



APS HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER NEWSLETTER - May 2022

NEXT HARBOUR GEORGES RIVER EVENT:

Sunday 5th June from 10:30 am

Royal Botanic Gardens tour

Tour the Calyx Exhibition

And the Native Gardens with an Expert Guide

With a chance to socialise over lunch

Please RSVP to Liz on elsmere02@gmail.com in case of cancellation.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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

Not quite so big, but full of snippets of information. As well as the details of our next meeting at the Royal Botanic Gardens, there is a review of the last meeting. We are meeting a new member and have the updated program for our group plus news from the neighbourhood, including a photographic exhibition in Hurstville. We're starting to share newsletters with the neighbourhood too. And of course, we have plants for sale. Hope to see you at RBG.

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,

I hope you are all enjoying the last few days of sunshine & managed to pull out a few weeds. Thank you all for your support in making our May meeting and tree planting a memorable day.

The recent Quarterly meeting at Cherrybrook was very interesting. Peter Olde gave a talk on growing Grevillea in small areas. The use of pots or standards was an interesting idea with delightful examples.

Our next meeting is on Sunday 5/6/22 at the RBG in The Calyx at 10:30am. Anyone coming is welcome to bring children or grandchildren to experience this amazing part of the garden. Happy gardening,

Warmest regards to all,

Marie O'Connor.

President Harbour Georges River Group APS NSW.

And when life
became too frenzied
**She came to her garden and
whispered to the plants until**
Her smile returned
and her mind was calm



