

CALEYI



NORTHERN BEACHES GROUP austplants.com.au/northern-beaches

August 2023

Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches
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APS Northern Beaches Group acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which our activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

CALENDAR

APS Northern Beaches meeting Thursday August 3, 2023 at Stony Range Botanic Garden, Pittwater Rd, Dee Why.

7.15 pm. Lesser plant family. Santalaceae - Russell Beardmore.

7.30 pm presentation. Angela Michaelis. "Plants for gardens in the shade". Angela is a qualified horticulturalist and enthusiastic bushcarer.

8.30 pm Committee Meeting.

Supper. Julia & David.

Saturday August 19, 2023 APS Northern Beaches plant identification walk 10.30 am Heath Track, Allambie Heights. More details p. 5. Registration essential Anne Gray 0466 309 181 or annesgray@optushome.com.au.

Many thanks to Beth Gower, Russell Beardmore, Georgine Jakobi, Harry Loots and Pamela Dawes for their great contributions to this edition of Caley.

Please email stories, photos (as attachments please) etc for Caley to **Jane March** march@ozemail.com.au

THE RALSTON AVENUE TRACK, BELROSE - SATURDAY 22 JULY

Beth Gower



It was a magical day: warm winter sunshine and a bushland bursting with colour and interest. A big thank you to Anne for charting the way through a seemingly endless maze of narrow tracks for 19 members, and one grandchild.



The wattles, predominately *Acacia longifolia*, provided a stunning backdrop to the abundant understorey plants, along with *Acacia suaveolens* and the less showy *Acacia ulicifolia*. The environmental weed *Acacia saligna* also made its presence felt – a native of south-west Western Australia it has become naturalised in most states and even in South Africa. Other species contributing to the backdrop were *Angophoras*, *Allocasuarina distyla*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Banksia marginata*, *Hakea teretifolia*, *Hakea gibbosa*, *Persoonia levis* and *Grevillea buxifolia*.



Most notable was the profusion of boronias, principally, *Boronia ledifolia* and *Boronia pinnata*.



Bossiaea heterophylla. pic: RB

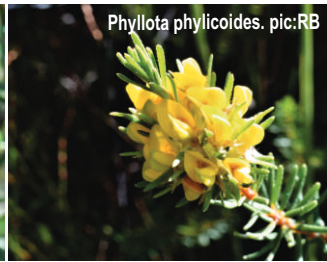


Boronia pinnata. pic: RB

The peas were very well represented - *Hovea linearis*, *Phyllota phyllicoides*, *Dillwynia retorta*, *Bossiaea heterophylla* and the 'centipede pea' *Bossiaea scolopendria*, the name being derived from the Greek word for centipede.



Hovea linearis. pic:RB



Phyllota phyllicoides. pic:RB



Dillwynia retorta. pic: RB



Bossiaea scolopendria. pic: RB

Two species of Hibbertia were sighted, *Hibbertia cistiflora* and *Hibbertia linearis*. A special find was the tiny white flower of the uncommon *Olax stricta*.



Hibbertia cistiflora. pic: GJ.



Olax strictum. pic: Harry Loots.

Also discovered were *Hemigenia purpurea*, the long-leaf Coneseeds, *Conospermum longifolium*, and two species of *Epacris* - *microphylla* and *purpurascens*.



Hemigenia purpurea. pic: RB



Conospermum longifolium. pic: RB



Taking a breather. pic: JM

Kunzea capitata, *Woolisia pungens*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Styphelia tubiflora*....and so much more!



