local biodiversity and provided a network of citizen science facilitators, exchanging challenges and opportunities from their local contexts and growing together to promote and engage biodiversity awareness through iNaturalist. More than that, the GSB started engaging countries and remote areas for the first time in a Southern Hemisphere-wide Bioblitz. Click to learn more.

<https://linktr.ee/gsbioblitz>

Anyone in the Southern Hemisphere is eligible to take part in the event. All you have to do is upload observations of wildlife to the [iNaturalist platform](#). Register as a participant [here](#) to be kept informed and to qualify for a certificate.

Plant List from Wolli Creek

Wolli Creek, with Bardwell Creek, is the major tributary of the Cooks River. The catchment begins in Hurstville and Penshurst, Narwee and Roselands and the creek flows east to meet the Cooks River at Tempe. Between Bexley North and Tempe, the creek flows for over four kilometres through bushland in a steep valley.

The valley is a strikingly beautiful and valuable stretch of bushland adjacent to one of the few remaining inner urban creeks that has substantial lengths of near-natural banks. This bushland (50 ha in all) of regional significance is slowly being consolidated as the Wolli Creek Regional Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The park area has many different landforms and plant communities and contains an outstanding array of natural environments with sandstone woodland, heathland, mangrove stands, marshland, reed beds, open parkland, and remnant rainforest species, all within a compact area. It is home to a wide diversity of flora and fauna, particularly birds and reptiles.



5 photo by Dorothy

During the cold spell when I huddled inside, I accessed a list of the plants found in the Wolli Creek valley from the Atlas

of Living Australia. It took some determination to separate out the native plants from the weeds, but I finally extracted a list of 161 plants. The list is available on request.

Here is a summary:

Hi Level Taxon	Aquatic	Herb	Shrub	Tree	Vine	Grand Total
D Dicot	3	15	39	33	13	103
F Fern		11		2		13
M Monocot		39		2	3	44
MAG Magnoliid					1	1
Grand Total	3	65	39	37	17	161

The MAG is *Palmeria scandens* the anchor vine

7 species are listed as 'P' and 1 as 'E1' in the NPWS Bionet. These both mean 'Rare'. There are 9 rare species in total.

2 occur in 1 other local National Park only - *Corymbia eximia* (yellow bloodwood) & *Calochilus gracillimus* (an orchid). There are 9 orchids in total.

Only 32 species occur in the list that WCPS provided in 2014 showing which species were valuable for fauna. 11 species in the WCPS list don't appear in the ALA list. None of the lists I referenced include the magnificent *Platyserium bifurcatum* (staghorn) above, which grows near Girrawheen Park.

So perhaps there is plenty of work to do for The Great Southern Bioblitz, even in a well-studied area like Wolli Creek.

Charlottes Pass Excursion

Sutherland Group are looking for expressions of interest in going to Charlotte Pass (in the Snowy Mountains) next Jan/Feb as we have many times before. We stay in the Pygmy Possum lodge. Walks of varying degrees of difficulty are organised but participation in them is optional,

Prices have yet to be announced but we expect they will be around \$400 per person for couples in January or \$320 if we go in February. There is a surcharge for singles who want a room to themselves of around \$100.

Walks are organised of varying degrees of difficulty but participation is optional. You can remain in the comfort of the lodge if you wish.

Please contact Lloyd at hedges@aapt.net.au if interested so we can gauge the level of interest.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

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

This month we're looking at web sites for a change.

ANPSA Web Site

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) <http://anpsa.org.au>



ANPSA has recently reorganised its web site under 10 main headings: Home, About, Plant Guides, Native Plant Profiles, Study Groups, Conference, Resources, Events, Contact, Join.

'Plant Profiles' is a searchable database (by botanical name, distribution and plant features – flowering season, colour & size). It seems to contain about 540 species.

Each study group has its own section of the web site with its newsletters, as for our District Groups in NSW.

Under 'Resources' there are 2 main sections – Downloads & Links.

There is a search engine but it doesn't work very well. No matter what I searched on, the answer was "The Garden Design Study Group". I also noticed that there is a downloadable index to the 'Australian Plants' journal, but the individual magazines are no longer available. It seems that they are being moved to the APS NSW site.

ANPSA Member Societies – For Armchair Travellers

All Member Societies offer a number of common benefits including Regional Meetings, featuring expert speakers, and a variety of field trips and excursions. They also produce publications which are provided to members (usually quarterly).

