Native Plants for New South Wales
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Cover image: Mass planting of Kangaroo Paws (Anigozanthos flavidus) making a great display at Pangarinda Arboretum in South Australia. Photo: Marie Stevenson APS SA.

See page 39 for more information.
Introduction

David Crawford, Editor *Native Plants for NSW*

Firstly a reminder that members can read this newsletter on the APS NSW website, [www.austplants.com.au](http://www.austplants.com.au). A pdf version is generally available well before the printed copy is distributed, so if there are production delays you don’t have to wait.

The AGM has come and gone, the Society has a president again, a new vice president and a treasurer after a long period with no one in that role. All good news but there are always opportunities for willing volunteers. In this issue our newest Life Members are revealed, as is the winner of the APS NSW Conservation Award for 2015.

Nearly all native plant people will know the story of James Cook’s first voyage of discovery with naturalists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. But far fewer will know the tale of his second voyage or who the naturalists on the voyage were. While they didn’t visit Australia their discoveries did have an impact on the naming of many of our iconic proteaceous plants. Hugh Stacy has written about this in *Light from the Firebush* on page 14: read on to discover more.

Fire is a perennial factor in the Australian landscape. In the April issue we began *Fire Fire!*, a three-part article by Gwyn Clarke of Coffs Harbour Group. In the second instalment, the fire rages and I must say Gwyn seems very calm. I’m pretty sure I wouldn’t have been so relaxed. See page 22 to continue this journey.

Plants have not been neglected: we have a thorough coverage of personias for the garden by John Knight and two brief items on wattles. The talks at the May gathering about fertilisers for native plants have also been summarised.

*The well-connected enthusiast* is a new column where websites and digital resources that are of interest to APS members are reviewed. The first attempt (unfortunately written by your editor) is on page 56.

Please consider writing something for your journal. Short articles and images are always welcome.

Finally a reminder for the biennial national conference in Canberra later in the year – see page 57. It’s crunch time for those of you who are still deciding whether to attend.
Report from May gathering

In spite of weather concerns leading up to the event, the day of the gathering dawned bright and clear. A good roll-up of keen APS members assembled at Oatley Park on the northern shore of Georges River to explore the Headland Track on a walk led by well-known author and naturalist Alan Fairley who is a local resident and knows the park intimately.

Below are a selection of images from the day and a report on the guest speakers. On pages 8 and 10 the new Life Members of APS NSW are profiled and on page 12 the winner of the 2015 Conservation Award all of which were announced at the AGM. The President’s report on page 42, contains the result of the election for positions on the executive. Finally on page 46 members can find a summary of the Financial Reports for 2014. All members should make themselves familiar with the general results as the financial viability of the Society is essential to its continuity and will influence issues the Board will be dealing with.
Opposite page top left: View from Oatley Park.  Photo: Wendy Grimm

Opposite page top right: *Pterostylis acuminata* (Sharp Greenhood) in Oatley Park.  Photo: Wendy Grimm

Opposite page lower: Walking group at Oatley Park led by Alan Fairley.  Photo: Phillip Grimm

This page top: Noel Summerell from East Hills Group with an impressive selection of his native bonsai on display at the meeting venue.  Photo: Wendy Grimm

This page below left: Graham Ingall and Leonie Hogue after Leonie was presented with a bouquet in thanks for her many contributions to the Society and in particular for arranging the APS display at 2015 Easter Show.  Photo: Phillip Grimm

This page below right: Jeremy Smith assisting President, John Aitken, with the lucky door prize draw.  Photo: Phillip Grimm
Fertilisers for native plants

Following the AGM, we enjoyed hearing from two speakers on fertilisers for Australian native plants.

Jeremy Smith

Jeremy spoke from his experience as a commercial grower of Australian native plants for cut flowers and as a TAFE teacher.

Most gardeners are aware that Australian soils are extremely low in phosphorous and other nutrients as we have had no large scale volcanic activity or glaciation to replenish the soil. In Sydney, our sandstone soils are incredibly low in phosphorous and our plants have evolved mechanisms to allow them to cope with limited nutrients. Mycorrhizal fungal associations extend the foraging power of roots. Plants in the Proteaceae family have specialised root structures – proteoid or cluster roots – which vastly expand the root surface area to pick up traces of phosphorous. Other natives such as flannel flowers and casuarinas produce other kinds of cluster roots for the same purpose.

The big issue is how plants cope if presented with higher levels of phosphorous. As with many aspects of growing Australian plants, there is still much to learn. Jeremy suggests doing your own trials. Be careful with anything in the Proteaceae family, many in the Rutaceae family and some members of Mimosaceae. Gymea lilies can cope with phosphorous.

Jeremy highlighted the importance of different fertilisers and applications for different purposes. As a commercial cut flower grower, Jeremy is seeking particular outcomes at particular times of the year and carefully considers the cost-effectiveness of fertilisers as he has 10 acres of waratahs. For plant nutrition, he prefers to ‘give a little, often’. He follows a seasonal management calendar where available. For instance, for Christmas bush, he applies fertiliser after harvesting at Christmas to promote vegetative growth, then uses a different mix with more potassium mid-year when plants are developing flower buds.

Fertiliser use varies by requirements such as growing...
plants in the ground versus pots, and growing for cut flowers versus potted plants. Some potted plant suppliers fertilise so the plant looks best just before sale. Be aware of your soil type. Flowering gums from Western Australia are grafted onto different rootstocks to work with different soils.

**Vince Davy, Neutrog**

Fertiliser company Neutrog (a combination of ‘nutrients’ and ‘organics’), based in South Australia, focuses on organic fertilisers derived from chicken manure. They work with commercial growers, parks and gardens, and horticultural industries to develop specific products for specific needs, seeking to be recognised as the ‘Experts’ Choice’ in fertilisers.

Neutrog has two principles: healthy soils = healthy plants, and year round fertilising for year round health. Happy, healthy, well-nourished plants are more resistant to pests, diseases, heat stress and frost.

Neutrog has developed a new fertiliser product for Australian native plants called *Bush Tucker* which is currently being trialled by Angus Stewart amongst others. Neutrog has given Australian Plants Society members a chance to trial the new product and consider a possible endorsement arrangement for which APS NSW would receive royalties.

Vince realises that endorsement is not given lightly and encourages those members who took home free 5 kg bags of *Bush Tucker* to try it and provide feedback. Members should see the greatest impact on poorer performing plants.

Hopefully Bush Tucker will join the family of other successful and distinctively-named Neutrog fertilisers such as GOGO Juice, Rocket Fuel for vegetables, Strike Back for Orchids, Sudden Impact for Roses, Kahoona for acid lovers and Seamungus.

You can sign up to the free Pooh Bah club on the Neutrog website at [www.neutrog.com.au](http://www.neutrog.com.au) to receive regular updates on Neutrog, its products and their application.

Photos: Jan Douglas
Life Member 2015 – Pat Pike

Pat was nominated by North Shore Group and was awarded Life Membership of APS NSW at the Annual General Meeting in May. This article has been compiled from the nomination submission.

Pat has contributed enormously to finding, identifying, caring for and teaching others about native plants since joining APS in 1984.

Pat was a science teacher for 30 years until 1988. In that capacity she inspired some well-known people to study botany. In retirement she completed a University of Sydney Continuing Education course in botany and ecology of the Sydney region and also acquired a Certificate in Bushland Regeneration from Ryde TAFE. She was a trainer and supervisor of volunteers with Hornsby Shire Council’s Bushcare program from 1989 to 2003. Between 1992 and 2003 she taught at Ryde TAFE and was significantly involved in fieldwork. Many current bush regenerators and associates were taught by Pat.

Pat has been heavily involved with Berowra Valley bushland. In 1995 as a volunteer she identified plants along transects as part of research into algal blooms in Berowra Creek. Later she assisted with the production of a guide book to the area and was involved with lobbying for protection of this area, which has now been made a national park.

For 17 years Pat has assisted with the Hornsby Herbarium group, which is developing a pressed plant herbarium at Hornsby Library. This is available online to the public. Pat’s special knowledge of grasses and sedges has been particularly valuable to this project. For many years Pat ran the native grass sessions for APS North Shore Group’s very successful Walks and Talks program at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. She was also the group’s librarian for many years.

Her contributions to APS and our flora have been many and varied over a long period.
Native Plants July 2015 — Page 9

Coates Wildlife Tours
Specialists in Nature Tours since 1986 (Small groups 12–14 passengers)

Western Explorer
13 Day Camping Tour – Departs Newman 11th August 2015
Highlights: Karijini N.P, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Ranges.
Good early winter rains throughout the Pilbara should ensure the Northern wildflower season is full of colour. This trip is designed to coincide with the wildflower season and provides the opportunity to explore the wonderful Karijini, Mt Augustus and Kennedy Range National Parks.

Lorna Glen and Canning Stock Route
11 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 22nd August 2015
Join us as we explore the remote DPAW controlled Lorna Glen Station North East of Wiluna, Western Australia. The station supports an extraordinarily rich array of flora and fauna with more that 480 vascular plant species and 220 vertebrate species identified. There is also a strong Aboriginal connection with Sydney Head / Imbin Rockhole and we will spend time looking around this area.

W.A.’s Mid West Wildflowers
10 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 5th September 2015
See botanical hot-spots north of Perth during wildflower season. The trip covers a diverse array of landscapes with the farm lands of the wheat belt, the station country around Mt Magnet and Yalgoo before covering the highlights of the Kalbarri National Park and the northern sandplains around Eneabba, Badgingarra and the Mt Lesueur National Park.

Helena Aurora Ranges and Great Western Woodlands
15 Day Camping Tour – Departs Perth 19th September 2015
Join us and experience the wonders of the world’s largest temperate woodland, including the historic woodlines (where timber cutters operated from 1899 to 1964) and the ironstone Helena Aurora Ranges. All at the time of the year when the wildflowers will be at there best.

W.A.’s South West Birds and Botany
15 Day Accommodated Tour – Departs Perth 9th October 2015
Join our birding and botanist guides as we explore the biodiversity of this extraordinary region. The South west offers great birdlife, spectacular wildflowers and a diverse array of habitat.

Costa Rica Wildlife Safari
12 Day Accommodated Tour – Starts San Jose 3rd November 2015
Tour this pristine wildlife paradise on one of the most exciting wildlife expeditions we have offered. Expect to see a diverse array of birds, plants, mammals and reptiles.