Calytrix tetragona. pic: Georgine Jakobi



Styphelia tubiflora. pic: JM



Kunzea capitata. pic: RB



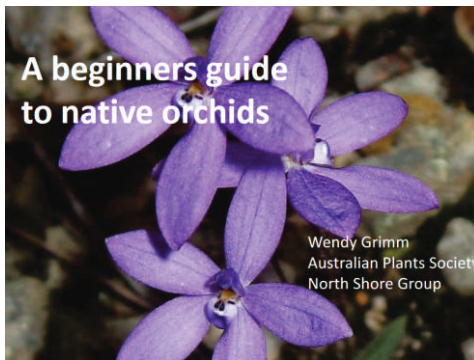
Phebalium squamulosum. pic: RB

It is sad to think that this very special part of the world may well be lost. The land is overseen by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council which has lodged a proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment to develop it for housing. A final decision is yet to be announced.



TALK BY WENDY GRIMM AT APS NORTHERN BEACHES MEETING ON 07/07/23.

Pamela Dawes



Native Orchids are Wendy's speciality especially during covid, when she undertook an exhaustive search for Orchids in the Northern Beaches/ Ku-Ring-Gai Chase and Lane Cove areas.

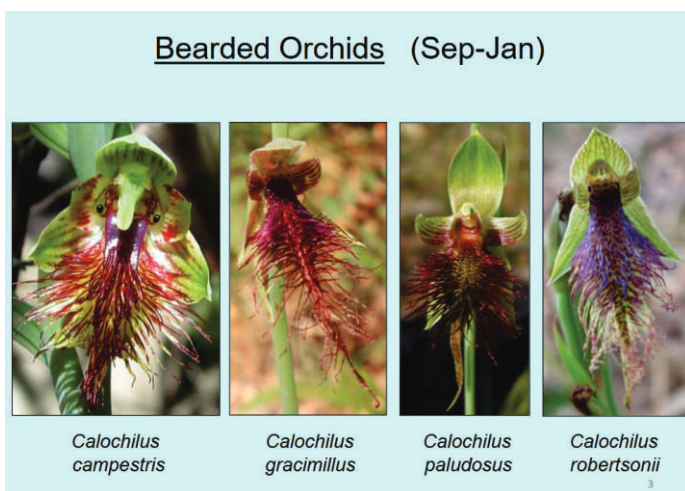
Grouped by Genus and Common Names, native ground orchids are perennial, terrestrial plants. There were 25 species listed for the talk in calendar appearance, starting with those which will be starting to flower soon - September - January.

Depending on the weather, orchids can flower at any time through the months listed which makes it difficult to see them flower, as some will only flower for a matter of just hours on one day of the year, when the conditions are perfect-for example during a rainy period on a particular day.

Wendy recommended a book - *Pollinators of Victoria* - a wonderful book with excellent photos.

Another good book - *Start With The Leaves* - Common Orchids and Lillies.

Orchids try to mimic their pollinator; be they wasp or other insects. Orchids evolved in Australia as did birds, in the period of Gondwanaland.



1. *Calochilus* – Bearded Orchids (Sept-Jan)
Has multiple flowers on the stem, some have 'eyes'- black spots above the 'beard', near the top of the flower
2. *Dipodium*—Hyacinth Orchids (Nov-Jan) Have bent back sepals
3. *Orchoceras Strictum* --Birds-Mouth Orchids (Nov-Jan) Like wet areas and have been seen in Mt Colah
4. *Cryptostylis*—Tongue Orchids (Nov-Feb) Pollinated by one wasp *Lissopimpla Excelsa* but even so there are no hybrids created. They are found on the Hornsby Plateau where Wendy did most of her studies.

