

Annual  
Report  
2020



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This report contains links to website pages, which can be accessed if viewed onscreen – these are underlined.

Front cover photos, from top clockwise: Yellow faced honeyeater on the grevillea, *Prostanthera* sp., roof garden at Eveleigh precinct, images Heather Miles.



# President's report



Figure 1: John Aitken, President

This year is one that many would like to forget, with devastating bushfires and floods, which impacted many of our members, followed by the Covid-19 pandemic. To those members and friends affected by these events, our thoughts go out to all of you who have suffered loss and experienced anxiety during these times.

The pandemic had a major impact on the society's activities during 2020.

However despite a drop in total income due to reduced numbers of meetings, events and fund raising, costs were also down, which led to an overall

net profit to \$19,948, a significant improvement on the loss of \$3,658 last year.

On a positive note, the society's income from membership fees increased by over \$10,000 due to an increase of 100 memberships (207 members) and members who renewed their membership for three years. The latter will, however, affect membership income in subsequent years.

During the year the society made a \$3,000 donation from the Bequest Fund to the Australian Flora Foundation to support its scientific research on the biology and cultivation of Australian native plants.

Even though many group activities were curtailed due to the restrictions imposed by Covid, there were over 530 activities and community engagements organised by groups, with a focus on propagation, planting and the bush.

The district group highlights provide a great insight into the many ways groups have engaged their members during this difficult time. The society purchased a Zoom subscription which enabled many groups to conduct online monthly and committee meetings.

We hope that 2021 will prove to be a brighter year and the vaccine will do its job!

**John Aitken, President**

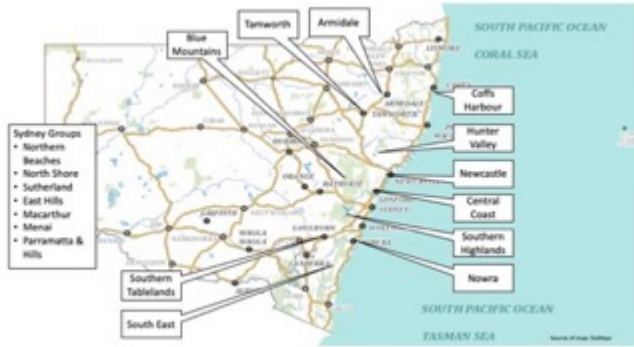
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***We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past present and future. We aspire to learn from their knowledge and experience to conserve Australian native plants and their ecosystems now and into the future.***

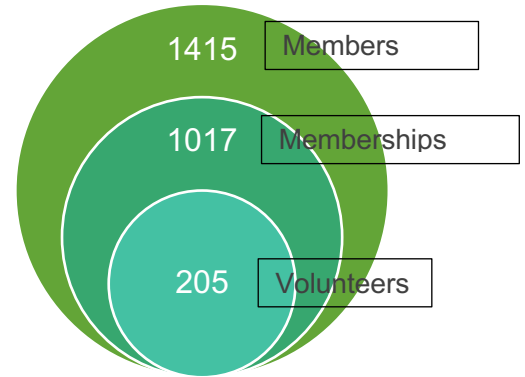
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# 2020 performance at a glance

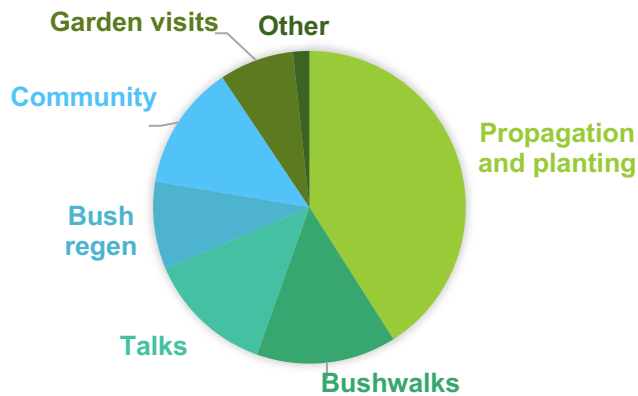
18 district groups across NSW, including new branch on the North Coast, linked to Coffs



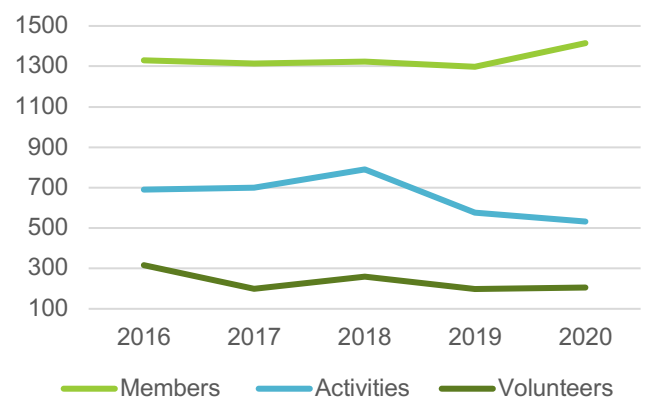
Active membership



Over 530 activities and community engagements with a focus on propagation, planting and the bush



Growth in member numbers to over 1400 and activities still occurring despite Covid-19



Four Zoom gatherings with nearly 300 attendees



New life members, Ian Cox and Leigh and Chris Cousins



Figure 2: Ian Cox



Figure 3: Leigh and Chris Cousins

# 2020 in review

*In 2020, we continued to implement our three-year strategy, set in 2017 – focused on people, promotion and process. It was a challenging year, but with rays of sunshine – a growth in membership, new Zoom skills and access to different speakers, lots of rain at the end of the year and new projects underway.*

## People

### Members

There has been a very pleasing increase in membership during 2020. On 31 December 2020 there were 1,017 fully financial memberships covering 1,415 members. If those due in the December quarter are added, the figures are 1,125 and 1,445. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 997 (1,012) memberships covering 1,298 (1,316) members.



*Figure 4: Garden at Eveleigh Precinct, designed by Clarence Slockee, visited by a group of members, image H Miles*

New members during the year also showed a very encouraging increase with 259 new members in 221 memberships compared with 188 members in 155 memberships in 2019. The trend for a smaller proportion of new members in concession categories continues.

Of the 205 who completed the question on age, 24 were aged 35 and under, 31 between 35 and 44, 90 between 45 and 64 and 59 were 65 and older.

While it is important to attract new members, it is also important to keep them. In this respect we are not doing as well. Around 600 members have not renewed since the new database was set up in August 2017. Of these 30% had been members for at least 11 years including 40 who had been members

for over 30 years. Some of these are deceased or could no longer participate for age or health reasons. Disturbingly, 50% had only been members for between one and three years.

The board is considering how to improve member engagement and more fully meet the needs of our members. In this regard the membership officer provides district groups with information, where known, on the interests and background of new members each month, exchanges emails with some new members and attempts to put those in areas without a district group in touch with others in their area.

The opportunity to participate in district group activities is important to many members, or at least to receive the group's newsletter. Only 77 members are not linked to a group. In some instances, there are personal or professional reasons for non-participation but for most there is no active group in their area. Only 11 who are not in these circumstances are not linked to a group.



*Figure 5: Fields of Chrysocephalum and Wahlenbergia near Cassilis, north west NSW, image H Miles*

During the year it was wonderful to see a group of members in the Northern Rivers area, who wish to have local activities but not the technicalities of

becoming a formal group, develop processes to be a sub-group within Coffs Harbour.

Similarly, initial contact has been made with members in the Illawarra area to revive that group, possibly with similar arrangements. Other areas where groups closed some time ago or are in recess also need consideration – City/Eastern Suburbs and the Inner West, Mid-North Coast, Central West and South West Slopes.

Another idea is to have virtual groups based on interests. Initial steps have been made to establish the 4Rs group for those interested in the 'Regeneration – revegetation – restoration – resilience' of native plants and habitats.

An interesting phenomenon is the number of people joining who have been members in the past – some whose previous membership was even 30 years ago. This was shown as the way they learnt of the society in 33 memberships.

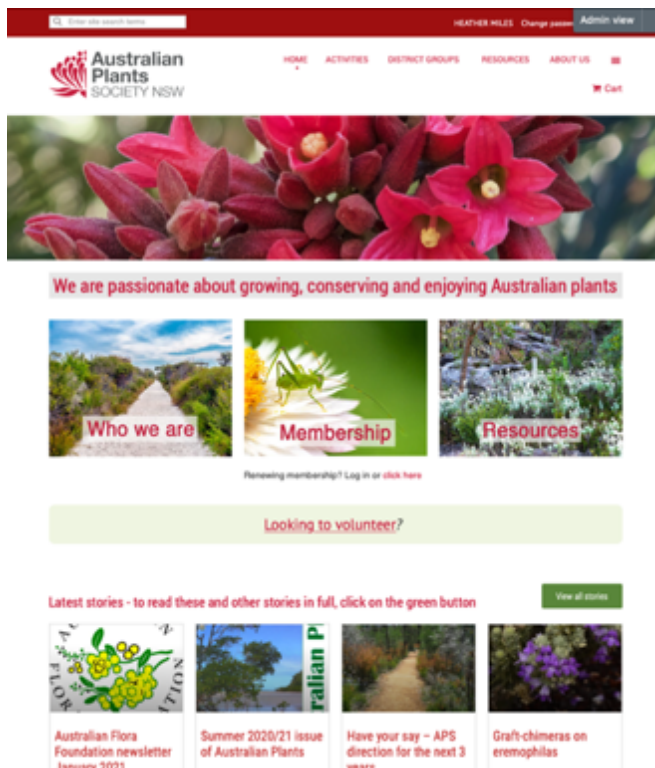


Figure 6: APS NSW website has over 3500 visits per week

How do other new members find the society? Most frequently stated is an internet search, particularly for plant information, with over 60 noting this and a few specifically nominating Facebook. Group activities and the venues with which groups are associated and friends, family and colleagues who are members also

rate highly with commercial, horticulture industry, bushcare groups, tertiary studies institutions and the media making up the other nominated sources of information.

The Australian Plants Society NSW is a Company Limited by Guarantee and without share capital. The total guarantee by members of the Company at 31 December 2020 is \$141,500 (1,415 members x \$100).

## Online newsletter – Rhonda Daniels

After the inaugural issue of the newsletter in May 2019, 2020 was the first full year with 11 monthly issues. The newsletter replaced the quarterly printed *Native Plants for New South Wales* and shares information with members by email each month. It is closely integrated with our website to maximise access to information on Australian plants. Heather Miles developed a new, seamlessly linked website in 2020 to make our resources even more accessible in search engines. In 2020, we posted over 50 articles on the APS NSW website, with links to them then included in the newsletter.