NEXT MEETING

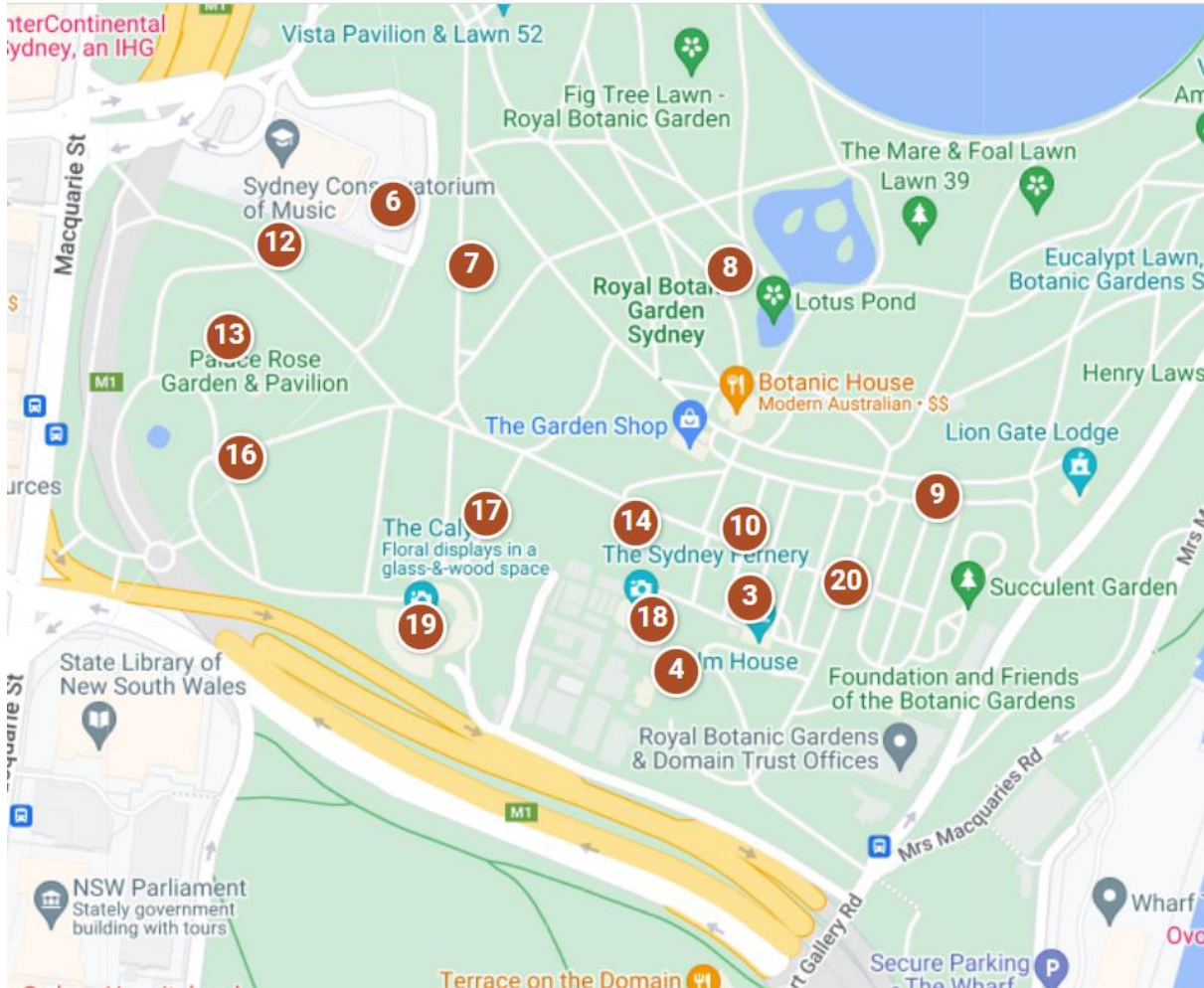
Royal Botanic Gardens Tour

Sunday 5th June, 10.30 am

Meet at the Calyx in the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney (entry by donation) - #19 on the map below. We will view the current exhibition - Inside the Tide.

Tour the gardens with an RBG volunteer guide.

Lunch outdoors or maybe in Maiden Pavilion on Band Lawn or Palace Rose Garden Pavilion (#13) if raining.



At 3 pm there will be a free 40-minute classical concert in the Calyx, see

<https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/What-s-on/Bach-at-The-Calyx-Christopher-Bennett>

Christopher plays cello

Contingency Plan

Since La Nina is hanging about still, we need a plan in the event of heavy rain.

Please advise Liz by email on elsmere02@gmail.com if you are intending to come to the event so we can let you know if there is a change of plans.

Most of this activity will be indoors so it should be safe.

Plants for Sale

As usual, we have some plants for sale, propagated by Karlo. Thanks to Jan & Dave for adding the common names.

Please contact Graham on fryg45@gmail.com if interested in buying any & he will bring the plants for collection. The plants are advanced specimens and priced at \$7 each.

As at 10/5/2022

<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	3
<i>Callistemon pinifolius</i> (green fl.) – local form	Pine-leaved Bottlebrush	1
<i>Coronidium elatum</i>	White Paper Daisy or Tall Everlasting	1
<i>Correa lawrenciana</i>	Mountain Correa	1
<i>Dendrobium kingianum</i>	Pink Rock Orchid	2
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> – local species	Blue Flax-lily	1
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Giant Lily or Gynea Lily	2
<i>Eremophila drummondii</i>	Drummond's Eremophila	2
<i>Eremophila mackinlayi</i>	Desert Pride	2
<i>Hibiscus geranioides</i>	Dwarf Native Hibiscus	1
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	Climbing Guinea Flower	1
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Australian Indigo	1
<i>Isotoma</i> 'Fizz'n'Pop'		2
<i>Pelargonium australe</i> hybrid	Native Storksbill or Wild Geranium	1
<i>Plectranthus parvifolius</i> (variegated form)	Cockspur Flower	1
<i>Pseuderanthemum variable</i> (purple fl.)	Pastel Flower	1



Hibiscus geranioides



Pseuderanthemum variable



Eremophila mackinlayi

LAST MEETING

Sylvan Grove Wednesday 4th May 2022

The meeting took the form of a morning visit to Sylvan Grove Native Garden in Picnic Point. This was an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of four senior APS members who had died - Hugh Stacy, Kyrill Taylor and Graham and Margaret Walters. They all had a close association with Sylvan Grove over many years and were fondly remembered by the Garden's senior horticulturist, Jim Mackay.

HGR President Marie O'Connor welcomed the 35 attendees who included members of the Stacy, Taylor and Walters families, and representatives of Sutherland, Menai Wildflower, Parramatta & Hills, and Macarthur Groups.

Long-standing members of the former East Hills Group then paid tribute to Hugh Stacy (Jan Douglas), Kyrill Taylor (Dave Crawford) and Graham and Margaret Walters (Graham Fry).