5. *Spiranthes Australis* –Ladies Tresses (Nov-Apr) All examples were found in Ku-Ring-Gai Wildflower Garden
6. *Corunastylis*—Midge Orchids (Dec-Mar) Pollinated by tiny flies.
7. ***Genoplesium Bauri*—Brittle Midge Orchid (Dec-Mar)**
An endangered orchid, found only in heathland of Sydney Basin in Garigal, Ku-Ring Gai and Berowra Valleys and in open forest. Dispersion is by bandicoots, rats and wallabies along edges of tracks but can be on ridges or very wet areas, so quite adaptable
Dies completely down for 9 months and is pollinated by Chloropid flies; 2mm long which carry the orchid pollinarium. The timing between flowering and pollinators is important and could be disturbed by the impact of climate change which may endanger the fruiting and propagation of the species. Wendy has been studying these orchids for 15 years and has found an increasing number of locations which have been mapped. The number of sites where these are found have increased over the years, from 3 in 2009 to 14 in 2022. There are 2 publications available.
8. *Chiloglottis Reflexa* -Wasp Orchid (Autumn & Spring)
All have paired leaves, flat on the ground, many of these leaves do not send up flowers. *Chiloglottis Anaticeps*—Ducks Head Wasp Orchid
Proposed to be listed under the endangered category. These occur in 3 locations at high elevations 800-1400 above sea-level
9. *Acianthus*—Mosquito Orchids (Mar-Sep)
Has a single heart shaped deciduous leaf, green on the upper side and purplish on the underside. Grows near streams, in gullies and under shrubs. Most species favour shade where humidity is high during growing season.
- Cyrtostylis*—Gnat Orchid
Differ from *Acianthus* in having ground hugging leaves with a light green glistening undersurface and prominent wings on the column
10. *Erichilus Cucullatus* Complex—Leafless Parson's Bands (Mar-May)
Common and widespread, slender ground orchid with a single deciduous dark green leaf which generally appears during or after flowering. Endemic to Australia.
11. *Pterostylis*—Greenhood Orchids
Quite common. Flower over long periods. Many species. Some have a single flower and some have multiple flowers. No stem leaves or stem leaves, rosette leaves or single leaves.
12. *Corybas*—Helmet Orchid (May-Jul)
These are tiny bright coloured flowers on top of the leaf on the ground
13. *Caladenia*—Spider Orchids (May-Oct)
Have a single hairy leaf and a hairy stem. Many showy and elegant large-flowered species with flower length up to 30 cm
14. *Glossodia Major and Minor*—Wax-Lip Orchids (Aug-Sep)
Ground orchid with a single hairy leaf and one or two purple or mauve flowers 30-45mm long and wide and borne on a spike 80-350 mm with an underground tuber
15. *Thelymitra*—Sun Orchids (Aug-Nov)
Individual flowers which usually only open their flowers on warm sunny days and close at night. Up to 10 flowers per plant. The shape and colour of the sun orchids mimics flowers of the Liliaceae and Goodeniaceae families to deceive their insect pollinators
16. *Lyperanthus Sauveolens*--Brown Beaks (Aug-Sep) Sweet smelling
17. *Pyrorchis Nigricans*—Red Beak Orchids (Aug-Sept)
Usually seen as large colonies of leaves. They will flower only after a hot summer fire but when this occurs, they will flower in profusion. Their leaves get bigger every year- up to 20 cm long but after flower the leaves return to usual 5-8cm long
18. *Prasophyllum*--Leek Orchids (Apr-Oct) Flowers on long stem after fire
19. *Diuris*—Donkey Orchids (Sep-Oct) Yellow and white. Have 2 large petals at the top like ears and a large petal at the bottom like a tongue.
20. *Gastrodia*—Potato Orchid (Sep-Oct) Cream coloured on a long stalk
21. *Erythrorches*—Climbing Orchid (Sep-Nov) Seen at North Head climbing up a Eucalypt
22. *Microtis*—Onion Orchids (Sep-Dec) Very tiny green flowers up a stalk
23. *Caleana Major and Minor*—Duck Orchid (Oct-Dec) Up to 2 flowers and a small leaf
24. *Archorchilus Prolixus*—Elbow Orchid (Nov-May) The flower springs onto the pollinator to release the pollen. Orchids that grow on trees or rocks: Epiphytes anchor by roots to trees and Lithophytes anchor by roots to rocks. These species are vulnerable to poaching and are present in local National Parks
25. *Cymbidium Sauve*—Snake Orchid (Oct-Nov)
26. *Dendrobium Speciosum*—Sydney Rock Orchid (Aug-Oct)
A spectacular orchid with very large yellow stems of flowers
27. *Rimacola Elliptica*—Green Rock Orchid (Oct-Dec) Very rare, out of reach orchids growing in high places on rock shelves



Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, Leschenault aboard the Géographe. Pencil on paper. Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Le Havre, inv. 13033.