The monthly newsletters covered a range of topics (underlined sections link to the website):

- responding to changing conditions: bushfire recovery, gardening tips for hotter and drier conditions, fire-smart gardening and activities during Covid
- gardening: all about mulch, a high country garden, a coastal garden, wisdom from the past, orchids, amazing greys, and daisies
- sharing photos of plants and insects: ferns, acacias, spring at Sylvan Grove, insects, bees and fire
- sharing experiences: citizen science for moths, growing for glossies, a country planting weekend, demystifying plant names and climbing Mount Banks
- sharing APS news: Australian Honours for Peter Olde OAM and Frank Howarth AM, new life members Ian Cox and Leigh and Chris Cousins, farewell to life member Robin Davies, introducing volunteer Glenda Browne,

award to Margaret Baker and members in the media

- promoting APS projects: plant distributions, plant profiles on the website, and our experts group answering queries
- promoting and sharing Group activities: meetings, walks to find rare plants and acacias, and Covid-safe plant sales
- recognising significant anniversaries in 2020: 250 years since Joseph Banks and 60 years of *Australian Plants*

- sharing other news to keep members informed: Growing Illawarra Natives website, Australian Flora Foundation newsletters and Study Group updates.

The newsletter has also linked to other relevant articles and other websites of interest.

Thanks to all the members who have contributed stories, photos and feedback to make the newsletter format a success.

All the newsletters are available here on our website.



Figure 7: 2020 eNewsletters

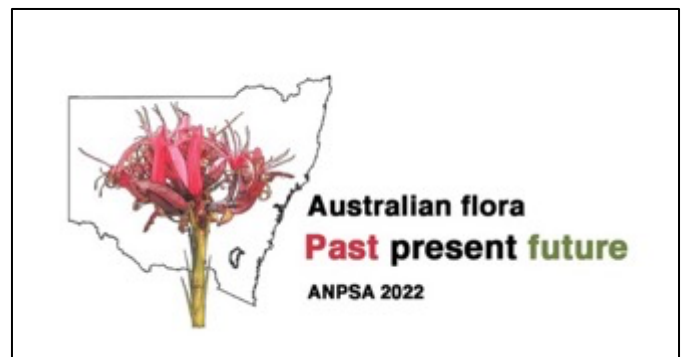
## Promotion

### 2022 ANPSA Biennial Conference in Kiama

Planning was well underway for this important event to be held in September 2021 in Kiama when Covid reared its ugly head. The committee made the tough call in October to postpone the conference by a year to September 2022.

The new dates are Sunday 11 to Friday 16 September, with pre- and post-tours, assuming these can be safely conducted. These include Warrumbungles and Pilliga, Blue Mountains, Sydney sandstone country, South Coast and Lord Howe Island.

Fortunately, Destination NSW, who gave us a grant to support the conference, has rolled over the grant to 2022.



The planning has re-started. The theme remains the same and the agenda and draft speaker program we

had mapped out earlier looks valid within the theme of 'Australian flora – past, present, future'. In fact, with the bushfires, threatened species losses and climate change, it is perhaps more relevant than ever. We also plan to showcase some of the successes of passionate people around Australia.

### Social media

The past year has seen considerable growth in our social media presence through both the website and apps like Instagram and Facebook. Most of the district groups have active Facebook sites to share insights, meetings and images about their regions. The @apsnsw Instagram site has grown to over 2,000 followers and the website, along with the new Resources site, sees over 20,000 visits a month.

Ongoing curation is required to keep the content fresh all within a consistent theme and look and feel.

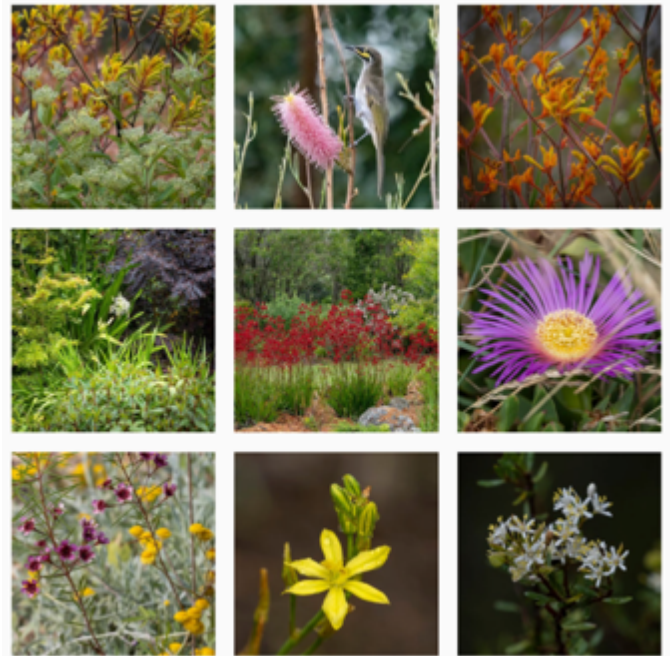


Figure 8: Instagram with over 600 posts and over 2,000 followers at the end of 2020

\* \* \*



Figure 9: Remnant rainforest, Hunter Valley, image H Miles



# District group highlights

Our 18 district groups are the backbone of our organisation, delivering on the ground, practical and relevant skills and insights about native plants in their areas. Here are their 2020 highlights and challenges.

## Armidale – Penelope Sinclair

Armidale, on the Northern Tablelands, was fortunate to remain relatively Covid-free. However, we were still bound by the State regulations so activities were greatly affected. Also, although the town had good rain early in the year, it did not fall in the catchment areas so water restrictions have remained in place. This has limited the availability of nursery-grown plants for sale.

We were able to continue our regular Arboretum working bees and planted an additional 50 shrubs and trees, using bore water carted in by one of our members.



### Insects in your Garden

Australian Plant Society, Armidale



Talk by Eric Sinclair February 2020



Our first (and only indoor) public forum meeting was a great success in February, with record numbers attending, about half of whom were visitors. This reinforced the value of a popular topic and widespread publicity.

One memorable outdoor activity was our visit to the Goonowigall State Conservation area near Inverell in October. This is an area of over 1000 ha and parts have been a flora and fauna reserve since 1920; earlier it had been known for its alluvial tin deposits.

The area had been totally burnt out in late 2019 but the regeneration of understorey plants was amazing with thickets of seedling Tinga Wattle, *Acacia leptoclada*, and carpets of flowering Bluebells – *Wahlenbergia* spp.



Figure 10: Carpets of *Wahlenbergia* - Bluebells, image Penelope Sinclair

Other small ground cover plants claimed our attention, including the rare *Homoranthus prolixus* with golden flowers and another fire ephemeral, the 50 cm high white flowering *Commersonia amystia*, a new record for Goonowigall.

It is inspiring to see how Nature can recover given the time and right conditions.



Figure 11: *Homoranthus prolixus*, image P Sinclair



Figure 12: *Commersonia amystia*, image P Sinclair

## Blue Mountains

In the year 2020 we planned a year with the most events ever – a total of 17 events. However, because of the pandemic we only managed to perform 5 of these items – the fewest activities ever!

During the year 2020 we started a bushcare group to operate in the Reserve for about three events for the current year. In addition, we are fortunate enough to have a committed member who patrols the reserve inside and out searching for weeds.

We closed the nursery earlier in the year, but re-opened on Saturday 1 August for Wednesday and Saturday afternoons only. Because of Covid in the community we set certain procedures before people could enter the nursery.

The community responded to the new conditions of entrance and one less open day by calling in and purchasing seedlings at a greater rate during the one day open in the weekend.

We plan for a better year in 2021!



Figure 13: *Actinotus forsythii*, Pink flannel flower, blooming this year in the mountains, image Lisa Godden

## Central Coast – Stephanie Francis

### Online Plant Sale

The 'pivot' from the usual practice of selling plants at the Central Coast Plant Lovers' Fair to trialling selling plants on line through the APS website was a success.

The support from Heather Miles, APS NSW Secretary in terms of helping the project to get started, training us in how to add and edit the information and supplying us with photos of the plants made this project so much easier and was very much appreciated.

The sale was successful in making an income of \$893 with PayPal and GST fees taken out. This compared favourably with the profit in 2019 of \$863 at the Plant Lovers' Fair, which had increased costs such as payment for having a stall.

The teamwork for this project was excellent with nine members taking on the jobs of designing the sales notices, publicity, adding plants to the online catalogue, monitoring the orders and conveying the information to the plant nurseries, packing the orders and manning the drive-through pick up.



Figure 14: The team manning the drive-through collection of plant orders - Cath Stofka, Jenny Newland, Greg Newland, Andrew Melville, Peter Sharp & Steph Francis. Graeme Ingall was not available for photo. Image Barbara Melville

This way of selling the plants was highly Covid-safe because it involved minimal contact with the public. The majority of people who bought the plants were non-members, so the sale still raised the profile of our group to the public, despite minimal personal contact.

### Life Membership



At our Christmas morning tea, Andrew and Barbara Melville were presented with Life Membership in recognition of their dedicated service to the organisation since they joined in 1991. They are both still highly active in the group and always willing to help when needed. Their knowledge and expertise are highly valued and appreciated. Photo above showing Andrew and Barbara collecting their life membership awards.

## Coffs Harbour – Gwyn Clark

2020 will go down in history as the year where everything changed because of Covid.

The year began with normal meetings in February and March. In March Roger Bagley spoke to us about his water plants. After that the Government changed the way we could do almost everything. There were no meeting or outings from March to July. We were in lockdown; only allowed out to buy food, prescriptions and other medications. Some people started to use Zoom, but we decided to wait until we could meet face to face.



Figure 15: *Nymphoides crenata variegated*, Native water lily, image H Miles

Our first meeting was in July and since then we have been meeting regularly both for meetings and outings. Numbers have been controlled and at the moment you have to contact the secretary so you may attend. Attendances have been good. The committee has also had meetings and obeyed the Covid rules. I think they are due to stay with us for some time.

One important thing that has happened is that a small group from the Far North Coast (eight people) approached the NSW region and us (the Coffs Harbour District Group) to find out if they could be attached to our group. They wanted to be part of APS NSW and covered by APS NSW's insurance when meeting or on outings but didn't have the capacity to operate as a separate district group. Individual membership would not do this, so they are a branch attached to us as the district group, but still able to organise their own activities. This means that money for branch membership is held by our group. They are still able to organise their activities which are publicised in our journal, with any costs incurred paid

by us after the treasurer receives receipts. The group does not see itself currently as raising money in the near term, so our treasurer is happy with this arrangement. We are creating a position on our committee so that they are represented at this level. We are welcome at their activities as they are welcome at ours.



Figure 16: Rainforest at Coffs Harbour Regional Botanic Gardens, image H Miles

As president I would like to thank all committee members for their support this year, especially the secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor. They have kept contact with us all throughout the year making sure things happened when it was possible.

## East Hills – Graham Fry

Like all the groups, we were significantly affected by Covid. We only had one face-to-face meeting and that was in March before our meeting site location closed and it remained closed for the rest of the year. As a result, we tried to hold two Zoom meetings but only a small proportion of our members took part – we know some had technical difficulties, but others were not interested. We therefore did not hold any more. As an alternative activity, we arranged two walks and social gatherings.