Contact us for our full 2015 tour program:
Free Call: 1800 676 016
Web: www.coateswildlifetours.com.au • Email: coates@iinet.net.au
GSA Coates Tours Licence no 9ta1135/36
Life Members 2015 – Robin and Ron Davies

Robin and Ron were nominated by Macarthur Group and were awarded Life Membership of APS NSW at the Annual General Meeting in May. This article has been compiled from the nomination submission.

Robin and Ron are truly committed to our flora, fauna and their local community. They are kept busy contributing to APS, working as volunteers at the Wollondilly Community Nursery where they have propagated local species for 20 years, and working as volunteer bush regenerators for both the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan and Barragal Landcare. Robin is also a volunteer guide at the Australian Botanic Garden.

They work tirelessly to maintain our small Macarthur Group. Robin has been a long-term President of Macarthur Group and Ron is our Tea Man. They host all our meetings, set up before and pack up after, rally guest speakers, recruit members and endlessly promote our beautiful flora. They are always available to represent APS at events and stalls, smiling and pleased to talk with everyone about native plants and APS. They are also good supporters of activities of our neighbouring APS groups.

Robin provides real care and concern for our members, visiting the sick in hospital, organising flowers and cards and ensuring that all feel special and loved. Ron is a talented wood turner and presents all our guest speakers with a handcrafted gift as a token of appreciation. The devotion and commitment that Robin and Ron have shown to APS is a gift to be treasured and Life Membership of APS is an important award to show our appreciation.
STONY RANGE BOTANIC GARDEN
SPRING FESTIVAL

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
9am-4pm

SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS
Cultivation advice from Stony Range Botanic Garden volunteers & members of Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches Group.

Guided walks - insects, sculptures, bush tucker.
Photographic exhibition, sculptures,
Children’s activities, live animals, face painting.
Sausage sizzle & lunchtime music.
Talks - bees, frogs, Banksias.

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden
810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why
For more information contact 9942 2111
APS Conservation Award 2015

Bill Harden

Bill was nominated by Tamworth Group and was awarded the Conservation Award at the Annual General Meeting in May. This article has been compiled from the nomination submission.

Bill has been the inspiration and driving force behind the Tamworth Threatened Species Project at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden. The project aims to preserve threatened species from the NSW northern tablelands, north-western slopes and the north-west plains.

The project has established a safe place where threatened plant species can be grown, creating a backup community should the species become extinct in the wild. The project involves collecting seeds and cuttings of threatened plants in the wild, propagating them and growing them ex situ in a secure area.

Bill has been the group leader and driving force behind the project since its inception in 2008 but due to ill health he stepped aside in December 2014.

Bill guided the project through

• forming a collaboration between APS, Friends of the Tamworth Botanic Garden and Tamworth Regional Council
• obtaining approval from Tamworth Regional Council to undertake the project in the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden
• obtaining a scientific licence to collect threatened species from the wild
• applying for numerous grants from governments, council, businesses and APS NSW
• constructing an access road and installing underground irrigation lines and drip tubing
• collecting and propagating plants, growing-on and finally planting-out with protective guarding
• weeding, mulching and maintenance of the garden.

Bill intends to remain active in the project by propagating species collected by other members. Bill has been a Life Member of APS NSW since 2010.

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### Advertising in *Native Plants for NSW*

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Light from the Firebush

Hugh Stacy, East Hills Group

At an East Hills Group meeting in 2012, Karl Schurr, a long-time member described his trip to the Torres del Paine National Park in southern Chile, latitude 50°S. This is a landscape of glaciers, glacial lakes and ice-sculpted valleys, where rivers flow from sub-antarctic forests eastward into the grasslands of the Patagonian Steppes. One picture drew spontaneous attention to a single bush in open ground, about 1.5 m high by 3 m across, laden with rich red flowers which contrasted with a pale blue lake below and snow covered mountains behind; the next image showed the flowers in close-up. Somebody asked Karl what it was. He replied, ‘It’s known as the Chilean Firebush, *Embothrium coccineum*.’

The flowers of this foreign plant looked familiar to Australian eyes used to seeing our local Proteaceae. To learn that *Embothrium* is a genus related to them is no surprise. A number of the well-known coastal plants of eastern Australia were originally described under this name during the early years of settlement. Why did this occur, considering that now they all have been assigned to other genera? Surely it would have been more likely that independent international collections might have led to more generic names being published? Who named the Firebush?

The image of Chilean Firebush (*Embothrium coccineum*) which initiated this investigation.
Photo: Karl Schurr
British exploration in the Pacific under James Cook revealed that Proteaceae existed beyond Africa, in Australia and in South America. Though Joseph Banks, a naturalist, was on Cook’s first voyage, his withdrawal from the second created an opportunity for Johann Forster, a man of vast learning, and his talented son Georg. Banks’ contribution, together with the Forsters’ background and performance, explain how the Firebush influenced assessments of new Proteaceae towards the end of the eighteenth century.

Banks and Daniel Solander made the first significant plant collections on mainland Australia during Cook’s voyage up the east coast in 1770. Essentially this was a private enterprise paid for by Banks himself, who kept possession and control of the specimens on their return to England. While he contemplated publication of a major work featuring botanical aspects of his trip on the *Endeavour*, and commissioned the preparation of many fine gravure printing plates, the project did not proceed. Though wealthy, well-educated and very well connected, Banks was not highly qualified in natural science in an academic sense and for technical expertise he usually depended on the professionals he employed or to whom he was a benefactor. It took many years to digest the material collected on Cook’s first voyage.

Both Cook and Banks were feted on return and soon became involved in plans for another expedition. Cook’s objective in command of HMS *Resolution* was to search for Terra Australis Incognita as close to the South Pole as possible. Banks had his own agenda; conditions were cramped for his eight men aboard the *Endeavour*, but he now wanted to accommodate 15. So he arranged (through his friend Lord Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty) for additions above decks on the *Resolution*. However, in tests on the Thames upon completion, the pilot condemned the ship as top heavy and unseaworthy. Of course Banks was angry when the Navy recommended that the ship be restored as it was: he withdrew his involvement entirely when Lord Sandwich accepted the Navy’s advice. Just imagine the sniggers of sailors and the slow head swing from side to side with lips set when Cook heard about it. That dour laconic Yorkshireman was trained in shipbuilding.

To fill this vacancy for a naturalist, the Admiralty approached Johann Reinhold Forster, who had already expressed to Banks his interest in such a position. No doubt his appointment was supported by his membership of the Royal Society; recently accepted he listed both Banks and Solander among his proposers. Forster was able to arrange for his 18 year-old son Georg to join him as his assistant and draughtsman. The Forster family was German, though resident in England since 1766. But
Johann had British ancestry, his forebears having migrated to Germany after being dispossessed and forced to leave Scotland during the troubled 1640s. He was a fine scholar, said to be proficient in 17 languages; he studied natural history and made significant contributions in ornithology and zoology as well as botany; in England he lectured in mineralogy. When the *Resolution* sailed, Forster had earned his reputation as one of the leading naturalists in Britain and was already enabling links with Europe by his translations into English. A recent one, from the French, was Bougainville’s account of his world voyage (1766-9).

While *Resolution* provisioned for three weeks in Cape Town, the Forsters lived ashore ‘in the pursuits of Natural history’ (Cook’s *Journal*). There they met a young Swedish naturalist, Anders Sparman, who, like Solander, had studied under Linnaeus, with whom Johann corresponded. Seeing the richness of Cape flora and fauna Johann realised they would need help, so Anders was recruited to sail with them, in steerage, uncomfortably surrounded by the Forsters’ reference books.

They sailed around the world in latitudes near 60°S during two southern summers and searched the Pacific in winter 1773, staged between four sojourns in New Zealand’s South Island. Three times they stayed in Queen Charlotte Sound where Banks had already collected, but flowers
were few in late autumn and early spring. In contrast, abundant bird life yielded 38 new species and Georg painted 35 of them. From New Zealand Resolution sailed south east along the island-studded west coast of Tierra del Fuego in South America into a sheltered inlet which Cook called Christmas Sound, where they celebrated Christmas 1774. The Chilean Firebush was probably collected nearby (latitude 55ºS).

Before reaching Portsmouth on 30 July 1775 the Forsters had a small book already prepared, in Latin, *Characteres Generum Plantarum* …., which was published in London in 1776. It contained descriptions of 75 new genera and 94 new species. Later J.R. Forster regretted not having examined Banks’ New Zealand specimens before publication, because duplication could have been avoided. It had been agreed that Forster should write the official account of this second voyage, referencing both his own and Cook’s journals, with profits to be shared between them, but Lord Sandwich found issues and asked for editing rights. Forster flatly refused. The Admiralty then declined to pay him, forbade him to publish his version before the official record had appeared, and assisted Cook to proceed without him. Cornered by bureaucracy (not for the first time), Forster reacted laterally. Although he was constrained by contract, his son was not. He gave his journals to Georg and encouraged him to use them, as well as Georg’s own notes, to produce *A Voyage Round the World, in His Britannic Majesty’s Sloop, Resolution, Commanded by Capt. James Cook, during the Years 1772, 3, 4 and 5*. This work became available early in 1777, just six weeks before Cook’s *A Voyage Towards the South Pole* ….

Georg’s initial two-volume report in English received immediate recognition in British scientific circles, gaining him Royal Society membership at 22 years of age. His own translation into German was published in 1778-80, which greatly extended his fame in Europe. His success came through good writing: scientifically accurate observations with an objective approach, and thoughtful expression to enliven and engage the reader, whether in English or his flowing native German prose. This work set a standard for travel literature and broadened interest in science and exploration; it also publicised the current British expeditions led by Cook, drawing European attention to achievements in various fields.

Georg Forster, like his father, was a talented student. Johann took him on survey work in Russia at the age of ten, teaching him how to observe and record, how to use and make maps, and to speak fluent Russian. This influence must have continued during the long voyage with Cook. Georg showed extraordinary loyalty to his father when their publishing venture after the voyage left Johann in serious debt. After this young
man returned to Germany in 1778 to begin a teaching career, he
lobbied old contacts in Berlin on his father’s behalf. A professorship in
natural history and mineralogy was found for Johann at the University
of Halle, his alma mater, but his debt stopped him leaving England. He
happened to be a member of a masonic lodge, whose Grand Master,
Duke Ferdinand, was the brother-in-law of Frederick the Great, whose
Minister for Education and Culture had appointed Johann to his new
position in order to lift academic standards. So friends at court raised
money from members of German lodges to pay Johann’s debt, enabling
him to resettle his family in Halle in 1780.