FRENCH BOTANIST THÉODORE LESCHENAUT TRAVELLED TO AUSTRALIA IN 1800-1803. HIS RECENTLY RECOVERED JOURNAL CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INTRIGUING INFORMATION

The Conversation July 13, 2023, Paul Gibbard, Senior Lecturer in French Studies, The University of Western Australia.

Content warning: this article describes outdated and potentially offensive terminology when referring to First Nations people.

In the storeroom of a square-towered château in Burgundy, my genial hosts gestured towards a large, wooden chest of drawers. I pulled open a compartment and began sorting through bundles of old papers – house records from the 18th and 19th centuries. I was there, in 2015, on the trail of Théodore Leschenault, a botanist who had travelled to Australia in the years 1800 to 1803 with the expedition of discovery led by Nicolas Baudin.

The château belonged to Leschenault's descendants, who had invited me to explore the family archives. There was a register detailing his divorce from his young wife Marguerite due to their "incompatible temperaments". There were shells and rocks bearing faded ink labels. And there was a printed invitation to a funeral service held for him at the Madeleine church in Paris in 1826 after he died of a stroke.

All this was valuable research material but I felt a slight sense of disappointment. The original manuscript journal of his voyage to Australia was not there



Langlumé, portrait of Théodore Leschenault. Private Collection

Prior to this I had been working on a translation of the only version of the journal thought to exist, an incomplete copy made for the navy by an unknown hand. But then, in late 2016, out of the blue, the original journal in Leschenault's own handwriting was put up for auction in Royan on the west coast of France. Where the journal had been for the previous 200 years was not revealed.

After bidding closed at €110,000 (\$A180,500), the French government stepped in, seizing the journal as its own property, on the grounds that it had funded the original expedition. The journal was deposited with the National Archives of France, which in 2020 provided me with scans to use as the basis for a new translation that appears in my book *The French Collector*.

This journal contains a store of fascinating new information. Two previously unknown chapters describe the first part of Leschenault's journey from Paris to Le Havre and onward via the Canary Islands and Mauritius to the west Australian coast. They offer much else besides, including insights into his fears and ambitions, an array of scientific observations, and impassioned discussions of slavery and the treatment of Indigenous peoples.

A collecting frenzy

Leschenault was 26 when he set out from France with the Baudin expedition to explore the "unknown coasts" of New Holland. Sociable by nature, with a head of blond curls, he came from a wealthy legal family and had been imprisoned during the French Revolution. A child of the Enlightenment, with an anti-religious and empirical cast of mind, he hoped to forge a career as a botanist.

When Leschenault went ashore for the first time on the Australian coastline in June 1801, at Geographe Bay in the south-west, he immediately went into a collecting frenzy, picking up so many shells, pebbles and plants he couldn't carry them all back to the boat.

Here he saw grass trees and tuart trees, black swans and a dingo, and had a much anticipated first encounter with some Wardandi Noongar men. Over the next two years, Leschenault collected thousands of plant and animal specimens as the expedition explored three sides of the continent.



In June 1801, Leschenault saw grass trees for the first time. Shutterstock

All the officers and scientists on the voyage were required to keep a record of their experiences. Some are terse maritime affairs – lists of bearings, wind directions and similar data. Leschenault's is among the most eloquent and wide-ranging. These writings all supplement the official record of the expedition, the *Voyage de découvertes aux terres australes*, published by François Péron and Louis Freycinet between 1807 and 1816.

