



BANGADILLY NATIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP

On the 5th of March, a group of 5 intrepid walkers set out on the Mt Penang Trail. The weather was a mix of cloudy and pleasant then clear and steamy conditions as the sun appeared. Bangadilly NP is 20 km from Bowral at Canyonleigh off the Tugalong Road.

Plant Species Seen:

Botanic Name

Acacia buxifolia
Acacia longifolia
Acacia teminalis
Acacia ulicifolia
Actinotis helianthi
Allocasuarina littoralis
Amperea xiphoclada
Austrostipa bigenculata
Banksia serrata
Banksia spinulosa
Billardiera scandens
Boronia fraseri
Bossiaea buxifolia
Bossiaea sp.
Brachyloma daphnoides
Brachyscome sp.
Bursaria spinosa
Cassinia laevis
Chloanthes stoechadis
Clematis aristata
Comesperma ericinum
Cooperhooia barbata
Dampiera purpurea
Daviesia mimesoides
Dianella caerulea

Dianella revoluta
Dichondra repens
Dillwynia sieberi
Entolasia stricta
Eucalyptus dives
Eucalyptus macrohyncha
Eucalyptus sieberi
Glycine clandestina
Goodenia hederacea
Haemodorum corymbosum
Hakea laevipes
Hardenbergia violacea
Helichrysum leucopsidium
Hibbertia empetrifolia
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hibbertia sp.
Hybanthus monopetalus
Hypericum gramineum
Indigofera australis
Laganophora stipitata
Leocupogon lanceolata
Lepidosperma sp.
Leptospermum trinervium
Lomandra longifolia
Lomatia cilaifolia
Lomatia ilicifolia
Lomatia myricoides
Microleana stipoides
Olearia viscidula
Ozothamnus diosmifolius
Persoonia linearis
Phebalium squamulosum
Platysace lanceolata
Podolobium ilicifolium
Pomaderris sp.
Pomax umbellata

Poranthera microphylla
Prostanthera rugosa
Pteridium esculentum
Scaevola ramosissima
Senecio sp.
Solanum sp.
Stypantra glauca
Themeda triandra
Veronica plebia
Viola hederacea
Wahlenbergia sp.
Xerochrysum bracteatum



Hybanthus monopetalus



Propagation Day on 19 March – contributed by Natalie Filatoff

There are so many reasons to propagate native plants for your own use. You may want to guarantee a true clone of a cultivar you love — in my inherited garden, for example, there are a couple of beautiful *Callistemon* and *Banksia* varieties which I have little hope of precisely identifying and purchasing anew. I also live in an area that was severely affected by the 2019/20 bushfires and the forest is very slowly regenerating. Over time, I could potentially help multiply the flora endemic to this area, using collected seeds and propagation via cuttings where appropriate.

The March 19 meeting of the Southern Tablelands Group of the Australian Plants Society (APS) NSW was dedicated to boosting member confidence in Native Plant Propagation and had the side hustle of growing new plants for Society sale days. One of the first things we learned was that some species, such as *Banksias*, are more easily propagated via collected seeds than by potting up cuttings. But this doesn't mean I can't try to enrich my bank of *Banksias* using both methods.

The meeting was well attended, with around a dozen members gathered on the covered verandah of Celia and Bob Galland's property in Parkesbourne just outside Goulburn. Everyone had brought cuttings, taken that morning and transported with stems in wet newspaper or a small amount of water, to work with.

There was excitement to see what each person had chosen to bring and group members, whose gardens are scattered about this region, immediately identified the frost hardy (tough) plants among them, and those that "would need shelter out where we are".

For complete nubes, like our family, the process for propagating from cuttings as explained by APS veteran Jen Ashwell was so much more complete than a YouTube video or a segment on *Gardening Australia*, most importantly because we could ask questions, and be guided in our own first efforts.

Getting down and not so dirty

The propagator's tool kit — sharp clean scissors/secateurs, hormone rooting powder (on this occasion it was Clonex: purple for soft, bendy cuttings, red for hard, snappable cuttings), gloves, pots, potting mixtures (two parts native plant seedling and potting mix to one part perlite; or coir peat and perlite for *Grevilleas* in particular) and indelible pencils and durable plastic for labelling — were generously provided.

Jen explained where to cut the plant material — below a leaf node, 5 to 15 cms from the cutting tip; and how to prepare the cutting for planting. An important learning for me was the need to reduce the leaves on the cutting by removing several of them, and by cutting others by a third to two thirds. This minimises the amount of energy the cutting has to expend on transpiration, giving it more to devote to root generation.

The rooting end of the prepared cutting is placed in rooting hormone for around 10 seconds while you use a dibber (a chopstick works well) to make a hole in the soil just deep enough for the cutting to stand in with its remaining leaf cover above ground. Let excess hormone drip from the cutting before placing it in the soil and pressing the growing medium in around the cutting, eliminating air bubbles to enable healthy growth.

Surprising to us was that you can plant as many cuttings in a four-inch (10cm) pot as will fit, as long as you keep them about 1.5cm apart.

After gently watering in, the soon-to-be-seedlings should be covered with a shower cap or plastic bag held by an elastic band around the pot rim. Over the next two weeks to six months these little cloches should be periodically opened to spray the seedlings with water mist. With luck, roots will start to be visible in the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot within that time, and you can then gently transplant each individual into its own tubestock container.

New friends and added APS benefits

During the morning, a tour of Celia and Bob's mature and beautiful garden and the species that grow well there gave us inspiration for what we might like to plant and how different plant forms complement each other. A tea break got the knowledge and ideas flowing on themes from plant selection to weed control.

We walked away with a new skill, with pots of encouragement, and pots of our unknown variety of pretty pink *Callistemon*, a maybe-baby of our white *Waratah*, and some of those *Banksias* in miniature. The group also provided attendees with a variety of *Acacia* seeds from its store, and a choice of already successfully propagated plants — we were thrilled to score *Crowea saligna* and *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* (Silver-leaved Mountain Gum) — from a previous Native Plant Propagation session.

As we left, the energetic Kaye Norman was still potting up cuttings to place in the group-run propagator, building the bank of thriving young plants available to members. Each one of them is living proof that propagation is a viable and smart way to multiply the plants that suit our properties and our individual aesthetics.

Calendar of Events

- 2 Apr Oallen Ford Walk
- 7 May Bulli Grevillea Park, Illawarra \$7/person entrance fee
- 4 Jun Bywong Nursery, off Federal Highway
- 9 Jul Forum at Goulburn Workers Club
- 6 Aug Mt Penang Loop, Bowral
- 2-4 Sep Weekend trip to Cowra
- 1 Oct Mt Gray Goulburn
- 5 Nov STEP Garden Canberra Arboretum
- 3 Dec AGM

More information regarding the outing to Oallen Ford will be sent to you by Kaye this week.