Our first was at Joseph Banks Reserve in October; most of our members had visited this reserve in the past but not recently. It was very good – we spent at least two hours walking the many tracks and admiring the flora although many of the plants had finished flowering. We finished up with a nice morning tea all individually prepared.

Due to the success of the October meeting, we decided that our December meeting would be at Sylvan Grove. We traditionally visit this garden in September but in December, not surprisingly, most of the plants had finished flowering. Nevertheless, there was much to see and admire – we finished with a Christmas lunch all individually prepared by our members. Again, our members really enjoyed the experience and agreed to hold more daytime meetings inspecting gardens in the future. Normally our December is our AGM, but it was not possible to hold it in the circumstances and so it was postponed to 2021.



Figure 17: Rainbow lorikeet, image H Miles

However, due to our small and declining membership and also the age of our members, it is getting harder to maintain enthusiasm as only a small number of people are interested in taking on duties. As a result, I am not confident about the future of the group and we may have to consider amalgamating with another group, perhaps the Menai Wildflower Group.

## Hunter Valley – Michael Belcher

There were more lowlights than highlights this year. Covid played havoc with the activities of the Group – we were unable to have an AGM and the 2019 executive rolled over to 2020. Meetings were curtailed, excursions almost wiped out. We were scheduled to participate in a number of community activities (NAIDOC, National Trust, etc.) but they were all cancelled.

One bright aspect of the year was the rain. Trees and shrubs that had been nursed through the previous years went gangbusters and are now in a very

satisfactory condition. This was particularly so for our many members who rely on tank water for domestic as well as garden supply.

Our membership is widely distributed (covering the whole Hunter Valley) and aging, so getting to meetings is proving difficult for many. We have decided to simplify the meetings by alternating Wednesday evening and Sunday morning meetings, keeping them very informal and hopefully distributing some of them to the boundaries of the area. The formal business will be undertaken by the committee and endorsed at a subsequent meeting. We did not undertake Zoom meetings, but members participated in others put on by the Newcastle, State and other groups. Email was used extensively to keep in touch.

We had two activities of note.

Firstly, the visit to Keith and Judy Caldwell's property at Barrington where it was hoped the terrestrial and epiphytic orchids would be on display. The visit had to be delayed so we missed the peak growing period but once we got the hang of actually identifying them in the trees and on the ground, we did find a number. The cattle, however, had caused havoc in the creek bed during the drought and another visit might be more fruitful.



Figure 18: Arboreal orchid, *Docrillia schoenina*/*Dendrobium schoeninum* in Barrington Tops, image H Miles

We were also pleasantly surprised that our submission on the landscape plan for the new Maitland Hospital was well received and a group of us toured the area and discussed the plans with the landscape designers.

It was interesting to be told of the many constraints placed upon landscapers for these sorts of projects, not least the dearth of available plants due to bush regeneration after the fires. Notwithstanding, a number of species were added to each of the plant groups to be used in the plan. We are looking to supplement the plantings with donated natives once the contract plan has been implemented.



Figure 19: The Hunter Valley team at the new Maitland Hospital with Tim MacLeod from Multiplex Australasia, image H Miles

## Macarthur – Rod Bray

2020 was a difficult year for all of us and for Macarthur Group. Our president and mainstay for many years, Robin Davies, passed on after a long battle. Our group has become smaller over the years and we all decided that it was no longer suitable for us to hire a meeting hall for our meetings. Instead, we have been organising each meeting to make daytime visits to interesting locations and members' gardens (we are almost all free of work now). With the Covid restrictions, we had to defer many of our physical meetings but several of our members have been able to take part in Zoom meetings with the state organisation and with those of other groups.

We are lucky to have several members with large properties and The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan is close by. By maintaining our distance and changing our food handling, we have had held gatherings with Covid protocols in place. Large outdoor shelters make it possible to keep safe and meet together.

In September, we were together at Malle and David Eden's property in Oakdale and shared great conversations followed by a tour to see how their

forests and gardens were recovering from the bushfires that burned right through there last year.

We also planted a tree in remembrance of Robin Davies. David led the tree planting with all of us taking a small symbolic part.



Figure 20: Planting a tree in remembrance of Robin Davies, image Rod Bray

Many plants were exchanged that we had propagated, and some were left to help with the Eden's recovery.

In October, we were hosted by Christine and Robert Cavill at their property in Oakdale where their planted rainforest was just recovering from a flood a few months earlier.



Figure 21: Robert explaining details of the garden to Macarthur members, image R Bray

Again, we shared morning tea and a friendly chat and then were guided on tours of the rainforest that they have been growing for several decades.

## Menai – Pam Pitkeathly, Margaret Olde

Our monthly guest speaker program continued with such diverse topics as Science on Cook's Endeavour, edible native species to grow in our gardens, the flora of the Kimberley region, native plants for Sydney gardens, growing *Isopogon/ Petrophile* and memories of the flora of Kangaroo Island, before the latest bushfires.



Figure 22: *Actinotus forsythii*, Pink flannel flower, image L Godden

We continued to support scientific research into seed germination and made ongoing donations of tubestock, some of which has been accepted into the planting programs of arboretums in Canberra and Mt Tomah. Funds were donated to University of NSW's Mark Ooi to help fund research into germination requirements of the pink flannel flower, *Actinotus forsythia*, which resulted in some interesting results and the publication of a paper.

Our dedicated band of propagators managed to carry on their voluntary efforts even under rigid safety conditions ensuring we had enough stock to send to plant sales at open days at Grevillea Park and Illawong and support our voluntary work in the local community and regionally. Some of the plants are being grown for the 'Glossies in the Mist' project, coordinated by the Southern Highlands Group of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We propagate trees which are donated and then planted as food sources for black cockatoos.

In the coming year, we plan to donate over 9,000 seedlings for several mass plantings.



Figure 23: Pat Hall and Lauren Hook from NPWS picking up a ute load of *Allocasuarina* seedlings from the Menai nursery

The challenges in bringing together members and visitors during a pandemic were much feared, but with the help of the APS NSW team and our Sutherland group neighbours, we became reasonably competent as 'onliners'. Many felt that there were advantages in meeting online in the comfort of their homes. The online access also allowed for reliable data collection, so this may help in future planning.



Figure 24: Marian Whatman - Collecting and sorting seeds, then the seedlings tubed up for *Glossies in the Mist*, image Pam Forbes

We were pleased that we had more members attending our outdoor propagation/ maintenance activities as other avenues for recreation closed. We seemed to provide an oasis in a time of social isolation. With our usual band of senior citizens, we had the company of some younger people wanting to know more about gardening with natives.

One of the highlights of 2020 for the Menai Group was the screening of an [episode](#) of ABC's Gardening Australia, which was filmed in late 2019 and featured members of the Menai Group.

The filming was done at the Illawong Rural Fire Service. The ABC Presenter Slockee spoke to members of the group regarding our volunteering and filmed them propagating and working in the gardens. Then Clarence, crew and a number of members moved on to film at the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park where several group members propagate plants each week, this year to be donated to 'Glossies in the Mist'.

We hoped the publicity would increase membership, but due to Covid restrictions, we are not sure yet of the success of our aim. But it was great fun and contributed to the sense of group fellowship for the members involved.

The ability to finish the year with a picnic in the gardens of 'Silky Oaks' at Oakdale on a particularly fine day brightened our spirits as we admired the developments in the gardens and the great fernery there. We came away with renewed enthusiasm for the use of native plants in our landscape.



Figure 25: Peter Olde, awarded Order of Australia

The award of the Order of Australia medal to our incoming president, Peter Olde, is recognition for his many years of research and discovery in the field of native flora. Menai Group is proud to bask just a little in the reflected glory of this award.

## Newcastle – Mark Abell

One of the activities that contribute greatly to the success of our group is the nursery at the Hunter Wetlands Centre. After a break for a couple of months at the height of Covid restrictions, the Nursery is back in operation on Thursday mornings for both plant sales and propagation activities.



Figure 26: Nursery and plant sale team, image Mark Abell

There was also a very successful plant sale held at the end of June by Angela and the Thursday mob, with APS volunteers on the day. There were over 2,500 plants sold - as Paddy aptly put it 'that is over 2,500 native plants going into the gardens of the Newcastle area'.

We even had the support of the federal member of parliament who both helped to promote the event and then turned up to buy some plants.

Posted on the Member for Newcastle, NSW Sharon Claydon's Facebook page: 'Huge thanks to all the volunteers at the Australian Plants Society - Newcastle Group for your hard work organising today's native plant sale. I loved hearing all about the different species and I can't wait to see my selection in the soil and growing! If you're keen for more native plants (and let's face it, who isn't?), you better hurry up and get to the Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia - they are selling fast!'

Another activity was the continued maintenance of the Parry Place garden at the Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens. This garden is to showcase many of the native plants that can be successfully grown in gardens in the Newcastle area. After Covid and the hot dry summer beforehand, it was in need of a little

TLC and a couple of working bees in the latter part of the year have tidied it up considerably.



Figure 27: Parry Garden at Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens, image M Abell

## North Shore – Sue Bowen

Eleven of us spent four days in October around Blackheath on our annual trip observing the devastation caused by the 2019-20 bushfires and enjoying the regenerating bush and wildflowers.



Figure 28: Some of the North Shore propagation team, image Sue Bowen

Day 1 involved a walk around the Katoomba Falls and part of the Prince Henry Walk, with a stop at Scenic World. The wonderful views were enhanced by the lack of tourists!

On Day 2 we headed to the Lithgow area. Our first stop was along the Darling Causeway. We were astounded by the devastation.

It was wonderful, however, to see the epicormic shoots on most gums and the regrowth of shrubs and groundcovers from their lignotubers.

The lack of birdsong was eerie, but the ravens were still calling, and the cicadas were just deafening!



Figure 29: Bushfire devastation near Darling Causeway, image Sue Bowen

Our next stop was Dobbs Drift Lookout where we saw the most amazing pagoda rock formations and the pink-flowered *Actinotus* (not in flower in October!).

At Hassan's Walls, we were stunned by the ground orchids in flower on the roadside cuttings and magnificent views from the top.

A visit to Anvil Rock and Wind Eroded Cave near Blackheath then revealed the extent of the devastation in the Grose Valley.



Figure 30: Dobbs Drift Lookout, image S Bowen

On day 3 we drove to Katoomba and walked to Minni Haha Falls. We then drove to Blackheath and walked the recently re-opened Braeside Walk to Barrow Lookout, with views over the Grose Valley.

We were amazed by the masses of ground orchids in flower along this track. Normally they would be hidden



amongst the dense shrub and groundcover layers, but these were still sparse following the fires.

A walk along the Fairfax Heritage Track and stop at Govett's Leap revealed more evidence of the ferocity of the fires.

On day 4 some of us visited the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. We soon realized how fortunate it was that most of the garden was saved from being burnt!

## Northern Beaches – Conny Harris/Harry Loots

We enjoyed a number of outings during the year.

In early February, we visited Taronga Zoo which has fabulous native plantings with highlights being the Blue Mountains Bushwalk and the Australian Rainforest Aviary.