One of the plants Johann and Georg had described in Characteres
Generum Plantarum represented a new genus and type species,
Embothrium coccineum. This description was published before
others of proteaceous plants gathered beyond continental Africa,
although several such specimens lay undescribed or unpublished in
Banks’ collection from 1770. The mellow sounding name Embothrium
is derived from two Greek words meaning in a pit, referring to a
characteristic of this proteaceous flower which opens into four parts,
each with an anther so attached. Perhaps it led a reference in the
minds of European botanists describing specimens from these newly
discovered southern lands.

After British settlement at Sydney in 1788 plant collecting became
easier. Malaspina’s Spanish expedition (1789-94) spent time in Sydney
Cove in March and April 1793; from this visit many plant specimens
were described by Antonio Cavanilles in Madrid and these were
published in 1798, with three grevilleas, a lomatia and the waratah
all named as species of Embothrium. Yet in the same publication
Cavanilles created a new generic name, Linkia, for a specimen now
known as Persoonia. In England others were working on material
from Sydney: in 1798 J.E. Smith named six grevilleas, a lomatia and
the waratah, all as Embothrium, and introduced a new generic name,
Conchium, now Hakea. Both men, it seems, were reacting to workload
with common sense, by grouping together certain recently discovered
proteaceous plants with the only one not from Africa already described
which had apparent affinities. Until then the only Australian
species published was Banksia serrata in 1782, a very different genus.
In this way Embothrium became a temporary file, virtually labelled
‘further work’. It was used over 30 times, mainly during the processing
of the huge collections from eighteenth century exploration. Now only
one species is recognised: the first one, Embothrium coccineum, the
Chilean Firebush.
Portrait of Dr Johann Reinhold Forster and his son George Forster 1780 by Jean François Rigaud (1742–1810). Collection: National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Purchased with funds provided by the Liangis family, the Ian Potter Foundation and John Schaeffer AO 2009.

Find APS NSW on Facebook at www.facebook.com/APSNSW
Plant profile

**Acacia dawsonii**

Warren Sheather is well-known to many APS members. He is a member of the Armidale Group and has volunteered to write an occasional column about plants of the New England region. His website [www.yallaroo.com.au](http://www.yallaroo.com.au) contains a wealth of information about Australian plants.

*Acacia dawsonii*, known as the Poverty or Mitta Wattle, is a small, erect shrub with long, narrow phyllodes which occurs in southern Queensland, along the slopes and tablelands of New South Wales and north-eastern Victoria.

**In the garden**

In our garden near Armidale plants reach a height of about one metre. Golden yellow, globular flower heads cover plants in spring. Each flower head is composed of only four to eight individual flowers. Compared to other wattles this is a small number of individual flowers per head. Pods are linear, straight to curved, about 60 centimetres long and five millimetres wide. *Acacia dawsonii* can be cultivated as a component of low growing hedges or used with foreground plants in garden beds. Unless you wish to collect the seeds, plants are best pruned after...
flowering to avoid plants looking dishevelled. This species appears to be long-lived: our specimens are at least ten years old. Propagate from seed that should be treated with boiling water and also from cuttings.

**In the wild**

Collections in herbaria indicate the wide distribution of this wattle. The species is recorded from Stanthorpe in Queensland; Armidale, Inverell, Lithgow, Rylstone and Tumut in NSW; Canberra; and Orbost in Victoria. The type specimen was collected near Rylstone in central NSW in 1895 by J. Dawson (hence the species name) and named by R.T. Baker. The plate (below) is the illustration that accompanied the species description in the 1897 Proceedings of the Linnaean Society.

*Acacia dawsonii* is found in large numbers along the Waterfall Way, east of Armidale. Some decades ago there was only a small roadside population 20 kilometres from Armidale. Over the years, thanks mainly to roadworks moving and damaging the seed, the population has increased considerably particularly towards Armidale.

The Mitta Mitta area in north-east Victoria is also a stronghold of the species. In fact *Acacia dawsonii* is the floral emblem of the area, hence one of the common names, and it is featured in a flora and fauna brochure from Mitta. The other common name, Poverty Wattle, may refer to the small number of flowers in each head.

Seeds have been collected from plants in the Garden of Stone National Park near Lithgow NSW for inclusion in the Millennium Seed Bank Project.
FIRE! FIRE! Part 2 – Action Stations

Gwyn Clarke, Coffs Harbour Group

Gwyn and Geoff Clarke live on a property on the back road between Coffs Harbour and Grafton. In August 2014 fire ravaged their property. In the April 2015 issue of Native Plants for NSW, Gwyn described the property and the fire control measures they had undertaken. This article confronts the reality of fire. The final article (planned for the October 2015 issue) will describe the recovery of the garden and regeneration of the bush.

After returning from our walk and checking the direction of the fire, we started to prepare the house and areas close by to minimise fire access to the house and shed.

Inside the house curtains covering windows closest to the fire were removed. In a severe fire we would tape the windows with masking tape, but we felt this wasn’t necessary on this occasion. Each pane would have a vertical strip and horizontal strip across the middle and then two strips across the diagonal. This holds in cracked or broken glass for the duration of the fire. Wet towels were placed along window ledges and door edges. Any items likely to catch fire were moved well away from windows and doors. Sinks and the bath were filled with water. Gas bottles were moved right away from house and shed.

In the laundry we have an outdoor-style tap which allows us to have a hose in the house for hosing down the deck and any other spots where a problem might arise. Geoff attached the hose and checked it.

We often went outside to confirm the fire’s direction. It was travelling slowly but surely towards us. Outside also needed a final check. All outdoor equipment and any items likely to catch fire were stored in the shed. It was not practical to dismantle our shade house so everything was given a good watering and we hoped there was enough clear area around it. Ember attack is always likely but that would be dealt with later. The grass had been kept short and much of it was dead after such a long dry period but other garden areas were well watered. Any dead plant material was removed from the gardens. Our fire tank was full of water, the fire hose and pump were in place and we had other tanks available if necessary.

The fires paid us a visit in the late morning. There were five fire engines in the area as well as other support vehicles. We were told to ring 000 if we needed help later in the day.

I hate the point when you think everything you can do is done and now
you just have to wait. Our neighbours came over to check on us and it was comforting to know they were just at the end of a mobile phone.

It was 4.15 pm when I saw the first flames appearing at the back of the block. It was time to ring the furies so I called 000 and they were there in a couple of minutes. We were shooed inside out of the smoke. One vehicle set up near the eastern end of the shed so that the shed could be kept wet and the big engine was on the drive near the house. They attached their hose to the Storz fitting and were ready to go. First they decided to back burn the area to the north of the house as the fire on the south side was not as advanced. This area is 30 m from the house and once it was alight the hose was kept trained on the roof of the house on the north side. I was surprised at how quickly it burnt. Embers were blown to the west away from the house. It didn’t seem any time before the furies were moving to the back of the house to prevent the fire coming over the edge of the escarpment. What amazed me was the lomandras growing along the septic trench at the eastern end of the scarp. The flames kept leaping up but the lomandras just scorched and the fire just couldn’t get past the first row. The local Doryanthes leaves scorched too. Some grass trees right on the edge of the scarp were kept wet by the furies and they didn’t even scorch. A wind from our southern gully redirected the fire along the western edge of the block. This is a narrow strip of bushland about 15-20 m from the house with the road on the other side. Embers from this area were blown into the

It’s well alight – the height of the fire. Photo: G Clarke
edge of our young rainforest causing minor damage. It met the fire on the northern edge and that was that. The main part of the fire was over.

At this point my phone rang. It was a warning not to try and leave the area but shelter from the fire until it had passed – a bit late as I was already providing refreshments for everyone and the fire was continuing on its way.

In the bushland some trees were still burning as were larger logs. The understorey was mostly non-existent with the occasional clump of burnt stems from banksias and tea-trees. Some of the banksia stems had burnt cones, some had dried leaves, and others were completely bare or gone. Grass trees were just black stumps. Only two of the largest Corymbia on the western edge had any green leaves left. Other trees had scorched leaves, or none. What a bleak outlook!

Nevertheless we had much to be thankful for. The house, caravan and shed were intact; the shade house had suffered some minor ember damage as had some parts of the garden but, thanks to the fire personnel, we had come through well. In our area, 4,000 hectares of bush were burnt and four houses were lost as well as some sheds and cars.

By now it was getting dark, although it had been quite dark during the fire, and from the house we could see large trees and logs still burning. During the night we could hear branches falling. The fireies had warned us not to go into the bush for a couple of weeks as often branches and
trees would fall unexpectedly. This happened to a couple of trees close to our northern boundary. The smoke was suffocating and we had to keep all windows and doors closed for a few days until we had a wind to blow most of it away.

Next day, when we inspected the garden we found that plants close to the northern edge of the drive had suffered the most. The plants closest to the drive in our large Kangaroo Paw planting had disappeared, those behind had been scorched and those furthest away had only minor damage. The garden bed on the northern edge of the drive had lost all the plants. In other areas close to the drive there had been ember attack on individual plants. A large group of *Leptospermum* ‘Julie Ann’ had lost only the plant at the back of the group. A local hovea burnt while flannel flowers around it survived. In a row of *Austromyrtus dulcis* one burnt. In the boomerang bed, with its northern edge close to the drive, we lost part of a *Lechenaultia biloba*, two small melaleucas and a local *Mirbelia rubifolia* which had just germinated in this bed. In the rainforest planting which is close to the western bushland we lost our very large ginger and a couple of the pioneer plants. Two of the largest trees suffered some scorching but most of the plants were OK.

Behind the house and shed the plants had been protected by the plants in the septic tank trench. On the edge of this trench we had planted some *Myoporum boninense* which is a prostrate plant with fleshy leaves.
that grows on local headlands. This was just a mass of black stems. The fires watering along the edge of the scarp had protected the large rocky slope behind the house.

The biggest mystery was our garbage bins. These were placed beside the drive not far from the road in the shelter of the trees. We did not miss them until we wanted to put waste in them, but they were nowhere to be found. Perhaps the fires moved them we thought, but no sign of them anywhere. I thought I would just have a really close look at where they should have been. At first I couldn’t see anything, then I noticed a couple of steel tins on the ground underneath what looked like a spatter of green paint and at the back a spatter of yellow. The recycle bin lid had blown open and the whole bin had totally disintegrated. The same thing had happened to the other bin. The council replaced them, and they’re on our bushfire plan for next time.

It was fortunate that the fire came from the east as this meant that the embers were in general blown away from the house and garden. The damage would probably have been greater if the wind had been from the north or south west as is more usual here. We expected that the local bushland would recover over time but we wondered about our garden plants – but that’s the next part of the story.

