

# CALEYI



**NORTHERN BEACHES GROUP**  
[austplants.com.au/northern-beaches](http://austplants.com.au/northern-beaches)

**December 2022**

**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

**Saturday December 10, 2022 APS Northern Beaches Christmas lunch** 12 noon for 12.30pm.  
**Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, Dee Why.**  
An email will be sent to ascertain contributions ie. salads, deserts etc. to avoid duplication. BBQ chickens will also be supplied. Additionally please bring any drinks, glasses, crockery and cutlery you require. If you wish to participate in the Kris Kringle please bring a wrapped gift to maximum value of \$10.

**APS Northern Beaches meeting Thursday February 2, 2023.**

7.15 pm. Lesser plant family. Pittosporaceae - Anne Gray.  
7.30 pm. Presentation details in January Caley.  
8.30 pm Committee meeting.

Many thanks to **Russell Beardmore, Margo Lucas, Anne Gray, Georgine Jakobi, Pam Dawes and Eleanor Eakins** for their great contributions to this edition.

**Jane March** [march@ozemail.com.au](mailto:march@ozemail.com.au) 0407 220 380.

## STONY RANGE SPRING FESTIVAL 2022

After a three year hiatus, which included missing the 60th Anniversary of Stony Range, the festival was held on October 30th - a glorious Spring day.



The late date was due to date clashes and inclement weather. Hopefully we will return to the more floriferous September scheduling in 2023.



Stony Range volunteer Margo Lucas (page 2) and APS stalwart Russell Beardmore (this page) took these lovely photographs on the day.



## 2022 VISIT TO PAM'S GARDEN

Anne Gray

10 members of the Northern Beaches APS enjoyed a visit to Pam Dawes Garden in Allambie Heights on Saturday 19th November. Pam purchased the house in 2020.



Before work began.

In just 2 years, the garden has been totally transformed from mainly grass and pebbles to a beautiful all native garden.

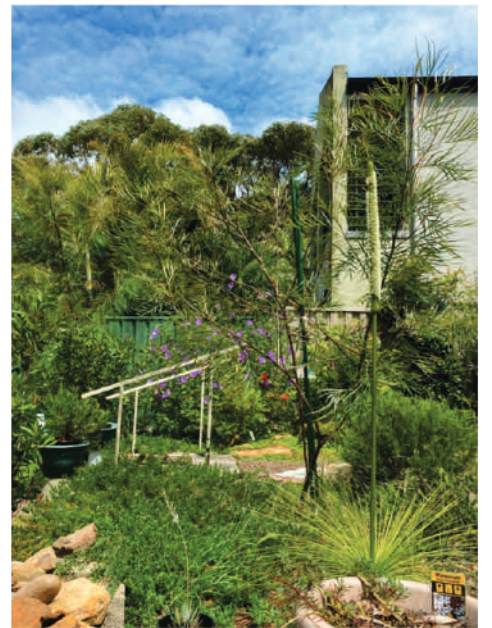


We were also delighted to meet Pam's mother Valmai who has had a life long interest in native plants. She has been able to help Pam with the garden plan and the maintenance.

Valmai and Penny discuss the garden development. Pic: JM

The highlights of the garden were a stunning *Alyogyne huegelii* and a very young *Xanthorrhoea* with a flower spike.

Front garden. Pic: AG





More front garden display. Pic: Georgine Jakobi



Morning tea Pic: GJ



Ready for Christmas. Pic: JM



*Alyogyne huegelii* Pic: GJ

After our tour around the garden, we had plenty to chat about over a relaxed morning tea on the back terrace.



Morning tea Pic: JM

The garden is surrounded on 2 sides by a reserve of Duffys Forest Ecological Community making it a perfect spot for a native plant lover to live.



View with borrowed landscape. Pic: JM



Thankyou Pam. Pic: JM



Paper Daisy Pic: GJ

## HALORAGACEAE

Report for the Lesser plant families at the November meeting by **EleanorEakins**.

**HALORAGACEAE**, or the water milfoil family, from the Greek words halog (sea or salt) and rhagos (grape berry).

Named because the first discovered species were found on beaches and having globular fruit. In Australia there are 109 species ranging from small trees to submerged aquatics.

Those found in the Sydney area include:



***Gonocarpus micranthus***  
(Creeping Raspwort)

Prostrate herb found in wet ground and margins of swamps on the coast and ranges.

Pic: picturethisai.com.

***Gonocarpus teucroides***  
(Common Raspwort)

Multi stemmed plant to 30cm tall found in open forest on sandy soils.

Pic: wikipedia.org



***Haloragis heterophylla***  
(Rough Raspwort)

Herb to 50cm tall found in swamp margins, drainage channels, on clay soils.

Pic: flickr.com

***Haloragodendron lucassii***

Shrub to 1.5m tall thought to be extinct until rediscovered in 1986

Found in sheltered slopes, among ferns in Garigal National Park

Seed does not appear to be produced; suckers from roots.