Figure 31: *Dampiera stricta*, image Russell Beardmore

In mid July, we went to Bluff Walk in Frenchs Forest with beautiful views and lush bush. *Boronia* was blooming en masse. Accessed from Frenchs Forest, Gadigal National Park's natural beauty and wonder were enjoyed on a sunny winter's day.



Figure 32: *Syzygium wilsonii*, image Georgina Jakobi

August saw us at Dobroyd Head, Balgowlah Heights. There was a stunning array of native plants and views across the harbour to the Heads. We walked through a small section of the Sydney Harbour National Park, which has a matrix of indigenous ecosystems that support over 300 different plant species that are both endemic and rare. The main track passes through coastal scrub and tall gumtree forests that are always changing. In August 2018 a controlled hazard-reduction burn cleared a considerable area of dense she-oaks, *Allocasuarina distyla*, and melaleucas, *Melaleuca hypericifolia*. Two years later flannel flowers and rice flowers, *Pimelea linifolia*, brighten an otherwise blackened soil. Among the charred sticks were masses of *Chloanthus stoechadis* whose yellow bellflowers we had never noticed nor been able to name before.



Figure 33: *Xanthorrhoea* at North Head, a showcase of Sydney sandstone flora

In September Eleanor Eakins led a group of us around Stony Creek Botanic Gardens, using her vast knowledge of the history and plantings of the gardens.

The visit in October to the garden of our members Nancy and Ted in Bayview stunned everybody. The garden includes large numbers of natives but also exotic plants and includes huge propagation areas.

Their garden is truly a lifetime's work. One needs to see it to believe it.



Figure 34: *Ricinocarpus pinifolia*, image Russell Beardmore

In November we visited Cumberland State Forest and Nursery and walked through some of the forest. There are currently 150 different types of plants in the Arboretum.

The walk along the track from the bottom to the top of the forest was an education. Old 1950s and 1960s signs name the large number of planted rainforest trees. Their common names indicate the inclination of foresters of the past when these trees were felled for their timber. Some of these names seem as arbitrary as the names of contemporary pot plants sold in nurseries.

Finally, we had a pleasant Christmas picnic at Davidson Park, Forestville. We brought our own food and drinks and were delighted by a parade of ducklings crossing our picnic.



Figure 35: Christmas picnic, image H Loots

## Nowra – Janice Hughes

Despite the challenging year we were able to keep in touch with members and have five meetings averaging 20 people with social distancing but no supper!

Our thanks go to Kathy Beckenham for the great newsletters and Janice Hughes and Valerie Forgan for keeping everything going.

We had evening talks on:

- Severity and devastation of our bush
- Ongoing care of Wirreecoo Gardens at the Lady Denham
- Volunteering for ecological groups
- Members night with three plants from their garden
- Wombats and their importance in native plant ecosystems.



Figure 36: Plant identification walk overlooking Shoalhaven River, image Janice Hughes

Our garden visits included a picnic and inspection of Wirreecoo Gardens organised by Maureen and Norm Webb with help from Hugh Cape and others. We also visited the Webb's garden and Sanctuary Point nursery. A visit to Sylvia and David Garlick's garden showed that Sylvia's ability to grow so many different plants from cuttings is phenomenal, her garden a picture. At the end of the year we visited Sandy's garden where we could finally share food.

Six members enjoyed Chris Hallahan's regular plant identification walks in our fantastic local natural bush land.

An exciting identification walk find early in May was a large area of bushland in the proposed expansion of Albatross Aviation Technology Park west of Nowra. We explored three separate areas of disturbance containing the same plant community. One had been bulldozed for future factory construction, one was burnt in the January fires with a warm, slow burn and another ravaged at the same time by a hot fierce fire.

We returned three times during the year to see different species taking advantage of the unique opportunity with the removal of tree canopy plus the extra sunshine, warmth and rain. Burnt eucalypt stumps showed new growth, the rest lay in black heaps. Previously dormant seeds germinated, and many shrubs sprouted new growth.



Figure 37: Christmas garden visit at Sandy Evan's garden, image J Hughes

We are keen to revisit these sites to see which one is 'winning' the regeneration race.

## Parramatta and Hills – Jennifer Farrer

After getting off to a flying start this year planning to host the region's gathering on 21 March and holding a very lively AGM in February, the Parramatta Hills Group was rather blindsided by the sudden development of the epidemic. We did not hold any meetings until June when we held our first members' meeting by Zoom.



Figure 38: *Dillwynia retorta* at Wategora Reserve, image Lesley Waite

After that first Zoom meeting, we decided that we preferred to meet face-to-face in a safe environment and so adopted the idea of organising bushwalks to see locally endangered plants.



Figure 39: *Acacia pubescens*, showing hairy stem, image L Waite

We held walks in:

- July to see *Acacia gordonii* growing at Neich Rd in Glenorie
- August to see *Acacia pubescens* growing at Wategora Reserve South Granville
- September to see *Banksia aemula* at Agnes Banks Reserve in Castlereagh.



Figure 40: Our group looking at *Eucalyptus parramattensis*, image Jennifer Farrer

Of course, we saw many other beautiful plants in flower. Preparing lists of plants seen and identified on these walks has stimulated much discussion within the group. We plan to organise more of these walks in 2021.

## South East – Dianne Clark

How do you report on the year 2020? It was a time of great trauma and uncertainty and at times only immediate simple requirements were what mattered.



Figure 41: *Grevillea 'Scarlet Sprite'*, image Di Clark

For the South East Region our year began like so many others with devastating bushfires. We managed to fit in our AGM in March before we were forced to cancel meetings and rely on the newsletter and webpage to communicate. The newsletter (Editor John Knight) was an invaluable source of inspiration with many contributors and highly praised.

In the latter half of the year, we were able to congregate as a group with restricted numbers and we had three monthly activities. These visits are written up in our newsletters so I will only talk about one visit in more detail.



Figure 42: *South Pacific Heathland walk*, image D Clark

In September we visited the garden of two of our members, Norm and Lesley Hulands. This is a large rural garden that has been undergoing many changes over time. Norm and Lesley have both been inspired to change parts of their gardens after trips to Western Australia. Norm concentrates on *Banksia* and *Hakea* and Lesley's garden includes many small flowering

plants of great beauty. Both of them enjoy propagating their own plants and have been very generous in sharing their successes with the larger group.

In October we once again visited the South Pacific Headland Reserve in Ulladulla and then the garden of Catriona Bate and Phil Trickett, near the Little Forest Plateau. This is a garden specialising in certain plants (*Isopogon*, *Petrophile*, *Banksia* and *Hakea*) with many plants grown and grafted by the owners.



Figure 43: *Garden of Phil and Catriona Bate*, image D Clark

This garden had suffered badly from fire and it was quite incredible what Phil and Catriona had been able to achieve in the following months.



Figure 44: *Demonstration by Phil Trickett*, image D Clark

Our last formal visit was a return to Horse Island and the garden of Christina Kennedy. The group has had a long association with Christina, and it has been fascinating watching this garden grow and change over time. It is a beautifully designed garden showing off native plants in their glory.

The year was not without its behind-the-scenes activities of ensuring our gatherings were Covid-safe and we all look forward to a simpler year in 2021.

## Southern Highlands – Kim Zegenhagen

In February, we had an excellent talk by Emma Heyde, councillor from Hornsby shire. Emma talked about the greening of public spaces and roads in her local government area.

In September, Alicia Kaylock, the Invasive Weeds Officer at Wingecarribee Shire Council, gave a particularly good talk about the action taken on weed problems in our area.



Figure 45: *Tetraheca thymifolia*, image Kris Gow

Several committee members met with council staff to preserve the *Eucalyptus macarthurii*. This is an on-going project for us.

We had a successful day selling tubestock to members and friends.

And topped off the year with a walk at Fitzroy Falls at which many members saw a huge array of orchids and other relatively rare flowering plants.



Figure 46: Everlasting daisies at Fitzroy Falls, image Robyn Kremer

## Southern Tablelands – Peter Wauchope

We initiated a 'schools program' where our regional schools were contacted to see if they would be interested in receiving native plants. The initial schools were Mulwaree High, Windellama Public School, Tallong Public School, Goulburn West Public School and Tirranna Public School. All told, 250 tubestock of varying species and forms were donated, and each school picked up and returned the empty tubes and crates when it suited their timetable. It was agreed that we continue this program during 2021 with a tweak of covering letters in the hope of memberships from the children's parents. We will 'test the waters' regards selling Landcare species at a regional market.

Our main nursery was relocated to Run-O-Waters due to the drought that took over and water tanks were drained.



Figure 47: Relocated nursery, image Peter Wauchope

This has seen members purchase tubestock in a more convenient central location. It is not presently envisaged to be open to the public. More thought needs to go into the possibilities since this is a private property; perhaps down the track it could be open on a few nominated days throughout the year and manned by members.



Figure 48: Wetlands bird-hide garden, image Pauline Husen

According to long standing members we had the biggest sale of tubestock on 14 November just gone. A total of 365 tubes were sold – reasons appear to be the advertising we did on our [Facebook](#) site, a strong recognition of the value of native plants suitable to the Southern Tablelands' climate or the reduced cases of Covid.

2020 has been an important one for the APS gardens at the Goulburn Wetlands. Five years on, the gardens have come through the drought, survived complete inundation during the August flood and are putting on fabulous growth and flower due to improved long-term rainfall.

This year's spring working bee was attended by eight volunteers, which allowed the planting of 77 tubestock on the day. The focus at this time was on understorey plantings. A further 40+ plants have been put in this spring since the working bee. All newly-planted tubestock was supplied by our propagation program or by Tim Hayes.



Figure 49: Volunteers working the understorey of the vulnerable *Eucalyptus pulverulenta*, image P Husen

Some interesting statistics...we are a small District Group that covers a vast area, however given the numbers from membership and deleting those that

are not from our locality, i.e. dual memberships, the following figures come into play:

- 19% of members staff sales stalls
- 41% of members attend bush walks
- 30% attend propagation days

Of the percentages above there is always a core group that would like to see improvement. Perhaps Covid had some influence on those numbers?

Special note regarding the region's Lilac Festival, this year marking its 70th year, was our very own Kaye Norman (our secretary) who won First Prize in the now included 'Native Garden Section'. She also scooped the 'Judge's Choice Special Award'. Native garden? It's been a long time coming!

## Sutherland – Rhonda Daniels

In 2020, Sutherland Group held 9 of our 10 scheduled monthly meetings. After cancelling our March meeting due to Covid, we organised a committee meeting by Zoom to test the technology. We then scheduled our April monthly meeting by Zoom, which was well attended by members.

As one of the first groups to trial Zoom for meetings, we shared our experience with other groups. In general, we had about the same number of members attending online as our face-to-face meetings. Many members commented that they could hear our speakers more clearly and see the presentations more easily.