To be continued.
Growth and Promotion

Making the most of spring events

Spring is when plants, flowers and gardens bursting with growth are front of mind for gardeners and plant enthusiasts. Many APS groups have events in spring to make the most of this interest and enthusiasm. To promote Australian native plants and the Australian Plants Society at your spring event, consider these tips:

- Check your promotional materials are up-to-date with current contact details including website and email, and re-print if required.
- Check you have sufficient quantities of current handouts.
- Decide on your key messages for the event and brief your volunteers on what to say. You might want to encourage people to come to your next meeting, join a working bee or visit your website.
- Make sure volunteers are identified as part of the Australian Plants Society whether it’s through hats, clothing, aprons or name tags.
- Wear name tags so visitors know who they are talking to.
- Don’t worry if you don’t know every botanical name – it’s more important to share your enthusiasm for native plants, so talk about your own experiences with Australian plants and your group.

Keep a box of useful bits and pieces for events which may include pens, paper, tape, scissors, bluetack, bags, display materials and whatever else you may need. APS NSW has a range of promotional resources to help groups including colour leaflets, business cards and aprons. Contact the office at office@austplants.com.au.

There are also lots of ideas for posters, leaflets, pull-up exhibition banners and more on the Growth and Promotion section of the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au. Log in on the right hand side of the Homepage and then go to Growth and Promotion on the left hand side.

After your event, take time to debrief and think about what went well and what could be improved for next time. Share your event by posting on our Facebook page or sending a short report to Native Plants for NSW.
Where are those elusive terrestrials?

Wendy Grimm, North Shore Group

Midge Orchids are cryptic terrestrial orchids and many species are found close to Sydney. We seek your help to locate populations of any of the summer/autumn flowering species for inclusion in a study of their pollination and breeding systems. Field observation will be from this December through to mid-April 2016. The study team comprises international members from the USA and China, and local members from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, the Australian Museum and the Australian Plants Society.

Multiple name changes mean that you may recognise these orchids by the names of *Prasophyllum* or *Genoplesium*, or by the more recently used name of *Corunastylis*.

Whatever you call them, please consult your notes and photos for records of these genera. Any information about their locations, flowering times and abundance would be greatly appreciated.

Please email me ([wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au)) or phone (02) 9144 5600 for more details.

*Corunastylis ruppii.*

*Pollen-carrying flies on Corunastylis fimbriata.*
District Group directory

District Groups are located in many areas throughout New South Wales and range in size from fewer than 20 to over 100 members. Group members are able to take part in many activities including bushwalks, bush regeneration and conservation projects. Regular meetings enable members to keep in touch with people of similar interests and to hear expert guest speakers. Contact the Secretary of a specific group for further information.

Armidale and District
President: Phillip Rose
Email: prosecarwell@bigpond.com
Secretary: Helen Schwarz  (02) 6772 1584
PO Box 735, Armidale NSW 2350
Email: woshes@bigpond.com
Meetings: ASCA House, 166 Barney Street, Armidale
3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (excluding December, January, June, July).

Blue Mountains
President: Dick Turner  (02) 4739 5362
Secretary: Alix Goodwin  (02) 4739 1571
PO Box 23, Glenbrook NSW 2773
Website: www.apsbluemntsgroup.org
Meetings: Native Plant Reserve, Great Western Hwy, Glenbrook
1st Friday of the month at 8 pm (Sep-May) and 1st Sunday of the month at 10 am (Jun-Aug).
No meeting when there is an outing in the month.

Central Coast
President: Richard Street  0414 762 324
Secretary: Liz Hoese  (02) 4339 1274
Email: aps.cc.secty@gmail.com
Meetings: Phillip House, 21 Old Mount Penang Road, Kariong
Generally 2nd Friday of the month (excl. Jan, Dec) at 7.30 pm but winter meetings on Saturday afternoons. Check website for details.
Website: www.australianplants.org

Central West
President: Gillian Baldwin  (02) 6332 1583
Secretary: Lyn Burgett  (02) 6331 9170
Email: lburgett@bth.catholic.edu.au
Meetings: Bimonthly at alternating centres. Contact the secretary for details.

Coffs Harbour
President: Dr M Duggan  (02) 6649 3202
Email: morris@guarana.org
Secretary: Gwyn Clarke  0419 414 324
123 Sandstone Dr, Kungala NSW 2460
Email: gcl38500@bigpond.com
Meetings: Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Display Room normally on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months at 7.30 pm (excluding Jan).
Website: www.coffs.australianplants.info

East Hills
President: Graham Walters  (02) 9534 3039
Email: agwalters@bigpond.com
Secretary: Karlo Taliana  (02) 9709 6135
Email: karlo.taliana@optusnet.com.au
Meetings: Lugarno–Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno
1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm (excluding January).

Hawkesbury
Contact: Arthur Rutter  (02) 4577 3271
99 The Terrace, Windsor NSW 2756
Email: aande42@bigpond.com.au
Meetings: This group was re-launched at the APS NSW gathering in November 2014.

Hunter Valley
President: Michael Belcher  (02) 4930 1458
Secretary: Kevin Mantle  (02) 4937 3200
29 Wallaroo Road, Seaham NSW 2324
Email: mantlej58@gmail.com
Meetings: The Polish Hall, Cnr Grant & Old Rose Sts, Maitland
3rd Wednesday of the month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45 pm.

Illawarra
President: Kath Gadd  0414 333 475
Email: kath@malleedesign.com.au
Keith Hunter  0481 599 008
Email: keithjohnhunter@gmail.com
Facebook: type ‘APS Illawarra’ in the Facebook search bar.
Activities: This group is aiming to have an activity each month – check the Facebook page or contact the leaders.

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Membership application and renewal form

Please select your application type.

☐ New member
☐ Renewing member: Membership number _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Please tick if any details have changed from last renewal ☐

☐ Gift membership. Donor name _____________________

Include any personal card you wish to accompany the new member’s pack.

1. Complete your details

Name(s) _________________________________

Address _______________________________________

_____________________________________________

Postcode _______ _______ _______

Email _________________________________

Phone ( ) _________________________________

Mobile ______________________________________

☐ District Group affiliation _______________________

2. Select your membership type

12 months membership. Rates at 1 January 2015. GST inclusive.
Joint membership applies to two people at the same address. Each receives a membership card. A concession is available to Seniors, people on a limited fixed income and full-time students.

☐ Individual $53  ☐ Individual – Concession $45
☐ Joint $61  ☐ Joint – Concession $53
☐ Overseas A$60
☐ Optional donation to APS NSW $ __________
3. Select your payment method

☐ Cheque or money order payable to Australian Plants Society NSW

☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard

Card number  _  _  _  _  /  _  _  _  _  /  _  _  _  _  /  _  _  _  _

Expiry date  _  _  /  _  _  CVV/CSC:  _  _  _

(The last three digits printed on the signature panel on your card)

Cardholder’s name ____________________________________________

Cardholder’s signature _________________________________________

☐ Direct deposit

Bank Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd

BSB 062 217

Account no. 0090 7163

Please use as the reference your surname and 6-digit membership number which is on your membership card and your journal mailing envelopes. Please email merleaps@bigpond.com to advise of your deposit.

4. Return your form

APS NSW
Membership Officer
PO Box 3066
BOWENFELS NSW 2790

Membership inquiries
Merle Thompson, Membership Officer
merleaps@bigpond.com

Ph (02) 6352 3805    Fax (02) 6351 2384
## District Group directory continued

### Macarthur
President: Robin Davies  
Secretary: Rod Bray  
Phone: (02) 4647 9928  
Email: yarbdor@westnet.com.au

**Meetings:** Jack Nash Club Rooms, Nash Place Curran Hills NSW 2567. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm (Feb-Nov).

### Parramatta and The Hills District
President: vacant  
Secretary: Brodie Sutcliffe  
Phone: (02) 8809 0833  
Email: brodie fuller@hotmail.com

**Meetings:** Bi-monthly meetings 2 pm on 4th Saturday of Feb, April, June, August, Sept and Nov at Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook

Website: www.apsparrahills.org.au

### South East Region
President: Margaret Lynch  
Phone: 0408 447 678  
Email: yaraan@southernphone.com.au

Secretary: Michele Pymble  
Phone: (02) 4473 8587  
Email: mishpymble@gmail.com

**Meetings:** At various locations, generally on 1st Saturday of every month except January. Contact President or Secretary.

### South West

President: Wendy Johnston  
Phone: (02) 4883 6376  
Email: iandjpye@gmail.com

Secretary: Jane Pye  
Phone: (02) 4862 3750  
Email: iandjpye@gmail.com

**Meetings:** CWA Room, next to council building in Elizabeth St, Moss Vale. Bimonthly at 2 pm on the 1st Thursday of February, April, June, August and November.

### Southern Tablelands
President: Bob Galland  
Phone: 0407 248 154  
Email: rcgalland1@bigpond.com

Secretary: Gudrun Delbridge  
Phone: 0417 651 811  
Email: gudrun.delbridge@gmail.com

**Meetings:** Only when essential – our group is concentrating on walks and other activities.

### Sutherland
President: John Aitken  
Phone: (02) 9589 1363  
Email: jeaitken@gmail.com

Secretary: Leonie Hogue  
Phone: (02) 9528 6083  
Email: leoniehogue@gmail.com

**Meetings:** Gymea Community Centre, Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm (Feb-Nov).  
Website: www.sutherland.austplants.com.au/

### Tamworth
President: Matt Cosgrove  
Phone: (02) 6765 2693  
Email: cosgrove72@bigpond.com

Secretary: Kerrie Gray  
Phone: 0427 652 986  
Email: dyso57@bigpond.com

**Meetings:** Botanic Garden Meeting Room. 10 am on 4th Saturday Feb to Nov. Outings and field trips at other times – contact the Secretary.

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Acacia baileyana – a hybrid problem

Chris King is a member of East Hills Group.

I read with interest the article When native plants become weeds in Native Plants for NSW July 2014 about Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra wattle) by Bob Ross, APS NSW Conservation Officer at the time. The article doesn’t mention another problem that I have experienced with this species: that of hybridisation.

About 2008 I bought what was supposed to be the endangered Acacia pubescens (Downy wattle) from a local native plant nursery. The tube stock rapidly grew taller than the anticipated average height of 3 metres. A friend and bush regenerator noted that it looked much more like A. baileyana than A. pubescens. In 2010 she took a sample to the Royal Botanic Gardens for genetic analysis. Sure enough, the shrub proved to be a hybrid of the two plants, mostly A. pubescens but with some A. baileyana influence. This was not what I wanted adjacent to the site where we are trying to re-create Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest along our GreenWay corridor! The wattle was allowed to flower but not to set seed for the next couple of years and then got the chop to avoid hybridising with local provenance acacias on the Bushcare site.