- **Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region**
 - <https://nativeplantscbr.com.au/>
 - Bi annual plants sale, detailed plant guide on growing the plants in Canberra
 - Conservation submissions
- **Australian Plants Society - New South Wales**
 - <https://austplants.com.au/>
 - Lots of articles, plant database, calendar of events. Section for each District Group
- **Native Plants Queensland (SGAP Queensland)**
 - <https://npq.org.au/>
 - Plant market - quarterly?
 - Attracting frogs & butterflies, also conservation, local action
 - Free seed bank.
- **Australian Plants Society South Australian Region**
 - <https://www.australianplantssa.asn.au/>
 - Gardening focus
 - CD based interactive database APSQuery to help select Australian native plants to meet specific requirements, 8,500 plants, bias towards plants suitable for South Australia
 - Free seed bank.
- **Australian Plants Society Tasmania**
 - <https://www.apstas.org.au/>
 - Information about their 3 District Groups
- **Top End Native Plants Society (Northern Territory)**
 - <https://www.topendnativeplants.org.au/>
 - Wild flowers of Darwin, grasses, rainforest, orchids, links

- **Australian Plants Society Victoria**
 - <https://apsvic.org.au/>
 - Plant info - cultivation, native nurseries & public gardens
 - Free seed bank.
- **Wildflower Society of Western Australia**
 - <https://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>
 - Where to see, Resources, growing, conservation

Share your favourite sources on our Facebook Group.

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

Which Plants Where?

<https://www.whichplantwhere.com.au/> Review

From a colleague:

“The “Which Plant Where” site is now up and running. A great video, showing how it works and all the information required for the plant you are looking at. I’ll go through and see how easy it is. Looks easy on the video!

“I started to enter my postcode etc and I got the wonderful message that as a single user I have to pay \$1200 p.a. I quickly got out of the site. No way am I going to pay that much just to find out what plant I should be planting.”

It’s obviously aimed at companies, not individuals. Landscape designers have to guarantee their plants so ‘Which Plant Where’ would be worth their while to pay a subscription, I guess.

So that's our review!



from The Calyx.
photos by Dorothy,
who likes leafy sea dragons

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Newsletters Received – June

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 NSW Group - Newsletter June 2022

Propagation workshops & planting by the moon; Eucalyptusdom Exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum; The mallee habit; the meanings of scientific names; Waterfall Circuit Walk, Lawson with ferns & other lovely things.

Australian Plants Society, Menai Wildflower Group - Newsletter Winter 2022

Review of May quarterly meeting; review of **talk on plants we no longer grow**: “big nurseries dominate the market but supply a very limited number of species - maybe only 25. The catalogue of Australian plants in 1975 held information on 1000 species, increasing to 1500 species by 1988.”
Delardes Reserve - a transition zone between sandstone forest and the Turpentine-Ironbark ecological community; Seed Dormancy

Australian Plants Society, Hunter Valley Group - Newsletter June 2022

A Trip to the Centre with lots of foliage; Focus Stacking – a new camera technique; more endemic species descriptions

Australian Plants Society, South East NSW Group - Newsletter June 2022

Long & fascinating article on pollination & the bugs that do it, with lots of photos.

Australian Plants Society, Sutherland NSW Group - Newsletter June 2022

Endangered upland swamps: does research improve protection? (especially when its in conflict with coal mining); Walk report: Lady Carrington Drive, with a check list of 108 species to find!

Other Groups Newsletters

Birdlife

<https://cm.birdlife.org.au/t/ViewEmail/r/946E20E2D3B6E6CC2540EF23F30FEDED/942B082C70B1FFE2336498D5BB0C77E0?alternativeLink=False>

Sea-eagle cam; Birds on Farms Project: Canberra-Yass Area; Film: The Message of the Lyrebird

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Transfer of Me-Mel (Goat Island) to Aboriginal land. Heritage-listed for its incredibly important Aboriginal, historic and natural heritage values, Me-Mel holds great significance to Aboriginal people.

Book now for Muogamarra Nature Reserve open season - The reserve is only open to the public for six weekends a year (13 August – 18 September)

Save our Flora

<https://saveourflora.weebly.com/>

This is an informal interactive sharing group, with a casual connection to ANPSA. It has a Seed and Cuttings Exchange – see the latest Bulletin for a list. <https://saveourflora.weebly.com/bulletins.html>
 Thanks to Tony Maxwell for passing this on to me.