We also continued our plant table feature with photos and videos of plants in members' gardens instead of physical plants. Another benefit of online meetings was adding recordings of speakers' talks (with permission) to the APS NSW YouTube channel.

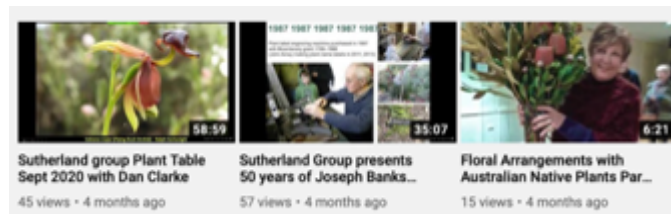


Figure 50: A sample of Sutherland's very active Zoom activities throughout the year, uploaded to [Youtube](#)

We continued our monthly working bees at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve but did not hold our planned public activities to recognise the 250th anniversary of Joseph Banks (1770–2020) or the 50th anniversary of the reserve (1970–2020). Articles on Joseph Banks and the reserve were included on the APS NSW website and e-newsletter.



Figure 51: Kangaroo paws blooming at Joseph Banks Reserve, image Rhonda Daniels

Towards the end of the year, we held two face-to-face events at members' gardens which both included propagation opportunities, and our end-of-year Christmas gathering at Joseph Banks Reserve which was a welcome chance to catch up face-to-face.

A member bushwalking in the Royal National park found a new population of the endangered *Prostanthera densa*, recognised because it was in flower, adding to our group's previous work on this species.

Sutherland Group members continue to strongly support APS NSW with John Aitken as president, Rhonda Daniels as e-newsletter editor, Dan Clarke as conservation officer and Ralph Cartwright on the ANPSA biennial conference organising committee. John is also co-editor of the *Australian Plants* journal, producing particularly well-received issues on the 250th anniversary and bushfires in 2020, with contributions from several Sutherland members.

## Tamworth – Lyn Allen, Martin O'Rourke

2020 started off well with a good program worked out for the year. Then in March Covid hit and all activities were off. We had our February and March meetings and then nothing until October. With many members not being tech-savvy, we did not even have Zoom events, though some members did watch some Zoom events from other groups.

We had one field trip in February 2020 to the Moonbi Ranges to examine the bushfire damage that occurred in late 2019 and the vegetation trying to regenerate.



Figure 52: Moonbi Ranges burnt by bushfire and recovered in the foreground, image Lyn Allen

The drought that had gripped Tamworth for 2018 and 2019 eased in 2020. By October we had exceeded the rain total for the previous two years. Level 5 restrictions, which meant no outside watering, were finally lifted with Level 3 in November and Level 1 in late December. We had endured them for nearly 2 years. Most people's gardens have slowly recovered.

Our visit to the Landcare Nursery the day before the Covid shutdown in March helped replace some of our plants.



Figure 53: Recovering from the ashes, image L Allen



Figure 54: Area which escaped the fires, image L Allen

on the Threatened Species Plot in the botanic garden that is jointly run by the Friends and Tamworth APS.

As some members are members of both groups the lines between the two groups get a bit blurred. The money had to be spent by December 2020, but due to Covid it has been extended to 30 June 2021.

The area was sprayed for weeds in September and a second spraying is due in March/April. A crew will be employed to clear the weeds, install irrigation lines and cover the area in mulch. It is quite a large steep area at the back of the botanic garden and will certainly keep us occupied.

In late 2019 the Friends of the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden secured a grant for \$5,000 to spend

\* \* \*



Figure 55: Native seeds – hope for the future, image H Miles



# Conservation

A principal aim of APS NSW is to support and promote the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants. We achieve this through projects, partnerships, district group activities and members' own efforts.



Figure 56: Before and 12 months after bushfire at Kurri Kurri, Hunter Valley, image H Miles

## Conservation Officer's report – Dan Clarke

The following projects were continued and/or undertaken through 2020 with some exciting developments.

I volunteered to be the primary editor to expand the plant profile database on the APS NSW website. These profiles are the most visited pages on our website! This year, various authors, primarily Jeff Howes, Heather Miles and Rhonda Daniels drafted approximately 200 native plant profiles, with a focus on how to grow the plants in the garden as well as how to identify them. Editing continues with over 130 finalised and uploaded onto the website.

Monitoring works for *Prostanthera densa* as part of the Saving our Species program continued throughout 2020. The exciting news here regards attempts, since 2016, to relocate a collection record of *Prostanthera densa* made in 1972. Details for this record were very general in nature and have not been verified since this time. As luck would have it, APS Sutherland member, Paul Rendell, found the plants in this general area whilst leisurely bushwalking in August 2020! It would seem that this is the long-lost location of the 1972 record and a volunteer survey was done

with APS NSW members and myself in September 2020. I am incredibly happy that this mystery has been solved and an additional population of plants has been verified.

I wrote an article on bushfires and the categories of plant responses and regeneration mechanisms for *Australians Plants*. Complementing this were two submissions to the State Inquiry into NSW Bushfires and the Royal Commission into National Natural Disasters Arrangement (Bushfires 2019-2020).

## Submissions made by District Groups

- Hunter Valley – Landscape and vegetation plan for the Maitland Hospital Grounds
- North Shore – Ku-ring-gai Council's Plan of Management for the St Ives Showground and precincts
- Nowra – Horses in Kosciusko, Development at Huskisson
- Southern Highlands – Wingecarribee Shire Council regarding the fate of a very large *Eucalyptus macarthurii*
- Parramatta and Hills – The Hills Shire Council on their proposed Landscape Management Plan for Fred Caterson Reserve in Castle Hill.

## Nature Conservation Council (NCC) – Margery Street

APS NSW is a member of NCC and Margery is our representative. Here is her update from the Annual Conference held 31 October 2020 via Zoom.

The principal activities of NCC during the year were to work for the conservation of nature, the protection of the environment and the attainment of an ecologically sustainable society.

NSW Environment Minister Matt Kean delivered the keynote address announcing a new target of adding 400,000 hectares of wildlife habitat to national parks by 2022, doubling the area he promised last August to protect.



Thousands of hectares of forests are now endangered by mining, logging and land clearing, and NSW has more than 1,000 threatened species.

The new national parks land includes the Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park of 153,682 hectares, on land that was purchased in June, as well as an addition to the Sturt National Park of 17,479 hectares.

The expansion outlined above also includes additions to the Capertee National Park, the Maria National Park and Mungo National Park, as well as reclaiming Travelling Stock Reserves in the State's far-north west that are already managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This is good news; let's hope he remains as Environment Minister in the State.

More good news is the NSW government's policy of aiming for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and support for renewable energy projects in spite of the Federal government's refusal to make such commitments.

Chair of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Koala Populations and their Habitat, Greens MP Cate Faehrmann, said that the government must do much more to protect koala habitat from logging, development and land clearing if koalas are going to be saved from extinction.

Cate noted that koala populations in NSW were already in a desperate state before the fires but now they are on the verge of extinction. Without major intervention the koala will almost certainly go extinct.



Figure 57: Pilliga forest, image H Miles

Furthermore, the Pilliga Forest in the state's northwest and the Gardens of Stone near Lithgow are areas of outstanding conservation value threatened by gas and coal projects. These areas should be out of bounds, especially for fossil fuel projects that are feeding climate change and threatening our livelihoods and lifestyles.

NCC will undertake action, as described in the motions, on:

- Feral cats in national parks and feral horses in Kosciusko N.P.
- Removal of mature native trees and associated shrubs and grasses in the Endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Liverpool LGA
- Dumping heavy metal-contaminated coal ash in landfill
- The Federal Government's plans to divert funds from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and from the Australian

Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) for renewable projects into projects that will prolong the use of fossil fuels such as gas generators and carbon capture and storage

- Rural Fire Service proposed code to allow clearing of land 25m from a 'rural' boundary and requirement for public land holders to clear 25m into bushland where RFS deems it necessary
- Plus climate change, population growth, land clearing statute of limitations, mountain bike tracks and Katoomba Airfield.



Figure 58: *Acacia parramattensis*, one of the principal shrubs in the Endangered Cumberland Plains Woodlands, image Warren Sheather

[Webinars](#) are available that you can attend to learn more: 'Cocktails, Controversy and Conservation' usually occur fortnightly. Experts on a particular conservation topic present their findings. For example, on 15 January 2021, floodplain graziers, watching their equity move north, discussed the Darling Baaka River. The legal priority for water uses i.e. first environment, small farmers, then irrigators, is reversed in practice. The [Minutes](#) of the conference also provide excellent background to the motions.



Figure 59: *Caladenia* at Fitzroy Falls, image H Miles

## Members' own conservation efforts

Many of our members work on their own projects or in partnership with aligned organisations to promote native plants in their communities enhancing conservation. Here are examples of the outstanding contributions by our members.

### Spotlight on tiny, endangered, rarely seen orchid, thanks to Wendy Grimm

*Genoplesium baueri* R.Br., an endangered terrestrial orchid species endemic to the Sydney Basin in New South Wales, is featured in *Seldom seen: rare plants of Greater Sydney* (Alan Fairley 2004), a slender volume of encyclopaedic knowledge for those bent on the study and conservation of endangered plants.

Each summer from late December to May-June, Wendy Grimm, a member of the North Shore group, has captured on camera, plotted on maps and recorded in excel spreadsheets on a weekly basis (2009-2021) the intimate details/population demographics of *Genoplesium baueri* plants at northern Sydney sites in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP and Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Recognition of the variability in emergence time was key to tracking populations, observing their life cycle and their effective fertility rates across 13 years.



Figure 60: *Genoplesium baueri*, image Wendy Grimm

Two of the several populations discovered, monitored and managed by Wendy in conjunction with NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and Ku-ring-gai Council have become key populations of the NSW Government's Saving our Species program.

Results from this study were recently published online in *Cunninghamia*, a journal of plant ecology for eastern Australia by The Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and Wendy was awarded a Master of Philosophy degree by Macquarie University in 2020 for her research into *Genoplesium baueri*.

The good news is that since 2009 this tiny, fragile orchid has been seen annually and the northern populations are thriving!

[Cunninghamia \(2020\) 20: 259–264 DOI: 10.7751/cunninghamia.2020.014](https://doi.org/10.7751/cunninghamia.2020.014)  
[Cunninghamia \(2020\) 20: 265–271 DOI: 10.7751/cunninghamia.2020.015](https://doi.org/10.7751/cunninghamia.2020.015)

### **Growing endemic plants for Goulburn Wetlands by Jennifer Ashwell and Tim Hayes**

For many years, Jen Ashwell and Tim Hayes have supported the planting of endemic species in the Goulburn area.

Over the last 10 years, Jen has been growing endemic plants for the Goulburn Wetlands. 'This project started as an APS Southern Tablelands project when huge numbers of trees and shrubs were required'. Now it is managed on a smaller scale by Jen at her home.



Figure 61: *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*, image Tim Hayes

Jen recently collected seed of *Leucochrysum albicans* subspecies *tricolor* along a section of Range Road prior to major road widening – and then redistributed

the seed after the roadwork was done six months later.