GreenWay is an urban green corridor in Sydney’s inner west. It is a bush corridor for walking and cycling, and the plan was to build an off-road shared path from the Cooks River to Iron Cove. Some of the trail is on accessible council land but most is within an existing rail corridor. The shared path was to be built as part of the Inner West Light Rail Extension to Dulwich Hill, but was deferred by the state government. The GreenWay community is maintaining a campaign for the corridor sections to be built. More information is available at www.greenway.org.au.

The Inner West Environment Group has established four bush regeneration sites along the rail corridor at Dulwich Hill near the Waratah Mills and Arlington light rail stations. Other new sites along the corridor are expected to be handed over for regeneration in the coming year.

My thanks to Chris for providing this article. As editor it is pleasing to have comment on items from previous issues. It is also good for members to share their experiences with the wider ‘native plant community’. Finally, thanks to Chris’ initiative many more of us are now aware of the GreenWay Community Initiative. As editor I am pleased to have more short contributions from members across the state. If you find something that interests you, chances are other members will also be interested.
Native plant profile

Persoonias as garden plants

John Knight continues his regular series, this time promoting the growing of Persoonia. Many of these plants may be difficult to obtain but John is convinced they are well worth the effort.

Whenever travelling through bushland, some plants just seem to look happy, regardless of the weather. I never cease to be amazed at the apparent health of *Persoonia* species in the forests of the east coast. It may have not rained for months, and as other plants sag and look sorry for themselves, persoonias seem to be thriving, all bright green, without a care as to the flagging spirits around them.

Persoonias should find a place in most gardens. We just need to propagate our own plants as the nursery industry has left these plants as either too hard or too slow or just not a big enough seller to bother with. In this article, I describe propagation by cutting and seed, and describe my experiences with garden plants. The genus *Persoonia* honours the 18th-19th century botanist Christian Hendrik Persoon, who specialised in working on fungi.

**Propagation of persoonias**

It is rare to find *Persoonia* species in nurseries. It is still possible to sometimes obtain *Persoonia pinifolia* but it seems few others have found favour with growers. This is not unexpected, as these plants are notoriously difficult to propagate, either by seed or cutting.

**Propagating by cuttings**

In the 1980s I met the late Bill Cane, an experienced grower of Australian plants, at his nursery in Maffra in central Gippsland where the weather pattern is typical of southern Victoria, with wet cool to cold winters and warm summers without really getting too hot. Bill,
well-known as someone who could put roots on almost any plant, showed his nursery set up and his persoonia collection which included at least a dozen species, all producing cuttings under conditions best described as ‘different’. In his glasshouse, on a bench covered with coarse sand, sat a few wooden frames covered by glass. The glass, the water pipes and the sand all had a healthy growth of moss and algae. Some plant cuttings had obviously been there a long time, as moss had covered the pot as well. However, when the pots of cuttings were lifted, it was obvious that all the persoonias had struck.

When asked about the secret of his success, Bill, in his laconic bushie’s way, said simply that he didn’t find them difficult at all. His cuttings were initially bush collections, but once he had them in the garden, he had all the material he needed on hand. He said he had no special tricks, just did the cuttings when they ‘looked right’. Bill offered these tips:

- he used a honey dip which prevented the base of the cuttings being infected with pathogens
- he always used very clean new growth
- he used a mix of locally sourced sand blended with peat or vermiculite. It was a heavy mix, but obviously drained well, and because the cuttings were set within the frames, the mix was protected from drying out.

One plant sourced from Bill was *Persoonia prostrata*, a brilliantly green ground-covering form found in coastal forests of south-east Queensland and north-east NSW. This plant stayed virtually flat, and spread over 2 m within a couple of years. Nice young vigorous growth produced lovely cuttings which struck with little problem and I had a large patch which replaced lawn around a pool.

Rodger Elliot, a well-known author and very experienced propagator of difficult plants, pointed to the need to use young, vigorous growth, and to never remove the tips. This was especially so with the very desirable *Persoonia pinifolia*, the foliage of which very soon turned black if the tips were removed. Cuttings on which the tips were retained generally struck fairly reliably, if somewhat slowly.

**Propagating from seed**

Germination of seed presents all manner of problems for growers. However, as early as 1795 British nurserymen had successfully germinated seed of *Persoonia levis*, and also had some success with cuttings. There has been some work undertaken on germination inhibitors, and research continues, but results to date seem inconclusive.
In the 1980s, the late Kath Deery, lauded as an inspirational landscaper, had in her garden east of Melbourne, a large and old *Persoonia pinifolia* which had years of seed accumulated and buried deeply in mulch around its base. About 15 years after it was first planted, a heavy rain event precipitated a mass germination of some hundreds of seedlings. This event occurred annually around the same time after the first big summer thunderstorm. Maybe just patience is needed, but for how long?

**Persoonias for the garden**

My experience with persoonias goes back over 40 years, and they are generally well-behaved garden plants. Knowing a little of their natural habitat gives clues as to how to incorporate them into your landscape. Persoonias are well-suited to cultivation in the drying environment that many of us are currently experiencing.

This article concentrates on species from the coastal ranges of eastern Australia which have proved successful.

**Groundcovers and low shrubs**

*Persoonia asperula* is a favourite of mine. It is a spreading low shrub from the southern tablelands of NSW and hilly areas in north-east Victoria. In the garden it grows to 0.5 m high and up to 2 m across. Narrow green leaves, paler below, are about 15 mm long and spaced along the stems. They are bristly hairy and slightly rough to touch, hence the specific asperula (rough). Flowering is prolific through summer, and seed set is heavy. Surprisingly, after just four years in the garden, seedlings began to appear around the plant, in a gravel drive. The seedlings had four cotyledon leaves, a sure sign that they belonged to *Persoonia*, which have between four and nine cotyledons instead of the usual two. This plant thrives in full sun or dappled shade, in a heavy, well-drained soil with minimal extra water once established. *P. asperula* can be pruned hard to rejuvenate and cuttings are readily struck, usually within a couple of months using soft tip growth in the warmer months, say January through April.

A similar plant, *Persoonia chamaepeuce*, is distinguished by its prostrate habit and more crowded leaves, which are dark green and without the bristly fruit of *Persoonia asperula* showing purplish markings. Photo: J Knight
hairs. It grows along the ranges from New England down to Victoria. This plant grows more compactly, especially if given full sun, and stays flat to the ground. Flowering is prolific during summer and autumn, and again plenty of seed has set, but only a few seedlings appear around older plants. A couple of seedlings have grown into strong open and sprawling plants with little foliage and arching woody branches. These are obviously hybrids. Cuttings of this plant also are reliable, again using very soft tip growth. Pruning has not yet been necessary as the plants are very compact and slow growing, again without any additional water.

Harder to propagate but well worth the effort is *Persoonia chamaepitys*, which is also a species of the higher country, spreading down to the tablelands and western slopes. A form collected at Rylstone has been in cultivation for many years, selected for its striking orange-yellow flowers crowded at the tips of branches. The form I grow has lax growth, and is more open in habit, with yellow flowers from spring to autumn. It spreads about 1 m, with many light green leaves crowded on more or less prostrate branches. Whilst it tolerates full sun, a couple of plants in dappled shade look happier. These are in a raised garden bed with fairly heavy but well-turned soil, and cope well without additional watering. Heavy mulching is avoided as the humidity on the coast caused leaves to blacken and drop from earlier plantings. A natural mulch of eucalypt leaf fall is all they get, and this suits the plants fine.

*Persoonia laurina* subsp. *leiogyna* was collected from moist forest north of Nimmitabel. Here it was a small shrub about 1 m high, and grew under tall eucalypts among dianella and lomandra on the eastern fall of
the range. Cuttings were slow to strike, and the plant in the garden has not performed as hoped. But it is still alive after 4 years and throws a few flowers in late spring. It grows with some *Phebalium squamulosum*, which interestingly indicates when the soil is too dry by drooping at the tips, but springs back to life if given a watering. The persoonia would like more water than it gets, but I am worried about wet soils in summer which are conducive to fungal infestation.

A form of *Persoonia nutans* was collected from woodland on the central coast. Cuttings took about 6 months to strike, but produced 60% success. It is a sparse small shrub with few leaves, and yellow flowers hanging away from the stems on slender stalks. It has only been in the ground for the last year in a raised garden on the south side of my propagation house, and the plant hangs over the edge of a sleeper wall, looking almost lost within a jumble of more vigorous plants. Soil is a clay loam and is lightly mulched.

The previously mentioned *Persoonia prostrata* is growing as a subshrub in a bed of grafted grevillea, in full sun but with a slightly southerly aspect. It has been in the ground for 3 years, and flowered in its second year. Foliage remains an attractive lettuce green and always looks healthy. Cuttings taken in November failed to produce any results, but a subsequent collection in February was potted in August with about 40% producing quality roots.

*Persoonia isophylla* was collected in November on Sydney sandstone. Some cuttings have struck, and the others look very happy. All the tips produced flowers during summer. This plant is a small shrub to a metre or so, and has a very attractive habit and bright light green crowded foliage. It will need good drainage, but from the site it was collected, it appeared to cope well with dryness.

**Taller persoonias**

*Persoonia linearis* is fairly difficult to propagate. Best success was with suckering growth after a fire. This was taken very soft, about 100 mm long in February, and set in a 3:1 mix of coarse sand and peat. About 40% struck by the spring, but cuttings in a perlite:peat mix failed to produce any result at all. As a garden plant *P. linearis* has grown to about 3 m over 5 years, with attractive dark papery bark. It flowers regularly through summer and early autumn, but produces few seed. Honey bees are frequent visitors, but are probably not successful pollinators. Small native bees are also visitors. This plant grows as a small tree under eucalypt canopy, a position it seems to favour in nature. The soil is well drained clay/loam which retains moisture through the year, although we have not suffered drought conditions in this garden.
From around the Sydney area and north on the coast *Persoonia pinifolia* grows as a small and very attractive tree to 4 or 5 m. When young it is bushy to the ground, but as the trunk develops strength it opens up to display pendulous branches with very attractive fine leaves. From late summer through winter the ends of each branch carry a long spray of yellow flowers, followed by prolific fruiting. It is missing from many gardens in NSW which is a mystery, as it is a very accommodating plant which grows quickly and flowers early. Provided the drainage is good, the plants cope with sun or shade, and mulching the beds will ensure no additional watering is necessary once the plant is established. Old plants can be pruned hard to re-invigorate them, and the resultant new growth makes ideal cuttings, which although slow, usually produce good results. New growth appeared on my cuttings within a couple of months, and gave a 75% strike using Clonex Purple.