They described the valued contributions these members had made to the East Hills Group and APS NSW, and recalled long friendships, shared knowledge and love of native flora, and special plants associated with them. Senior APS members John Aitken and Peter Olde also expressed appreciation of the support and assistance that Hugh and Kyrill provided to them on the APS Board.

The Ceremonial Planting followed with assistance from Sylvan Grove horticulturists Jim Mackay and his colleague Steve.



Figure 1 The Walters Family planting their tree
Photo from John Aitken



Figure 2 Dorothy Taylor waters her tree
Photo from John Aitken

Three small trees were planted in the rainforest section of the Native Garden:

Weeping Lilly Pilly, *Waterhousea floribunda* for Hugh Stacy
Fine-leaved Tuckeroo, *Lepiderema pulchella* for Kyrill Taylor
Firewheel Tree, *Stenocarpus sinuatus* for Graham and Margaret Walters; this had been propagated by Karlo Taliana, another highly valued member of the former East Hills Group.

The rainforest section was looking magnificent after all the summer rain, and visitors commented on its calm and peaceful atmosphere. Jim Mackay has expressed his appreciation of the contributions made by Robert Miller and Col Gibson to the planning and early development of the rainforest plantings.



Figure 3 Photo from John Aitken

Visitors enjoyed a generous morning tea which included an **apple slice made by Jan Douglas and iced with initials commemorating the transition from the name East Hills Group to Harbour Georges River** (see photo of HGR President, Marie O'Connor, cutting it). This culinary launch of the Harbour Georges River name was supported by new HGR name tags. There were animated conversations amongst the guests who lingered. After all had left, a brief meeting of the HGR committee was held to discuss the program for the rest of the year.

During the morning Graham Fry sold plants that Karlo Taliana had propagated for a total of \$107.

A great many photos and letters from the families commemorate this most affecting event. The photos are preserved with captions in a PowerPoint which is on our web site along with the newsletter.

The Trees Planted

Weeping Lilly Pilly, *Waterhousea floribunda*

Widespread in riverine rainforest, often lining stream banks; north from the Hunter Valley

Medium tree to 30 m, Flowering August–October

Source of plant: Altra Nursery, Mortdale

Fine-leaved Tuckeroo, *Lepiderema pulchella*

Grows in riverine rainforest, north from the Tweed Valley

Small tree to 15 m, decorative fine foliage, Flowering in spring

Source: Altra Nursery, Mortdale

Firewheel Tree, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*

Occurs naturally in warmer types of rainforest in coastal areas north from the Nambucca River

Medium tree to 35 m, Flowering autumn to winter

Propagated by Karlo Taliana, another valued member of East Hills Group of APS NSW

Altra Nursery – A Local Family Business

5 Depot Rd, Mortdale NSW 2223

<https://altranursery.com.au/>

Altra Nursery is part owned by Jan Douglas's brother Alan. If you become a member you build up points & get 10% off your purchase. Des & Marie have been buying from there for years. So they are well recommended.

GROUP NEWS

Member Introduction – Aniuzka (Ana) Kazandjian

My name is Aniuzka Kazandjian and since I was very little, I have been fascinated with flowers. When I was lecturing in First Year Botany, I used to tell my students that every flower seen and dissected under the stereomicroscope is like watching a fascinating new movie.

I was born in Venezuela, the country where I completed my undergraduate studies, my master degree and worked for 25 years as a lecturer at the Simon Bolivar University. My mother is 50% aboriginal Venezuelan from the ethnic group called Guaiqueri. My father is an Armenian immigrant who loved books but was unable to read proper Spanish for a long time. To help him with his reading, he bought me lots of books which we read together at night-time. One of our favourite books described all the strange living creatures in Australia -we loved that book! - “Do you think Dad, I will go to Australia one day and see its wonderful Nature?”



Figure 4 My first encounter with a Telopea speciosissima inflorescence at the Royal National Park. It occurred five years ago, but the feeling is as vivid today as it was that day

In September 1999, I started my PhD in Australia in the school of Tropical Plant Sciences at James Cook University. I had two wonderful supervisors, Dr Betsy Jackes from JCU and Dr Peter W Wilson from Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Once I finished the laboratory part of my thesis, I moved to Sydney to write the manuscript. I loved all the years I lived in Australia! But with my heart divided in two, by the end of 2005, I had to go back to Venezuela to keep working in the Simon Bolivar University where I became a professor and vice-chancellor of General Studies.

