



May Outing - Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden

Eight members of STAPS enjoyed the visit to the Illawarra Grevillea Park at the beginning of May, and being able to meet members of ours who travelled there from the Bathurst area was particularly enjoyable.

The Park is situated on the Mount Bulli escarpment, east facing with views to the ocean. Extensively planted with Australian plants that do well in that situation, not just Grevilleas are featured, in fact the range of plants was amazing.

We saw Hakeas, Lambertia, Gynea lillies, rock orchids, thryptomene, an ancient Daintree Pine looking like a Christmas tree and a large Bunya Pine.

There was the prostrate form of Casuarine glauca and several smaller versions known as "Cousin It" cascading over large rocks.

Other plants included Acacias and Queensland bottle trees, along with the Native Wisteria Callerya megasperma with hanging seed pods splitting open to show large shiny orange/red seeds.

As we entered the Park we saw a variety of plants of different colours and textures, from the dark green of Banksia Bush Candles to the silvery grey of Eremophila nivea, but possibly most important to some of our members was the Plant Sale section with an extensive variety of plants available to purchase. I found it inspiring to see so many young families purchasing Australian native plants here.

One area that appealed to me was the Banksia "clearing" in the middle of the rainforest where the star of the area is the mass planting of Banksia spinulosa Bush Candles. It was the best time to appreciate these banksia as I'm sure they were all flowering much to the delight of birds and bees.

Following are some photos from the day taken by Trish and Kaye:





June Outing – Bywong Nursery

Bywong Nursery is an hour from Goulburn, off the Federal Highway, at 159 Millynn Road, Bywong.

From 2017 they stopped wholesale production to concentrate on Australian plant development, breeding and selecting new varieties of Aussie plants, sending them to propagation nurseries to be bulked up.

We will be shown how they breed and develop new Australian plant varieties.

For those interested, there will be plants for sale however, there will be **NO** EFTPOS facility, so you will have to bring your cold hard cash (if you remember what that looks like).

Great Eastern Ranges Project

Four members checked 5 Mile Tree TSR on the Bigga Road on 26 May as a possible seed collection area for the above project. There was only a very small amount of ripe seed available on the day. Please remember that it is illegal to source seed from TSR's, South East Local Land Service have kindly given us permission to collect from some TSR's in support of this project.



Calendar of Events

- 4 Jun Bywong Nursery, off Federal Highway
- 9 Jul Forum at Goulburn Workers Club
- 6 Aug Bangadilly National Park , Canyonleigh
- 2-4 Sep Weekend trip to Cowra
- 1 Oct Mt Gray Goulburn
- 5 Nov STEP Garden Canberra Arboretum
- 3 Dec AGM