*Persoonia sylvatica* (Forest Geebung) grows as a shrub or small tree in the moist forests of south-east Australia. The few cuttings I collected took over 12 months to strike, and produced a poor result. These are planted in a sheltered area with lilly pilly and frangipani for company, and have survived a year so far.

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**Cover image**

Photo taken by Marie Stevenson, a member of APS South Australia.

An outstanding display of Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos flavidus*) at Pangarinda Arboretum in South Australia. The arboretum is just off the main road between Adelaide and Melbourne, at Wellington East (on the eastern side of the Murray River just down the road from the Wellington ferry).

The arboretum is 30 hectares in total with 12 hectares now planted. Many of the plants are from low rainfall areas and are renowned for failing in traditional garden culture. The arboretum has replicated the natural conditions of very good drainage, low humus and low nutrient levels combined with excellent rainfall infiltration. These are very important considerations for growing many species from Australia’s lower rainfall regions.

Our sister organisation, APS South Australia, promotes the arboretum as a fabulous area planted with many WA plants. They say it is a great place to see these species without having to cross the Nullarbor.
New members July 2015

Merle Thompson, Membership Officer

The Australian Plants Society NSW warmly welcomes the following 43 new members (37 memberships) and wishes each of you a long, rewarding and enjoyable association with the Society.

Karen Baker Malabar
Yvonne Becroft & Robin Rees New Lambton
Karen Marie Benhar Hornsby
Paola Bignu Toormina
Sybil Buchanan Sunshine Bay
Lorna Cullen Kincumber
Peter Curry Ocean Shores
J Davidson Wahroonga
Roma Dix Mittagong
Tammy Fleming Woy Woy
Kaye Foran Raleigh
Tiberio Giusti Eastwood
Sylvina Hardisty Gosford
Jenny & Allan Ible Kirrawee
Diny Jones Moss Vale
Leura Kowald Armidale
Sue Lawton Bowral
Robyn & Peter Maslen Gulmarrad
Sally McDonald Moruya
Renee Yvonne McDonald Rankin Park
Max & Bev McGreevy Goulburn
Anne Miller Woy Woy
Roslyn Morgan Bowral
Mary Mullins St Ives
Jonathon Pankhurst Keiraville
Julie-Ann Short Mount Colah
Jenny Talbot & Bev Robinson Forestville
Marion Semtner Tuggerah
Jenny Vine Mogendoura
Dr David & Mrs Robyn Wells Turramurra
Marian Whatman Revesby Heights
Cliff Williams Currawan
Garry Wilson Toongabbie
Loretta Woodhead Seaforth
Lorraine Wright Revesby Heights
We welcome back the following former members

Ann Rice Mulgoa
Peter Vaughan Broadmeadow

Vale
It is with sadness that we learnt of the deaths of Janelle Harvey who was a Life Member of the Newcastle Group and Geoffrey Rigby, a former long-term member also with the Newcastle Group. The Board extends condolences to their families and friends.

APS NSW Seed Bank update
John Randall, Seed Bank Curator

Requests for seed can be sent by mail to:

John Randall
8 Coachmans Place,
Mardi NSW 2259

An updated seed list was published in the April 2015 issue of Native Plants for NSW. This list can also be found on the APS NSW website www.austplants.com.au by selecting Seed Bank in the Resources pane on the Home page, or it can be accessed directly by pasting the following address into your browser: austplants.com.au/seedbank

There is a limit of six seed packets per request. Inquiries can be made to John at johnannette@dodo.com.au or on (02) 4353 9390. Please enclose a stamped ($1.40) self-addressed envelope (110 x 220 mm) for return of the seeds. Please list seed requests in alphabetical order and include a list of alternative selections.

Seed donations are always welcome and are vital if the seed bank is to remain viable. Please state the source of the seed, whether from natural or cultivated material. Please do not send seed from hybrid plants.

Additions: Hakea archaeoides.

Deletions: Acacia amoena, Baeckea virgata and Baeckea virgata Clarence River Form, Callistemon pallidus, Hakea saligna, Kennedia macrophylla, Linum marginale and Pittosporum angustifolium

Donor: P. Lightfoot.
President’s Report

John Aitken

Thanks to all those 80 members who attended the AGM and quarterly gathering at Lugarno on 23 May. Congratulations and a very special thanks to East Hills Group for hosting this very successful event. The gatherings continue to prove very popular and their success is aided by the wonderful hospitality extended to members and guests by the host group.

It is encouraging that there was an increase in the number of positions filled at the AGM and the following Board meeting. The following members were elected at the AGM:

- John Aitken  President
- Alix Goodwin  Vice President
- Harry Loots  Honorary Treasurer
- Merle Thompson  Membership Officer
- Graeme Ingall  Exhibition Coordinator
- Richard Street  Publicity Officer.

At the Board meeting on 22 June, we accepted John Andrews as Program Officer, Roger Starling as Property Officer and Dan Clarke as Conservation Officer, and appointed Heather Miles as Honorary Secretary. As well as the elected positions, the Board also includes group delegates.

I am looking forward to once again being President of the Society and hope that your confidence in me will be justified. It is a great privilege to be part of such a talented team of people who are so committed to the growth and promotion of the Society. I look forward to an exciting year in which we can consolidate on our past achievements and explore new ways to ensure the Society’s future.

Welcome to Richard Street, who is a new member to the Board as the Society’s Publicity Officer. Richard has done a great job as President of the Central Coast Group and I look forward to the expertise which he will bring to the Board. After 10 years, we finally have a Treasurer. Thank you Harry for volunteering for this most important role.

The Society owes our past Vice Presidents, Graeme Ingall and Mark Abell, a great deal of gratitude for their leadership of the Society and the valuable contributions they have made during the past year. I am sad to see Mark leave the Board. Mark has accepted a position at the
University of Newcastle and moved to Newcastle. I would also like to thank Tony Maxwell, our past Program Officer, who did not stand for the position this year. We owe Tony a deal of gratitude for the successful gatherings we have enjoyed during the year. Tony will continue to be the Parramatta and Hills District Group representative on the Board.

Although it is not a Board position, I would also like to thank our editor of Native Plants for NSW, David Crawford, for the fantastic job he is doing with the journal. David maintains a very high standard of journalism which is reflected by the wonderful quality and presentation of the content of each quarterly issue. We owe him a great deal of gratitude for his efforts to ensure that we receive a professional and informative journal.

I also thank our office administrator Joanna Moggridge for her support over the last year. Joanna resigned in May to take up another position, but the office will continue to function efficiently with the support of Sharlene Cormack.

At the recent gathering, Vince Davey from Neutrog Fertilisers spoke to us about a new product, Bush Tucker, which has been specifically formulated for Australian native plants. Neutrog developed this fertiliser in association with Angus Stewart. Vince offered members attending the gathering a sample of the fertiliser to trial on their plants. I am excited about this relationship between Neutrog and APS as I believe our organisation can play a major role in assisting the development of new products, such as Bush Tucker, which are specifically designed for Australian natives. In this way members can share their experience and knowledge of growing with others, which can only be beneficial to promoting the growing of Australian native plants. It is important, however, for those members who accepted a sample of fertiliser to notify Vince of their observations on its use in the garden. For those members who did not give Vince their email address on the day, could you please contact him at vince@neutrog.com.au.

My best wishes to all.

Brian Roach and APS NSW President, John Aitken, drawing lucky door prizes at the May gathering.
Photo: Philip Grimm
APS at Sydney Royal Easter Show 2015

Leonie Hogue, Sutherland Group

This was another successful year for APS NSW at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The APS stand operated for six days and over that period 37 volunteers greeted and enthusiastically spread the word about the Society. They smiled, sold plants donated by Sutherland Council Community Nursery, gave out lots of handouts featuring district groups and the APS website and offered advice to one and all.

Several groups also entered the Australian plants competition and as usual they put on an excellent display of floral arrangements and individual flowers, particularly banksias. The competition days are when the public attending the Show can see the beauty of our flowers.

I would love to see more APS groups involved in the competition but I do understand that many people grow beautiful flowers which they would love everyone to see but they aren’t personally interested in floral arranging or find it too difficult to get to Olympic Park at the required times. If possible I would like to link people who can supply flowers with TAFE students or hobbyists in floral arranging. Then the display at the Show would be even better and a lot more people would be introduced to Australian plants. If you feel some members of your group would be interested in supplying flowers, please contact me at leoniehogue@gmail.com

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the band of workers who set up the stand and the many volunteers who so generously staff it during the Show. They are the ones who make our contribution to the Easter Show a success each year.

Judge, Clare Bell (APS North Shore Group) with champion exhibit in the Banksia competition.
Photo: Marie O’Connor
SYLVAN GROVE NATIVE GARDENS

*Spring Spectacular*

Experience the delights of spring in a 1.5 hectare floral oasis.

Great range of flowering plants from all states of Australia, including Acacias, Anigozanthos, Banksias, Chamelauciums, Epacris, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Orchids, Prostantheras, Thomasias and many rainforest species.

The Gardens are open from 7.00am - 3.00pm on weekdays all year, plus weekends from 15 August - 29 November 2015 from 9.00am - 4.30pm.

We are located at 7 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point, Sydney.

ADMISSION FREE !!

For enquiries or to arrange a guided group tour, call (02) 9707 9699.
Extract from Annual Report

APS NSW finances 2014

The APS NSW Annual Report for 2014, available on our website at www.austplants.com.au, reports on our activities for 2014 and includes our financial statements. To save postage, the Annual Report is no longer mailed out to every member which means key details about our financial performance are not widely known. Key elements from the 18 pages of the full financial statements are summarised below.

The financial performance of APS NSW has three components: the APS NSW office, District Groups and the Bequest Fund.

APS NSW office
In 2014, the APS NSW office had income of $71,047 and expenditure of $91,317, giving a loss of over $20,000. The three main sources of income were membership fees (56%), sales of Australian Plants to people outside NSW (26%) and interest on our savings (12%). Major items of expenditure included printing and posting Native Plants for NSW and Australian Plants to NSW members and non-NSW subscribers (35%), running the office (18%), paying our part-time staff (17%), accounting and audit fees (9%), and insurance (6%).

