

APS EAST HILLS GROUP NEWSLETTER



October 2020

NEXT EHG MEETING IS A DAYTIME EVENT:

10 am Thursday 15 October 2020

Joseph Banks Reserve

For details, including how to reserve your place, see page 6

WELCOME to the October 2020 edition of the APS East Hills Group Newsletter.

I was disappointed not to receive more words and photos from members about plants they had seen or grown recently for the first time. On the up-side, it made compiling the newsletter quicker!

In this issue we have: Photos of *Doryanthes palmeri*, a link to an article about a new Australian daisy genus, an invitation to search for Sun-loving Moths, an invitation to the FJC Rogers Seminar (free and on-line this year), and some Spring flower photos.

There are now face-to-face events for EHG members to look forward to, including the visit to Silky Oaks on Saturday 3 October (you should have received an email from EHG President about this on 19 September) and our own East Hills Group meeting (see page 6)!

Be sure to register if you are planning to attend in-person events – numbers are limited and COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

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<http://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>



FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING APS EAST HILLS GROUP MEETING

There was no East Hills Group meeting in September 2020.

***DORYANTHES PALMERI* (SPEAR LILY) IN OATLEY**

Sue Walters provided these beautiful photos of a Spear Lily, *Doryanthes palmeri*, growing in her Oatley garden. (See also the lovely stone wall in the left-hand photo.) This relative of the Gymea Lily seems to be less common than the Gymea in gardens, but it is a spectacular sight! Its natural home is in a limited area on the north coast of NSW and south coast of Queensland. It is classified as vulnerable. The Gymea Lily and the Spear Lily are the only two species in the genus *Doryanthes*. They occur naturally only in Australia, in limited areas on the east coast.



MORE SPRING FLOWERS



Graham Walters provided these two photos of new Australian native plantings that have been providing a welcome Spring display.



FJC ROGERS SEMINAR GOES ZOOMING FOR 2020 8, 15 AND 22 OCTOBER 2020

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE SEMINAR THIS YEAR

APS Victoria has honoured Mr F J C (Fred) Rogers by naming these bi-annual seminars the “FJC Rogers Seminars”, in recognition of his magnificent service to the Society and to uphold Fred’s desire that members should continue to be educated about specific groups of plants.

Please register an Expression of Interest by email to fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au if you would like to receive the Webinar (Zoom) link to be part of the FJC Rogers Seminar lectures. There is no charge for attending the Webinars.

Everyone who registers by sending an email will be sent the Webinar link a day or two before 8th October. So be sure to check your email. All those who have already registered an EOI for the Seminar, and those who've registered for Garden Visits will automatically be sent the Webinar link - no need to email again.

First Webinar (Zoom) Thursday 8th October, 7pm-8.30pm

1. Trevor Wilson - Intimate relationships unveiled; kinships of quirky Australian Mints.
2. Dr Michael Whitehead - Pollinators, pollination and gene flow in Victorian prostantheras.

Second Webinar (Zoom) Thursday 15th October, 7pm-8pm

Professor Jeremy Bruhl and Dr Ian Telford - Mayhem in the Mints, Systematic study of Prostanthera; resolving misnaming with consequences for cultivation and conservation.

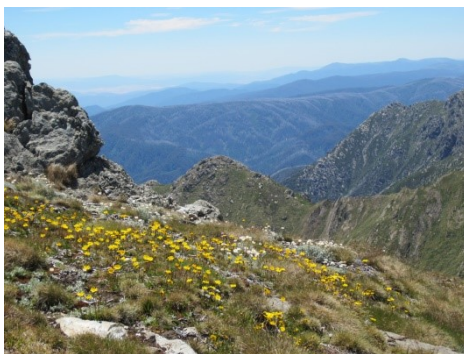
Third Webinar (Zoom). Thursday 22nd October, 7pm-8.45pm

1. Maria Hitchcock OAM - Propagation, cultivation, & essential oils of Prostanthera & Westringia genera.
2. Propagation and cultivation of allied genera; the Kings Park experience.
3. Five minute presentation by APS Maroondah on 14th FJC Rogers Seminar in 2022.

SOMETHING TO READ: A NEW GENUS OF AUSTRALIAN DAISIES

If you have been walking in Australian Alps during Summer, you may have seen plants that belong to this genus! Here's a link to the article:

https://theconversation.com/we-accidentally-found-a-whole-new-genus-of-australian-daisies-youve-probably-seen-them-on-your-bushwalks-139754?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201741616863&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201741616863+CID_cf98fc2913a802d5c915bdcca763898b&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=We%20accidentally%20found%20a%20whole%20new%20genus%20of%20Australian%20daisies%20Youve%20probably%20seen%20them%20on%20your%20bushwalks



Alpine view from near Mt Carruthers, January 2013 (Photo J. Douglas)

A TREASURE HUNT FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND LOVERS OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS

Many EHG readers will know Wendy Grimm of APS North Shore Group. Wendy wrote recently to APS NSW President John Aitken in relation to a citizen science project about the association between tiny Sun-loving Moths and native plants in the Rutaceae family. (This family includes citrus, Boronias, Phebaliums, Zierias and Eriostemons.) The photo below shows an unidentified species of Sun-Loving Moth on *Boronia coerulescens* in Kalbarri NP in WA (Photo: Andy Young).