Tim Hayes is a similarly passionate propagator from the Southern Tablelands region. As a fan of pea plants, he propagates local species, even if they are not spectacular, to go into environmental projects rather than gardens. As he says, 'I like providing species that might grow 'just outside the front gate' or 'down by the gully' and support local revegetation projects, such as wind breaks, shelter belts, permanently waterlogged soils, gully banks, dry ridges and lots more.' He belongs to the Upper Lachlan Landcare for revegetation works west of Goulburn and propagates plants for Goulburn Wetlands 'display' gardens.



Figure 62: Recovering bushland, Porters Creek Dam Road, South Coast, image H Miles

### **Revegetation of degraded properties out west – Andrew and Jennifer Knop**

Andrew Knop and his wife Jennifer have regenerated their two properties at Dubbo and Narromine. When purchased, their properties were degraded due to livestock grazing and feral animals. After two decades of very fulfilling work, they have transformed both properties, with original woodland plants regenerating and wildlife returning.

To recreate the original vegetation that existed before farming they relied on the records of the early explorers on the types of vegetation they saw in their travels in the area. Expeditions dated back to 1813, with Evans, Oxley, Cunningham, Sturt and Mitchell all leading multiple expeditions. Their journal accounts provide sometimes-eloquent descriptions ... the general appearance of the country, its surface, soil, animals, vegetables and minerals, everything that relates to the population. These writings have

provided great insight into the species prevalent at the time.



Figure 63: Complex mosaic of multi-level ground cover, shrub and canopy as would have been seen 200 years ago, image Andrew Knop

The photograph above would be close to what the early explorers may have experienced. From an ecological perspective it contains many features which support woodland birds, reptiles and small mammals. As such it supports many of our declining flora and fauna species. More information on our [website](#).

### Caring for her local reserve – Ash Mahoney

Besides being an active member with APS Southern Tablelands group, Ash is also a Crown Land Manager of Alison Hone Reserve along with four other APS members. We are also members of Goulburn Field Naturalists Society and when this group was approached to take over, we agreed rather than let the area fall into disrepair.



Figure 64: Expanses of the weed, Serrated Tussock, image Ash Mahoney

We had no funding in our first year and whilst we waited to hear whether our funding for the following year would be approved, I went along each Wednesday morning and chipped *Nassella trichotoma*, better known as Serrated Tussock, from the reserve.



Figure 65: *Lobelia gibbose*, image A Mahoney

As we were in drought, I didn't have to worry about seed production. I would chip and replace the plant on the bare earth to cover it up so another weed wouldn't appear there. I used the Bradley method, weeding from the best areas to the worst and was able to isolate the worst patches for when the funding came through for weed eradication.

I also set myself a target to record every species of flora and fauna that I could. Of course, this is still ongoing but we have greatly increased our plant list this year with the good rains we had in spring.



Figure 66: The threatened *Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*



Figure 67: *Caladenia atrovessa*, both images Ash Mahoney

To date, we have recorded 183 species, 36 of which are weeds. I have also sighted and photographed 18 terrestrial orchids on the site.

Alison Hone Reserve was dedicated in the early 1980's after Alison discovered *Calochilus imberbis* flowering there. Unfortunately, not even the great

season we have just had revealed this orchid on site, but I live in hope.

## Planting trees for regenerative farming – Graham Fry and Ralph Cartwright

NSW is 80% agricultural land and so understanding how that land is being managed for health and supporting regenerative farming are important.

A few members, including Graham Fry, East Hills and member of Oatley Flora and Fauna (OFF) and Ralph Cartwright, Sutherland, contributed their weekend to plant trees for regenerative farmer, Vince Hefferman. Vince is Chair of the Upper Lachlan Landcare, an ecologist and regenerative agriculture advocate. He runs a sheep property in the Gunning area for sustainability. A key part of this is planting trees and over 60,000 have been already planted on the property to recreate a similar habitat to what was there before European settlement.



Figure 68: Tree planting, image Ralph Cartwright

Over a September weekend 30 volunteers, including Graham and Ralph, planted 1800 seedling trees provided by Greening Australia. It was a very successful weekend with all the planting done on Saturday, as Sunday was wet and not good for planting. Members really enjoyed doing hands-on conservation rather than writing letters or attending protest rallies! More information on the [website](#).

## Native plant distributions – a major data project by Tony Maxwell

The plant distribution database, developed by Tony over many years, allows the user to review discreet zones and areas of NSW and obtain a generated list of all floristic species ever recorded as occurring in those zones and subzones.

Figure 69: Part of the spreadsheet for Sydney southern

Tony started developing the plant database in 1986 after a visit to the South Coast. He purportedly became hooked on native plants and their locations!

He began gathering data and background materials and identified over 200 areas from Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland, down through south east Queensland then eastern NSW then all Victoria and finally south east South Australia including the Flinders Ranges, Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. He concentrated on reserved areas and avoided grazing, cropping and urban locations.

Data about native plants was gathered from reputable, publicly available sources including PlantNET, NPWS BioNet, Atlas Living Australia (ALA) and many others allowing Tony to put together plant distribution information for each area. So far he has completed spreadsheets for coastal and near coastal regions from the Hunter to the Victorian border with all lists available on the APS NSW [website](#).

So why bother, given all the info is publicly available? Basically, the information is available in a readily digestible form in a single Excel sheet per region. The lists can be used for exploration, identification, benchmarking, bushfire recovery, tracking species survival and assisting to conserve rare and endangered species.

As Dan Clarke, our Conservation Officer, says: 'This is an immeasurably useful database and Tony is to be commended for the painstaking work'.

## Donations of Pink Flannel Flowers to our Botanic Gardens by Menai's Lloyd Hedges

Over the last few years, Lloyd Hedges with Menai Group has donated large numbers of pink flannel flowers, *Actinotus forsythii*, to our botanic gardens.

These are tricky plants to propagate and keep alive and Menai seems to have nailed it!



Figure 70: *Actinotus forsythii*, image L Godden

In November, a tray of *Actinotus forsythii* was donated to Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra.

Curator, David Taylor, accepted them with enthusiasm. They were going to be used to form a centrepiece of the summer display of sandstone species.

Lloyd reports on a subsequent visit to check on survival:

'Mary and I visited the ANBG to look for the pink flannel flowers we donated. We were pleased to be greeted by 4 of them in tubs in full flower at the entrance to the reception area. There were several more in the gardens between the reception centre and the café, and more up amongst the Sydney sandstone vegetation.'

One of the horticulturists said they had not lost any of the plants we donated. A very respectable effort for such a touchy plant in Sydney. The ANBG locality has an advantage in the lower humidity levels of Canberra but also has to contend with lower rainfall. Their horticulturists have done well.'



Figure 71: Pink flannel flowers in front of the visitors centre at ANBG - with an admirer! Image Mary Hedges (with permission)

Another donation was made to the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. The horticulturalists were pleased to receive them and thanked the team for propagating them.

\* \* \*

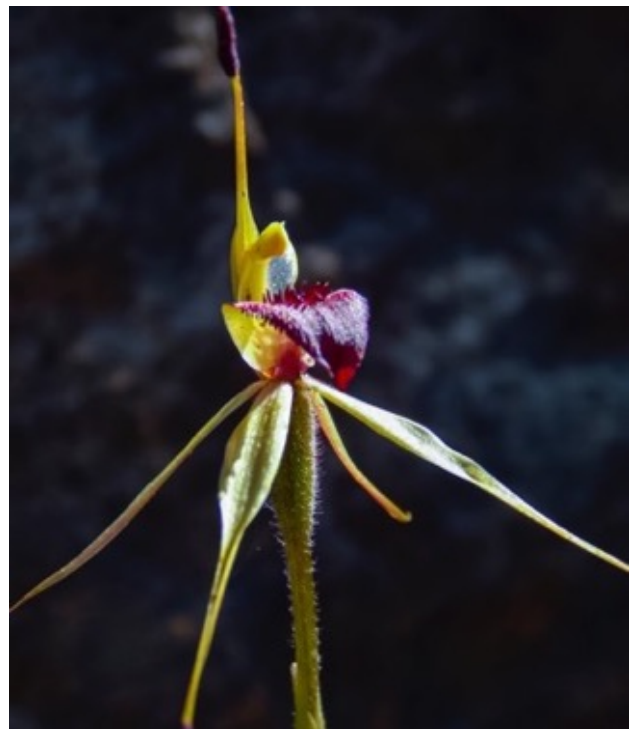


Figure 72: A rare orchid, *Caladenia reticulata*, a clubbed spider orchid, seen in the Warrumbungles, image H Loots

# Life members

*We would like to pay tribute to our life members, who have contributed their passion, skills and deep experience to the society over the last 60 years.*

Year	Name
1957	Thistle Harris AM*
1967	John Wrigley AM*
1972	William H. Payne*
1974	H Max Hewett*
	Pearce Parry OAM*
	Olive Parry OAM*
	Joyce Ward*
1978	Susan Heins*
1981	Don L McNair*
1982	Joan Doney OAM*
1984	Errol Thurston*
	Ruth Overton*
1986	Frank Hatfield*
	Jean Hatfield*
1987	Ray Page*
1990	Les Taylor
	Tess Taylor
1991	Betty Rymer
1992	Dr Patrick Verney Lightfoot OAM
1993	Geoff Blyton*
	Marjory Blyton*
1993	Brother Pat Stanley*
1994	Irene Vale Lane*
	Hugh Stacy*
1995	Alec Hansen
	Maria Hitchcock, OAM
1996	Gordon Brooks
	Norm Kemble
	Shirley Kemble*
1997	Eric Packer*
	Brian Walters
1998	Peter Olde OAM

Year	Name
1999	Ross Doig*
2001	Mary Hancock*
	Royal Pullen*
2002	Jim Webb*
2003	Edna Devlin
2004	Harry Brian*
	Laurel Kathleen Wray
2005	Jennifer Lewis
	Barbara Burke
2006	Maureen McGuire
2007	Audrey Taggart
	Barry Kemp
2008	Carolyn Gillard
	Bill Hicks
2009	Kyrill Taylor
2010	Jean Mott*
	Bill Hardin*, Sonya Hardin
2011	John Nevin
	Merle Thompson OAM
2013	Graeme Ingall
2015	Robin Davies*, Ron Davies
	Pat Pike
2016	Alexander Floyd
2017	Mark Abell
	Dick Turner
2018	Gloria Sheather, Warren Sheather*
	Angela Speering
2019	Barry Lees
	Lloyd Hedges
2020	Ian Cox
	Leigh Cousins, Chris Cousins

\* Deceased



# Directors' report

## Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company for the period 1 January 2020–31 December 2020 have been promoting interest in the growing, conservation and use of Australian native plants.