District Groups
In 2014, the District Groups combined had income of $127,124 and expenditure of $118,747, giving a net profit of over $8,000. Selling plants was the largest source of income in total (71%) and buying plants (47%) was the largest item of expenditure. However, given the different sizes of District Groups and their activities, there was great variation between groups. In 2014, four District Groups made a profit of over $1,000 each, eleven District Groups made a profit of less than $1,000 and six District Groups made a loss.

Bequest Fund
The Bequest Fund was established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Napier Thomson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden. At the beginning of 2014, the Fund had over $557,000. It earned interest of over $18,000 in 2014. After donations were made to the Australian Flora Foundation and Burrendong Arboretum, there was a net profit of over $5,000. A proportion of the interest each year is added to the capital and the remaining interest is available for grants and donations. Donations have not been made every year. Declining interest rates have reduced the income of the Bequest Fund in recent years.
Summary

The profit made by the District Groups and the Bequest Fund was not enough to offset the loss made by the office, so APS NSW made a loss of over $6,000 in 2014. The APS NSW profit and loss summary is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Profit</th>
<th>Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Office</td>
<td>$20,270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Groups</td>
<td>$8,377</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequest Fund</td>
<td>$5,591</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net operating loss</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our total assets at the end of 2014 were $1.129 million, compared to $1.135 million in 2013. This sounds impressive, and there are always year to year variations, however, there are still concerns about our financial position. Over half the APS NSW assets are in the Bequest Fund which has conditions on their use. Expenditure is about one third higher than income for the office, which is not sustainable in the long term. Even if all the annual income from interest from the Bequest Fund was allocated to the office, the office would still have made a loss in 2014. The Board is aware of the need to both reduce costs and increase income to improve our sustainability.

Three pages from the financial statements are shown on the next pages but members are encouraged to become familiar with the financial statements. For a copy of the Annual Report for 2014, please check the website www.austplants.com.au (login as a member) or email the office at office@austplants.com.au.

Thanks to our Financial Officer Sharlene Cormack and our auditors Furzer Crestani for their work.

APS NSW on the web
www.austplants.com.au

For the latest information about your Society see the web site, where you can read articles and newsletters, and participate in the forum about all aspects of native plants.
## Additional Financial Information

### Income and Expenditure Statement

**For the year ended 31 December 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATE OFFICE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>40,172</td>
<td>35,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subscriptions to <em>Australian Plants</em></td>
<td>8,261</td>
<td>9,620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of <em>Australian Plants</em> to States</td>
<td>10,074</td>
<td>12,314</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58,506</td>
<td>57,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary income</td>
<td>4,011</td>
<td>3,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freight collected</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>8,529</td>
<td>10,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>71,047</td>
<td>71,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members Journals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; editing - <em>Native Plants for NSW</em></td>
<td>8,297</td>
<td>10,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; editing - <em>Annual Report</em></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; editing - <em>Australian Plants</em></td>
<td>13,316</td>
<td>14,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editorial, insertion &amp; dispatch</td>
<td>2,161</td>
<td>1,479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk Posting</td>
<td>7,999</td>
<td>5,491</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Journals</strong></td>
<td>31,773</td>
<td>31,662</td>
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</table>

**General Administration**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting &amp; audit fees</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>7,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising - Sponsorship</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANPSA Levy</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank fees</td>
<td>1,093</td>
<td>696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of sales</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>1,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doubtful Debts Provision</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filing fees</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire of halls &amp; exhibitions</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>1,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>5,934</td>
<td>8,259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet costs</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>1,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting costs</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office expenses</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>2,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office rent &amp; outgoings</td>
<td>11,761</td>
<td>12,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office supplies</td>
<td>3,320</td>
<td>1,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>1,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; superannuation</td>
<td>15,947</td>
<td>15,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Group &amp; other donations</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry costs</td>
<td>3,603</td>
<td>3,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>1,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling expenses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Administration</strong></td>
<td>59,544</td>
<td>62,597</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91,317</td>
<td>94,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Surplus/(Deficiency) for the year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-20,270</td>
<td>-22,898</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT GROUPS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>24,565</td>
<td>23,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Membership transfers to Region</td>
<td>(20,364)</td>
<td>(18,074)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of plants</td>
<td>90,898</td>
<td>79,427</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales of books</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of other goods</td>
<td>1,895</td>
<td>871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffles</td>
<td>7,484</td>
<td>6,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry income</td>
<td>18,264</td>
<td>16,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>4,363</td>
<td>6,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>127,124</td>
<td>115,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Sales</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of plants</td>
<td>56,116</td>
<td>43,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of books</td>
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<td>1,011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of other goods</td>
<td>11,118</td>
<td>8,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle prizes</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>2,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost of Sales</strong></td>
<td>69,756</td>
<td>55,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td>7,071</td>
<td>8,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting costs</td>
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<td>6,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank fees</td>
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<td>184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library costs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and asset write off</td>
<td>10,257</td>
<td>8,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry expenses</td>
<td>24,233</td>
<td>24,946</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
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<td>48,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>118,747</td>
<td>103,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Surplus/(Deficiency) for the year</strong></td>
<td>8,377</td>
<td>12,006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY BEQUEST FUND
Established by bequests from Lisle Pearse, Charles Napier Thomson, Maurice Melvaine and Michael Bowden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations Received</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>18,629</td>
<td>21,357</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Costs</td>
<td>1,386</td>
<td>1,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Group</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>13,038</td>
<td>1,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Surplus/(Deficiency) for the year</strong></td>
<td>5,591</td>
<td>19,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Great Native Plant Photos

Many APS members are keen and capable photographers. This journal needs good quality images to adorn its pages. If you have outstanding photos of native plants please share them with other members by contacting the editor via the office. Several members have already provided great photos that members have been enjoying in the pages of Native Plants for NSW.
Study Groups notes

Wendy Grimm, Study Group Liaison Officer

The Biennial Conference of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) will be held in Canberra in November 2015. Each day will feature presentations by Study Group leaders, and several evening meetings will provide opportunities for the scattered membership of our Study Groups to get together in person. The afternoon excursion to the National Bonsai Collection is a must for me, as my previous visit was far too brief. Make Canberra your holiday destination later this year.

**Australian Plants as Bonsai Study Group (Feb. 2015, No. 27)**

Ruth McLucas uses sequential images to show that small-leaved grevillea species and cultivars such as *G. curviloba*, *G. australis* and *Grevillea ‘Scarlet Sprite’* respond well to shallow pot cultivation. Trim branches after flowering, but do not cut back to remove all foliage. The bonsai techniques of wiring and trimming can be combined to achieve the desired shape. You may need to protect your plants from visiting honeyeaters to avoid damage to thin branches.

**Epacris Study Group (Autumn 2015, No. 39)**

Ron Crowden provides a detailed key to the genus *Epacris* of Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia. It employs macroscopic characteristics so the key is suitable for use in fieldwork. Ron invited feedback from users of his key.

Study Group Leader Gwen Elliot is still looking for a new leader to take over after the Biennial Conference in November.

*Epacris pulchella.*
Photo: W Grimm
Wallum Study Group (Mar. 2015, No. 38)
Bribie Island still has areas of wallum and coastal heath, but much of the coastal wet wallum within easy driving distance for this Queensland-based group has been developed. Leader Barbara Henderson urged the NSW and ACT members to attend the Biennial Conference in November.

Acacia Study Group (Mar. 2015, No. 128)
Bill Aitchison’s wildlife anecdotes remind us that *Acacia* species are significant in supporting sugar gliders, ringtails and the larger possums around our homes and in the bush.

Many acacias can spread by suckering, but not all species growing under similar conditions behave in this way.

*Acacia leptoclada*, the Tingha Golden Wattle, is a favourite of Warren and Gloria Sheather of Yarrowyck near Armidale. It has fine, bipinnate foliage. Golden-yellow globular flower heads appear in spring and the bush can be maintained at about 2 m in height by pruning lightly. It can be propagated from cuttings.

The rust fungus *Uromycladium tepperianum* frequently causes galls and other plant malformations. A second genus of rust, *Endoraecium*, has been found to infect only acacias. Sixteen species of this rust genus and their corresponding *Acacia* host species have been identified. Find information at: collections.daff.qld.gov.au/web/key/rustfungi/Media/html

Acacia seeds are available to Study Group members for a small charge.
Boronia & Allied Plants Study Group (Apr. 2015, No. 3)

Doug Coates summarises the appearance and growing preferences for the two eastern-state species of *Crowea saligna* and *Crowea exalata*. In his Mount Victoria garden these two species readily hybridise and produce attractive, vigorous plants.

A researcher at the University of NSW is investigating dormancy of seeds from seven different species of *Boronia* from the Sydney region. His experiments and fieldwork relate to seasonal variations and the influence of fire cues on the germination of the soil-stored seedbank.

Day-flying moths of the family Heliozelidae have been observed on the flowers of *Boronia serrulata*. Several genera of this moth family are known to be associated with plants in the Rutaceae family.

Eremophila Study Group (Jun. 2015, No. 2)

Lyndal Thorburn from Queanbeyan is the new leader of this 43 year-old study group which boasts over 150 members and many valuable publications.

A member from the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, finds that the widely distributed *Eremophila maculata* is a hardy, long-flowering plant and its plentiful nectar attracts a wide range of honeyeaters to his garden. He finds that many species of *Eremophila* propagate easily from cuttings and in his garden at least, ‘they are as tough as old boots and cheerfully survive vigorous pruning, drought and systematic neglect’.