Leschenault's original journal is a battered-looking object, a large notebook with torn cloth covers, muddy-brown in colour, with the words "private journal" written on the front. Inside, the paper is well preserved and his handwriting spills in neat, brown ink along hand-ruled lines.

The two previously unknown chapters contain an invaluable ragbag of materials about the voyage. Into these chapters he copied a whole sheaf of loose-leaf jottings he had done earlier: private letters, interviews with travellers, short essays on different phenomena (atmospheric humidity, sea temperatures and phosphorescence), philosophical reflections, descriptions of plants and animals, alongside a more conventional daily narrative.

The emotional register of these early chapters shifts according to his imagined audience. When he sees the sea for the first time at Le Havre, for example, he describes for friends and family his terror at the thought that he might drown beneath the waves. But his language becomes more austere when detailing natural phenomena for scientific readers.

Colonisation and slavery

Some of the most unexpected passages in the new chapters relate to slavery and the effects of colonisation. In Australia, he quickly came to the conclusion that the local peoples, "far from a state of civilisation" and prone to treachery, disproved the idea of the "noble savage". But the early chapters reveal that he arrived with sympathetic preconceptions.

While on Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands, he learnt about the fate of the island's original Guanche inhabitants – which gave him reason for concern. Spanish invaders had come with firearms and confronted a peaceful community of farmers. "Oppression and despair drove this people to extinction," he writes. "Now we are setting out to visit unknown peoples; perhaps the moment of their discovery will be the start of their misfortune".

Leschenault contemplates the bleakest of fates for Indigenous Australians, before changing his mind: "But no, that can't be true, today governments are more enlightened, they will be just [...]"

Leschenault also takes an interest in a marginal figure among the scientific staff, the teenage assistant gardener and former slave who was referred to by the derisive nickname Merlot ("little blackbird"). He sympathetically recovers the youth's original name, Bognam-Nonen-Derega (meaning "everlasting happiness"), copies down details about life in his home village (in what is perhaps now eastern Nigeria) and records the story of how he was kidnapped at the age of 12 and sold to English slavers. Later, on Mauritius, Leschenault directly addresses moral questions around slavery.

It is, he declares, "an outrage against nature" but he understands why, for economic reasons, it cannot be abolished immediately. His sympathies are prone to fluctuation though: when he interviews an albino Mauritian slave girl, his manner seems much less compassionate.

The recently recovered journal traces Leschenault's travels over the course of two years but comes to an abrupt end in Sydney, at the half-way point of the expedition. What happened afterwards – did he start to write a second volume, now lost?

When he abandoned the expedition due to illness at Timor in June 1803, he gave all his papers to Baudin: drawings, botanical notebooks, possibly even a sequel to the journal. But the whole bundle of papers disappeared without a trace. Perhaps they linger in some storeroom, awaiting their moment to re-emerge into the light ...

APS NORTHERN BEACHES CALENDAR NOTES

Thursday August 3 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation 'Plants for gardens in the shade' Angela Michaelis.
Committee Meeting

Thursday September 7 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation 'Beside the Seaside' Brian Roach.

Saturday September 9 Set-Up for SR Festival.

Please bring flowers for the specimen board

Sunday September 10 Stony Range Festival.

Helpers needed for plant advice, sell coffee, cakes and raffle tickets.

Saturday September 16 APSNSW GTG Corrimal.

Thursday October 5 APS Northern Beaches meeting
Show & Tell, Committee Meeting.

Thursday November APS Northern Beaches meeting
Presentation "Creating a frog-friendly garden". Gracie Liu

APS NORTHERN BEACHES AUGUST WALK

Plant identification walk, Saturday 19 August 10.30, Heath Track Allambie Heights, 1km circuit spectacular views and abundance of wild flowers. Different flowers than the Belrose walk including *Epacris longiflora*, *Darwinia fascicularis*, *Zieria laevigata*.