## Consolidated Profit and Loss

	2020	2019
State Office	\$15,724	\$3,728
District groups	\$11,988	(\$3,594)
Bequest Fund	(\$7,763)	(\$3,792)
Total APS NSW net surplus/loss	\$19,948	(\$3,658)
Total equity	\$1,114,664	\$1,094,716

## Financial position – Treasurer's report

Please find attached to this APS NSW Annual Report the 2020 Annual Financial Report prepared by the society's accountants Accounting For Good. This report is based on the APS NSW Office accounts recorded in the Xero accounting program, bank statements and advice received from the APS NSW Board of Directors. The report is also based on the district group financial reports submitted by APS NSW district group treasurers. I would like to thank all group treasurers for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

The society's State Office income shows net profit of \$15,724. While expenditure has been relatively stable, there has been an increase in income from membership and subscriptions. Bank interest earned due to the 2020 maturation of term deposits is lower than for 2019. This interest on term deposits will continue to decrease in the near future. The financial

benefits of closing the Toongabbie office and transferring its accounting operations to Accounting For Good are apparent. The outsourcing of services has not proved too burdensome. Australia Post and the accounting costs can be expected to rise. There has been and will be future expenditure on maintaining and developing the society's website, which has considerably enhanced the APS NSW digital presence.

The society's financial position is in a healthy state with \$ 1,095,231 being the total amount held in bank accounts. This amount includes group and state amounts. The state office's bank holds \$783,536. A separate bank account has been established to finance and account for the 2022 ANPSA Biennial Conference's income and expenditure. Destination NSW has made a contribution of \$16,500 to this event. This appears as a current liability.

In 2020, because of decreased activities, district groups earned less but also had fewer costs.

The digitisation of the society's accounts has been both efficient and timely and I encourage all members to consider conducting their financial transactions with the society online if they are not already doing so.

I thank Jane Chen and her team at Accounting For Good for always being available to answer questions and present reports to APS NSW board members as well as district group treasurers. A monthly financial statement is presented to the Board. As a qualified Chartered Accountant Jane's professional advice regarding financial compliance matters has been greatly appreciated.

## Directors' benefit and insurance

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, no director has received any benefit by way of dividend, bonus or other such advantage other than expenses due to carrying out of their duties. During 2020, we paid a premium of \$2,175 for insurance against Directors' liability for legal costs. This also included liability for the presidents, secretaries and treasurers of district groups.

## Directors' attendance

Each director attended the following board meetings during 2020 while a member of the board.

Director	Role	Meetings held while in office	Meetings attended
John Aitken	President, Board member, Sutherland delegate	7	6
Sue Fredrickson*	Board member, North Shore delegate	7	7
Graham Fry	Board member, East Hills delegate	7	6
Margaret Gaul	Board member, Blue Mountains delegate	7	6
Harry Loots	Treasurer, Board member, Northern Beaches delegate	7	7
Tony Maxwell	Board member, Parramatta and Hills delegate	7	6
Heather Miles	Secretary, Board member, Hunter Valley delegate	7	7
Merle Thompson	Membership officer, Board member	7	7

\* Sue Fredrickson joined the board January 2020.

## **Directors' qualifications and experience**

### **John Aitken, President, delegate for Sutherland**

BSc (Hons) Microbiology, Grad Dip Education, Dip Law (SAB/BAB)

John has had a passion for Australian native plants for over 40 years. He has held positions as a science teacher, virologist and barrister. He is former president of Sutherland district group, a director of APS NSW since February 2007, and has served as a delegate to ANPSA.

### **Sue Fredrickson, delegate for North Shore**

Sue is retired and was formerly working for the NSW government in the field of analytical chemistry. She has been a member of APS NSW for around 20 years and for most of that time has been the main organiser of the group's monthly walks and trips away. She loves the Australian bush and enjoys plant propagating with the group.

### **Graham Fry, delegate for East Hills**

Graham has been a member of East Hills district group for many years and is its current president. He has a strong interest in natural history and has been an active bird bander for 35 years with projects at Munghorn Gap near Mudgee and Warraderry State Forest near Grenfell. He is a retired electrical engineer with a particular interest in energy efficiency. Graham joined the board in 2017.

### **Margaret Gaul, delegate for Blue Mountains, MA(Hons) Arts, Dip Ed, Dip Theatrecraft**

Margaret is a longstanding member of Blue Mountains district group and has grown Australian native plants for over 50 years. She has an academic background and has extensive management and consultancy experience as well as serving on boards and committees of not-for-profit organisations.

### **Harry Loots, Treasurer, delegate for Northern Beaches**

Harry has been a member of the Australian Plants Society since 1991 when he joined Harbourside district group where he was president from 1994 until

its closure in 2010 and its newsletter editor from 2006 to 2009. Since 2011, he has been member and APS NSW delegate for Northern Beaches. He has been a member of the Special Projects Committee (Bequest Fund) from 2000. Harry has also been an Australian plant grower for over 30 years with an award-winning endemic plant garden in North Sydney. He has been an active bushwalker for most of his life. Harry was vice president of APS NSW between 2009 and 2013 and had a day job as a high school teacher.

### **Tony Maxwell, delegate for Parramatta and Hills**

Tony is a retired paint chemist and a member of Parramatta and Hills district group since 2006, holding roles as vice president and president. He became Parramatta and Hills district group delegate to the board in 2011. Tony's interest is the distribution of native plants in southeast Australia.

### **Heather Miles, Secretary and delegate for Hunter Valley**

BSc, MBA, Dip Landscape Design, Dip Photoimaging, GAICD

Heather is a member of the Hunter Valley and North Shore district groups and is director and secretary of APS NSW. She has extensive experience as a director, executive and consultant across multiple industry sectors.

### **Merle K Thompson OAM, Membership officer**

BA Grad Dip Psych (Counselling)

Merle has held office at local, state and national level for approximately 40 years. Her previous roles in the Australian Plants Society include federal secretary 1993–1995, federal treasurer 2007–2009, property officer and program convenor for APS NSW, secretary and president of Blue Mountains group, NSW delegate to ANPSA conferences and the ANPSA council, tour manager for the 2007 conference and members of conference planning committees for 1993, 2002 and 2007 conferences. Her professional career involved roles in counselling, administration and policy in the NSW public sector.

Signed in accordance with the Directors' resolution on 16 March 2021:

John Aitken, President

Harry Loots, Treasurer

# Financial Accounts

<b>Consolidated Income and Expenditure Statement</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD</b>		
<b>For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 20</b>	<b>31 Dec 19</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Book sales	\$ 808	\$ -
Donations Received	\$ 3,422	\$ -
Events/ Meetings	\$ 4,106	\$ 15,980
Fundraising Income	\$ 1,748	\$ 6,941
Interest Income	\$ 14,431	\$ 18,949
Membership Income	\$ 58,241	\$ 48,188
Merchandise Sales	\$ 95,606	\$ 113,016
Royalties	\$ 519	\$ -
Subscriptions	\$ 6,150	\$ 4,685
Sundry Income	\$ 318	\$ 1,084
T-Shirts	\$ 162	\$ 36
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 185,511</b>	<b>\$ 208,880</b>
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>		
Purchases	\$ 37,244	\$ 57,069
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$ 37,244</b>	<b>\$ 57,069</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 148,267</b>	<b>\$ 151,811</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Administration Costs	\$ 92	\$ 136
Advertising and Marketing	\$ 135	\$ 3,007
ANPSA Levy	\$ 1,994	\$ 1,613
Bank Fees	\$ 1,393	\$ 693
Depreciation	\$ 387	\$ 3,556
Donations	\$ 8,398	\$ 7,699
Equipment	\$ 254	\$ 2,458
Finance Costs	\$ 25,998	\$ 25,287
Legal Costs	\$ 340	\$ -
Library	\$ 1,767	\$ 780
Office Expenses	\$ 8,469	\$ 15,158
Postage	\$ 1,072	\$ 1,047
Repairs and Replacements	\$ 109	\$ -
Subscriptions Paid	\$ 1,145	\$ 568
Sundry Costs	\$ 2,355	\$ 1,814
Transport & Travel	\$ 91	\$ 6,080
Website Costs	\$ 8,317	\$ 3,607
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 62,317</b>	<b>\$ 73,505</b>

	31 Dec 20	31 Dec 19
<b>Event and Meeting Expenses</b>		
Conservation Committee	\$ -	\$ 32
Event Costs	\$ 1,332	\$ 5,058
Fundraising expense	\$ 433	\$ 1,265
Hire of Halls	\$ 2,889	\$ 2,537
Meeting Catering - Council	\$ 18	\$ 304
Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,159	\$ 4,680
Nursery Expenses	\$ 14,268	\$ 12,449
Projects Committee	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Scholarship Expense	\$ 2,727	\$ 2,727
Speakers Expenses	\$ 1,237	\$ 2,133
<b>Total Event and Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 27,063</b>	<b>\$ 34,186</b>
<b>Membership and Subscription Costs</b>		
Editorial Costs	\$ 1,250	\$ -
Freight and Postage	\$ 8,118	\$ 8,758
Inserting & Dispatch	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,503
Printing - Journal	\$ 13,850	\$ 20,609
Publication Costs - Others	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,408
<b>Total Membership and Subscription Costs</b>	<b>\$ 26,238</b>	<b>\$ 33,278</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 115,619</b>	<b>\$ 140,969</b>
<b>Operating Profit/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 32,648</b>	<b>\$ 10,842</b>
<b>Non-operating Expenses</b>		
Glenbrook Reserve Expenses	\$ 12,700	\$ 14,500
<b>Total Non-operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,700</b>	<b>\$ 14,500</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 19,948</b>	<b>\$ (3,658)</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD</b>		
<b>As at 31 December 2020</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 2020</b>	<b>31 Dec 2019</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
<b>APS NSW Funds</b>		
APS NSW - ANZ TD	\$ 177,620	\$ 174,584
APS NSW - ANZ Working Account	\$ 6,171	\$ 16,435
APS NSW - CBA Administration	\$ 15,256	\$ 3,499
APS NSW - Paypal	\$ 3,117	\$ 2,125
State Office - Petty Cash	\$ 30	\$ 30
<b>Total APS NSW Funds</b>	<b>\$ 202,194</b>	<b>\$ 196,674</b>
<b>Bequest Funds</b>		
ANZ Bequest Account	\$ 35,545	\$ 41,565
Bequest Funds - CBA Term Deposit #7663	\$ 55,028	\$ 55,028
CBA Term Deposit #8046	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
CBA Term Deposit #8054	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
CBA Term Deposit #8062	\$ 78,195	\$ 78,195
CBA Term Deposit #8257	\$ 12,574	\$ 12,450
<b>Total Bequest Funds</b>	<b>\$ 581,342</b>	<b>\$ 587,237</b>
<b>District Group Funds</b>		
District Group Cash	\$ 153,872	\$ 152,564
District Group Investments	\$ 152,585	\$ 146,631
District Group Petty Cash	\$ 5,238	\$ 3,691
<b>Total District Group Funds</b>	<b>\$ 311,695</b>	<b>\$ 302,886</b>
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$ 1,095,231</b>	<b>\$ 1,086,796</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
District Group Assets	\$ 24,371	\$ 24,758
Fixtures and Equipments	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 24,371</b>	<b>\$ 24,758</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Stock on Hand	\$ 12,480	\$ 11,290
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 12,480</b>	<b>\$ 11,290</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,132,082</b>	<b>\$ 1,122,845</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD</b>		
<b>As at 31 December 2020</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 2020</b>	<b>31 Dec 2019</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Grant in Advance	\$ 16,500	\$ 16,500
GST	\$ 898	\$ 2,737
Trade Creditors	\$ 20	\$ 8,892
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 17,418</b>	<b>\$ 28,129</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 17,418</b>	<b>\$ 28,129</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,114,664</b>	<b>\$ 1,094,716</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>State Office</b>		
Opening balance	\$ 211,207	\$ 207,479
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	\$ 15,724	\$ 3,728
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$ 226,930</b>	<b>\$ 211,207</b>
<b>District Groups</b>		
Balance at 1 January	\$ 338,773	\$ 342,366
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	\$ 11,988	\$ (3,594)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>\$ 350,760</b>	<b>\$ 338,773</b>
<b>Bequest Fund</b>		
Balance at 1 January	\$ 544,737	\$ 548,529
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	\$ (7,763)	\$ (3,792)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>\$ 536,973</b>	<b>\$ 544,737</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 1,114,664</b>	<b>\$ 1,094,716</b>