The intensifying political turmoil, the impoverished economic situation, and the increasing insecurity we were facing, impelled me to leave Venezuela and come back to the peace of Australia with my two children, arriving for good in Sydney in 2016. From my first day back in Australia, I have enjoyed my peaceful life.

I contacted my old friends with whom I venture out often and take weekly walks through the bush enjoying the wonderful Australian biodiversity. When my friends allow me, I take photos of plants which I identify and upload in iNaturalist - my friends much prefer walking through the bush for step counting!

Two great ongoing realisations are keeping me content: 1. Seeing me, Sebastian and Camila successfully integrating into Australia, studying, working, and loving living here, and 2. The Young Naturalist, a social enterprise I have founded with Dr Fiona Benyon with the mission to bring Australian Biodiversity to life and connect children with Nature. I am in love with this project. We successfully did our first workshop at Sydney Olympic Park during Autumn school holidays. I just have this happy memory of the children's wide eyes when they were

looking at the spiny Hibiscus pollen grains through the microscope or dissecting a Hibbertia flower using the stereomicroscope.

Program For the Rest of 2022

We have revised & extended the program for the rest of 2022 to include the postponed meetings and some other types of activities.

July Sun 3rd 10 am – PUB ([Patches of Urban Bush](#)) crawl - visit a bush regen project in our patch - the Inner West Environment Group (IWEG) Bushcare program along the light rail line, Dulwich Hill to Hawthorne, hop on hop off - lots of things flowering, lots of coffee shops!

August Wed 3rd - postponed Malabar dune walk and Malabar National Park walk. Boyd to arrange time with the Randwick Council person.

September, Sun 4th, 10:30 am – Sylvan Grove visit, by invitation of Jim & Steve the horticulturalists, to see the Orchids in flower. Jim may also highlight new plantings for us.

Note Sept 10 to 17 - ANPSA Conference, Kiama, with tours before & afterwards

<https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

October Sat 8th postponed garden visits to Marie/ Des & Graham/ Liz gardens. A Mini Flora Festival - Graeme Davies from Menai will show his orchids at Marie's place too, then we walk via Poulton Park to Graham & Liz place to see their garden & a discussion on propagation. There will be a plant sale there too. Then picnic lunch at the boat ramp or reserve or coffee shop.

November, Wed 2nd at 7 pm – members night at an indoor venue (probably Earlwood) – bring evening meal, short talks by members, demonstration of propagation techniques.

December – AGM and Christmas party at location TBD. Maybe The Castle at Oatley Park

From Georges River National Park



Karlo is too busy to join our activities but he is still finding some time to bushwalk and take lovely photos. He has posted some on our Facebook group

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

including a close up of a *Banksia spinulosa* (Hairpin Banksia) which has purple stamens, and some small orchids.

Thank you Karlo.

Tree Saga – *Euc sideroxylon*

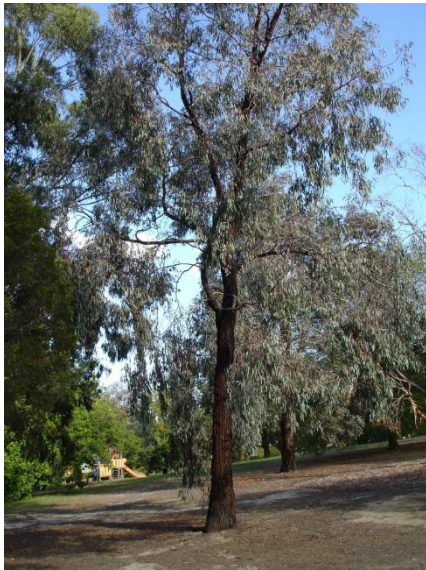


Figure 5 from Wikipedia

Among the plants Graham has for sale are 2 *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* - Red flowering ironbark. They are a lovely tree but unlikely that anyone will want to plant one in their backyard as they grow so big. The two plants are over 2m tall now, are near pot bound and will need to go into the ground in the near future. They are wonderful trees and ironically in the grounds of the church hall where OFF meets in Oatley there is one growing and it is such a reliable tree, flowers in autumn - winter each year and attracts lots of birds.