Here's some more information about the project and why it's so important, provided by the Sun-loving Moth Gang.

Not all moths are nocturnal, brown and dusty and send shivers down the spine. As the photo shows, some are beautiful, metallic and dance in the sun. We are a passionate group of amateur entomologists and over the last ten years of family holidays, weekends and extended highly-focused field trips have discovered that one family of tiny moths, called Heliozelidae (aka Sun-loving Moths), is unexpectedly and incredibly diverse in Australia – think tiny insect equivalents of lemurs in Madagascar or Birds of Paradise in Papua New Guinea.

We have found that almost every Australian species of the citrus family (Rutaceae) we have looked at, from the top of Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, to the desert around Kalgoorlie in Western Australia and to the tropical north of Kakadu in the Northern Territory, are associated with one, two and sometimes more species of Sun-loving Moths.

The biology of many Sun-loving Moths is inextricably linked to the biology of the citrus plants. Female moths lay their eggs into flowers, and when they hatch, caterpillars eat the developing seeds. Because the caterpillars are only able to eat seeds of one species of plant – their survival is absolutely dependent on the plant's survival. In some cases, the relationship is even more intimate: the plant provides the caterpillars' food, and the female moth contributes to pollinating the plant's flowers. In a few cases the moths are the plant's only pollinator. Conservation of moths and plants are therefore inextricably inter-twined, and this becomes incredibly important when plants are range-restricted or endangered – as many are.

To date we have only looked at the tip of the iceberg. Despite only examining about 50 of the nearly 500 Australian citrus species, in genera like Boronia, Phebalium, Eriostemon and Zieria, we have discovered over one hundred new species of moths and are in the process

of describing and naming them. We would like to look at every single species of Rutaceae and identify moths with which they are associated and ... we are in a hurry because an increasing number of these plants are endangered (e.g. *Boronia clavata* in WA and *Boronia granitica* in NSW/QLD) and their Sun-loving Moths may go extinct before they are even known. The only way to do this is with your help, and a great first step is by photographing moths on Rutaceae plants.

Even without trying, new species of moths have been discovered and photographed incidentally by plant lovers who have posted their beautiful photos on social media platforms like Instagram. We can't wait for chance sightings – we need a more deliberate and concerted effort. Anyone who has species of Rutaceae growing in their local area, we would like to enlist you in our project. First, please search for these plants! Then please look carefully at their flowers (from the time they are unopened buds through to after they drop seed) and if you see a moth, please, please, please take a photograph, if possible, note the GPS co-ordinates and let us know. If you can also provide details like the time of day and the date the photo was taken, a plant I.D. and stage of flowering – all the better.

In fact, even if you don't hit the jackpot and find moths, photos and locations of plants are also valuable! We can then follow up your discoveries and search for them on our next field trip in that area. And if you don't find a moth on your first look – don't give up! In many cases moths may be present only for a few days or a week in a year and only on a few plants among a whole patch of similar plants – and that's why a few people can never cover the whole country. That's why we need people in every state and in every region. That's why we need you!

- Post your photos on your own Instagram Account and please include us @sun.loving.moths in your post and please use the hashtags #sunlovingmoths #australiancitrus #rutaceae #heliozelidae . We will repost pictures (with credit of course) so everyone can share in the discovery.

Or

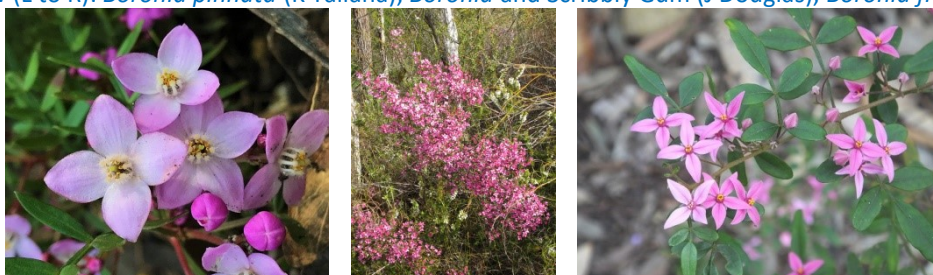
- Share your photos on your own Facebook Account but please remember to tag us too Sun Loving Moths.

Or

- Email us your photos at Sun.Loving.Moths@gmail.com

The current Sun Loving Moth Gang are: Doug Hilton, Axel Kallies, Andy Young, Mike Halsey, Liz Milla, Wendy Grimm, Mally Walter and Don Sands – with lots and lots of generous help from many other people.

Below (L to R): *Boronia pinnata* (K Taliana), *Boronia* and Scribbly Gum (J Douglas), *Boronia fraseri*



COMING EVENTS

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, face-to-face meetings are restricted. Some APS meetings are being held on-line, using Zoom. For details of coming events, please see the APS NSW e-newsletter (which you should be receiving by email at the end of each month).

EAST HILLS GROUP OCTOBER 2020 MEETING

Graham Fry

Our group will have a get-together at Joseph Banks Garden on Thursday 15th October starting at 10am. This will be an informal gathering, just inspecting the garden and finishing with refreshments.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, all participants are asked to register in advance and to bring their own refreshments. It will be a good chance for us to socialise after a long period of isolation. We will either use the bench at the centre or a camp table will be provided. Please let Graham Fry know if you are planning to come, he can be contacted on 9580 6621 or fryg45@gmail.com.



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