Pic: M.Fagg©ANBG



***Myriophyllum variifolium***  
(Common Water-milfoil)

Aquatic plant, rooting in mud of shallow water.

Found in wetlands, margins of creeks, swamps

Pic: Nzplantconservation

## PRIORITY WEEDS TALK AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Pamela Dawes reports on Northern Beaches Council Coordinator Invasive Species, Sean Grainger's presentation.

Sean's talk was very informative, telling us that the Noxious Weeds category name has been changed to Priority Weeds. He outlined the council's work in locating and attempting to eradicate some rare weeds and their encouragement of residents to alert them of infestations of Priority Weeds.

They have only a very small team of staff and rely heavily on volunteers, to help in the mammoth task of keeping these weeds under control. They can be contacted for information and advice.

For Biosecurity Act 2015 requirements and strategic response in the region for regional priority weeds, please refer to the Greater Sydney Strategic Regional Management Plan website: [https://greater-sydney.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/722368/Greater-Sydney-Regional-Weed-Mgmt-Plan-29-June-2017\\_FINAL-web-res.pdf](https://greater-sydney.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/722368/Greater-Sydney-Regional-Weed-Mgmt-Plan-29-June-2017_FINAL-web-res.pdf)

Also, [sydneyweeds.org.au](http://sydneyweeds.org.au) which pictures plants under Prohibited Plant Trading category and pictures weeds of the Sydney Region under categories which are clickable, an incredibly useful tools for impact of weeds, plant identification legislation, plans and policies weed fact sheets and publications, Apps and links

**The Local Priority Weed Management Plan-Sydney North Subregion 2018-2023** has been published by the Northern Beaches Council and outlines State Priority Weeds and the Regional Priority Weeds- listed below :-

Chinese violet, Coral creeper, East Indian hygrophila, Giant devil's fig, Giant rats tail grass, Hymenachne, Nodding thistle, Spanish broom, Water lettuce, Water star grass, White blackberry, Black willow, Climbing asparagus Chinese knotweed, Glory lily, Grey willow, Hygrophilla, Kei apple, Kidney leaf mud plantain, Kudzu, Leaf cactus, Ming fern, Mysore thorn, Sicilian sea lavender, Sicklethorn, Skunk vine, African olive, Alligator weed, Gorse, Holly-leaved senecio, Horsetails, Salvinia, Sea spurge, Senegal tea, Serrated tussock, Water poppy, Cat's claw creeper, Cabomba, Giant reed, Green Cestrum, Pampas grass, Scotch broom, Singapore daisy, Water hyacinth, Willow leafed primrose.

Another website which can be used is **NSW WeedWise** which contains over 300 weed profiles describing Profile, Control, Biosecurity duty where you can Search weeds BY either common or scientific name, OR Browse weeds by common name: A-D/ E-K/ L-Q/ R-Z OR search by plant characteristic, OR view priority weeds for a region OR advanced search. Pics. WeedWise



*Protasparagus plumosus*,



*Senna pendula var. glabrata*



*Equisetum arvense*



*Fallopia japonica*

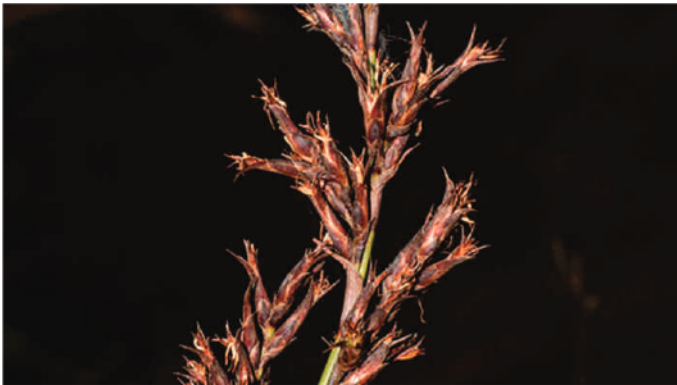


Dr Russell Barrett. Pic: rbg Syd.

## RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW PLANT SPECIES IN THE HEART OF SYDNEY

www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au November 3, 2022 Stephanie Bedo

A new sword sedge species that was right under the noses of Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander has been discovered in the heart of Sydney. Sword sedges hold many important uses for Indigenous people, including making fishing lines, fish traps and baskets.



The rare, grass-like plant, now named *Lepidosperma prospectum*, grows in some of Sydney's most iconic locations – near Manly, Cooks Landing at Kurnell and inside the Royal National Park, but it is found nowhere else.

Australian Institute of Botanical Science researcher Dr Russell Barrett said Banks and Solander first collected around Cooks Landing and Cape Solander in 1770 but did not find this species at this time. Dr Barrett said the new find highlighted a gap in the documented European knowledge of the Sydney region since the pair first collected plants around Botany Bay 250 years ago.



Picture supplied

"Growing to 1.5m, the species has been overlooked as it has a very narrow habitat range," Dr Barrett said. "It is only found in dense tea-tree thickets on clifftops, in a threatened ecological community. It was first collected in Royal National Park, near the track to Wedding Cake Rock, but not recognised as new at the time."