An online key for identifying the species of *Eremophila* has been adapted from the work of R.J. Chinnock and is hosted by the Melbourne Botanic Gardens at KeyBase. [keybase.rbg.vic.gov.au/key/bracketedkey/1541](http://keybase.rbg.vic.gov.au/key/bracketedkey/1541)
Study Groups directory

Fees are listed as Australia/Overseas/Email

**Acacia** ($10/$20/$7)
Leader: Bill Aitchison
13 Conos Court
Donvale, VIC 3111
☎ (03) 9872 3583
Email: acaciastudygroup@gmail.com

**Australian Plants as Bonsai** ($14/$20/$14)
Leader: Roger Hnatiuk
PO Box 450, Jamison Post Office
Macquarie ACT 2614
☎ (02) 6251 2228
Email: rjhnatiuk@yahoo.com.au

**Banksia** ($10/$20/$7)
Leader: Cas Liber
PO Box 83, St Pauls NSW 2031
☎ (02) 9559 2656
Email: casliber@ozemail.com.au

**Boronia & Allied Genera** ($10 email)
Leader: Doug Coates
305/87 Yarranabbe Rd
Darling Point NSW 2027
☎ (02) 9363 0619
Email: doug.coates@bigpond.com

**Brachychiton and Allied Genera** ($5/$10)
Leader: Kerry Rathie
6 Bright St
Toowoomba South QLD 4350
☎ (07) 4638 4305
Email: krathie6@bigpond.com

**Correa** ($10/ – /$6)
Leaders: Dot and Bob O’Neill
7 Hillsmeade Drive
Narre Warren South VIC 3805
☎ 0425 887 068
Email: oneills@heart-reflections.com

**Dryandra** ($10/$12/$5)
Leader: Margaret Pieroni
22 Ravenhill Heights
Denmark WA 6333
☎ (08) 9848 3331
Email: mpieroni@bigpond.com

**Epacris** ($5/$10/$5)
Leader: Gwen Elliot
81/72 Kangan Drive,
Berwick VIC 3806
☎ (03) 8774 2483
Email: gwenelliot@optusnet.com.au

**Eremophila** ($5)
Leader: Lyndal Thorburn
3 Considine Close
Greenleigh NSW 2620
☎ (02) 6297 2437
Email: lthorburn@viria.com.au

**Eucalyptus** ($10/$20/$5)
Leader: Warwick Varley
PO Box 456, Wollongong NSW 2520
☎ (02) 4284 5282
Email: tallowwood@hotmail.com
Admin: Sue Guymer
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Donvale Vic 3111
Email: aitchguy@gmail.com

**Fern** ($5)
Leader: Peter Bostock
PO Box 402
Kenmore QLD 4069
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Donvale Vic 3111
Email: aitchguy@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dan Johnston
9 Ryhope Street
Buderim QLD 4556
Email: dan.b.johnston@bigpond.com

Garden Design ($15/$20/$6)
Leader: Ben Walcott
10 Wickham Cres
Red Hill ACT 2603
(02) 6161 2742
Email: bwalcott@netspeed.com.au

Grevillea ($10/$10/$5)
Leader: Peter Olde
140 Russell Lane
Oakdale NSW 2570
(02) 4659 6598
Email: peter.olde@exemail.com.au
Treasurer: Christine Guthrie
32 Blanche Street
Oatley NSW 2223
Email: brucemoffatt@tpg.com.au
(02) 9579 4093

Hakea ($10)
Leader: Paul Kennedy
210 Aireys Street
Elliminyt VIC 3249
(03) 5321 5569
Email: hakeaholic@gmail.com

Isopogon & Petrophile ($10/$20/$5)
Joint Leaders: Phil Trickett and Catriona Bate
PO Box 291
Ulladulla NSW 2539.
0409 789 567
Email: catrionaandphil@gmail.com

Rainforest
Leader: Kris Kupsch
28 Plumtree Pocket
Upper Burringbar NSW 2483
(02) 6677 1466
Email: info@plumtreepocket.com.au

Wallum & Coastal Heathland ($5)
Leader: Barbara Henderson
36 Railway Terrace
Moore QLD 4306
(07) 5424 7073

Waratah and Flannel Flower (free)
Leader: Maria Hitchcock
16 Hitchcock Lane
Armidale NSW 2350
(02) 6775 1139, 0421 961 007
Email: maria.hitchcock@gmail.com

The following study groups are all in recess and require new leaders. If you are interested in a role contact the APS NSW Study Group Liaison Officer, Wendy Grimm at wagrimm@tpg.com.au

Australian food plants
Australian plants for containers
Calytrix
Daisy, the Australian
Fabaceae
Hibiscus and Related genera
Orchids, Indigenous
Palm and Cycad
Prostanthera and Westringia
Rhamnaceae
Succulents, Native
Verticordia
Wetlands (and Water Plants)
Wildlife and Native Plants
Online resources for native plants

The well-connected enthusiast

With the demise of the Website Update column I have been looking for an alternative. In recent issues I have asked members to list their favourite websites for native plants. A few members have responded, but I still want to hear from many more readers. Thanks to Jeff Howes, Warren and Gloria Sheather and Ralph Cartwright for their contributions.

I have decided to concentrate on one or two websites per issue rather than simply present the list which currently contains about 20 sites.

Australian National Botanic Gardens  www.anbg.gov.au

This portal hosts a number of significant resources that anyone interested in Australian flora should know about. They can all be accessed through cascading tabs on the home page and include:

- Information about the gardens on the lower slopes of Black Mountain in Canberra - the world’s most comprehensive display of living Australian native plants.
- Australian National Herbarium which contains over 1.2 million specimens. It is responsible for the scientific integrity of the gardens’ collection and manages the national plant name lists for Australia’s botanical community.
- IBIS (Integrated Botanical Information System) which allows linking of names, photographs, herbarium specimens and living plants.
- APC (Australian Plant Census) which is a work in progress, aimed at providing a nationally agreed list of current scientific names endorsed by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH).
- APNI (Australian Plant Name Index) provides detailed information on scientific names but does not recommend any particular taxonomy or nomenclature.
- APPI (Australian Plant Picture Index) is the national collection of photographs and illustrations of Australia’s flora. The aim is to have good quality colour images of every Australian native plant. Portraits of plant flowers form the bulk of the Index, but photographs of fruit, bark, shrubs or whole trees are also included. Digital images must be 6 megapixels or more to be incorporated into the collection. The most significant aspect of the Index, which separates it from many other photo libraries, is the emphasis on accurate botanical identification of the plants.
• Information about Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) and a list of registered cultivars of Australian native plants.
• Database of Common Names of Australian Plants. Unsurprisingly this not complete. It draws on a limited range of published sources to help people find a match between common names and scientific botanical names.

Check out these sites, play around, look up some plants you grow or want to grow or some that have come across the display table at your group meetings. Explore a little and I’m sure you’ll find lots of interesting information. You’ll probably be led to other sites that members should know about – so send your discoveries to the office for the editor of Native Plants for NSW and they’ll appear in The well-connected enthusiast. If you are particularly keen you might like to volunteer to write this column for future issues. As editor, I really don’t want to be the author of too much content.

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ANPSA
Biennial Conference 2015

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)

Bush Capital / Garden City

Coming to Canberra for the ANPSA 2015 Biennial Conference?

Join fellow Australian plant lovers from Sunday 15 Nov to Friday 20 Nov 2015 for a conference and seminar program featuring lectures, workshops and field trips highlighting the diversity of Australia’s native flora.

Keynote speakers: Angus Stewart, Ian Fraser, David Headon, Penny Olsen and David Lindenmayer AO

Field trips: Australian National Botanic Gardens, National Arboretum, local nature parks and private gardens

Pre-Conference Tours: NSW South Coast
Post-Conference Tours: Kosciusko National Park

For more information:
email: conference2015@anpsa.org.au
web: conference2015.anpsa.org.au
post: ANPSA Conference 2015, PO Box 187, Deakin West ACT 2600
Membership discounts

Discounts are available from the following organisations to Society members who present their current membership card.

Sydney

- All GreenGold Nurseries 5% discount, except on landscape materials, garden design services or discounted merchandise.
- Florilegium
  The Garden Bookstore
  65 Derwent St, Glebe 2037
  PO Box 644, Rozelle 2039
  📞 (02) 9571 8222,
  Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–5pm.
  10% discount on some titles. Please check before purchasing.
- Forests NSW Nurseries 10% discount on all potted lines. West Pennant Hills, Narrandera and Dubbo.
  For locality details
  📞 1800 000 123

Sydney Wildflower Nursery
9 Veno St, Heathcote 2233
www.sydneywildflowernursery.com.au
10% discount

Armidale

- Cool Natives
  Retail mail order nursery
  16 Hitchcock Lane Armidale
  2350
  Open by appointment only
  📞 (02) 6775 1139
  0421 961 007
  Email: maria@coolnatives.com.au
  www.coolnatives.com.au
  10% discount

Blue Mountains

- Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve Nursery
  Great Western Highway,
  Glenbrook 2773
  📞 (02) 4739 8597
  Sat, Sun, Wed. 12 noon–4pm.
  10% discount to members,
  20% for roster participants.

Central Coast

- The Wildflower Place
  453 The Entrance Rd,
  Erina Heights 2260
  📞 (02) 4365 5510
  5% discount

Central West

- Wombat Gully Native Nursery
  1729 Coxs Creek Rd, Rylstone
  6379 6202
  10% discount

Hunter Valley

- Muswellbrook Forest Nursery
  New England Highway,
  Muswellbrook
  📞 (02) 6543 2622
  Email: mfn@hlmaus.com.au
  www.muswellbrookforestnursery.com.au
  M–F 8.30am–4.30pm.
  Weekends 10am–3pm
  10% discount

Nepean Valley

- Darvill Nursery
  Darvill Rd, Orchard Hills 2748
  Contact for price list or arrange to visit beforehand
  📞 (02) 4736 5004
  www.darvillnursery.com.au
  10% discount

Newcastle

- Learne Neal at Newcastle Wildflower Nursery
  260 Lake Road, Glendale 2285
  📞 (02) 4954 5584
  Open 7 Days 9am–5pm.
  10% discount

North Coast

- Bonny Hills Garden Centre,
  1055 Ocean Drive,
  Bonny Hills 2445
  📞 (02) 6585 5764
  10% discount on all plant purchases
- Greenbourne Nursery
  Oxley Hwy, Wauchope 2446
  📞 (02) 6585 2117
  10% discount

Mildura

- Native Nursery, Mildura
  10% discount on the purchase of any native plants or other products, including the Watertube ordered online at www.nativenursery.com.au

South Coast

- Wildgems Native Nursery
  Illawambra Valley Road,
  Yowrie 2550
  📞 0427 937 398
  Wholesale / retail nursery.
  Please ring and arrange day before arriving.
  10% discount
- Verdigris Fern Nursery
  Currowan Creek 2536
  Mail order is available through the website which includes useful information on fern cultivation. The nursery is open by appointment.
  📞 (02) 4478 1311. Email: verdigrisferns@gmail.com
  Wholesale price for APS NSW members
APS NSW contacts

**APS NSW Office**

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Website: www.austplants.com.au  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/APSNSW  
Postal address: PO Box 5026, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146  
Office: Shop 1, 33 Emma Crescent, Wentworthville  
Phone: (02) 9631 4085 (voicemail messages)

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**Financial Officer:** Sharlene Cormack

*Please contact office-bearers, internal Committees (Management, Publishing and Projects) and representatives through the office email or by phone.*

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Australian Flora Foundation: Ross Smyth-Kirk  
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