“ An ironbark eucalypt, potentially reaching 35 m high, though much shorter in cultivation, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* is found in open forest and woodland, mainly on the tablelands, western slopes and plains of New South Wales, although it also occurs on the fringes of the Sydney basin, extending into Queensland and Victoria (through the inland parts).

https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/eucalyptus-sideroxylon/?gclid=CjwKCAjw7cGUBhA9EiwArBAvonciJqEOQX_r1IJ_1T2xgu6uwFwrEV-sG-pKs1VdW-so1dxHm8O_ehoCHPIQAvD_BwE

So how to find them a home?

We tried to **donate them to a bushcare/ regeneration project**, but as the trees are not locally indigenous to our area, they turned down the offer.

Then I tried a neighbour who is a **landscape architect**. I was thinking of them for a shopping centre or apartment block which might have enough space for a big tree. It seems he doesn't generally get involved in plant procurement. He leaves that for the builders or **landscape contractors** as they have to guarantee quality. Should trees die within a specified time frame, they have to replace. Hence, he wouldn't be able to use them on a project.

He promised to put the word around in a local **WhatsApp chat group** he is part of.

Does anyone know a landscape contractor that could use them?

Perhaps there are sites in other areas on shale soils where they would be more suited. Any ideas?

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.

OFF Photo Exhibition

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society (generally known as OFF) are holding an exhibition called “Too Precious to Lose!” to celebrate the biodiversity in the Georges River LGA. The Venue is the Dragon's Lair Gallery at Hurstville Museum & Gallery - 14 MacMahon Street, Hurstville. The exhibition will run until 19th June.

Its well worth the trip as the photos are excellent and the centre also hosts an exhibition on Chinese history in Australia and a local history exhibition. Like all good exhibitions, it's not without a little bit of controversy.

Bush Care, Birds and Statistics

One of the nice things about the Harbour Georges River area is that just about every reasonable sized patch of empty land has a group of people trying to regenerate it back to something resembling bush. When this happens, birds usually find the patch and start to make use of it. A number of the areas have now got a group of bird surveyors as well as the bush regenerators. The Surveyors do a tour of the area, usually once a month, and record the birds that they see. This is the standard scientific method of doing bird surveys, so it's a snapshot once a month at approximately the same time and following the same route.

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society have been working away for many years and they have bird survey data going back to 1965.

A couple of years ago, I discovered that Macquarie University have a final year undergraduate statistics subject which requires the students to do a project using real-life data and make some useful analysis for the data owners.

I started using this service in 2020 using the Wolli Creek data, and asked the students to compare the bird populations over time. First of all, what were the main species seen in the 20th century compared to the 21st century. The amount of bush regeneration has created an amazing difference. Most of the non-native species had disappeared and a number of new species had appeared. The large birds that we all know - rainbow lorikeets, magpies, currawongs and noisy miners, were certainly all there, but a number of the medium and small birds were still surviving.

In 2021, I asked them to look at seasonality, to confirm the anecdotal stories of which species are seasonal. We found that there were indeed seasonal species but not necessarily the ones that the experts had predicted. Someone had also commented that there were always more birds in Spring. We investigated this and found that it wasn't in fact correct.

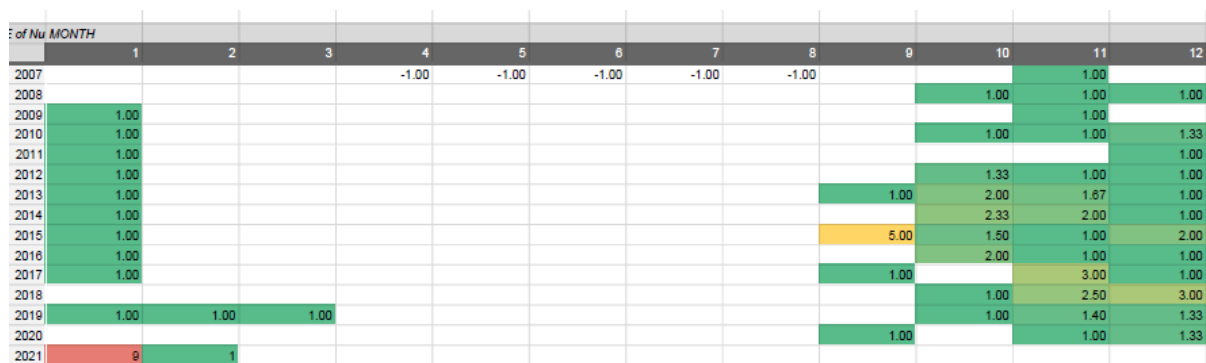


Figure 6 A Heat map for the Channel-billed cuckoo, showing seasonality and the increasing range of its presence.