Message from Glenda Browne, the APS email manager:

From the Nature Conservation Council:

NSW is going to the polls in 9 months, and our movement will be most powerful if we advocate for a shared set of priorities for our environment and our future. The recent federal election showed us that people power matters and there is an appetite for positive change to protect and restore our environment, and drastically reduce our emissions.

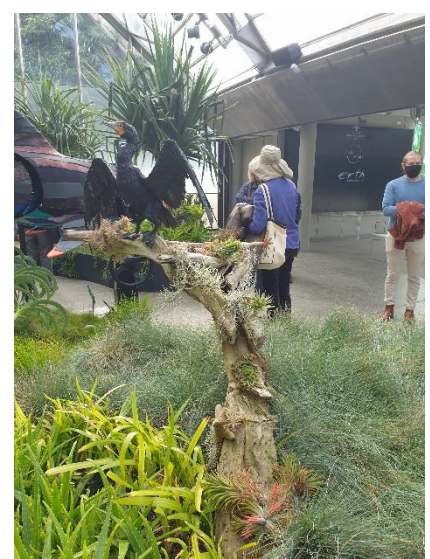
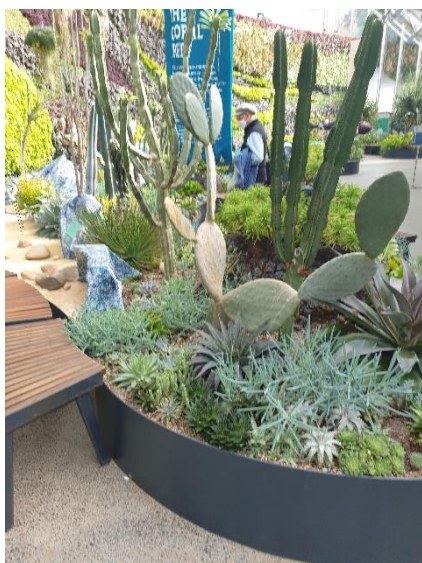
Many groups from across the state have already done the hard work through NCC policy working groups and drafted a set of policy priorities. **Now is your chance to have input on our shared priorities in the lead up to the 2023 State Election.**

Can you help us land a NSW Election Policy Platform that unites the conservation movement, engages a broad constituency on a climate and conservation agenda and pushes candidates to commit to positive change?

NCC is hosting a series of policy workshops for all members to have input on the draft election platform chapters. You are invited to attend as many as you like, please [RSVP using this link](#) to receive the relevant draft election platform chapter and zoom link ahead of the meeting.

Schedule

Topic	Time
Marine	Monday 27 June, 12 noon
Planning	Tuesday 28 June, 4pm
Waste and plastics	Wednesday 29 June, 12.30pm
Rivers	Thursday 30 June, 10am
Climate	Thursday 30 June, 11am
Bushfire	Tuesday 5 July, 2pm
Forests	Wednesday 6 July, 3pm
Conserve and restore wildlife habitat and ecosystems	Thursday 7 July, 3pm
Protected areas and wild places	Thursday 7 July, 4pm



COMING EVENTS

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

Sunday 3rd July, from 10.00 am	Harbour Georges River event - Inner West 'PUB' Crawl (Patches of Urban Bush). Meet at Café Calibre, Grove St, Dulwich Hill, next to the Arlington light rail station.
Sat July 9, 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting, Illawong Fire Station Peter Olde talk "A Botanical Ramble through Old Sydney Town"
Wed 20 July, 8 pm	APS Sutherland Group meeting. Gynea Community Hall, 39 Gynea Bay Rd. Orchid conservation work with Ritchie Dimon
Wed 3rd August	HGR outing - postponed Malabar dune walk and Malabar National Park walk.
Sat Aug 13, 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting, Illawong Fire Station Local koala enthusiast Tom Kristensen will update us on the koala population in the Shire.
Sat Sept 10 to Fri 17 Sept	ANPSA Conference, Kiama Pavilion, with tours before & afterwards https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022

EAST HILLS GROUP CONTACTS

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

The villains - plants acting as Crown of Thorns star fish
From The Calyx, photo by Dorothy

