

CALEYI



Newsletter of the Northern Beaches Group.

November 2020

From the (still temporary) editor.

We are not likely to be holding our regular monthly meetings until the New Year, at the earliest, but we are managing a walk or garden visit once a month when we can get together with our fellow members (suitably masked and spaced out?). Hopefully, there will be a newsletter every month, so please contribute by sending in lots of material - articles, images, gossip etc - for inclusion in Caley and/or the group website. Our regular editor, Jane, is battling bravely on with her medical treatment and we all wish her well for a full recovery.

EVENT IN OCTOBER

Sixteen of our group members took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Shaws' wonderful garden at Bayview on Saturday 17th October. Nancy and Ted Shaw have filled their one-acre lot with an astonishing variety of (mainly) native plants, a labour of love over twenty years.

There were delights to be seen at every turn, beginning right at the entrance with an extraordinary specimen of *Ricinocarpus pinifolia*, the largest and healthiest looking example of its kind that I think most of us had seen. We wandered down the slope through displays of *Brachyscome multifida*, *Callistemons* and *Grevilleas*, and a lovely example of *Epacris longiflora* that Ted told me was on the land when they bought it - a great survivor. A beautiful *Cymbidium suave* was drooping from a tree trunk in full flower near the deep blue of *Dampiera stricta* brightening the ground. And then we came to the *Graptophyllums*, both *excelsum* and *ilicifolium* - both were spectacular with the *G. ilicifolium* a real standout. For sheer beauty, it is hard to beat the gorgeous *Hibiscus heterophyllus* waiting for us at the very lowest part of the garden. I think we were all inspired by the wonder of the garden - thank you Ted and Nancy.

Russell Beardmore.

In addition, the generosity of our hosts meant that most of our members came away with two, or even more, plants propagated by Nancy and Ted, mostly from material harvested in their own garden.

Thanks again, Nancy and Ted Shaw.

Ed

The following images were taken on the day by members present.



Ricinocarpus pinifolia



Cymbidium suave



Epacris longiflora



Dampiera stricta



Syzygium wilsonii



Hibiscus heterophyllus

And that's not all ...



Pic: Russell Beardmore

Graptophyllum ilicifolia



Pic: Geanine Jago

Garden border



Pic: David Gray

Pycnantha sp



Pic: Russell Beardmore

Glycine sp



Pic: Russell Beardmore

Scaevola aemula (pink)



This image of our members and our hosts, third and fourth from the left, came from Georgine Jakobi. However, she can be seen in the picture, third from the right, so I suspect that as Russell Beardmore is not included in the photo, he took it.

The images of plants in the garden taken by other members were all much better than mine. However, I was the only one to snap this rather beautiful specimen of *Argiope keyserlingi*, the St. Andrew's Cross spider, so I felt justified in including it here.
Ed

My thanks to Georgine Jakobi and Russell Beardmore for their photographic contributions.



BETTY MALONEY AND ALEC BLOMBERRY

An article by Dick Burns of APS Tasmania on the life work of Betty Maloney and Alec Blomberry with native plants was forwarded to me by Georgine Jakobi. It is a bit long for Caley's so try the link. If it doesn't work let me know and I will email it to you. It covers an important part of the history of Stony Range and the Northern Beaches Group of APS NSW

[Articles etc/Eucryphia September 2020 Supplement.pdf](#)

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

It is probable that most of us have visited the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra at least once, and appreciated the extensive collection of Australian native plants growing there. The ANBG are not very old, in fact, they were only opened to the public a year before I arrived in Australia in 1968. This isn't surprising as the bulk of development in Canberra, where the gardens are located, didn't get going until after the end of the Second World War.

Planning for the ANBG started in the 1930s and the Black Mountain site was chosen, but it wasn't until 1949 that the first ceremonial trees were planted. The next eighteen years were taken up with developing the site, building facilities and establishing the living collection prior to the opening to the public in 1967. The Gardens were officially opened by the Prime Minister of the day, John Gorton, in October 1970.