"It is likely that it was utilised for fibre and weaving, and the leaf bases may have been chewed when fresh water was scarce."

"Fishing was a very important source of food for Indigenous people in coastal regions around Sydney. "Dharawal women made hand fishing lines using hair or plant fibres including twine from similar plants. Fibre from this plant may well have been used for this purpose too. Sword sedges were also woven together to make fish and eel traps."

Dr Barrett said the species was first recognised as new when he collected it from the top of North Head, near Manly, with Karen Wilson. "It is only known from these three locations and will likely be listed as a threatened species."

The species was named in National Herbarium of NSW journal *Telopea*.

Dr Barrett said the new name meant to look out, or have a view, in reference to the location where it grows being the places that First Nations people first saw European ships arrive in the region.

He said while 77 species of sedges were currently named, up to three times this number still awaited description.

"*Lepidosperma* species are critical components of many southern Australian ecosystems and play a key role in community ecology," he said. "They are very long-lived plants that are able to resprout quickly following fire, so they provide important cover and food for a very wide range of animals."

"Given the threat status, searching for additional populations in suitable habitat in the Sydney Basin should be prioritised."

## FOR SELF-PROCLAIMED 'GUM NUTS' THIS IS EUCALYPTUS HEAVEN

SMH November 11, 2022 Robin Powell

There are 1013 known species of eucalypt. Dean Nicolle has planted 980 of them.

This incredible collection of gum diversity is at the Currency Creek Arboretum, which sits between the wine-growing regions of McLaren Vale and Langhorne Creek in South Australia. Nicolle, a eucalypt botanist, arborist and ecologist, and his partner Annett Boerner, who is a geocologist and scientific publications specialist, maintain the arboretum themselves and open it to the public a couple of times a year.



*Eucalyptus caesia*, known as the 'silver princess', at the Currency Creek Arboretum. Credit: Robin Powell

There were about 50 of us gathered at a recent open day: some self-confessed gum nuts if their t-shirts were to be believed; others looking for advice on planting large properties or small gardens. The rest of us were

there to learn a bit more about the trees that dominate our landscape – from the Alps to the arid interior, dry river beds to sweaty tropics.

All the plants in the Currency Creek Arboretum are grown from seeds collected in the wild. Nicolle collects from just one tree per species, and usually plants out four individuals from the seed that germinates. This gives the most accurate picture of natural variation, as all the trees of the planted species share the same mother.

The trees are planted in rows; this isn't a garden, but more like a zoo, where you get to marvel at highlights from widely disparate geographical zones. For researchers, this is an incredible resource, and Currency Creek Arboretum has already generated 140 scientific papers. For visitors, it's an awe-inspiring journey through eucalypt habits.

Here's the world's smallest eucalypt, the varnished gum, *E. vernicosa*, which makes a round, spreading shrub to about a metre tall, and comes from the cold, wet west coast of Tasmania, and takes its name from its shiny leaves. While known as a pot plant in Europe, it's not commercially available here. Yet.

Up the hill is the stunning lobe-fruited mallee, *E. pressiana*, from Western Australia, which forms a multi-stemmed shrub to a couple of metres with clusters of yellow flowers and very handsome fruits. Nicolle reckons it has potential to be grown more widely, including in Sydney's well-drained areas.

And why grow crepe myrtle, he says, when you could grow *E. diversifolia*, the coastal mallee. Lipstick red buds open to creamy flowers; birds and insects go nuts.

If there is a trend here it is Nicolle's promotion of the mallee species of eucalypts as plants that deserve more time in our garden. These grow from a lignotuber, which means that they can be cut right back to the ground to shoot again to either refresh the plant, or to cut it back to size.



*Eucalyptus diversifolia*, known as the 'coastal mallee'. Credit: Robin Powell

While it's fun dreaming up new gardens featuring little-known mallee gums, the real joy of Currency Creek Arboretum is the astonishing diversity of the gum. There are trees with flowers that are raucous or discreet; trunks that are smooth and green like polished jade or covered with russet flakes like an overcooked pastry; leaves thin as needles or large and leathery as boots; and seed pods shaped like helmets, medieval weapons or warty witches fingers.

And this is the only place in the world you can see all this in one spot.

## AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Text extracted from Australian Native Plants © John Wrigley and Murray Fagg (1996)

A number of Australian native plants have become significant as 'Christmas plants' in various parts of Australia. This is usually reflected in their local 'common names'.

The use of native plants as Christmas decoration last century can be seen from illustrations in the newspapers of the times.



A boatload of Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) being rowed towards Sydney for sale in the markets [Sydney Mail 23 December 1882]

Christmas Belles' the caption of an illustration of young ladies collecting Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia* spp) from the Illustrated Sydney News - Christmas Issue 1886.



Tree Ferns (probably *Dicksonia antarctica*) were also popular as Christmas decorations, as seen in the illustration by Julian Ashton of a young lady selling fern fronds titled 'Christmas is Coming' from the Illustrated Sydney News 20 December 1879.