This year, I'm expanding the data analysis to include some other survey groups in nearby areas. They mostly only have data from about 2018 so we'll be focusing more on variations between the different areas. We'll also be looking at whether the wet weather that we're having this year has made a significant difference to the population, either in numbers or in species observed. The analysis won't be happening until the second semester - that is July through to October - so I'll report back on the findings at the end of the year.

The students say that they enjoy the project. It's the first time they get to deal with real live data, with all the messiness & inconsistencies of citizen science collection. In all the other subjects, the data is carefully pre-prepared and clean. They also begin to learn about data journalism - how to present the data in a graphical form that a non-statistician finds interesting and understandable. (What Anthony Green does for his election predictions).

RANDOM JOTTINGS

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

Another Facebook Group

This month, featuring a beaut Facebook group - **NSW Native Plant Identification**

Recommended by Rae Bassett among others.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/332752936930981/about>

The NSW Native Plant Identification group is a place where people can upload photos of plants they wish to identify and help others with their queries. The site was created in Dec 2014, has over 10,000 members, and has had 421 posts so far this month.

The moderator is Joel Cohen, from the Royal Botanic Garden, in Sydney

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/our-science-staff/joel-cohen>

Joel's day job is about collecting plant material around NSW for Restore & Renew

So he knows what he's talking about.

Share your favourite sources on our new Facebook Group.

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

Which Plants Where

This database was mentioned in the April State e-news.

<https://www.whichplantwhere.com.au/> is an online database of plants that you can search by postcode to find out which plants will be most hardy for your area. That is, will survive thru the projected climate changes to 2030, 2050 & 2070.

The Website has now been launched.

Threatened Australians

<https://www.threatened.org.au/>

[Can this app put Australia's biodiversity 'crisis' on the election agenda?](#)

Researchers have launched a web-based app that they hope will put Australia's "threatened species crisis" at the top of the election agenda.

The app, which was launched last week, allows users to access a profile of all the threatened species reported to be found — or which were until recently found — in their federal electorate. It starts with fauna, but if you scroll down about half way, there are plants too.

From abc.net.au/news/science

Thanks to the Sutherland newsletter editor for this one.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Newsletters Received – May

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

Native Plants for NSW – May 2022

The monthly e-newsletter of the Australian Plants Society NSW, available at <https://resources.austplants.com.au/newsletters-journals/monthly-enewsletter/>

Australian Plants Society, Parramatta Hills NSW Group - Newsletter May 2022

Part 1 – Porters Road Fire Trail walk; feral icons; childhood memories - Our bushland playground at Kenthurst; and some other interesting stories.

Part 2 – report on tour to the central-west of NSW in early April arranged by APS NSW.

Australian Plants Society, Newcastle NSW Group - Newsletter May 2022

Look at Australian Pea Flowers; in praise of Davidson plums – amazing nutrition & curative properties, including supplements recommended for Covid symptoms.

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

Photography tips & tricks; orchids of the region & resources for identifying them

Australian Plants Society, Sutherland NSW Group - Newsletter May 2022

April meeting - Fossicking for semi-precious gemstones at Agate Creek and flora of the region with Allan and Marilyn House

Australian Plants Society, Northern Beaches NSW Group - Newsletter May 2022

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, (ESBS), of North Head Sanctuary; sorting out the Liliaceae Family; garden insects and bugs (Arthropods) - from the May meeting; The APS in the Central West Part 2.

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.

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society

The May-Jun 2022 OFF Newsletter has just been published on the OFF website. Here is the link to the Newsletter: [MayJune-22-Newsletter-3a.pdf \(oatleyflorafafauna.org.au\)](#)

Microplastics, activism, bushcare, coming events.

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Purchase your vehicle day pass directly from your mobile phone or tablet using the NSW Government's new Park'nPay app at select NSW national parks in greater Sydney.