The ANBG are dedicated to informing, connecting and inspiring people about Australian flora. In addition, the ANBG today are recognised as a major scientific and horticultural research institution contributing to the knowledge, conservation and use of native plants. In conjunction with CSIRO, the Gardens have built up the Australian National Herbarium which contains the largest collection of native plant specimens in the country.

Not surprisingly, Australia Post (AP) has introduced a postage stamp issue to celebrate fifty years since the official opening of the gardens. The issue consists of two standard postage (\$1.10) stamps featuring native plants, *Grevillea iaspicula* and *Banksia marginata*.



Grevillea iaspicula (Proteaceae) is found only in the Wee Jasper area of NSW and is listed as “critically endangered” under Commonwealth legislation and “endangered” under NSW legislation. Many of its remaining populations are found on private land. Potential threats to its survival are grazing, weeds, fire and drought, and it is thought that it will not survive without human intervention. The specific name is a Latinised version of Wee Jasper.

Banksia marginata (Proteaceae) is found in Eastern NSW, around Victoria and into South Australia and Tasmania. It is not endangered. The common name for this species is “silver banksia” after the white colour of the underside of its leaves.

More information about these stamps can be found in Stamp Bulletin 367 Sep/Oct 2020 or <https://auspost.com.au/shop/collectables/stamp-issues>

NORTH HEAD IN FLOWER

Russell Beardmore sent me the following report of his recent bushwalking activities on North Head. It was fortunate that he and his friends were rambling there before the fire which burnt through a large area on 17th October, including places where they had been walking. Ed

Over the past few weeks, some of my friends and I have done a number of walks on North Head. Lots of wonderful flowers to see but I think the Lilies and their cousins the Orchids are especially interesting. Here are some photos of members of both families.

Russell Beardmore



Burchardia umbellata



Thysanotus tuberosus



Thelionema caespitosa



Thelionema umbellatum

Russell always provides an abundance of images with his reports of adventures in the bush. This one is no exception. Keep on page-turning for more stunning images. Ed



Gastrodia sesamoides



Caleanna major



Calochilus campestris



Cryptostylis subulata

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Apart from seeing the billowing clouds of dark brownish-grey smoke and hearing and seeing the helicopters flying over with their water buckets for many hours, I have only sketchy information about the effects of the fire on North Head which burnt out some 55 ha, mostly Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub plant community, on 17th October. Taronga Zoo and Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff, along with volunteers, searched for surviving fauna in the affected areas, with little success. I believe they were mostly collecting skulls of deceased animals. I heard from Geoff Lambert that the walkways in the Hanging Swamp were badly affected because the fire melted the plastic supports underlying the metal grid system, so that the walkways collapsed. A tragic result of a 'controlled' burn that got completely out of control.

Here are some of the images taken by a volunteer, Anne Jackson. I don't know the source of the drone image. Thanks to Jane March for supplying these images. Ed



Some of the burnt area.



A surviving possum with two offspring



Hakea sp with fruits opened by the fire.

END VIEW



The red carpet in the above image was not for visiting royalty; it is merely the brick path leading to our back gate. The 'carpet' is the result of abundant flowering of a *Graptophyllum excelsum* on the left and a *Pandorea jasminoides* providing pink highlights from the right. The green plant at the bottom left is a *Plectranthus cremnus*, which is trying to spread from the garden bed on the left across the pathway.

OUR NEXT EVENTS

Anne has planned our next outing on **Saturday 14th November** to the Plants Plus Garden Centre in the Cumberland State Forest, West Pennant Hills. Meet in the Bellamy Picnic Area at 10.30 am for morning tea and a short talk given by Penny Hunstead about what to look for in the nursery. This is a very well-stocked nursery with a café, and then there is the option of 3 walks in this beautiful State Forest. A map and more details will be emailed closer to the date. Registration essential. Please advise Anne by the day before the event if you are planning to attend rather than just turning up. If on the day you can't make it for some reason, please send Anne a quick text to let her know.

Christmas Picnic, **Saturday 5th December**. Anne is hoping to book Area 2 at Davidson Park. More news on this later. Keep the date free anyway.

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