<b>Income and Expenditure Statement</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD</b>		
<b>State Office</b>		
<b>For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 20</b>	<b>31 Dec 19</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Book Sales	\$ 731	\$ -
Donations Received	\$ 209	\$ -
Events/ Meetings	\$ -	\$ 1,018
Fundraising Income	\$ -	\$ 1,099
Interest Income	\$ 11,972	\$ 16,082
Membership Income	\$ 48,823	\$ 39,812
Merchandise Sales	\$ 12,714	\$ 12,086
Royalties	\$ 519	\$ -
Subscriptions	\$ 6,150	\$ 4,685
Sundry Income	\$ 318	\$ 491
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 81,435</b>	<b>\$ 75,273</b>
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>		
Purchases	\$ -	\$ 64
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 64</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 81,435</b>	<b>\$ 75,210</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Administration Costs	\$ 92	\$ -
Advertising and Marketing	\$ (150)	\$ 1,184
ANPSA Levy	\$ 1,994	\$ 1,613
Bank Fees	\$ 1,355	\$ 674
Finance Costs	\$ 25,998	\$ 25,287
Legal Costs	\$ 340	\$ -
Library	\$ 1,718	\$ -
Office Expenses	\$ 5,101	\$ 6,372
Postage	\$ 37	\$ -
Subscriptions Paid	\$ 30	\$ 30
Sundry Costs	\$ -	\$ (79)
Website Costs	\$ 3,513	\$ 3,159
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 40,028</b>	<b>\$ 38,239</b>
<b>Event and Meeting Expenses</b>		
Conservation Committee	\$ -	\$ 32
Event Costs	\$ -	\$ 337
Meeting Catering - Council	\$ -	\$ 41
Meeting Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 1,342
Speakers Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100
<b>Total Event and Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>	<b>\$ 1,852</b>

	31 Dec 20	31 Dec 19
<b>Membership and Subscription Costs</b>		
Freight and Postage	\$ 8,036	\$ 8,602
Inserting & Dispatch	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,503
Printing - Journal	\$ 13,523	\$ 19,286
Publication Costs - Others	\$ 875	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Membership and Subscription Costs</b>	<b>\$ 25,583</b>	<b>\$ 31,392</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 65,711</b>	<b>\$ 71,482</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 15,724</b>	<b>\$ 3,728</b>

Income and Expenditure Statement		
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD		
Bequest Fund		
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020		
	31 Dec 20	31 Dec 19
<b>Income</b>		
Interest Income	\$ 28	\$ (19)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 28</b>	<b>\$ (19)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 28</b>	<b>\$ (19)</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Donations	\$ 325	\$ 325
Website Costs	\$ 4,466	\$ 448
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 4,791</b>	<b>\$ 773</b>
<b>Event and Meeting Expenses</b>		
Projects Committee	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Event and Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,791</b>	<b>\$ 3,773</b>
<b>Net Profit /(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (7,763)</b>	<b>\$ (3,792)</b>

<b>Income and Expenditure Statement</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD</b>		
<b>District Groups</b>		
<b>For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 20</b>	<b>31 Dec 19</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Book Sales	\$ 77	\$ -
Donations Received	\$ 3,213	\$ -
Events/ Meetings	\$ 4,106	\$ 14,962
Fundraising Income	\$ 1,748	\$ 5,841
Interest Income	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,886
Membership Income	\$ 9,419	\$ 8,376
Merchandise Sales	\$ 82,892	\$ 100,931
Sundry Income	\$ -	\$ 593
T-Shirts	\$ 162	\$ 36
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>\$ 104,048</b>	<b>\$ 133,626</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Cost of Plants	\$ 37,244	\$ 57,006
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$ 37,244</b>	<b>\$ 57,006</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 66,804</b>	<b>\$ 76,620</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Administration Costs	\$ -	\$ 136
Advertising and Marketing	\$ 285	\$ 1,823
ANPSA Levy	\$ -	\$ 20
Bank Fees	\$ 38	\$ -
Consulting Fee	\$ -	\$ 3,556
Depreciation	\$ 387	\$ 7,374
Donations	\$ 8,073	\$ -
Equipment	\$ 254	\$ 2,458
Library	\$ 49	\$ 780
Office Expenses	\$ 3,369	\$ 8,787
Postage	\$ 1,035	\$ 1,047
Repairs and Replacements	\$ 109	\$ -
Subscriptions Paid	\$ 1,115	\$ 538
Sundry Costs	\$ 2,355	\$ 1,893
Transport & Travel	\$ 91	\$ 6,080
Website Costs	\$ 338	\$ -
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 17,498</b>	<b>\$ 34,493</b>
<b>Event and Meeting Expenses</b>		
Event Costs	\$ 1,332	\$ 4,721
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 433	\$ 1,265
Hire of Halls	\$ 2,889	\$ 2,537
Meeting Catering - Council	\$ 18	\$ 263
Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,059	\$ 3,338
Nursery Expenses	\$ 14,268	\$ 12,449
Scholarship Expense	\$ 2,727	\$ 2,727
Speakers Expenses	\$ 1,237	\$ 2,033
<b>Total Event and Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 23,963</b>	<b>\$ 29,334</b>

	31 Dec 20	31 Dec 19
<b>Membership and Subscription Costs</b>		
Freight and Postage	\$ 81	\$ 155
Printing - Journal	\$ 327	\$ 1,323
Publication Costs - Others	\$ 246	\$ 408
<b>Total Membership and Subscription Costs</b>	<b>\$ 655</b>	<b>\$ 1,887</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 42,116</b>	<b>\$ 65,714</b>
<b>Operating Profit /(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 24,688</b>	<b>\$ 10,906</b>
<b>Non-operating Expenses</b>		
Glenbrook Reserve Expenses	\$ 12,700	\$ 14,500
<b>Total Non-operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 12,700</b>	<b>\$ 14,500</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 11,988</b>	<b>\$ (3,594)</b>

**District Group Profit & Loss Report**  
**For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020**

District Group	Income	Expense	Net Profit (Loss)
Armidale District Group	\$ 235	\$ 1,296	\$ (1,061)
Blue Mountains District Group	\$ 56,481	\$ 53,629	\$ 2,853
Central Coast District Group	\$ 2,450	\$ 3,146	\$ (696)
Central West District Group	\$ 10	\$ (90)	\$ 100
Coffs Harbour District Group	\$ 102	\$ (234)	\$ 336
East Hills District Group	\$ 324	\$ 686	\$ (362)
Hunter Valley District Group	\$ 104	\$ 862	\$ (758)
Illawarra District Group	\$ -	\$ 666	\$ (666)
Macarthur District Group	\$ 73	\$ 35	\$ 37
Menai District Group	\$ 4,808	\$ 5,171	\$ (362)
Newcastle District Group	\$ 17,079	\$ 10,385	\$ 6,694
North Shore District Group	\$ 6,934	\$ 6,140	\$ 794
Northern Beaches District Group	\$ 61	\$ 11	\$ 50
Nowra District Group	\$ 714	\$ 622	\$ 93
Parramatta District Group	\$ 710	\$ (285)	\$ 995
South East District Group	\$ 83	\$ (247)	\$ 330
Southern Highlands District Group	\$ 1,144	\$ 520	\$ 625
Southern Tablelands District Group	\$ 1,728	\$ (58)	\$ 1,785
Sutherland District Group	\$ 2,204	\$ 981	\$ 1,223
Tamworth District Group	\$ 41	\$ 62	\$ (22)

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from customers		
- State and Bequest Funds	\$ 76,409	\$ 73,990
- District Groups	\$ 111,779	\$ 143,813
Payments to suppliers and employees		
- State and Bequest Funds	\$ (80,853)	\$ (91,730)
- District Groups	\$ (101,266)	\$ (150,941)
Interest received	\$ 14,431	\$ 18,949
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$ 20,500</b>	<b>\$ (5,919)</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		
Payments for financial assets	\$ (9,114)	\$ (61,573)
Payment for property, plant & equipment	\$ -	\$ (1,227)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>\$ (9,114)</b>	<b>\$ (62,801)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>\$ 11,386</b>	<b>\$ (68,719)</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	\$ 219,909	\$ 250,843
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 216,112	\$ 219,909
<b>Net change in cash for period</b>	<b>\$ (3,796)</b>	<b>\$ (30,934)</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY NSW LTD 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

The financial statements cover the business of Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd and have been prepared to meet the needs of stakeholders. Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### 1. Basis of Preparation

The Company is non-reporting since there are unlikely to be any users who would rely on the general purpose financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies described below and do not comply with any Australian Accounting Standards unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis starting from 2018 versus an accrual basis prior to 2018. Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

##### Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the business receives it. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

*Interest Revenue:* Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

*Other Income:* Other income is recognised on a cash basis when the Company receives it.

*Membership rebates between State Office and Districts:* The treatment of rebates of the consolidated Income Statement has changed in 2018 versus 2017 and previous years, where it was treated as income and expenses. It is now accounted for as inter-entity transfers. This change has no impact on the company's overall surplus/(deficit).

##### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is classified as operating cash flows.

## Australian Plants Society NSW Limited Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the directors of Australian Plants Society NSW Limited ("the Company"):

- The directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Company is a non-reporting entity because there are no end users who are dependent on its general-purpose financial statements. The Company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under the Australian Accounting Standards. The attached financial statement complies with needs of the members.
- The attached financial statement gives a true and fair view of the Company's position as of 31 December 2020 and its financial performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

\* \* \*



*Figure 73: This year has seen a proliferation of the pink flannel flower, *Actinotus forsythii*, and social media has gone a bit wild about them. Here is a stunning flower portrait by Harry Loots*