Lunch at Bubala.

Full details will be emailed by Anne Gray closer to the date.

It's essential that everyone registers for this event with Anne at 0466 309 181 or annepsgray@optushome.com.au.



ANPSA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 'GARDENS FOR LIFE' VICTORIA

30 September - 4 October 2024

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

The next ANPSA conference will be hosted by APS Victoria.

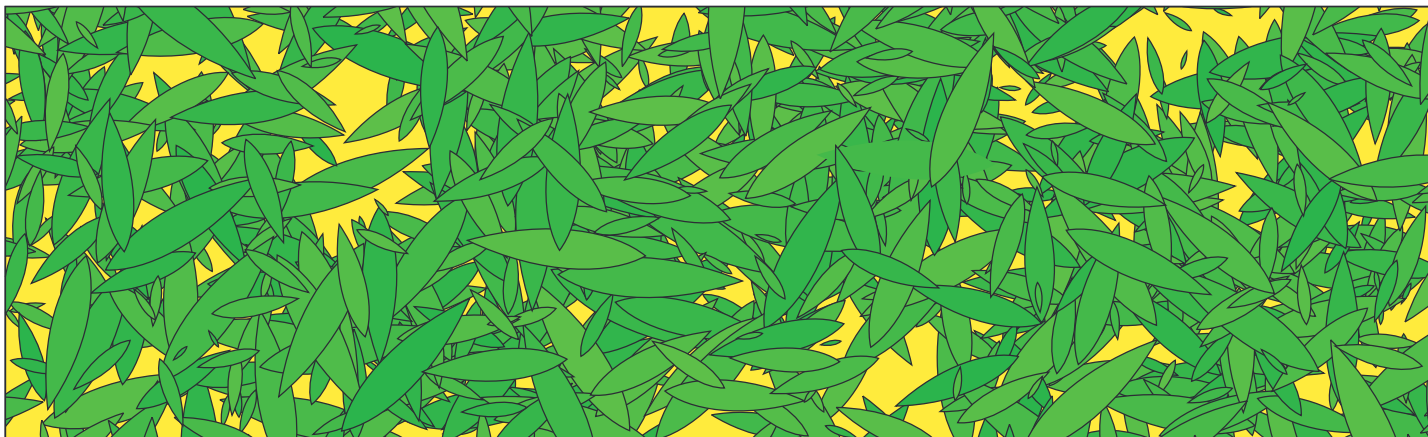
During the conference we will hear about all types of gardens and their impact on our life and the life of our world. We will visit spectacular gardens during the in-conference excursions including the world renowned Australian Garden at Cranbourne. Pre and post conference tours to Gippsland, the South West and the Grampians will be offered.

If you are interested in the conference, please go to the website (apsvic.org.au) and register your interest.

TOURS

The tours will visit some of Victoria's best scenic areas and spectacular displays of wildflowers. We are offering each tour pre and post conference. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to choose up to two out of the three tours. Each tour will visit areas of wildflowers in natural bushland, public and private gardens.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime as some of the gardens are only available through these tours. Each tour will be accompanied by experts. The pre conference tours are from Monday 23 September to Saturday 28 September 2024 and post conference from Saturday 5 October to Thursday 10 October 2024. Each tour covers 6 days.



STONY RANGE SPRING FESTIVAL

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden is an oasis of Australian native plants located at Dee Why in the heart of the Northern Beaches.

Sunday 10 September

9 am - 3 pm

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden

SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Take advantage of expert cultivation advice from Stony Range Botanic Garden volunteers & members of Australian Plants Society Northern Beaches Group.

FUN FOR CHILDREN

Treasure hunts, face painting, Australian Wildlife.

FUN FOR ALL

**Live music, Display of prints by renowned Australian bird artist Lars Knudsen
Sausage sizzle, Coffee Shop, Home made cakes.**

**Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden
810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why stonysrange@gmail.com**