Atlas of Living Australia

<https://t.e2ma.net/message/fbzw7j/b4et4z> for the May newsletter

The Atlas is the Australian node of a worldwide network of databases, set up to collect together all the data about the occurrence of living things, both from scientific & museum collections and from citizen scientists. The latest newsletter covered some projects of interest to APS members:

The **Big Bushfire BioBlitz** events at the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Murramarang, Crowdy Bay and Dooragan National Parks.

Flora Connections is aimed at harnessing the passion of amateur flora groups and citizen scientists to help monitor fire and flood recovery.

Message from Glenda Browne, the APS email manager:

PhD scholarships: Enhancing Cultural, Conservation and Restoration in Western Sydney

We have 4 PhD adverts open for a broad range of projects contributing to the research to support the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan.

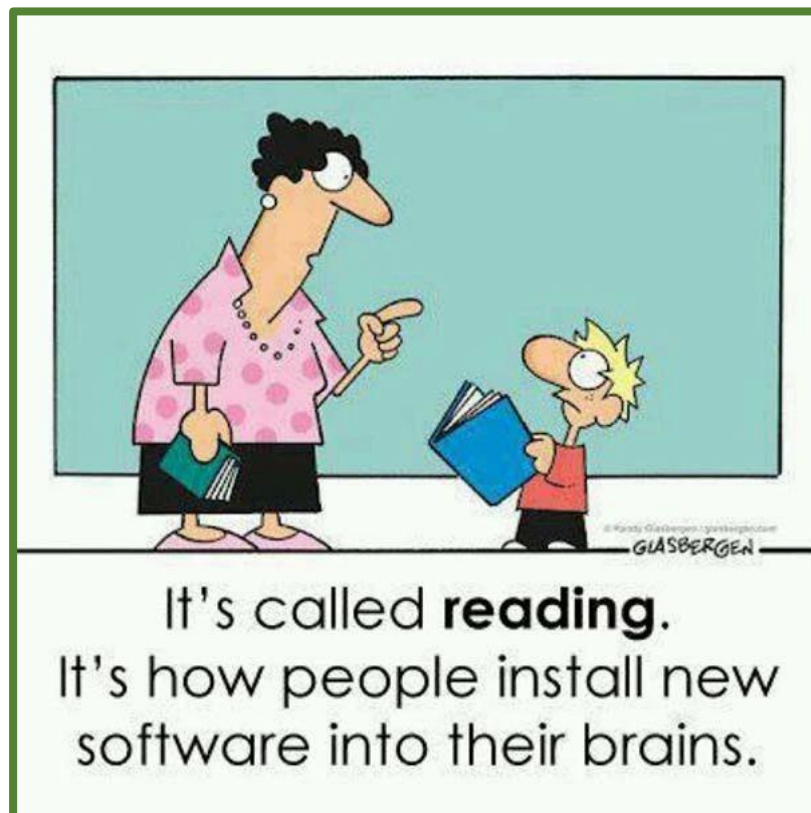
Link:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/grs/scholarships/current_scholarships/current_scholarships/enhancing_cultural_conservation_and_restoration_outcomes_in_the_cumberland_plain_of_western_sydney

Shortlink: <https://bit.ly/3s8qL9g>

Dr Paul Rymer | Senior Lecturer in Ecological Genetics

Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus



COMING EVENTS

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

Sat 4th June, 10 am	South East NSW Group “the important relationship between plants and their pollinators”, by Dr Roger Farrow . at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens (The newsletter editor has promised us a detailed review)
Sun 5 June, 10:30 am	Harbour Georges River Group meeting – Royal Botanic Gardens Meet at ‘The Calyx’
Sat 11th June, 1 pm	Menai Wildflower Group meeting, Illawong Fire Station Topic TBA
Wed, 15 Jun, 8 pm	Sutherland Group meeting, Gymea Community Centre, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea Topic TBA
Saturday 25 June 2 pm	Parra Hills members’ meeting at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place Cherrybrook. Members’ Meeting. Speaker tba
Monday 27 June 7.30 pm	Effect of Mammal Reintroductions on Arid Food Webs - Chloe Robinson, UNSW Postgraduate student and OFF Grant recipient. Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Meeting – Uniting Church Hall, corner of Letitia and Frederick Streets, Oatley
Sat Sept 10 to Fri 17 Sept	ANPSA Conference, Kiama Pavilion, with tours before & afterwards https://www.austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022

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